

PPAS celebrates Christmas with gifts, music and food

by Frida Monreal
Staff Writer

Students from Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) celebrated Christmas on December 10, 2011. Students and Staff had a gift exchange, concert at the chapel and a banquet. "The fact that Pan Am is a private school and that students live here gives them the unique opportunity of being more like a family. The

Christmas exchange is just another example of our family bond between students and faculty," said World History Teacher Donald Turner. In the United States, people celebrate Christmas on December 24th (Christmas Eve) by decorating their houses with Santa Claus images and other Christmas things. In the evening, they have dinner with their family and a gift



Photo provided by: www.christmas-graphics-plus.com

exchange between the members. For Christians, the celebration of Christmas is one of the most important of the year because is the day when Jesus was born. "Christian people from Korea celebrate Christmas by going to church. Sometimes they just decorate houses instead of having parties or any kind of celebration with family," said 17-year-old Senior Pureum Kim.

Students had time to be with their friends and relax for the last time before final exams. "I am excited for Christmas to come because the semester will end and I will have the opportunity to go back home and be with my family," said 15-year-old Sophomore Carolina Escamilla.

16 students inducted into NHS

by Valeria Garcia
Staff Writer

National Honor Society (NHS) is a recognition program for High School students in grades 11 – 12 in the United States and in several other countries. NHS honors those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character. Based on the NHS constitution, four purposes are said to guide the chapters: to create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire to render service, promote leadership, and develop character in the students of High Schools. The chapters are found in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, many U.S. territories and Canada according to www.nhs.us. At Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS), the John A. Mackay chapter was founded in 1990. Once selected, a student is awarded membership in the local chapter at



Provided by: Sarai Bernardino
 2011-2012 NHS Inductees

an induction ceremony. Every year at PPAS, the NHS committee and Principal Ellie Perez are in charge of choosing the students. "It includes looking at students' records and service college," said Diane Garcia, Reading and English teacher, who is part of NHS committee. This year during the induction ceremony, Perez gave a speech about new NHS members. Seniors who are in NHS are Karla Garcia, Chan Kim, Liliana Hernandez, Jose Torres, Daniel Victoria, Eleazar Herrera, Marian Moranchel, and Maria

Fernanda Alarcon were in the induction ceremony. "I feel really happy to be a NHS member and make a change in the community," said 17-year-old Senior Alarcon. Hernandez, NHS President, gave a speech about what NHS means to her. After that, Morris Chapel Choir also performed "We Thank You Lord," directed by Joe Garcia. The new NHS members were announced: Ana Jimena Gonzalez, Cynthia Jacobo, Andrea Morton, Adriana Sanchez, Sarahi Bernardino, Elizabeth Aguilar, Santiago Nava, Klarissa Rodriguez, Job Ramirez, Kheila Nunez, and Katia Navar, all Juniors. "I feel surprised but at the same time happy because not everyone has the chance to be there," said 17-year-old Junior Jacobo. There were also new Seniors such as Jessica Sabido, Berne Montalvo, Nam Kim, Alfredo Macias, and Abdiel Duran.

Five nominated for distinguished scholars

by Jose Torres
Front Page Editor

In November, some seniors from Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) were nominated as the 2011 Caller Times-Citgo South Texas Distinguished Scholars. These students were nominated by their teachers during their junior year to receive as seniors. The list of nominated students from PPAS is the following, 17-year-old Paola Flores in the area of Spirit, 17-year-old Marian Moranchel in the area of Service, 17-year-old Eleazar Herrera for Career and Technology, 18-year-old Daniel Victoria for Communications and Moises Duran in the area of General Academics. This year, PPAS did not receive nominations in the areas of Student-



Provided by: Jose Torres

Athlete, Science, and Performing Arts. Flores was born in Coahuila, Mexico. This is her third year at PPAS. She wants to continue her education in New York. "I feel very happy for this nomination. Honestly I did not expect it, but it makes me feel excited," Flores said. Marian Moranchel was born in Mexico City, Mexico. Moranchel has three years at PPAS and wants to go to St. Mary's University. Herrera was born in Tamaulipas, Mexico. After PPAS, he wants to continue his studies in the United States. Moises Duran was born in the United States. Duran is attending his second year at PPAS, and after graduation, he wants to go to Trinity University. "I feel proud (for being selected) it inspires me to continue working hard to achieve all my goals," Duran said. Victoria was born in Mexico City, Mexico. After four years at the school, Victoria wants to continue his education at Texas Christian University. Ellie Perez, Principal at PPAS, said she feels very proud that these students are getting a reward for their hard work and all they have done.

SPORTS

Lady Eagles basketball plays tough game against Academy High School

by Nam Kim
Sports Editor

On December 5, 2011 the girls basketball team from Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) played against Academy High School at the PPAS gym. During the game, the team was supported by students and staff. The cheerleading squad was also there to encourage the players. At the end of the game, the final score was 34-38, Academy being the winning team. "It was a close and difficult game with good competition. I feel bad for the girls because the game was really close and they could have won,"



Photo by: Nam Kim

The Lady Eagles basketball team played AHS Dec. 5. said Coach Rebecca Perkins, who also teaches English. Perkins said that the team's goal is to have fun, enjoy and grow. She also wants her players to keep in mind that sometimes winners have to lose. Some of the players that really stood out during the game were the team's captain, 18-year-old Senior Angela Gutierrez, 16-year-old Sophomore Hefzi

Jimenez and Klarissa Rodriguez, and Adriana Sanchez, both juniors. "I was disappointed about the results because we could have won the game. At the last minute, the other team scored and we lost," Gutierrez said. As captain of the team, Gutierrez also mentioned that they have to work on the team's defense. She said by training hard and working together, she hopes the team's skills will improve. "It was a very tough game. I will try my best so I can help a little more next games," Sanchez said.

Boys basketball wins over Falfurrias, 46-12

by Nicole Corona
F&O Editor



Photo by: Nicole Corona

The boys basketball team beat Falfurrias on Nov. 29 at home. On November 29, 2011 the boys basketball team from Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS), had a home game, where they won, 46-12, against New Covenant Warriors from Falfurrias. The game was played mostly by seniors. Dan Meek is the basketball coach. He has been the PPAS coach for three years and has coached youth basketball after he played for seven years. "Basketball is a great game. It is fun to watch, play and coach. I love the game. I wanted to do my best and help the team to improve," Meek said. 16-year-old Junior Nathan Zelaya likes to play basketball because it is an energetic and a fast paced game. "I chose to join the team because it is the sport that has me waiting all year and I like to play in the point-guard position," Zelaya said. Abdiel Duran, before PPAS, was not on a team before, but he played basketball with his dad on the beach. He plays as a post or defense and he is looking forward for his teammates to play more as a team. "I think we are doing really well this year. As long as we play like a team, we should do very well," Duran said. Meek said that this year, the team is really good and that he is very excited about the new faces. He expects the players to have fun, learn the game and win. "I try to be positive with the players and have constructive criticism," Meek said. Duran said he joined the team because he enjoys throwing the ball in the basket and training with Meek.

Soccer team members named All-State

by Karla Garcia
Staff Writer

Last month, Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) boys soccer team, won 2nd place at state. The final game took place at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor. With a final score of 1-0, Bethesda Christian School beat the Eagles. "I was extremely proud of the effort that they put in the state tournament and during the whole season," said Daniel Meek, Speech, and

US History teacher and head coach of the soccer team. Seniors and Captains Johnny Saldivar and Nam Kim were named First Team All-State along with Sophomore Omar Moreno. Captain Gustavo Antonio and Sophomore Armando Garcia were recognized as Honorable Mention All-State. First Team All-District was integrated by Saldivar, Kim and Antonio. Moreno and Garcia were also part of this team.

"For me being one of the Soccer Captains and also belonging to First Team All-District is a privilege," said Gustavo Antonio, 17-year-old. He also said that he has seen how the teamwork and their skills have improved. "I believe that teamwork is about giving your best to benefit the team in order to achieve a goal such as winning the championship," said 16-year-old Junior Midfielder Santiago Nava.

Next year, the soccer team will be playing against teams from the valley, according to coach Meek. He also hopes to get better competition for the team in order to be prepared for state. "Next year, we will be more conscious and not self-confident, also we will work harder for every single game we have," Nava said. Antonio mentioned that he hopes next year, the PPAS soccer team wins the state championship as the great team they are.

Croissants place 3rd at local 4H food show

by Filiberto Ortiz
Staff Writer
On November 13, 2011, three students from Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) attended a 4H food contest, at Santa Gertrudis High School in Kingsville. They placed third which advanced them to district. Eleazar Herrera and Abdiel Duran, both seniors and 17-years old, and Sophomore

Samantha Moreno were the three contestants from PPAS sponsored by Marlene Zamora, Dining Hall Director. "When the competition started, I was really nervous but as time passed, I forgot about it and decided to concentrate on what I was supposed to do," Herrera said. The PPAS team



Photo by: Filiberto Ortiz
From left, Senior Abdiel Duran, Sophomore Samantha Moreno and Senior Eleazar Herrera

decided to make croissants. Mashed potatoes, bread and others ingredients were some of the ingredients they used to prepare the meal. "We were really nervous when it was time for the judges to try our dish. We didn't know if they would like what we had prepared," Moreno said. Zamora said the

students have been involved in this activity for the last three years. She also mentioned she likes taking them so they can have fun and demonstrate their cooking skills. The district competition will be held in Laredo on December 10.

Soccer captain elected Student of the Month

by Omar Moreno
Staff Writer
17-year-old Senior Zuri Rivera, from Oaxaca Mexico, is the student of the month for December at Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS). "I feel very excited. I'm so happy, this is just awesome," Rivera said. She came here because she got a scholarship and also because she wanted to meet new people and of course learn English. "My favorite subject is Math because Mr. Robertson said that there is only one correct answer, and just not in math, in life also," She said. She is trying to put all her effort in school and improve her grades for



Photo by: Omar Moreno

Senior Zuri Rivera graduation this year. She see herself in the future as a successful person with an amazing family and always helping people. When she was nominated student of the month, she didn't expect it. "I did not imagine it, but I worked hard for it. It was one of my goals to reach

during this year, I also feel happy because it is not easy to keep good grades and I'm proud of myself," Rivera said. She wants to study special education or something to do with sports, and she is trying to find a good opportunity in the USA. "My first three university options are Colorado Christian University, Scheiner University and Baylor University," Rivera said. Besides being a student, Rivera is also captain of the girls soccer team and was part of the volleyball team. She is also involved in choir and chapel band. During her free time, Rivera enjoys singing, listening to music and playing sports.

PPAS clubs plan to clean up highway

by Merry Kim
Staff Writer
Student Council, National Honor Society and the 4-H Club at Presbyterian Pan American School have come together to be part of the "Adopt a Highway" program. The 40 students will be divided into two teams. The first is going to clean from highway 77 to 1020 and the other from in front of NAS Kingsville to Wal-Mart. Their assignment will be to pick up

trash found along the way. They allotted two miles (3.3 kilometers), and are going to clean every three months for two years. "This is the first year, but it will not be hard to them because we have 40 students and it is not too much," said Donald Turner, Student Council Advisor and world history, and government teacher. He expects that students will learn leadership from this project. He also said that by doing

this, students can learn responsibility through the project. Turner expects students to give back to the community. The students haven't decided when to start with the project. They were hoping to begin in December, but since the semester is almost over, they might start in January. Turner will be setting a date.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Book Review: "A Brief History of Time" has little substance

by Jesus Alcocer
Staff Writer

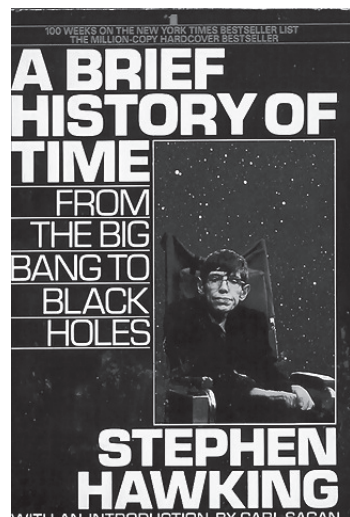


Photo provided by: www.psyclops.com/hawking/brief_history.html

Published originally in 1998, Stephen Hawking's "A Brief History of Time," is perhaps the most popular science book ever published. The book pretends to answer questions such as: How did the universe begin? What is time? What will happen in the end? What is the shape of the universe? etc. The section on time is perhaps the only fleetingly disturbing (Good science keeps you up the nights!) The rest is intellectually trite. A Pop phenomenon-expect no more. As an introductory text it utterly fails, as entertainment it fails even more grossly. The book is dry, oversimplified and shallow and it lacks explanations for many key phenomena, making it obscure. There are some good analogies, and on the whole the text is very readable, but it is by no means the best popular text on the field. For 15 dollars I expect the whole enchilada! Brian Green's elegant universe, for example, provides a plethora illustration, and elucidates the basic skeleton of the new physics in a mildly entertaining way. Scan, if time you find time for a 100-page dessert. As a principal dish, it merely tickles. Kudos for the great scientist, not so much for his profit directed work. Too much hype, too little substance.

Theatre Arts class competes at state

by Luis Garza
Staff Writer
On November 16th the Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) Theatre Arts Class went to Dallas to compete for state at Prince of Peace Christian School. The play they performed was called "Bocon". This is the story about a boy name Miguel, who lives in a village, whose parents, friends, and village are captured and terrorized by the military. Miguel decides to flee to United States to look for help. On the way he learns courage to able to speak for what is right. "I chose this play

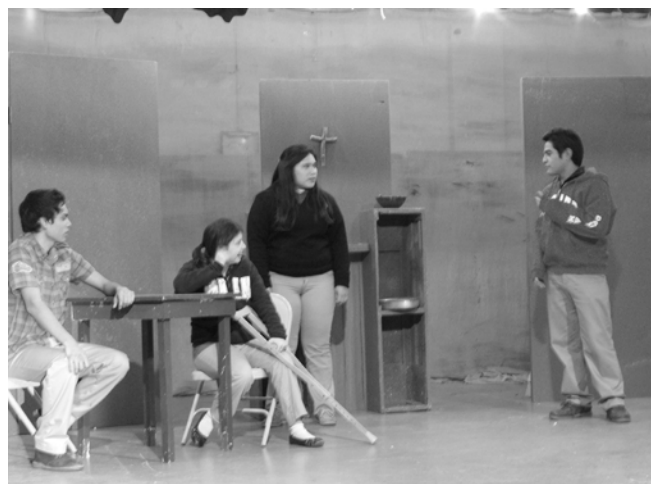


Photo by: Daniel Victoria

Theatre Arts class rehearsing for the Christmas play they performed Dec. 8 because it's bilingual, involving using the Spanish language," said Theater Arts Teacher and Proctor Rick Saenz. The Theatre Arts class won first place at regional, which led them to compete at state. Saenz also mentioned that he is extremely nervous competing at

state, but I realized I had nothing to be afraid of," said 18-year-old senior Alex Ochoa. Ochoa also said acting is way to express yourself. Although they didn't place at state, they received awards from the judges such as, Daniela Duenas was awarded an All Star Cast, Eleazar Herrera and Alex Ochoa both received Honorable Mention. They performed a play on December 7th on campus. It's a version of a Christmas Carol with the ghost of Christmas and the Scrooge.

Community experiences a very Pan Am Christmas

by Mathilda Mireles
Staff Writer
Presbyterian Pan American Schools' (PPAS) Christmas celebration includes gift exchanges, dinner, presents, colors, a choir performance and the fun of Christmas. This year, PPAS's choir will be caroling in the Morris Chapel. On Saturday, December 3, Kingsville will be having a parade called La Posada and PPAS will participate. La Posada is an event when the community helps build floats with Christmas lights, and many more creative things. The

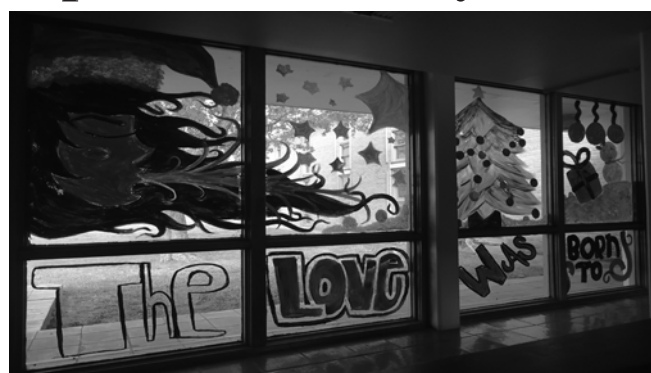


Photo provided by: Marian Moranchel

The PPAS girls dormitory was decorated and then visited by the community as part of the 'Tour of Homes' Kingsville Police Department and Fire Department ride in their police cars and fire trucks. They go down the street with their cars lit up with colorful lights and turn on their sirens and horns to celebrate Christmas with the community. The next day on Sunday, December 4, the Kingsville's women's club junior department came up with the idea of caroling, which gave Marlene Zamora, Dining Hall Director at PPAS, the idea of bringing it here to

the school. On Sunday December 4th, she said she wanted the public to come see the beautiful school and to allow them to get the full view of our choir in our chapel. "It puts everyone in good spirit and I want everyone to hear the beautiful voices of our choir," Zamora said. Also, the same day, people that host Tour of Homes will be guided through the campus to see the various decorations that the girls' dorm has set up and the spirit at PPAS. By doing this the community will be able to get new ideas to decorate their homes like other cultures and themes.