

PPAS helps cancer patients by supporting "Pennies for Patients"



Photo by: Jose Manuel Torres

PPAS kicks off "Pennies for Patients" with an assembly.

by Jose Manuel Torres
 Staff Writer

On March 10, 2011 students of Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) gathered in the gym of the school to get ready for the kick off of "Pennies for Patients." It is an activity to support blood cancer patients; this kind of cancer is known as leukemia. Many schools around the nation, including PPAS started to raise money with the purpose of helping children who have this disease, it occurs in March every year. Omar Rivera, 17-year-old senior at PPAS, thinks it is a great charity and an important community involvement activity where all the students and staff have a chance to make a difference all together. "I think it is a great chance to help children who need all the support, we never know, but those children could be our

brothers or sisters," said Jimena Gonzalez, 16-year-old sophomore at PPAS. PPAS has been participating in "Pennies for Patients" since five years ago. Student Council is in charge of gathering the money and this year at PPAS, the goal is to overcome last year's contributions of around 750 dollars, said Donald Turner, History teacher at PPAS. "I am sure this year we will raise more money than last year," said Mauricio Saenz, senior at PPAS. Students are not the only people participating. Every person related to a participating school is also involved in "Pennies for Patients." Turner also gave his opinion. "I think with the help of everybody, we can make a difference, and some day with enough research, a cure can be found," Turner said.

Juniors place 1st and 2nd in essay contest

by Marian Moranchel
 Front Page Editor

On February 22, 2011 juniors Daniel Victoria and Eleazar Herrera from Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) attended the annual Water & Soil Conservation Awards Assembly at the Dick Kleberg Park in Kingsville recreation building. This year, the two students participated in the essay contest, sponsored by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Both completed a piece of writing that answered the question "Why soil and water conservation is important to my future?" Victoria and Herrera were encouraged to participate in the contest by Edgar Ortega, who is the Biology and Aquatic Science teacher, Ranch Program Director and 4-H advisor at PPAS. Ortega said that everyone should be involved in the conservation of soil and water because these two sources are used to feed the world. There were 59 essays participating in total. First place was given to Victoria and Herrera received second. "I don't really consider myself a huge eco-friendly person, but by writing this essay, I realized



Photo by: Marian Moranchel
 Daniel Victoria (l) and Eleazar Herrera

how important planet earth is," Victoria said. Healsaidthatthethemainreasonweshouldtakecareofwaterandsoilisbecause they simply keep the whole world alive. At the assembly, Victoria, Herrera and Ortega spent some time with other people, including teachers, students and farmers from the Kingsville community. After having dinner, Victoria and Herrera both received special recognition by the county and state legislature. Herrerasaidthatbywritingthisessayhegotanopportunity to help planet Earth. He said he tries to save water as much as he can. He also recycles paper, plastic and soda cans. "It's never too late to start a change," Victoria said.

Physics class presents innovating project

by Nicole Corona
 Staff Writer

On April 1, 2011, Presbyterian Pan American School's (PPAS) physics class will launch a Rocket Project. The project is about the displacement of water volume using pressurized gas applying the Boyle's Law. Boyle's Law states the constant temperature and volume of gases and how it varies inversely with pressure. This project was assigned by Sylvia Gonzalez, Physics, Biology and Spanish teacher at PPAS. She expects the students to learn about the amount

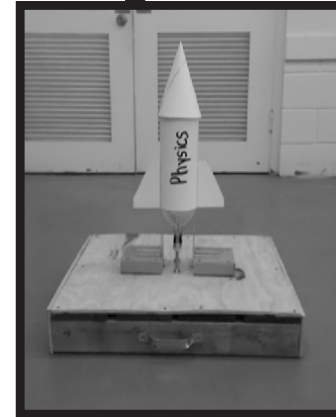


Photo by: Debora Hernandez
 Physics rocket launcher

of force produced to launch a rocket and the direct proportional relationship between volume and pressure. "It will be a fun activity for students and it will help them to better group the concept between the relationship of pressure

and practical view of Law," Gonzalez said. Gonzalez said that the students will turn a 2.0 liter bottle into a water bottle rocket. They will pour water into the bottle, set it on the launch path and insert pressurize air and send it flying. She said that the most interesting part of the project is to see the students homemade rockets fly. "These projects will show their creativity and their ability to utilize physics with everyday home materials," Gonzalez said. Samuel Chavez, 18-year-old senior, said that this project will show the technical and practical view of how the rocket works. "This will be a very interesting project and it will be fun to see our rockets done. This experiment would wake up our interest in physics," Chavez said. Karla said the class is going to have fun doing the project and it will help them understand Boyle's Law much better. "The experiment is going to be very useful because we are going to relate the principles that we are learning to the experiment. It will be much easier to remember what we have learned," said 18-year-old senior Karla Gonzalez.

SPORTS

Track and Field team improves at Woodsboro meet

by Rafael Murgia
 Sports Editor

On Saturday, March 5, 2011, the Presbyterian Pan American School Track team had a meet in Woodsboro, competing in a variety of events such as discus throw, shot put, relays, high jump, triple jump, etc. The team had a great performance and it is apparently rising, said Coach Reili Cantu. "Good, I think we are moving in a positive direction," Cantu said. "I thought there were some surprises, and I also hope this pushes the varsity team to their best." Ana Laura De Leon, 18-year-old senior and a three-year member of the track team participated. She competed in various events, including long jump, triple jump, 100-meter hurdles. She felt bad about her performance, but good about the team.

"I feel disappointed. I know I could have done better," De Leon said. "But the team was great! Lots of young guys stepping up and that's a good sign." De Leon expects to surpass herself this year and of course, compete at state. Another student with almost the same expectations is Chan Kim. Kim, an 18 year-old junior, who also ran this weekend. "It felt great," Kim said. "I felt like I improved and it was good. All my hard work in and out of practice gave results." Kim expects a lot from himself and the team. "After this last meet, I'm already looking forward to the next one," Kim said.

Quarter-finals round to begin



Photo Provided by: www.mediotiempo.com

Manchester United striker Javier Hernandez scoring a goal against Marseille.
 by Arnaldo Rodriguez
 Staff Writer

From February 15th through March 16th, the Round of sixteen of the Champions League took place. The Round of sixteen is about getting the best two soccer teams in the eight groups that played before. The teams are AC Milan from Italy, Tottenham from England, Valencia C.F. from Spain, Schalke 04 from Germany, Roma from Italy, Shakhtar Donetsk from Ukraine, Arsenal from England, FC Barcelona from Spain, Kobenhavn from Denmark, Chelsea from England, Lyon from France, Real Madrid from Spain, Marseille from France, Manchester United from England, Internazionale from Italy and Bayern Munchen from Germany. There are two matches per two teams and the one who the most goals will go to the Quarter-finals knockout phase. The first set of matches already passed, Milan was defeated 0-1 against Tottenham, Valencia and Schalke 04 tied 1-1, Roma was defeated 2-3 against Shakhtar Donetsk, Arsenal defeated Barcelona 2-1, Kobenhavn was defeated 0-2 against Chelsea, Lyon and Real Madrid tied 1-1, Marseille and Manchester United tied 0-0 and Internazionale was defeated 0-1 against Bayern Munchen. The second set of matches already passed also, Barcelona defeated 3-1 against Arsenal, Shakhtar Donetsk defeated 3-0 against Roma, Tottenham and Milan tied 0-0, Schalke 04 defeated 3-1 against Valencia, Manchester United defeated 2-1 against Marseille, Bayern Munchen was defeated 2-3 against Internazionale, Chelsea and Kobenhavn tied 0-0 and Real Madrid defeated 3-0 against Lyon. The teams who passed to the Quarter-finals round are FC Barcelona, Shakhtar Donetsk, Tottenham, Schalke 04, Manchester United, Internazionale, Chelsea and Real Madrid.

NFL Lockout will determine this year's football season

by Debora Hernandez
 Staff Writer

The National Football League (NFL) is currently involved in labor dispute that threatens to impact the 2011-2012 football seasons. This is not the first time that the NFL has had a work stoppage. In the 1980's, the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) expired and owners eventually hired replacement players to start the season, according to www.nfl.com. The players sued the NFL owners and successfully negotiated a new contract of collective bargaining agreement, the circumstances are strikingly similar to before, and the owners have offered the players a new CBA, which the players have refused. Shortly after negotiations broke down, the players filed a law suit against NFL owners for not allowing them to work. The NFLPA dismantled, and the owners Locked out the players. The players being locked out, they are forbidden of attending any team's facility, contact with coaches, and signing any contracts. Owners on the other hand, cannot sign new players, make trades, or cut players. Don Turner, who considers himself



Photo provided by: nfl.com

a big football fan from Presbyterian Pan American School, is disappointed. "As a fan, we can only hope that someone or something will bring all responsible or relevant persons to their collective senses and settle this so the season will not be interrupted," Turner said. The NFL Owners and the NFLPA will meet again before the NFL draft, which starts on April the 24th. Fans can only wait to see if an agreement can be done as quickly as possible, or it may be a strange year in Football.

Features & Opinion

Track member chosen as student of the month

by Eli Hernandez
Staff Writer

Steven Moreno, an 18-year-old senior, has been chosen as student of the month for March at Presbyterian Pan American School. (PPAS) Moreno is from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico and he is in his last high school year. He spent three years at PPAS, and he said that he is ready to graduate.

"I'm very grateful to have been chosen as the student of the month. This was something that I didn't expect," he said.

Moreno said he was chosen because he has been participating in more activities this year. In his three years at PPAS, he participated in Track and Field for two years as a thrower and this year,

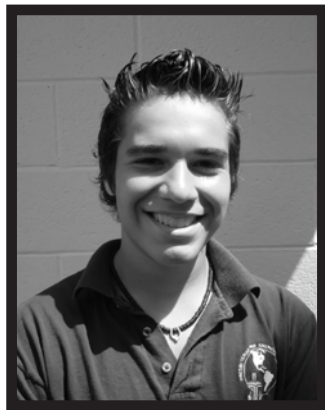


Photo by: Eli Hernandez
Senior Steven Moreno

he is part of the drama club and Cross Country. Moreno also is a Coastal Bend College student and he is part of the Honorable Mention list with an average of 89.

Moreno came to the U.S. to learn English because he thinks that he can get more opportunities.

"I came to PPAS because all my family came to this

school and my father, and now me and my sister Samantha," Moreno said.

Moreno's favorite classes are English, Economics and Chemistry, because for him, they are easy and interesting.

When Moreno does not have to do homework or do something for school, he likes to draw or do computer animation. He also likes sports such as soccer, basketball and enjoys going out and running.

Moreno finally commented that his plan for the future is going to the Texas A&M University-Kingsville to study his basics and then transfer to another school where he can get a degree in Fine Arts. He wants to study computer animation and digitals arts.

Three students advance to district with photos

by Liliana Hernandez
Staff Writer

The 2011 Texas 4-H Photography Contest took place in March 14th and six Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) students participated. Nicole Corona, Jean Pierzo, Marian Moranchel, Paul Vilchez, Ericka Campuzano and Adriana Sanchez entered their pictures.

According to the information packet given by the contest, the purpose of the Texas 4-H Photography Contest is to encourage self-expression and allow youth to demonstrate skills in the various areas of photography including the use of photographic equipment and the process of photographs. The objective is to develop life skills in composition, light, story line, posing and awareness. There are 14 categories in the contest: people, animals-wildlife, plant/flora, theme, dominant color, animals-domestic, marine/aquatic, details and macro, night photography, elements of design, nature and landscape, digital darkroom, food, and catch-all.

"I decided to participate in the contest because it was interesting to show my perception of nature and surroundings. I chose to present a picture of the capitol of Washington D.C. because of the light effect in the water and the building. It was very exciting because your talent was recognized and judged," said 16 year old junior Nicole Corona.

There were five different awards: quality awards, best show awards, spirit of 4-H award, best show display, and \$200.00 cash award for the best picture in each category. The photographs were judged on a basis of impact, creativity, technical excellence, composition, lighting, style, print presentation, center of interest, subject matter, color balance, technique and storytelling.

Corona, Pierzo and Vilchez advanced to the District competition with their photos.

30 students face challenges at Mo-Ranch

by Jean Pierzo
F&O Editor

On February 25-27, 2011, 30 students and two staff members from Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS), went to Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly (Mo-Ranch), that has been a camp and conference center since 1949. PPAS students attended the camp so they could learn how to use leadership in their life, and have fun with the extreme activities.

Marla Hill, Director of Spiritual Life at PPAS and also one of the staff members that went to the camp, said that she selected the 30 students based on their leadership or the potential for leadership and also to develop their social skills.

"Mo-Ranch could not have been better! Perfect weather, perfect accommodations, perfect activities, and leaders, and perfect students!" Hill said.



Photo by: Jean Pierzo
PPAS students attended Mo Ranch Feb. 25-27.

Hill said that PPAS students had formed a strong bond with the Environmental Leadership Program

(ELP) leaders. Patrick Fitzgerald, one of the ELP leaders, said that PPAS students were the best, positive and

most fun group they have ever worked with.

PPAS students worked together to overcome obstacles on low and high ropes and encouraged each other at every challenge. They participated in some extreme activities such as the Mo Pole, tower, big gulp, hebee geebee and bosun's swings. Every student tried each activity even if they were very scared. Freshmen Daniela

Dueñas said that Mo-Ranch was an unchangeable experience.

"Mo-Ranch was an experience that showed that I should overcome my fears and learn to beat the obstacles that make feel nervous and that give me a stomachache," Dueñas said.

Dueñas said she learned that she could make her own decisions, daring herself to something than staying with the intrigue of what could happen if she would not do it.

ENTERTAINMENT

PPAS starts new "180" activity



Photo Provided by: Tamra Ellsworth
Students participate in new "180*" activity.

by Enrique Varela
Staff Writer

At Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS), a new activity called 180* has begun. 180* is a series of activities created and directed by Tamara Ellsworth dorm parent.

"180 means making a complete turn around and opening you mind to different prospective" said Ellsworth. The main purpose of this new activity is to teach life lessons that can help students to be successive in school. She thought would be good to have students together and create new connections and activities. "Being with them is like the best time of my day and I just have fun with them" Ellsworth said.

In 180 are 10 groups that meet from Monday to Thursday 6:30 to 7:15 these groups have different names and they are classified by the grade. They are called the subways and the chip monsters. This series of activities will continue but all depends of what the students want "By now many of the students are giving me a good feedback and it just makes me exited"

"It's an interesting activity that gives us something new to do during the week. It allows us to learn basic things about life, friendship and relationship. It is a fun way to learn and a good place to be because we eat and play games together" said M. Abdiel Duran.

Lent is recognized on campus

by Obed Garcia
Staff Writer

Lent is the season when we prepare ourselves for the "Holy Week," leading up to Easter. Lent begins on the first Sunday after Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the church as a preparatory time for Easter. Lent is inspired on the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert preparing himself for His ministry.

During His journey through the desert, Jesus was tempted. When Jesus entered the desert, He left behind all the expectations of others, all hopes, all the illusions but in solitude, demons came. The defeat of evil during this testing hinted at the final defeat of evil through the cross and resurrection. The desert experience is about deprivation. In deprivation we discover that we are not all powerful, according to www.usccb.org.

"We practice abstinence, so we can focus on Christ sacrifices for us and repent of our old ways so that we can live in new life with Christ," said Marla Hill.

During lent, we practice abstinence from meat and acts of penitence as metaphors. Lent is mainly

celebrated to clean the body and the spirit representing the penitence that Jesus suffered during His testing in the desert, according to www.newadvent.org.

"I have been fasting because it's a way to know how Jesus felt during those forty days without food or water in the dessert," said 17-year-old senior Sandra Gomez.

At Presbyterian Pan American School, we have been placing burden in a box and tying up purple ribbons on a cross to symbolize giving our burdens to Christ.



Photo by: Obed Garcia
Sophomore Cristina Angulo tying a ribbon in recognition of Lent.

First Presbyterian Church Kingsville enjoys choir performance

by Ericka Campuzano
Entertainment Editor

On Sunday, February 27, 2011 the Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) choir performed at the First Presbyterian Church in Kingsville. The choir was composed of 17 members, four tenors, four bases, four altos and five sopranos. The songs that were performed were "You Gotta Sing" by Roger Emerson; "Psalm 47"

by Bradley Ellingboe; "Sing Out" by David Downes and "On Eagles Wings" by Michael Joncas.

"The performance could always be better, but we were as prepared as we needed to be," said Sandra Messbarger, Choir Director.

One solo was performed by Regina Hernandez, 15-year-old sophomore, with the song "Sing Out."

"I am really happy to have the opportunity to share the gift that God gave me. Praising the Lord in many different ways, but singing is my favorite one," Hernandez said. The PPAS choir still has more performances left to do on this semester including graduation and the Easter concert. "The 17 members weren't the whole

choir. There were a lot of people missing because of the different activities," Messbarger said.

Messbarger said that the audience liked the performance, inviting PPAS choir to come again.

"I liked to participate in the church but I think that we needed more practice to do it better," said Eleazar Herrera, 17-year-old junior.