

MyArlingtonISD

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QUIROZ STEPS UP AT RIGHT TIME



Homero Quiroz, a hero in the night

Homero Quiroz has seen a lot of things in his time as a second shift general maintenance mechanic for the Arlington ISD.

“You see a lot of weird things on the night shift,” said Quiroz, who has worked in the district since 2002.

But what Quiroz saw at Seguin High School late one night in early April ended up helping an Arlington ISD student.

Quiroz was at the school and noticed something moving behind a column. When he went to check and see what it was, it turned out to be a boy who had run away from a group home after an altercation.

The boy was lost, shoeless and had blood on his hands and needed help.

SEE QUIROZ, PAGE 3

A MESSAGE FROM DR. CAVAZOS

It’s no surprise to me that we have employees in the Arlington ISD like Homero Quiroz.

Going above and beyond the job is something I see every day in our district, and he is a great example to all of us. Homero didn’t just do his job earlier this month at Seguin High School. He stepped up and helped one of our students in need, making the right decisions every step of the way.

I’m very proud of him and all our employees, especially given everything you have endured this year. The safety of our students has been a priority for all of us, and Homero represents that exceptionally well.

I was also happy to see our 2019 Bond in action at the groundbreaking at Webb Elementary earlier this month. The new school will be a wonderful addition to the district when it opens in the fall of 2022. I know the students who attended the groundbreaking were excited about it.

Like Dr. Wurtz said in his column, the finish line for the school year is in our sights. We’re less than a month away from the final day of school, and you continue to do amazing things daily. Thank you for your efforts.



CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to train for a half marathon. The idea of running 13.1 miles straight was a bit daunting to imagine. I had never run long distances in the past and the longest distance I could remember running was in the eighth grade for PE and that was just a mile!

There was something about setting this goal that was extremely motivating for me. Not growing up as an athlete, it was validating. It was something I could do and do well. It was a challenge and required persistence. It took a certain level of determination and the potential accomplishment of the goal was exciting!

Running is a unique sport. Running requires not only physical strength and endurance but also a strong mind. Runners commonly experience the mental challenge of having to push through specific mile markers. There are moments when your body wants to give up and your mind has to kick in to overcome the physical temptation to stop.

Running also requires consistent training. When I

began my training schedule, I started slowly. I ran very short distances and gradually built up my stamina a half mile at a time over several weeks and months.

Training required patience. It was a long process. If I pushed myself too hard too quickly, I risked injury. I instead had to celebrate the small gains along the way and reflect on how far I had come since I began. The closer I got to reaching the goal of running 13.1 miles, the more motivated I became.

After months of training, the day to run my first official half marathon race finally arrived. It was a brisk morning and the energy in the air was palpable. Runners from all over the country had assembled and were eagerly warming up their bodies as they waited for the long-anticipated sound that signaled that the race had begun. My micro-goal that day was that I was going to run the entire race and not walk a single step. My months of training paid off. I did it!

So why do I tell you this story? School this year has been very similar to training for and running a marathon. It has

been a long journey - longer than any one of us could have anticipated. It required agility and professional flexibility to adapt our practice real time and to learn new skills that didn't always come easy or naturally. It required patience and perseverance for all of us and most importantly for the students as they learned in new modalities. And now we are getting closer to the finish line and I want to invite you to FINISH STRONG!

Push to the very last day. Continue to provide meaningful and rigorous learning tasks to the very last day. Encourage students to engage in their learning up to the very last day. Let's all collectively rally as a team, students and staff alike, to cross the finish line giving our all.

THANK YOU for a successful school year! It is YOU who have made it that way.

Dr. Steven Wurtz is the Arlington ISD Chief Academic Officer



QUIROZ FROM PAGE 1

Quiroz stepped in and did just that, contacting Arlington ISD security who worked with the Arlington Police Department to get him the help he needed.

“I was impressed that he was conscientious enough to help out,” said Steve Baze, the district’s general maintenance supervisor. “He could have just walked by the kid. He’s conscientious enough that he saw something and was willing to help someone. I was impressed for sure and pleased to know that we have that caliber of person working here.”

While Quiroz hasn’t spoken with the boy since that night, the impact he made was evident. The boy also received medical attention he wouldn’t have received had Quiroz not seen him.

“Homero kept the kid calm and talked to him,” said Thomas Guerrero, the general maintenance foreman.

Even though Quiroz stepped in and made a difference that night, he didn’t want the attention that came from helping the student out. The way he saw it, he was just doing the right thing.

“He was afraid and scared,” Quiroz said. “I told him before I left that he was in good hands. It’s the most helpful thing I’ve been able to do in the night shift. I just think that when you see someone that needs help, you should try and help them.”

Baze was impressed by how quickly Quiroz acted and made the right decisions.

“There really isn’t protocol for that,” he said. “You don’t anticipate that kind of interaction with the students or public at large. He just wanted to make sure the situation was taken care of properly and that the child was looked after correctly.”

Like Quiroz said, he sees a lot of weird things on the night shift. And this wasn’t the first time he’s had to step in and help someone either. He also helped a man who was riding his motorized scooter and fell into a hole. Quiroz helped that man, too.

It’s all in a day’s work for Quiroz.

“They pay me to do this job,” he said. “I receive my check to work here. It doesn’t matter what the job is. I just know that if you can help somebody you should do it.”

MONTHLY MENTIONABLES FOR MAY 2021

National Inventors Month

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

National Music Week	May 1-8
Star Wars Day	May 4
National Teacher Day	May 4
Cinco de Mayo	May 5
Nurses Week	May 6-12
World Red Cross Day	May 8
VE Day	May 8
Willie Velasquez Day	May 9
Mother’s Day	May 9

Be Kind to Animals Month

Better Hearing and Speech Month

Service Recognition and Retirement Drive-Thru	May 13
Armed Forces Day	May 16
Talk Like Yoda Day	May 21
Exams/Early Dismissal for Students	May 24
Last Day of School	May 25
Teacher Work Day	May 26
Teacher Work Day	May 27
Memorial Day	May 31



TECH CORNER

THE POWER OF VIDEO

In the Arlington ISD, staff have access to an easy-to-use and web-based screencasting and video editing tool called Screencast-O-Matic. Throughout the school year, teachers, librarians and other staff have used the endorsed app to provide quality video content to student or professional learners.



*Evan Sanchez,
Butler Elementary*

Since late September, more than 27,000 videos have been created in Screencast-O-Matic and more than 1,500 staff members created at least one video in April.

Evan Sanchez, a fifth-grade teacher at Butler Elementary, believes that, "Students value hearing from their teachers and while there are some great videos out there on YouTube,

the direct learning with their teachers makes their experience much more familiar and meaningful."

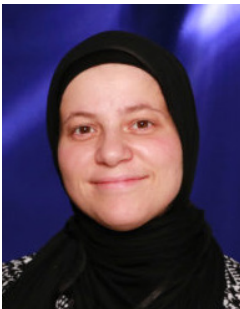
A good teacher-created video, Sanchez states, "Shows the teacher's face each day to students so that they feel as if they are in the classroom. It's also important to ask questions along the way, so that's why I use H5P's interactive video interactive with the videos I create with Screencast-O-Matic."



*Laura Porras,
Martin High School*

For Martin High School science teacher Laura Porras, Screencast-O-Matic helps bring learners closer to a regular science classroom. "I wanted my students to still be able to see what a lot of our science labs would look like, so I record myself doing a lab and the students are able to watch in order to complete their lab studies. I really like how I can be in the video narrating it and that

I can use my document camera to show students how to work a problem. Effective videos help give at-home students a similar experience to the in-person students."



*Wafa Ihweil,
Ashworth Elementary*

Wafa Ihweil, librarian at Ashworth Elementary, uses Screencast-O-Matic to create videos to use with students and staff and shared, "The editing tools have everything I need to make sure I publish content without errors and it saves them in the cloud so I don't have to use storage space on my laptop."



*Brandy Hayes,
Bryant Elementary*

Bryant Elementary's Brandy Hayes likes using Screencast-O-Matic to create videos for her first graders because, "I can show all the students exactly how to complete an activity. It's been helpful because they can always go back and watch it again if they don't understand." She added, "It helps them be more independent in their learning, especially in Active Learning Cycle units."

In technology integration & innovation (TI²), each department meeting is recorded, edited and uploaded with Screencast-O-Matic. Additionally, both of the department's YouTube series, TECH Talks and Seesaw Snippets (access at <http://bit.ly/thevideohub>), leverage the tool for editing purposes.

Thank you to all staff who are using Screencast-O-Matic to create quality video content! Interested in learning more about how you can use it in your work? Please visit TI²'s endorsed apps website at <https://bit.ly/AISDomatic>.

DYNAMIC DIGITAL RESOURCES FROM LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES

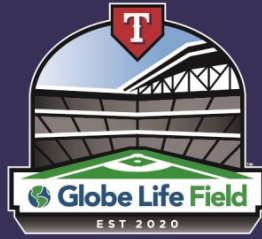
Connecting Multimedia Book Resources with TeachingBooks

TeachingBooks is an easy-to-use resource that adds a multimedia dimension to books for children and young adults. This online database includes thousands of resources for fiction and nonfiction books used in K-12, with every resource selected to encourage the integration of multimedia author and book materials into reading activities. Resources include lesson ideas and discussion questions for more than 25,000 books, copyright-friendly video and audio book readings, video book trailers, reader's theater scripts and more!

To access this resource, click on the icon to the left and use the following credentials:

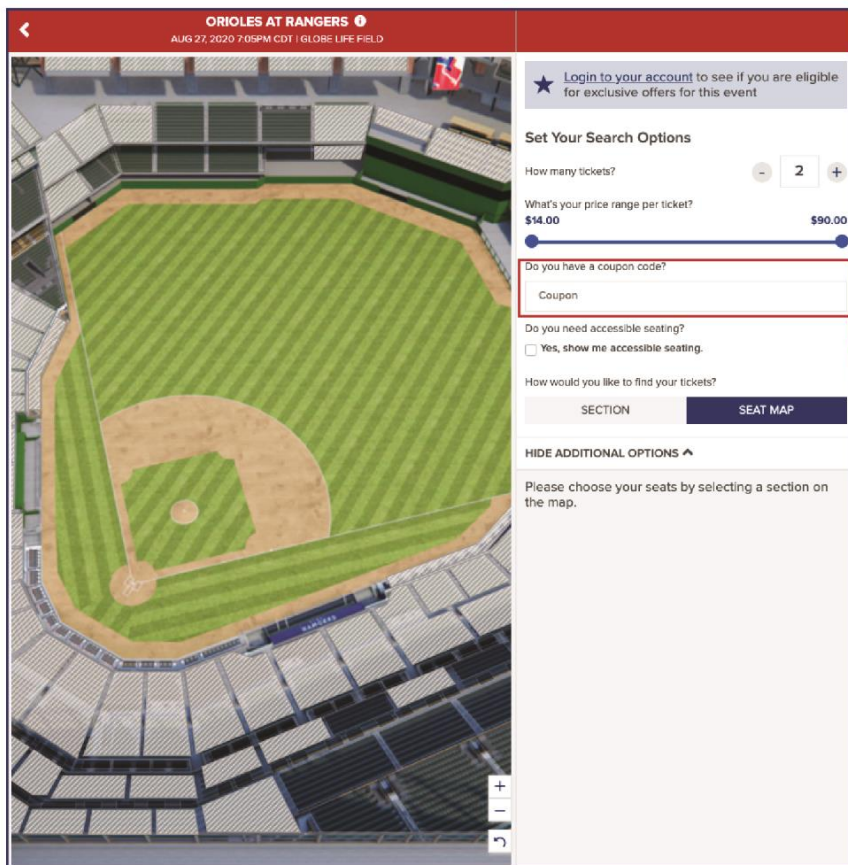


Username: aisd
Password: student



EMPLOYEES, FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DISCOUNTED TICKETS FOR A 2021 TEXAS RANGERS GAME.*

COME JOIN YOUR TEXAS RANGERS FOR A NIGHT OF GREAT BASEBALL ACTION.



1

GO TO TEXASRANGERS.COM AND CLICK "BUY NOW" FOR INDIVIDUAL GAME TICKETS

2

SELECT DESIRED GAME FROM THE CALENDAR

3

ENTER THE CODE **SCHOOLS** IN THE COUPON CODE TEXT BOX AND CLICK "APPLY"

*DISCOUNT AND SEATS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. SEATING AREAS AND PRICING ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

ONCE APPLIED, THE DISCOUNTED PRICE WILL BE REFLECTED BY THE PRICES SHOWN ON SCREEN.

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION,

EMAIL Jamie Roberts at JROBERTS@TEXASRANGERS.COM

BOND UPDATE

GROUNDBREAKING AT WEBB ELEMENTARY KICKS OFF MAJOR BOND 2019 PROJECT

Arlington ISD kicked off a major project this week to rebuild four aging schools and provide generations of students with the opportunities they need to succeed in the 21st century.

Up first is Webb Elementary, which hosted a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday, April 21. Webb is the first of four school replacements funded by the 2019 Bond, an effort to modernize the district's schools and revitalize their neighborhoods.

The fun groundbreaking ceremony included Webb's boisterous wallaby mascot and students in hard hats turning dirt with shovels a bit too big for them. And of course, it also included district leaders celebrating the exciting future for Webb.

[See photos.](#)

"The 2019 Bond is allowing us to transform our district with rebuilding four of our schools that need it most," said Arlington ISD Board of Trustees President Kecia Mays. "The new school at Webb, followed by three more, is designed to provide our students with the best possible educational experience. They're going to be places that our students want to be and feel inspired to learn in."

The new school building at Webb will replace the current building, opened in 1960 as a junior high. Webb's current site is large enough that the new building will be built on the property while the current building remains open. Once the new facility is finished in the fall of 2022, the Webb students and teachers will just move in from next door.

"Webb already has outstanding students and teachers," said Arlington ISD Superintendent Dr. Marcelo Cavazos. "They are known for their generosity and involvement in the community, from singing at nursing homes to raising money for the Arlington Life Shelter. This new school building is designed to match that spirit and give these students every opportunity to succeed and excel."

Follow the [progress at Webb](#) and learn more about the [2019 Bond](#).



Webb Elementary Students Breaking Ground

MANY THANKS!

thanks /(*θæŋks*)/ *p/ n*

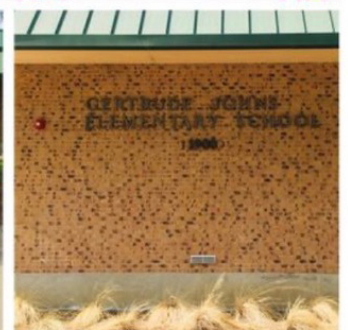
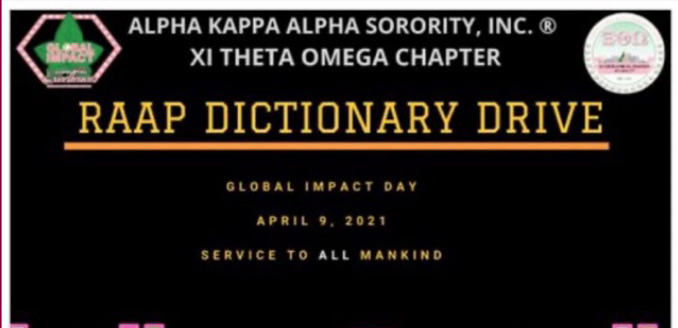
an expression of appreciation or gratitude or an acknowledgment of services or favors given



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Xi Theta Omega Chapter

April 9 at 6:30 PM · 🌐

In recognition of Global Impact Day 2021, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated- Xi Theta Omega Chapter hosted a Dictionary Drive. 196 dictionaries were donated to the ESL Program at Johns Elementary School in Arlington ISD. Pictured here are XTO members, Lisa Staples-Wherry, Sabrina Cannon, Tremendous Francisco, and Nedra Ervin, and also the school's principal, Dawn Zdrojewski. Thank you to everyone who donated and a huge thank you to our Refugees in America Assistance Program (RAAP) Committee for their planning and execution.





REPORTING AN ACCIDENT

Contact supervisor. If an emergency response professional is needed call 911.

Contact the risk management office at 682-867-7649.

[Complete workers' comp packet.](#)

Completed packet should be sent to the risk management office in the administration building.

Tina Baze, Specialist
Risk Management
Arlington ISD
1203 W. Pioneer Pkwy
Arlington, TX 76013
Office: 682-867-7649
Fax: 682-867-4682

THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING ACTIVE AT WORK

Getting the recommended amount of physical activity at work can be a challenge, particularly if you spend most of your workday sitting at a desk. Whether you take a walk, bike or actively stretch, doing exercise of any kind can provide an energy boost for the remainder of your workday and keep you healthy.

This is important, as sitting for extended periods of time is associated with increased health risks, including:

- Obesity
- Type 2 diabetes
- Slow metabolism
- Heart disease
- Cancer

Being active during your workday can also reduce stress levels. High stress rates can lead to impaired mental well-being, depression-like symptoms and high blood pressure - all of which negatively impact your overall health.

Performing just 30 minutes of activity five days a week could improve your health. To stay active in the workplace, consider the following tips:

- Stand up regularly
- Re-engineer your work environment and, if possible, use things like standing workstations to incorporate more movement into your workday
- Take an active lunch break instead of eating lunch at your workstation.
- Track your steps. Tracking your daily activity can be an excellent way to motivate yourself to stay active during long workdays
- Take small stretch breaks at your desk to extend your spine and loosen tense muscles caused by prolonged sitting

Next time you have a break in your day or you're feeling a little tense, try getting up and getting active. Doing so can help improve your health now and into the future.

