

## Spotlight On Our STARS

STARS: Seniors who take a role - Our residents make a world of difference in the lives of SBISD children.

## Mentorship Success

A perfect fit. That's how May graduate Evangelina Covarrubias and her Collegiate Challenge mentor, Melinda Van Paasschen, see their yearlong-plus partnership at Spring Woods High School.

Just days ago, this successful match resulted in big Spring Woods Tiger news – Evangelina received a Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Scholarship valued at more than \$20,000.

Evangelina was paired her junior year with Ms. Van Paasschen, a former educator. The SBISD Collegiate Challenge program helps match interested area adults with high school juniors and seniors.

Together, students and adult volunteers work through career interests, college or university applications and essays,



Ms. Van Paasschen and Evangelina

and scholarship opportunities. So far, program students have all gained college entry and most have attended their college picks after graduation. Collegiate Challenge operates at four SBISD high schools.

It worked for Evangelina. "We are both perfectionists. It was so great that I found someone who matched my outlook and effort to be the best I could possibly be," the Class of 2018 Spring Woods graduate said recently.

She ranked among the top 15 of all seniors, loved performing in the varsity choir, and volunteered in the community after Hurricane Harvey.

Evangelina will study at Sam Houston State University this fall with two majors in mind – criminal justice and psychology. Her mentor guided her to the two areas.

She knew about law enforcement – her mom, dad, uncle and a grandfather were police officers – but a high school forensic science course made her think about a career combining law enforcement and psychology studies.

Evangelina and Ms. Van Paasschen evaluated her interests. "By doing research with my mentor, I came to realize that criminal justice is something that I want to do," Evangelina said.

The two also worked together on her essays and how the Tiger senior might present herself to colleges and scholarship officials. She has received small scholarships, too, and is waiting to hear back on other opportunities.

"Evangelina is a self-starter," said Ms. Van Paasschen, a 16-year educator who taught English at Spring Woods High. "We worked well together, and it's been a good fit. We tweaked her essays, bit by bit, each time boosting them up."

"I do love writing so this is a great volunteer job for me, and I do believe that it is important to help students who may not have help from an adult at home. If you are truly interested in having an impact on a young person's life, then Collegiate Challenge is the right thing to try."

To learn more about SBISD's plentiful opportunities to volunteer or mentor, call SBISD Community Relations at 713-251-2286.

## District Votes YES!

Great schools. Great community.

**BOND**  
2017  
Spring Branch ISD



## Election Update: Bond Wins BIG! Board OKs up to \$200 million sale to begin work

Spring Branch ISD voters approved by 80 percent last fall a 10-year, \$898.4 million bond package that will rebuild nine elementary schools and Landrum Middle School, among other improvements, without a required increase in the district's tax rate.

Voter support for renovated and rebuilt school infrastructure in the district came only weeks after a devastating hurricane. "We are deeply appreciative of the SBISD community's support of our students, our teachers and our schools," Superintendent Scott Muri said on election night, Nov. 7.

"Our community has voted for the future of Spring Branch schools despite Hurricane Harvey's impact on families. We will now proceed thoughtfully and with great sensitivity as we move forward with our long-range facilities plan. SBISD is inspired by our community and by its determination to meet the educational needs of every child," he said.

In March, SBISD Trustees gave approval for up to \$200 million in bonds to be issued for upcoming

bond-related work and purchases. Proceeds from the first bond issue will be used to buy new buses and new musical instruments and student uniforms, hire architects, and update technology and Career & Technology Education (CTE) equipment.

The bond sale will allow the district to begin work in several areas – prekindergarten centers; three elementary schools not being replaced; pre-design work on Hunters Creek Elementary and Landrum Middle schools; and work at four comprehensive high schools, including a partial reconstruction of Memorial High School.

Trustees have also approved seven architectural firms to be used for construction projects. A separate Bond Oversight Committee has now held two meetings. It is charged with ensuring that bond promises made match what's finally delivered.

At \$898.4 million, the 2017 Bond was the largest in SBISD history. In Texas history, it represents the seventh largest schoolhouse bond ever approved.

For more 2017 Bond details, please visit online: <https://www.springbranchisd.com/bond2017/>

## No Tax Increase for Senior Residents, 65 Years or Older

Your taxes will not increase as a result of this successful bond election. The school tax bill is frozen when a taxpayer turns age 65, or is disabled. The rate is frozen as long as you live in your home and do not make major improvements that change its value. To request this exemption, call the Harris County Appraisal District at 713-957-7800.

## SBISD Teachers of the Year Named

Librarian Heather Bothe of Frostwood Elementary School and Memorial High School's Holly Hartman, who teaches journalism and oversees both a student newspaper and yearbook, are SBISD's 2018 Teachers of the Year.

The winning educators were announced publicly on the field at Minute Maid Park before the April 24 Houston Astros-Los Angeles Angels game, the site of the annual SBISD Service Awards for a second year. Superintendent Scott Muri, Ed.D., presented trophy style Golden Apples to Bothe and Hartman during a brief, on-field event displayed larger than life on a Jumbo Tron screen located above the third baseline.

The two teachers also received a \$1,000 cash prize made possible through Memorial Hermann Memorial City Hospital and the First Community Credit Union, and a \$2,000 professional growth stipend.

More than 1,300 employees and guests attended the Service Awards event at Minute Maid Park, which included a fun, pre-game reception.

Bothe and Hartman were joined on the ballfield by SBISD retirees, Board President Karen Peck and several other Trustees. Earlier, two Principals of the Year were named. They are Chris Winstead of Pine Shadows Elementary and Sarah Guerrero of Northbrook Middle School.



Teachers of the Year celebrate on field

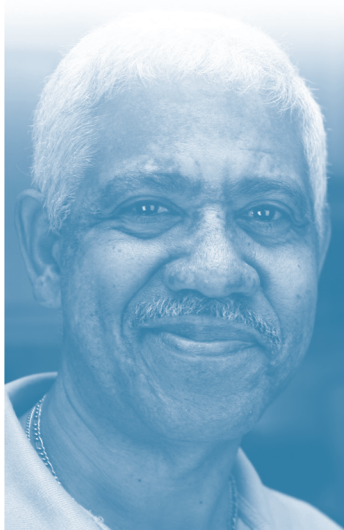




Inspiring minds. Shaping lives.

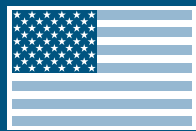
955 Campbell Road • Houston, TX 77024  
www.springbranchisd.com

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Houston, TX  
Permit No. 8077



You can make a difference.  
Inspire a mind. Shape a life.

STARNews is produced by the Communications Department of Spring Branch ISD.  
Our goal is to keep retired residents informed about the school district they helped build.



# Campuses Cheer 50 Years of Education



Several SBISD campuses, including Sherwood Elementary and Spring Forest Middle schools, marked their first 50 years with special community events in recent months. In early March, Sherwood held a two-day celebration that included current and former teachers and principals.

Opened in 1968, Sherwood was designed during a period of open classroom and team-teaching concepts. The school will be rebuilt under the 2017 Bond plan in the future. Sherwood is one of only three, two-way dual language elementary program schools in the district.

On March 2, Sherwood’s principal, Stefanie Spencer, and other dignitaries led a presentation in the school’s round-shaped cafeteria. Students presented a quick trip through Sherwood’s first five decades.

Like many SBISD elementary schools, the campus keeps its history in handcrafted yearbooks lovingly put together by parents over the years. Vintage photographs were also displayed in the library for two days. A separate celebration and outdoor festival was held for students and families a day later.

Sherwood’s leadership has included Stefanie Spencer, principal since 2009, and six former principals: Bernadette Hines (1967-83), Marcia McCall (1983-89), Roy Ford (1989-91), Nancy Bertin (1991-2000), Tim Ashford (2000-2003) and Anita Grimes (2003-2009).

In April, Spring Forest Middle School celebrated its 50th anniversary with a multicultural festival. Other schools celebrating 50 years recently included Spring Shadows and Wilchester elementaries and Spring Oaks Middle School.

# Be A STAR and Join Us Online!

Spring Branch ISD needs volunteers for a variety of activities ranging from personal tutoring and mentoring to office support. To make a difference in the lives of young people, call SBISD Community Relations at 713-251-2286.

This STARNews publication is now available online on our website, and via email as an electronic newsletter, or e-newsletter.

# Woodview Gets SPARK Park

A public dedication event and ribbon cutting for the district’s latest SPARK Park will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 31, at Woodview Elementary School, 9749 Cedardale. The public is invited and a reception is also planned.

This elementary school-based park earned \$100,000 in major funding as a “park desert” solution from both the Kinder and Powell foundations, as well as the local Houston Endowment. The playground helps fulfill a city goal to establish public parks within a 10-minute walk, or a half-mile radius, of all Houston residents.

The new playground and park is a joint venture of Spring Branch ISD and Woodview Elementary parents and students.


Principal Becky Hagan, SBISD Superintendent of Schools Scott R. Muri, Ed.D., and Board of Trustees Member Karen Peck will speak at the event. The dedication will include musical selections by the Woodview Elementary Choir.

The park includes two gaga pits to play a modern, foam ball version of the dodge ball game, baseball backstops, shade-providing structure, exercise equipment, mushroom steppers, crawl tubes and a bike rack.


Under the direction of art teacher Kathleen Firth, students worked with a local artist, Rose Toro, to create tiles placed in serpentine concrete seat walls and in entry columns to the park.

The school mascot, a beagle, is included in a metal arch joining two park mosaic columns. Artist Toro also created mosaic murals mounted on the school building facing the park.

May 31, 2018



Please join us for our  
SPARK Park Dedication  
Thursday, May 31, 2018  
1:00 p.m. @  
Woodview Elementary



PBK Architects designed the new school park. The project contractor was C.A. Walker Construction. The local park’s total cost was \$125,000.

Woodview Elementary parents, staff and students raised \$12,000 of park costs through fundraising efforts that included a penny drive, a Fun Run with sister school Hunter’s Creek Elementary, PDQ meal cards, engraved brick sales and donations through Network for Good. SBISD gave \$5,000 toward the project.

Significant outside funding sources for this park include: Spring Branch Management District, \$12,000; Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack Cagle’s office, \$5,000; and Kinder Foundation, Houston Endowment and Powell Foundation, \$100,000.


Flags flown over the U.S. and Texas Capitols will be presented to school officials. A certificate of recognition will also be presented.

# COMING ATTRACTIONS


## May 2018



23	Spring Concert	Spring Oaks MS Auditorium	5:30 p.m.
23	Choir Pop Show	Northbrook HS Auditorium	6 p.m.
24	Band Concert	Spring Branch MS Auditorium	6:30 p.m.
26	Stratford HS Graduation	Don Coleman Coliseum	10:00 a.m.
26	Northbrook HS Graduation	Don Coleman Coliseum	1:00 p.m.
26	Memorial HS Graduation	Don Coleman Coliseum	4:00 p.m.
26	Spring Woods HS Graduation	Don Coleman Coliseum	7:00 p.m.
29	Westchester HS Graduation	Don Coleman Coliseum	7:00 p.m.



Spring Branch Independent School District



Seniors Take A Role

**STARCards** are distributed free of charge to citizens 65 or older who reside in SBISD.

It’s our way of saying “**Thanks!**” for all you’ve done, and continue to do to support our district.

**Benefits include:**

- 20 percent discounts on SBISD continuing education classes
- Free admission to SBISD regular season “home game” athletic events (playoffs not included)
- Free admission to student performances (some seats are limited and advance ticket pick-up may be required)
- 10 percent off on Wednesdays at Blue Willow Books, 14532 Memorial Drive

**To get your STARCard and earn these discounts, please contact:**

SBISD Communications Department  
(713) 251-2272