



# JOHN F. KENNEDY ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

September 30, 2009

## Student Council: Democracy in Action

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On Friday, September 25, 2009, John F. Kennedy Elementary students met in the cafeteria and listened to the candidates running for Student Council. Each child had the opportunity to speak to their fellow classmates by introducing themselves and explaining why they were the better candidate. Our students were well prepared with their speeches and the audience were listening to the candidates' reasons in running for office. There were four Student Council positions that needed to be filled. The candidates running for president were Cassandra Gonzalez (voted president) and Kennedy Mariscal. Candidates for vice-president were Jose Farias (voted vice-president) and Natasha Galvan. For the secretary position, our candidates were Odessa Mata (voted secretary) and Marco Alanis. The candidates for the treasurer position were Xotchil Gamez (voted treasurer), Samantha Montelongo and Ricky Molina. We want to congratulate all our students for

running for Student Council. Also, we want to thank our JFK students for voting and practicing Democracy in Action. One special thanks goes to Mrs. M.E. Rodriguez, our counselor, for organizing this year's Student Council election.



**Student Council Candidates**

Top Row: Ricky Molina, Samantha Montelongo, Xotchil Gamez, Odessa Mata, and Marco Alanis

Bottom Row: Jose Farias, Natasha Galvan, Cassandra Gonzalez, and Kennedy Mariscal

**Calendar of Events**

- Oct. 1- Parents Night
- Oct. 12- No classes  
Columbus Day
- Oct. 21- Progress Report Cards go out
- Oct. 26-30- Drug Free Week
- Nov. 4- 2nd Six Weeks Report Cards

Students listening attentively to Mrs. M. E. Rodriguez explaining how to vote for the next Student Council positions using the ActiVote devices.



# Meet the Teacher Night

On Wednesday, September 9, 2009, John F. Kennedy, held "Meet the Teacher Night." All the grade levels presented a PowerPoint on new and relevant information to the parents who attended. The entire first grade teachers explained in detail upon several topics such as attendance, homework, testing procedures, uniform requirements, and about the First Grade Daily schedule. Our main goal was for parents and teachers to work together to ensure the safety of our students and to promote academic achievement for our most beautiful assets, our students. A large number of interested parents were in attendance and many had questions and concerns. All of their questions were eagerly answered by our teachers. Below is a picture of Mr. Bernal, first grade teacher, as he explains about the importance of students being present at school everyday.

El miercoles, 9 de septiembre del 2009 , el plantel de John F. Kennedy tuvo "Meet the Teacher Night." Todos los maestros/maestros tuvieron presentaciones de Powerpoint. Los maestros de Primer Grado presentaron en gran detalle sobre informacion tocante los uniformes, el horario de primer grado, como evitar demasiado ausencias y mucho otros temas. La idea principal era para promover que los padres y maestros trabajen junots para el buen estar



## Patterns Everywhere...



During the first six weeks second graders learned patterns in math and science. Students were shown an array of illustrations and videos via United Streaming. The use of technology in the class room has significantly given our students the extra edge needed to succeed. It has also allowed many of our students to use their imagination at a higher level.

As seen in this picture, our students have created amazing patterns. Some of their patterns include spider webs, smiles, flowers, and many other unidentified master pieces. We are extremely proud of our students work. We have many talented 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

# Eight years later and we're still O.K.!



"Nine years later I feel safe and it's a great day for fishing," wrote Jared Ruiz. This year commemorated the eighth anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>. The third grade students read books and viewed footage of the news coverage that was aired on that day. After reading books about the event the students were encouraged to reflect about their life in the United States and what made them proud to be a citizen of this great nation. The focus was on remembering the brave people that pulled together during the tragic event and to reinforce that our country is full of many opportunities and rights.

Ocho años más tarde y todavía estamos ¡muy bien!

"Han pasado nueve años y me siento segura y es un gran día para la pesca.", escribió Jared Ruiz. Este año conmemoramos el octavo aniversario del 11 de septiembre. Los estudiantes de tercer grado leyeron lecturas y vieron imágenes de la cobertura de prensa que se emitió en ese día. Después de leer libros sobre el caso, los estudiantes fueron estimulados a reflexionar sobre su vida en los Estados Unidos y lo que les hace sentir orgullo de ser ciudadanos de esta gran nación. La atención se centró en recordar a los valientes que se unieron durante el trágico evento y para reforzar que nuestro país está lleno de muchas oportunidades y derechos.

## Aiming High



In celebration of Constitution Day and as a motivational speaker, Roy Rodríguez, Edcouch-Elsa Alumni '98, spoke to the J.F.K. fourth grade class about overcoming the struggle of poverty and setting high goals for themselves, the importance of a bilingual education, and thinking about their future career. Mr. Rodríguez attended school in Mexico and moved to Elsa, where he attended school at the JFK. He spoke about rising above tough situations in high school, when he decided to become a better student in preparation for college. After graduating from the Edcouch-Elsa High School, he attended Columbia University at New York City. Through the university, he completed a year of international undergraduate studies in Spain. After graduating from college in 2002 with a major in Latin American Studies and a minor in U.S. History, he managed translating services for a New York based firm. Currently, he works for the U.S. Army under its Armament Division and became a military veteran this year after arriving from a mission in Iraq.

### Alcanzando Metas

En la celebración del día de la constitución y como portavoz de motivación, Roy Rodríguez, alumno de Edcouch-Elsa en el año 1998, presentó a los estudiantes del cuarto grado su experiencia de superación y lucha contra la pobreza. Él conversó sobre la importancia de una educación bilingüe, fijando metas para sí mismos y sobretodo pensar en el futuro. El Sr. Rodríguez fue a la escuela en México y se trasladó a Elsa, donde atendió a la escuela en JFK. En su relato habló sobre las situaciones difíciles que paso en la escuela secundaria que lo motivo a convertirse en un mejor estudiante. Después de recibirse de la secundaria de Edcouch-Elsa, él atendió la Universidad de Colombia en Nueva York. A través de la universidad, él terminó un año de estudios internacionales en España. Al recibirse de la universidad en el 2002, con un título en estudios Latino Americano e historia de los Estados Unidos, él utilizó su conocimiento bilingüe y manejó un servicio de traducción para una empresa en Nueva York. Actualmente, él trabaja para los EE. UU. en el ejército bajo su división de armamento. Este año

# FIRST SIX WEEKS SUPERSTARS

## First Grade Superstars



Top Row: Jose Cano, Nicolle Galvan, David Gonzales, Ryan Campos, Carlos Rodriguez, Gabriela Gonzalez.

Middle Row: Ocean Gomez, Leah Marquez, Angel Medina, Asia Gonzalez, Jewelyanne Jasso, Brandon Riojas.

## Third Grade Superstars



Top Row: Dominique Gonzalez, Antonio Gil, Emily Resendez, Jesus Gallegos, Jonah Gomez, Johnny Medina, Gisel Lara.

Middle Row: Luis Zamora, Sandra Perez, Isaac Valdez, Oscar Cardona, Joanna Rosa, Ricky Molina.

Bottom Row: Cassandra Rosales, Amy Montana, Marco Alanis.



## Second Grade Superstars



Top Row: Ricky Ortiz, Jasmine Raygoza, Regina Garcia, Krystal C' Fajardo, Vanessa Gomez, Ryan Castaneda.

Middle Row: Alyssa Castillo, Samantha Flores, Ryan Garcia, Isaias Reyna, Aliyah Garza, Jessie Marie Bernal.

## Fourth Grade Superstars



Top Row: Juan Sustaita, Aaron Soliz, Dulce Maria Ibanes, Chelsey Sandoval, Zachariah Rice, Reyes Campos.

Middle Row: Griselda Alonso, Kassandra Gonzalez, Elijah Garcia, Brianna Nunez, Divana Castillo, Xitlaly Hinojosa.

