



Special points of interest:

- Pre-K 4 SA encourages civic development in students
- Students learn about fire safety
- Citizens to be heard introduced at Pre-K 4 SA Board Meetings
- Pre-K 4 SA now accepts credit cards for tuition payments



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

Pre-K 4 SA Today

Pre-K 4 SA and Civic Development

Pre-K 4 SA is expanding on the traditional prekindergarten curriculum by emphasizing active civic engagement with its Civic Development Program. By focusing on volunteerism and community celebration, Pre-K 4 SA hopes not only to build strong, school-ready students, but to also encourage students to act as responsible adults who will give back to the community in the future.

The program utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to meet all Pre-K guidelines and the TEKS Vertical Alignment. Activities build upon new vocabulary skills, exposing students to civic development and concepts like voting and volunteerism.

Teachers reinforce academic elements during plan-do-review activities, small group instruction, and con-

flict resolution. Pre-K 4 SA teachers and administrators also plan to create a set of developmentally appropriate books about San Antonio. Through City Explorations, faculty and staff lead children and families to explore different areas of San Antonio while also engaging in civic responsibilities. Regular instruction and the extended day incorporates special activities such as *San Antonio under Construction* and a *San Antonio 4 Pre-K Dramatic Play*. The Center has opened its doors to parents, college students and other community members who demonstrate the concept of volunteerism. Students will also engage in projects that reflect their interests from these experiences; these projects will be displayed in a Pre-K 4 SA gallery at the end of the year.

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MUSIC at Pre-K 4 SA

Pre-K 4 SA is excited to begin its newest community collaboration with the Musicians Uniting and Supporting in Communities, or MUSIC, Project.

The MUSIC Project is a local nonprofit organization that brings musicians together to use music as a tool for educating, healing, and uniting people in the community.

As a part of this new partnership, musicians visit Pre-K 4 SA classrooms to teach students about instruments and music. The first session was

led by George Garza, lead singer of the San Antonio band, Pop Pistol. He is a singer and songwriter and visited the North and South Education Centers to speak about singing and instruments. He also played nursery rhymes so that kids could sing and clap along. Other local musicians will include a violinist and a pianist.

As part of their experience helping Pre-K 4 SA and other community groups with The MUSIC Project, volunteers can win scholarships to re-

cord and produce their own music. Musicians visiting the Centers will highlight their roles as volunteers and show the importance of learning and helping to improve the community.



Semester Wrap-Up

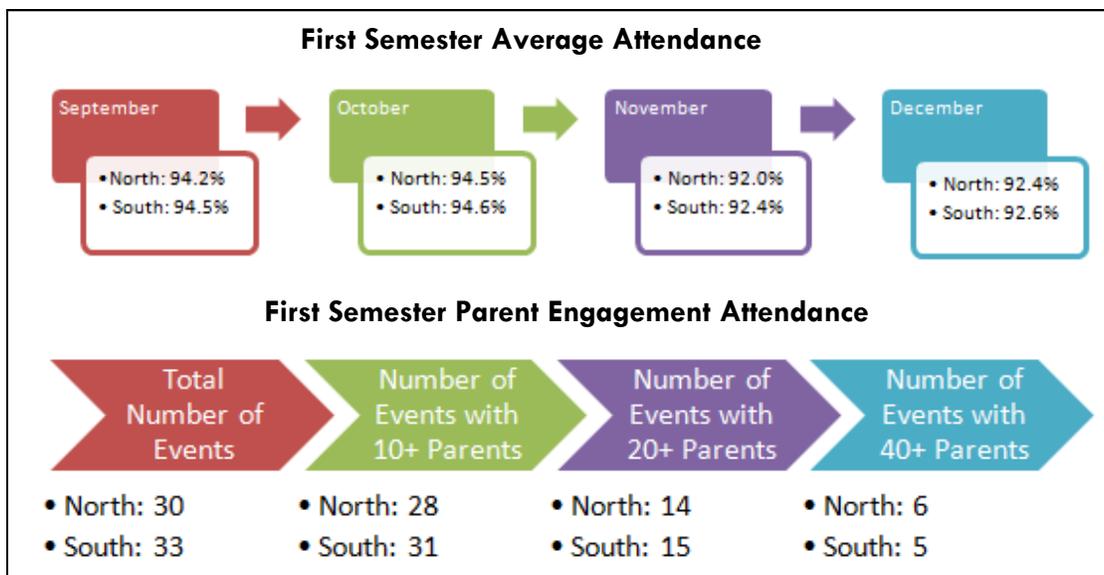
Pre-K 4 SA concluded its first semester in December. Teachers record classroom attendance each day. Throughout the first semester, the average attendance was 94.5%.

The North and South Education Centers also hosted a variety of opportunities for parents and families to par-

ticipate in events. Activities included parenting classes, health screenings, volunteer opportunities, field trips, and Center events such as Grandparent’s Day and Trunk-n-Treat.

H-E-B and Baptist Child and Family Services also provided weekly educational programs throughout the

semester. During the spring, parents will have more opportunities to attend trainings, volunteer in the classroom, and participate in excursions throughout San Antonio. By encouraging attendance and parent engagement, Pre-K 4 SA creates a positive learning environment for both students and families.



Teacher Spotlight

As a Lead Teacher at the North Education Center, Brenda Ague supports teachers and students in four classrooms. Of her fourteen years as a teacher, she has spent twelve years specializing in special education in Alamo Heights, Harlandale, and North East Independent School Districts. At Pre-K 4 SA, Brenda specifically excels in her ability and knowledge to make accommodations and modifications for children who struggle in a regular education setting.

In addition to supporting her classrooms, Brenda also took steps to introduce students to fire safety and the concept of firemen. Brenda's husband, Chief Neil Ague, is the Bat-

alion Chief for the San Antonio Fire Department. Chief Neil visited both Education Centers to teach students about safety and being a firefighter. In Brenda's words, "Sometimes firefighters can look rather scary to a preschooler when they are dressed up in their full bunker gear. It is important for children to see that firefighters are here to help us in emergencies."

The Fire Department taught students to never hide in a house in the case of a fire, to practice fire drills at home, and to establish and learn a safe meeting place outside of their homes. Several fire trucks were on site at the center. Some teachers even

climbed the ladder during the demonstration. Children asked the firefighters questions and Brenda even noticed children playing firefighter in the dramatic play area after the visit.

The demonstration was both an exciting and educational lesson for students. As Brenda explained, "Firefighters are a huge asset to our community and keep our citizens safe. It is necessary for children to know how civil servants contribute to our wonderful community of San Antonio." Overall, Brenda makes children feel safe in her classroom and enjoys building a special learning environment for students.



Pre-K 4 SA students learn about the Fire Department from San Antonio Battalion Chief Neil Ague

Citizens to be Heard

In December the Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors voted to approve an agenda item for Citizens to be Heard. This allows citizens the opportunity to speak on matters related to Pre-K 4 SA. Beginning in January, citizens can sign up to speak after approval of the previ-

ous meeting's minutes and prior to discussion of the remaining agenda items. Any individual or group will be given three minutes to express their ideas or questions.

Pre-K 4 SA encourages residents of San Antonio to participate in Board meet-

ings and provide us with feedback for how we can improve our program. Board meetings are regularly scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Board Agendas are available for viewing through the City of San Antonio website.



Tuition Options at Pre-K 4 SA

For children who are residing in the City of San Antonio but do not qualify to attend Pre-K 4 SA for free, the program also offers tuition-based attendance. Affordable tuition rates are determined on a sliding scale based on income and household size.

After tuition is calculated, families can select a payment plan from options including a

one-time payment, two payments each school year, or monthly payments. Tuition is prorated, so students joining during the second semester will pay based on the number of instructional days remaining in the school year.

In addition to checks and money orders, Pre-K 4 SA now accepts credit card payments. Visa, MasterCard,

Discover, and American Express are all accepted. In order to make a credit card payment, parents and guardians must visit their Education Center between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

If you are interested in attending Pre-K 4 SA as a tuition student, please call 210-207-PREK (7735) for more information.



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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish or call the State Information/Hotline Numbers (click the link for a listing of hotline numbers by State); found online at http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/contact_info/hotlines.htm. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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