



# Spring Branch Academic Institute



February 24, 2020

Issue 23

## SAVE THE DATES

 Donuts with Directors – SFMS MPR Room at 8:30 am	(Date Change) 03/12/2020
	03/16- 20/2020
SBAI Middle School 101 5:00-5:45 SBAI High School 101 6-7 pm Thornwood Library	03/25/2020
State of the School for SBAI Parents Thornwood Library 8:00-9:00 am	05/05/2020

## SBAI Middle School 101 and SBAI High School 101 Meetings

Families that are interested in learning more about the transition to middle school and high school at SBAI are invited to attend either or both of these meetings. These meetings will be held on **Wednesday, March 25 from 5-7pm**. A panel of SBAI students and parents will be part of the meeting.

## A Message From the Director About Assessments at SBAI

At SBAI, we use a variety of quantitative and qualitative measures to **gauge our students' academic progress and growth**. Daily and weekly assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, and checklists are some of the ways we use to measure what students learn and retain, both short-term and long-term.

Additionally, qualitative measures, like observations and interviews allow us to gain a deeper understanding of our students' academic performance. Unlike the STAAR tests that only compare students in Texas, **the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills)** is a norm-referenced battery of timed tests that compare our students to others in the nation. Since we give this test every year, we can measure growth from year-to-year. Students in Grades 2-5 recently took the ITBS, and results will be coming home with your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 Weeks report card.

At SBAI, we also use NWEA **MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)** testing at the beginning, middle, and end-of-year. MAP testing is a computerized, adaptive test that measures what students know along with their growth over time. MAP scores are **one** piece of information we use to inform instructional and placement decisions. You will receive your child's MAP end-of-year scores with the last report card.

Students at SBAI have individualized pathways that align to their abilities and the analysis of various measures help our team to better support our children.

## SBAI Elementary Emails

<a href="mailto:patricia.kassir@springbranchisd.com">patricia.kassir@springbranchisd.com</a>	Director
<a href="mailto:james.lefeber@springbranchisd.com">james.lefeber@springbranchisd.com</a>	Asst. Dir
<a href="mailto:lynnda.butorka@springbranchisd.com">lynnda.butorka@springbranchisd.com</a>	Admin. Asst.
<a href="mailto:paula.fendley@springbranchisd.com">paula.fendley@springbranchisd.com</a>	Counselor
<a href="mailto:sally.craddock@springbranchisd.com">sally.craddock@springbranchisd.com</a>	Teacher
<a href="mailto:kristi.dina@springbranchisd.com">kristi.dina@springbranchisd.com</a>	Teacher
<a href="mailto:stella.kim@springbranchisd.com">stella.kim@springbranchisd.com</a>	Teacher
<a href="mailto:ashlee.wilson@springbranchisd.com">ashlee.wilson@springbranchisd.com</a>	Teacher
<a href="mailto:kayman.mciver@springbranchisd.com">kayman.mciver@springbranchisd.com</a>	Teacher
<a href="mailto:julie.sirianni@springbranchisd.com">julie.sirianni@springbranchisd.com</a>	Teacher
<a href="mailto:adrien.moshenberg@springbranchisd.com">adrien.moshenberg@springbranchisd.com</a>	Teacher

## Upcoming Events

**PLEASE NOTE** – SBAI Elementary follows the Thornwood Elementary campus calendar for early dismissals.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip 02/25/2020  
Houston Symphony

Parent Education Night 02/26/2020  
Enrichment for your Gifted Child  
TWE Library 5:30-6:30 pm

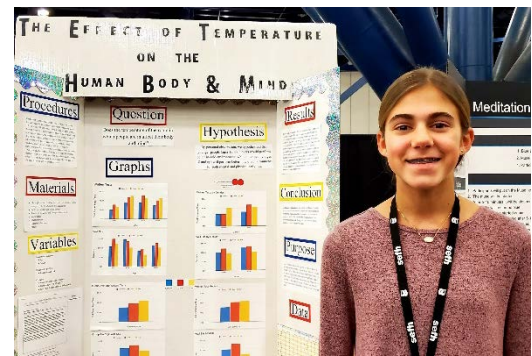
GO TEXAN DAY 02/28/2020  
Wear your western attire! YEEHAW!!

## Congratulations to our Science & Engineering Fair of Houston Winners and Participants



On February 15, ten SBAI Science Fair finalists went to the George R. Brown Convention Center to compete in the **61<sup>st</sup> Annual Science and Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH)**. We are so proud of (from left to right) **Sarah Haywood, Savera Karia, Sophie Sagastume, Amelia Bommer, Danny Hill, Emily Hopkins, Caroline Larrabee, Allie Weinhardt, Lucy Hamilton, and Brooke McAfee**. These 10 Dragons faced intense competition from secondary students from 23 counties. Each one spent the day answering questions from numerous judges.

We are proud to report that three were named winners! These students were honored at an awards ceremony at the University of Houston on Saturday. Congratulations, **Lucy Hamilton** for winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Behavioral Science Junior Division Competition. Additionally, Lucy received a Special Award from Space Center Houston. **Allie Weinhardt** received a Special Award from the CenterPoint Energy. **Savera Karia** also received a Special Award from the Sam Houston Council. It was wonderful to see these three SBAI students on the stage at the University of Houston on Saturday. We are so proud of the work our students are doing to advance science!



### Dr. Haidar Earns Distinguished Honor

The **Science and Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH)** recently recognized Dr. Mohammad Haidar, secondary science teacher at Spring Branch Academic Institute, as the **Junior Division Teacher of the Year!**

SEFH selected Dr. Haidar for his dedication, mentorship of students' scientific endeavors, and support of a large number of participants to compete in STEM opportunities. He was selected from the SEFH teachers in 23 counties! SEFH is one of the largest regional fairs in the state of Texas where students present their research. We are excited to have Dr. Haidar in the scientific community making a positive impact in the lives of students. **The SBAI community joins SEFH in congratulating Dr. Haidar for this distinguished honor.**



## **Parent Education Night: Enrichment for your Gifted Child**

**Wednesday, Feb 26, 2020**

5:30-6:30 pm at the TWE Library

**Presented by: Adrien Moshenberg, SBAI Enrichment Coordinator/Teacher**

Enrichment is an important component of educational programming for gifted students. But, what exactly is it? This session is geared for parents, and educators of gifted children who want to learn more about the Renzulli model of enrichment. Learn about the different types of enrichment experiences our students receive at SBAI and ways you can enrich your child's learning outside of school.

**To attend this session, please RSVP with Lynnda Butorka at [Lynnda.Butorka@springbranchisd.com](mailto:Lynnda.Butorka@springbranchisd.com)**



**Go TEXAN Day!**

Let's Rodeo! Cowboys and Cowgirls wear your western attire on this **Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>** - Go Texan Day!

**YEEHAW!!**

## **Spring Break Learning Opportunity in Math for Grades 6-8**

What are your middle school students doing during spring break (March 16-20)? The Rice Athletics Department is partnering with RUSMP to offer Math-Letics again. This camp promises to be very active, fun, and very "mathy"! The math activities are not your typical school math. Kids absolutely loved the camp last year! To register go to <http://riceowls.com/mathletics>

## **Summer Math Camps from Rice University School Mathematics Project**

If you haven't made your summer plans, check out RUSMP's camps for students in June. For information, go to <https://rusmp.rice.edu/register/students>

## **Camp Invention June 15-18, 2020 in Spring Branch**

Imaginations will soar this summer in the all-new Camp Invention® program, Elevate! Campers in grades K-6 will spark their creativity and build collaboration skills while controlling their very own flight simulation robot, protecting Earth's ecosystems, designing the ultimate sports complex and learning the value of their ideas! Local educators will lead fun, hands-on STEM activities inspiring children to ask questions, overcome obstacles and be confident in their innovative ideas. Visit [invent.org/camp](http://invent.org/camp) or call 800-968-4332 to register. Use promo code SUM25 to save \$25 (expires 3/31) or SUM15 to save \$15 (expires 5/12). Thornwood Elementary will host this camp June 15-18, 2020.



## **Attention 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents - Off Campus Health Fitness**

To maintain compliance with state law, Spring Branch ISD offers substitution for Health Fitness classes in **middle** and high school. If you are interested in OCHF for 2020-21, applications will be available online from March 1 to May 1. If you are currently working with a facility, they must be approved by SBISD. The online facility applications opened the last week of January and **will close February 25<sup>th</sup>**. Please visit the [SBISD OCHF website](#) for more information.



## **5th Grade Track Team**

### **Information from Amber Reynolds – Health and Fitness Coach**

Our AMAZING 5<sup>th</sup> grade track team will be representing Thornwood and SBAI this year. The track meet will be on **March 12<sup>th</sup>** at Stratford High School. We will leave TWE at 4:00 and walk over to Stratford together. The meet starts at 5:00. I hope to have you all there cheering on our TRAGON athletes. Representing SBAI will be:



#### **GIRLS 200M**

Abbey San Lucas

Esme Bohan

#### **BOYS 100M**

Roman Fitzgerald

#### **BOYS 4X100M RELAY**

Kitt Taylor

#### **DISCUS**

Kellen Wang

## **Physics and Engineering Festival - Texas A&M University in College Station**

Join us for Physics and Engineering Festival 2020 on **April 4** at Texas A&M University in College Station! The Festival's 2020 program is posted at <http://physicsfestival.tamu.edu/>, where you'll also find photos and videos from previous festivals on the Media tab. This STEM event is FREE, and no registration is required!

We expect several thousand people from all over Texas and other states to attend this FREE event to handle demos in physics, astronomy, math, statistics, biology, chemistry, and engineering! More than 200 interactive science exhibits for kids and adults will be run by our faculty, researchers, and students on Saturday, April 4, 10:00am-3:30pm. The hands-on part of the Festival will be concluded by the Grand Finale: A Texas-sized depth charge with five water barrels and 1,000 plastic balls!

In addition to the hands-on demos, we'll have several other events during the Festival.

- "How did Amy and Sheldon win their Nobel Prize?" by Dr. David Saltzberg, the UCLA physics professor who served as science consultant for the hit TV sitcom *The Big Bang Theory* for its entire series run
- Public talks by astronauts Nancy Currie-Gregg and Michael Fossum
- Presentations of Bubble Show by Tom Noddy
- A virtual tour of the Large Hadron Collider (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland
- A Low Temperature Extravaganza

See the full schedule of events at <http://physicsfestival.tamu.edu/>!

If you have any questions about the Festival, please don't hesitate to contact us!

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ADVANCED  
ACADEMIC  
STUDIES  
SPRING BRANCH ISD

PRESENTS

# SHOWCASE 2020

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE  
Featuring PGP, SPIRAL, and SBAL students

**April 29 5:00-6:00**  
Don Coleman Coliseum

Student work from each  
program will be featured.  
All are welcome to come  
and enjoy:

- Student presentations
- Learning more about G/T services
- A family night out supporting  
SBISD

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