



THE JAG

Joslin Activities and Greetings

A collaboration of Joslin Elementary and Joslin PTA



November 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol 3 Issue 3

MONARCH GARDEN LEARNING CENTER IS OPEN!



The renovation of the monarch garden has been years in the making and it is finally complete and ready to use as an outdoor classroom for the Joslin community! We officially opened the Monarch Garden Learning Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, October 28.

The new garden includes a flagstone circle patio and arched seatwall made of recycled logs, a shade sail, a custom-made whiteboard and a picnic table. These features are surrounded by a planted bed of native, low-water perennials that will attract monarchs and other Central Texas and migratory pollinators as the plants grow. The adjacent shed is stocked with tools for outdoor learning including clipboards for students, soft log cushions to allow students to comfortably sit on the seatwall or floor during lessons, whiteboard pens, gardening tools, seeds and items for nature inspired play and learning!

Outdoor education has proven to have tremendous benefits for both teachers and students and has been gaining popularity throughout the country in recent years. Studies show that when children spend time outdoors it improves their academic performance, reduces stress, improves focus inside and outside the classroom, promotes cognitive development, reduces obesity, lessens ADHD symptoms, improves eyesight, promotes self confidence and environmental stewardship and is fun! (Natural Learning Initiative, Texas Dept. of Health and Human Services)

First started by Ms. Branch and used for several years by her kindergarten class and the Joslin EcoClub, the monarch garden became overgrown and unusable during the COVID pandemic. In the 2021-2022 school year, the school received support from the National Wildlife Federation to create an outdoor learning cohort, promoting outdoor learning through teacher trainings and the development of a school specific project. The renovation of the Monarch Garden to be both habitat and an outdoor classroom was the perfect fit!

The PTA Campus Beautification committee got involved and provided a new design for the garden, incorporating the dual desires for an outdoor learning space and pollinator habitat. PTA members Allie and Scott Cassel managed the project, sharing their experience as Landscape Architects, Natural Learning Initiative/OLE! Texas trained designers and parents to three Joslin Jaguars, Hannah (5th), Edie (2nd) and Rosie (Pre-K). The PTA secured additional funding for the project from the City of Austin Bright Green Futures grant, the Whole Foods Whole Kids Garden grant, PTA fundraisers and private donations to turn the design into reality. Many Joslin families have been involved in the planning and installation effort with special thanks to the Walker family, the Joy family, the Popp family, the McCreight family, the Chen family, the Aikman family, and the Sisson family for sharing knowledge, labor, fundraising and support! Thanks also to all the many families that have attended our garden volunteer days. We couldn't have done this without our Jaguars!

The Joslin Garden Club meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the Monarch Garden at 3pm. Please join us for our next meeting on November 6th. We will be planting wildflower seeds, including milkweeds for monarchs, bluebonnets and a mix of native annuals in and around the garden for spring time blooming. See you in the garden!



BEFORE



THE VISION



Thank you Allie!



Healthy Living Night November 8



Don't miss Healthy Living Night on Friday, November 8, 5-7pm in the cafeteria. This year, the event is centered around the theme "Move, Nourish, Find Joy," encouraging students and all to engage in physical activity, explore healthy foods, and discover joy through playful experiences and mindful exercises.

Station Breakdown:

1. Move:

- This station will feature a variety of fun physical activities. The goal is to get students moving and having fun, emphasizing the importance of physical activity for their health and happiness.

2. Nourish:

- At this station, students can enjoy tasty, healthy snacks designed to introduce them to nutritious foods. Allie Cassell, our Campus Beautification Chair and Joslin Gardener extraordinaire, will host a special garden station where children can taste fresh fruits and vegetables, promoting an appreciation for where their food comes from. This experience aims to inspire kids to make healthier food choices in a fun and interactive way.

3. Find Joy:

- This area will focus on joyful activities, such as crafts, games, or mindfulness exercises. The intention is to create an atmosphere of happiness and creativity, allowing kids to express themselves and connect with others.

Interactive Bingo/Scavenger Hunt: A bingo card/scavenger hunt checklist will be distributed. Those who complete the challenge can redeem their card for a reward.

Overall, the event is designed to create a holistic approach to health and well-being, blending movement, nutrition, and joy in a way that resonates with kids and makes learning about healthy habits enjoyable. Shout out to Josephine Tidwell, this year's Health Living Chair for leading the event!



WELCOME NEW PTA TEAM MEMBERS

- Parliamentarian - Mindy Farmer
- Programs Chair - Nisa Wilson
- Social Media
 - Jen Carver
 - Jessica Sanders
 - Tiffany Tripson
 - Nisa Wilson





Enroll Austin Dates



5th Grade Transition to Middle School

Enrollment for 2025-26 starts early this year. Important dates are listed below. In addition, Mrs. Turner created an all-in-one website of all the information you will need to transition to middle school. Scan the QR code for details.

- **November 6: Enroll Austin opens** - Priority Registration (this is when families can register for the upcoming school year and/or apply for a transfer to attend another school)
- **February 4: Priority Registration/Application Closes**
- **March 14: Families Informed of Program Decision**
- **April 1: General Registration Opens**



Phrases of the Month - Leader in Me

Habit 1: Be Proactive: Take responsibility for your life

Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind: Have a plan and reconnect with your purpose

Habit 3: Put First Things First: Prioritize and work first

Habit 4: Think Win-Win: Collaborate and find solutions that benefit everyone

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood: Listen to others and try to see things from their perspective

Habit 6: Synergize: Work together to create better solutions

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw: Balance your life by eating well, exercising, earning, and getting enough sleep



ABSENCE NOTE?

SUBMIT WITH QR CODE!



<https://www.austinisd.org/attendance/report-absence>

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

- **November 4, 5:30-6:30p (cafeteria): Parent Information Session: Dual Language and Advanced Language Pathway from Elementary to Middle School.** 4th and 5th graders, in addition to Mrs. Turner's website, come learn more about the transition to middle school. See flyer below.
- **Leader in Me.** We finished introducing all 7 habits in English and Spanish. We are creating an inclusive community where everyone is being respectful to each other and where students are learning strategies and ways to resolve conflicts with each other; be positive and proactive. A huge THANK YOU to the PTA for funding half of the Leader in Me Program. We ask parents to continue the lesson at home and review the 7 habits. We can focus on the songs the students have learned since the beginning of school:
 - Welcome Song (Mandarin)
 - Joslin Song (all 3 languages)
 - Where Are My Friends (all 3 languages)
 - The More We Get Together (all 3 languages)



- **AISD Proposition A.** Mr. Chang reviewed Prop A. during the Campus Advisory Council (CAC), PTA meeting and Chat with Chang. An online information session will be held on **Nov. 2, 6-7pm.**



Please reach out to Mr. Chang if you have any questions. **Scan the QR code to learn more and how to attend the information session.**

- **Attendance.** Thank you to all Joslin families! Our attendance in the first 6 weeks of school was 96.62%. Last year, we were at 95.44% during the same time period. This is 1.18% increase! Don't forget you can now report absences online. QR code below!
- **Thanksgiving Family Meal, Thursday, November 14.** Look out for flyer for Thanksgiving Family Meal Order Form.

ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES

Family Info Session

Tuesday, Nov. 12. 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Google Meet Link
<https://bit.ly/AISDAdOpp>



Join us to learn about pathways and opportunities available to your child in Austin ISD:

- Dual Credit
- UT OnRamps
- Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- Early College High School (ECHS)
- P-TECH
- Dual Language
- Advanced Placement (AP)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- AVID (College Readiness)
- Fine Arts
- Student Supports (Special Education, 504, Gifted & Talented)

advancedacademics@austinisd.org



Austin ISD
Multilingual Education Department



Invites parents/guardians to an

INFORMATION SESSION

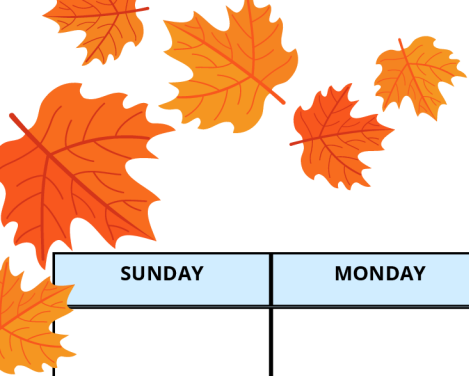
MIDDLE SCHOOL DUAL LANGUAGE AND ADVANCED LANGUAGE PATHWAYS

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 4, 2024

5:30 - 6:30 P.M.

LOCATION:
JOSLIN ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA

4500 Menchaca Rd.
Austin, TX 78745



November



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			*Hosted by Joslin PTA		1 <i>Diwali</i> <i>Native American Heritage Month</i>	2
					SCHOOL HOLIDAY	
3	4 5:30-6:30p: Parent Info. Session: Dual Language & Advanced Language Pathway from Elem. to Middle School (cafeteria)	5  STUDENT HOLIDAY	6 3-4p: Joslin Garden Club* Welcome all! <i>Enroll Austin begins for 2025-26 (K-5th)</i>	7	8 Fall Individual Picture Retake Day 3:15-4:15p: Silat 5-7p: Healthy Living Night (cafeteria)* 	9 
10	11	12 8:30-9:15a: Chat with Chang (office) 6-7p: Advanced Opportunities Family Info Session (online)	13	14 Thanksgiving Family Meal (lunch) 3:30-4:30p: Campus Advisory Council Meeting (library) 	15 Academy 4 3:15-4:15p: Silat	16
17	18	19	20 3-4p: Joslin Garden Club* PTA Meeting 5p Board 5:30p General (library)* 	21	22 3:15-4:15p: Silat	23
24	25	26	27	28 	29	30
NO SCHOOL - FALL BREAK						

HEALTHY LIVING NIGHT

Fri, Nov 8th
5:00 - 7:00 PM
@ JOSLIN CAFETERIA

Move, Nourish, Find Joy

+ healthy snacks
+ bingo/scavenger hunt




VEGAN LENTIL CHILI RECIPE

1 pound lentils
 2 teaspoons oil
 1/2 cup diced onions
 1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
 2 teaspoons Comino powder
 2 1/2 Garlic finely diced
 1/2 cup diced Poblano pepper
 1 tablespoon chili powder
 1/8 teaspoon salt
 1 1/8 cup vegetable stock
 1/2 cup tomato paste
 12 oz can diced tomatoes
 2 Quarts water

Rinse and clean the lentils and set aside. In a large stock pot, heat the oil and sauté the onions and garlic until golden. Next add the diced tomatoes, tomato paste, vegetable stock, water and lentils. Bring to a boil and cook until lentils are tender. Serve over corn chips and top with shredded cheddar cheese. Enjoy!

This can be made ahead of time and frozen for a quick supper. It is suggested to use freezer bags. To thaw, in the morning, place it in a bowl in the refrigerator to enjoy in the evening.

Place the red bell pepper and poblano pepper on a tray in the oven at 350F until they become a nice roasted color. Then remove, cool, and chop.