

## JOSLIN'S ROBOTICS PROGRAM

**Did you know the robotics program started last year and PTA parent, Jayne Samuels, is the mastermind behind the program? Learn more about the program and how it benefits Joslin students.**

Jayne Samuels started the Robotics Program at Joslin last year. As you can imagine this was no simple task. She sought out a program, raised funds, and has led the program. Several middle and high schools have robust robotic programs but very few public elementary schools offer them. Her main goal for bringing the program to Joslin is for kids to have fun and to feel empowered.



First and foremost, Ms. Samuels wants to express her gratitude to Mrs. Gibbs, our Librarian and Gifted and Talented (GT) Instructor. Mrs. Gibbs has been the program's most dedicated advocate, generously volunteering her time to bring it to life. Without her, the program simply would not be possible.

In traditional schools, students usually focus on separate subjects in their classes. In robotics, the children are required to apply interdisciplinary knowledge to address a new challenge every week. This program is driven by the students themselves and facilitated by volunteers. Every week, the children must collaborate as a team, engage in problem-solving, exchange ideas, and present their concepts to the class.

Last year they started by offering the program to the third grade GT students. Seeing the success of the program, they wanted to find a way to offer it to more students. This year we opened the program to 2nd-4th graders for up to 80 students!

The FIRST® program 'inspires young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.'

This year, we were extremely fortunate to secure a grant from John Deere, which covered all the costs for our season's supplies. We've also been fortunate to receive generous donations from various families, and we're especially grateful for the consistent support from Petite Dental, who sponsored us last year and this year. Looking ahead, our aim is to establish partnerships with a couple of local sponsors who are willing to commit to annual donations in the future. Our goal is to expand the program to include 2nd through 5th grades next year.

They've been fortunate to have exceptional volunteers, such as Jake Klein and Tommy Tsui, who dedicated their time to support the program last year and this year. This year a new group of volunteers have stepped up and they have been truly

outstanding in their commitment. FIRST® provides all the session plans and learning guides for the entire season. No prior knowledge of robotics or LEGOs is necessary; all that's required is a sense of curiosity and a few hours of your time each month. Please reach out to Joslin PTA if you are interested in volunteering ([joslinPTA@gmail.com](mailto:joslinPTA@gmail.com)).

When it comes to the kids, our focus is to ensure they continue having fun and relishing the process of tackling new challenges each week. Personally, the hour she spends with them is consistently the highlight of her week. Witnessing their incredible imaginations at work and observing their growth throughout the year is truly amazing. I'm deeply grateful for this opportunity.

Jayne is originally from Boston, MA and has lived in Austin for 14 years. She began my professional career as a dancer and later transitioned to working behind the scenes. She is currently the Executive Director of Production at Hartman Studios. She is the mother of Christian (4th grade) and Mateo (who will join PK4 next year).



# PTA Updates



## CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION

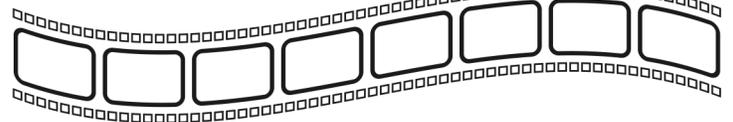
The Campus Beautification Committee has been hard at work constructing a water wall for outdoor learning and play in the entry courtyard! Students send water to the top of the wall with a mounted hand pump and then playfully direct the flow with on/off valves through a series of pipes - some with perforations, some solid and some with surprising water spouts. Gutter sections can be added and removed by the students to further direct the flow, positioned on moveable brackets, with the ultimate goal of capturing the water into watering cans and buckets to water the nearby garden beds.

Future additions include a mounted scale, water turbine, and storage cabinet for water smocks and interchangeable wall components. Let us know if you have an idea for a playful and educational addition to this wall! If you'd like to learn more, please set up a demonstration with the Campus Beautification Committee in the front office.



## LEADER IN ME PROGRAM

You may have heard of the Leader in Me program Mr. Chang has been advertising. The program's focus is to empower students with leadership and life skills. Joslin teachers and staff have received training and plan to implement the program in January. At October's PTA meeting, the PTA approved to contribute \$2,000 to the program for the 2023-2024 school year. Thank you PTA!



## A TROLLIFIC TIME AT MOVIE NIGHT!

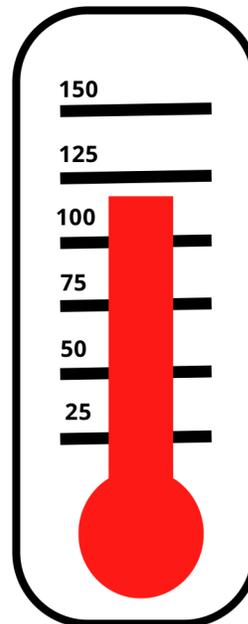
On October 13, Joslin PTA hosted its annual Movie Night featuring a sing along with the movie, Trolls. Tall colored hair was seen, freeze-dried treats from Austin Treats were eaten, Jeni's Splendid ice cream was licked, and bellies were filled with pizza donated from D&J Mobile Detailing! And don't forget the Dance Glow Party and balloon drop! We can't wait to see what will transpire next year!



## JOIN JOSLIN PTA!

This year we increased our PTA membership goal by 25% and we are doing great! Thank you for all that have joined. It's not too late to join! Scan the QR code register. It only takes a few minutes and \$11. A portion of your membership fee is donated directly to Joslin PTA.

Help us reach our goal of 150 members! Remember students, siblings, and family members can be PTA members too!



# PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Ms. Oliva Aviles



Ms. Cris Guerra de Segnini



- **WELCOME new custodian, Ms. Oliva Aviles.** She became a Jaguar in October and came to us from Oak Hill Elementary. In March, she will celebrate 20 years at AISD!
- **THANK YOU for your support!** It's hard to believe we are entering our fourth month this semester but we wouldn't be where we are today without the support from the parents and community! Our **Grandparents Day Thanksgiving Lunch is Nov. 9** and even though it's for Grandparents Day all are welcome to come and join. We appreciate you!
- **PARENT SHOUT OUT!** I want to thank Manu's parents (1st grade), Penelope Lim and Quang Chau. Penelope works with me every month to create a newsletter that centralizes Joslin and Joslin PTA's information on one page. She also helps post the weekly updates and posts on Facebook and Instagram. Have you noticed the new white boards in the hallways and orange office chairs? Thank you to Quang for arranging the white boards and office chair donations to the entire staff. In addition, he volunteered a few days and installed all the white boards. This has given us an opportunity to expand our learning space from the classroom to outdoors.
- **Join the PTA!** It's great to join the PTA because we can't do it without you! When kids see their parents volunteering and invested in the school, the kids want to participate more at school. Volunteer for your kid! We have many exciting events coming up like the Joslin Trail of Lights. Even if you can volunteer for only an hour, it makes a difference!

Thank  
YOU

TO OUR  
SPONSORS



JOHN DEERE



## MS. CRIS, JOSLIN'S NEW REGISTRAR

My name is Crismar Guerra de Segnini but I go by Cris, and I am the new Attendance Specialist /Registrar at Joslin Elementary School. I am beyond excited to be a part of this wonderful community.

I'm originally from Venezuela and I have a Bachelor of Arts in Human Resources Management. I'm also a musician and singer, taught by my dear father. My biggest hobbies are singing and playing the "Cuatro" (a Venezuelan instrument) in my free time. I am a Content creator and I love writing my online blogs in Spanish (my mother tongue).

I moved to Austin 3 ½ years ago with my beloved husband and two daughters, we enjoy doing volunteer work as a family when we have a chance. We love traveling and spending time outdoors, like running together.

I am enthusiastic about my new adventure at Joslin in the front office, and I'll do my best to help you in all I can. Thank you for providing me the great opportunity to serve you! I hope everyone has an extraordinary school year.

PS: Part of my job is to have all the students' information updated. ALWAYS make sure to submit the documentation when your child has an absence within 48 hours as the District requires. For more information visit the Austin ISD website or scan the QR code below.

A friendly reminder: Don't forget that in January the window will be open to enroll your students for the new school year 2024-2025.

Stay Tuned!  
Cris

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



## Teacher Assistant Appreciation Week November 14-17

Ms. Crocker  
Ms. Galdeano  
Mr. Joel  
Ms. Lozano  
Ms. Nafey  
Mrs. Noble  
Ms. Ochoa  
Ms. Schlichting  
Ms. Slama

Behind every great teacher is a GREAT  
TEACHER ASSISTANT!

# NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 3:15-4:15p: Silat Martial Arts (gym)	3 Academy 4 9-9:50a: Texas Arbor Day Presentation (3rd-5th)	4
<b>Word of the Month</b> <b>INTEGRITY</b> integridad    正直 [Zhèngzhí]						
5	6 Leaders 5 8a: Picture make up day 	7 8:15-9 a: Coffee with the Principal - HSR Presentation and Leader In Me Q&A (front office) 	8 	9 Grandparent's Thanksgiving Lunch <b>3:15-4:30p: Family Board Game Night*</b> 3:30p: CAC Meeting 	10 1:30-2:30p: Veteran's Day Music Concert Assembly 	11  Happy VETERANS Day
12	13 Staff Development Day	14	15 PTA Meeting* 5p: Board 5:30p: General 	16 3:15-4:15p: Silat Martial Arts	17	18
	Student Holiday	Teacher Assistant Appreciation Week				
19	20	21	22	23 	24	25
FALL BREAK - NO SCHOOL						
26	27 Start of Mid Year MAP Growth Testing	28	29	30 3:15-4:15p: Silat Martial Arts	*Hosted by Joslin PTA	



**Joslin PTA**

## BOARD GAME NIGHT

Let's Laugh & Play with Family & Friends

### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9

**3:15-4:30 PM**

**JOSLIN GYM**

WWW.JOSLINPTA.COM    JOSLINPTA@GMAIL.COM

Want to help but don't have the time? Consider sending the PTA a donation! All donations are tax exempt! Scan QR code below!



**Student of the Week**  
 10/30: Perseverance with a difficult task  
 11/6: Encourage perseverance in others  
 11/13: Integrity role model  
 11/27: Integrity by modeling good choices

**Grandparents Day Lunch:**  
 Grandparents and all family members welcome to join their student for lunch. To account for extra lunches needed, please purchase tickets early in the front office 10/30-11/7. Tickets can be purchased on the day of as well but longer wait times will occur.

**Picture Make Up Day:** Students who were not present on 10/6 will be pulled from class for their picture. Session begins at 8 am.

**December highlights...**  
 Dec. 1-15: Student Council Food Drive  
 Dec. 4-8: Special Education Appreciation Week  
 Dec. 11-15: Book Fair  
 Dec. 12: Coffee with the Principal  
 Dec. 13: Winter Concert (PK-2nd)  
 Dec. 14: Winter Concert (3rd-5th)  
 Dec. 15: Joslin PTA's Trail of Lights  
 Dec. 21-Jan. 6: Winter Holiday