

Summary —OF— Success

2022-2023 School Year

Dear Friends of CIS-SA,

Another school year has ended, and so has my term as Chair of Friends of CIS-SA Steering Committee. I am proud to report that during the past five years, in spite of the COVID crisis, we have strengthened our organization in three significant ways: 1. Enrichment Activities for students; 2. FCIS-SA Volunteer Program; and 3. FRIENDS CARE: Gilbert Elementary Partnership. We were supported in these opportunities by CIS-SA administrative staff and school Site Coordinators as well as YOU, our wonderful members, whose donations have made all of our outreach efforts possible. You never failed to answer our requests for funds, volunteers, or needed items. From all of us on the Steering Committee: Our profound thanks to all of you!

Margaret Schellenberg
Outgoing Chair of Friends of CIS-SA



Engaging with Our Community

Student Enrichment Activities: Getting Kids Out And About

This year, we were back in the museums with 16 tours at the McNay Art Museum and the San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA). We had many more requests for SAMA tours than had been budgeted, but SAMA docents/Friends came to the rescue with funds, and additional field trips were added! Our San Antonio Botanical Garden Chef Garden field trips were popular as well. Approximately 259 students enjoyed these wonderful off-campus activities. And after school, on-campus activities continued with our support of five Girl Scout troops.

We were especially honored that the new CIS-SA Site Coordinator at Uvalde High School brought two different groups of students to the McNay Art Museum and SAMA for field trips that included tours, art workshops, and lunches. A long-time supporter of FCIS-SA museum field trips, he recognized the potential of art for healing trauma.



Friends of CIS-SA: Volunteer Program

Eighteen FCIS-SA members paired up with fourth-grade students at two elementary schools (Cable Elementary in SAISD and Gilbert Elementary in Harlandale ISD) for a year-long Pen Pal project. After in-person gatherings in October for introductions and match-ups, the Pen Pals got to work, exchanging seven rounds of letters. The school year closed with farewell parties and exchanging gifts, cards, and memories! National Reading Day was held on March 2nd, with FCIS-SA members reading to four grades at Gilbert Elementary.

Both the Pen Pal project and National Reading Day will be offered as volunteer opportunities for Friends next year, so stay tuned! A big thank you goes to FCIS-SA Volunteer Coordinator, Amy Phipps, and CIS-SA Community Initiatives Coordinator, Ilsa Garcia, for organizing our activities and coordinating our efforts over the past two years.



FRIENDS CARE: A Partnership with Gilbert Elementary

Our FRIENDS CARE Liaison, Joanne Cox, partnered with Gilbert Elementary Site Coordinator Yesica Gomez to support CIS-SA students' unique needs throughout the year. This year FCIS-SA supplied the following:

- 20 Thanksgiving baskets
- 71 Book Fair purchases so that all CIS-SA students could participate in the Annual Gilbert Elementary Book Fair and select their own books.
- 77 Summer Stimulation Kits distributed to students containing balls, art supplies, and appropriate grade-level books. Note: each child received a book this year, with the Gilbert Librarian selecting and ordering titles appropriate for each grade level.
- Donations of shoes and socks
- A San Antonio Museum of Art field trip with breakfast tacos for a pre-tour snack. This was significant since some children did not have time for their school-supplied free breakfasts before the bus departed for SAMA.



In March, Principal Geralyn Wing and CIS-SA Site Coordinator Yesica Gomez hosted FCIS-SA members and Friends for FCIS-SA 101 to learn more about the school and CIS-SA activities.



Renew Your Membership to Continue Student Success!

Membership renewal for 2023-2024 begins now.

All Friends of CIS-SA memberships expire on August 31st. This once-a-year membership renewal makes it easier for members to renew and helps us plan a budget for the next school year. Our ability to “surround students with support” depends on you. Your membership dues and donations enable us to expand CIS-SA programming that students otherwise would not experience. Please take the time to renew your membership today by visiting the online link: www.cissa.org/friends and scroll down to the “Already Member” section. You may also use the enclosed remittance envelope to mail a check.



Thank you for being a Friend!



Scan here to renew your membership!