

THIS **IS** THAT about the campus  
 3 percent are African-American 1 percent are two or more races 1,410 are enrolled

91 percent are Hispanic 5 percent are white  
 68 percent are economically disadvantaged 10 percent are English language learners 11 percent are Special Education students 1,087 are At-Risk

# the basics of life

by jonathan castro

"Yes. No. Yes," goes the conversation between special need students Luis Enriquez and Carlos Guerra as they tease each other on a bus ride to the Northeast.

They, like their classmates, get to spend the morning at Plantworld watering plants and sweeping as customers stroll through the rows of nature.

They are part of the Community Readiness Class (CRC), a program which allows special need students the chance to interact with their community.

"We teach them vocational skills," CRC teacher Linda Taylor said, "so when they graduate they can find a manual task job, something that will help them. The field trips teach them various skills, like how to socialize in different environments, as well as how to behave properly outside of school."

New program guidelines helped the staff do more than they had in previous years for their students. Students also shop at Wal-Mart and are given a list of items to purchase. Peter Piper Pizza is also a weekly stop where students assemble boxes for customer purchases. They get to let off a little steam at Multipurpose Center on Viscount where they play basketball.

"The field trips let parents know that they [their children] are capable of helping out at home with small chores such as sweeping or washing the dishes,"

paraprofessional Arlinda Solis said. "We also bake brownies. That helps them learn basic measurements."

Plantworld manager Mike Griffith said he is grateful for the volunteer work the students do.

"One day I got a phone call, and without hesitation I agreed to let them come volunteer," he said. "They help out a lot, and they do a great job. It might take them longer to learn things, but they're people just like you and me. We are a locally owned business, and we like to help our community in any way."

Lorenca Enriquez, who is Enriquez's grandmother, said she has seen positive changes.

"Oh he loves going on the field trips," she said. "He always talks to us at home about where he went. Since he started, he's been better behaved. Also, he's taken an interest in the garden at home. He'll water the plants and the trees."

Sixteen years under her belt, Taylor said staring and avoidance are common reactions to seeing the students outside of school.

"It's not all bad," she said. "Some people come up to us and tell us thank you. Some have also gone up to the students and talked to them. We get

**HOMEMADE FUND-RAISER**  
 The smell of chocolate fills the air as paraprofessional Arlinda Solis instructs senior Irvin Sotelo to add eggs to the brownie mix. The brownies were sold to raise money to see the El Paso Chihuahuas play. The sales brought in about \$400.



jonathan castro



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**CHORES TO DO**  
 Monday mornings means it's the day senior Carlos Guerra and his classmates get to spend part of the day watering trees and plants at Plantworld, located on Dyer Street in Northeast El Paso.

all sorts of reactions. I just hope when they graduate, the students are safe and taken care of. At the minimum, I hope their experiences will prove they can help around the house."



annabeth burgess



adrian gil



annabeth burgess

**LITERAL OUTLINE**  
 Sophomore Veronica Salcido traces sophomore Natasha Walker's body for an English II project. "I liked it because it was hands-on," Salcido said. "It required us to think outside of the box." The project was to outline the traits of the main character, canyoneer Aron Ralston in "127 Hours." (photo by annabeth burgess)

## COLORFUL LEARNING

An experiment conducted by senior Tristan Montes consists of sorting M&M's by color. "We had to see if there was the same number of a certain color in each box," he said. "I didn't think there would be and that they're packaged at random. In the end, I was right and we got to eat them."

## PERFORMANCE ON FIRE

Everyone on stage breaks into song at the CDL holiday program, including junior Brianna Yañez and senior Taylor Aguilar and 4 year olds Joseph Rosales and Juan Gutierrez. "We were all singing when Juan started to yell the song," Yañez said. "All the hard work we put in at the end made it worth it because the kids made everyone happy."

A new district rule requires all teachers to teach 7 out of 8 classes. This meant losing their common planning period. How did it work out for you?

"It didn't work. There's not enough time in the day to prepare for quality education, especially when there are multiple levels you have to teach."

-christy erler-french



Paul Abrell Athletic Trainer Denise Aguilar Math Coach, Dept. Chair. Donna Allan Registrar CIT Martin Alvarado English Leticia Alvarez Custodian Jose Alvidrez Science



Louis Alvidrez Campus Patrol Johnny Arnsworth Asst. Football Coach Jose Luis Arredondo Math Melissa Arriola Counselor Victor Arriola Special Ed. Hamid Assadian Science



Lisa Barnett Social Studies Hector Barraza Social Studies Araceli Barrios Counselor Arthur Beck College Readiness Richard Bruns Counselor Noah Carrasco Technology



Hector Carrillo Campus Patrol Consuelo Castañon Para. Special Ed. Diana Cisneros CDL Aide Carrie Clancy English Hector De Santos Special Ed. Cynthia Denison Math