

ALL ABOARD!



Mini Microscope

Looking through microscopes, Chloe Speer, 12th, and Triana Candelas, 9th, observe plankton brought up by the guide. "I learned a lot about the fish and little creatures and things that live in the bay. It was really cool to learn all that stuff about things I never even knew existed," Pre-AP student Triana said.

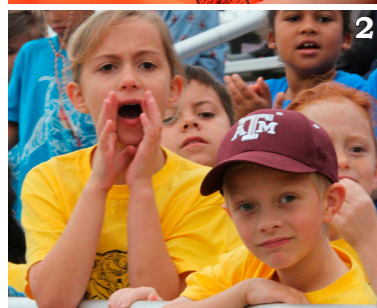
1. Mr. Ryan Burgard's and Mr. Casey Georg's Pre-AP and AP Biology classes prepare to head out into the bay at Port Aransas to learn about marine life. "I think the kids enjoyed getting out and doing hands-on work. The kids benefit from getting to work in these types of settings, and it adds to what they are getting in the classroom," Mr. Burgard said. 2. Kylie Sledge, 9th, Shawn Gage, 9th, and Candace Gautreaux, 12th, inspect an egg sack. 3. Students observe as Amanda Taylor, Marine Biologist and tour guide, empties out the one of the trawl nets. 4. Alex van Til, 9th, listens as Mr. Burgard talks about the brittle star under the microscope.

FIELD DAY fun.



Congressional Honor

Dessy Turk, 11th, accepts her third place award in the computer-generated category of the Congressional Art Competition. "I wasn't expecting for my name to be called. I also was really surprised when another artist tried to buy all the rights to my picture."



1. Third graders Tyler Shaw, Landon Gregory, and Kenny Cole relax and mess around as they are wait for their event to start. 2. First graders Kacy Sledge and Levi Randig watch as fellow students participate in the 400 meter run. "I was cheering for my friend to run faster and try to get first," Kacy said. 3. Easton Garner, Pre-K, runs the 100 meter dash. "I was running super fast, and super hard, and I tried really hard," Easton said. *Photos by Dessy Turk*

A day on The Bay

Biology students conduct research



As the morning sun reflected off the ocean water, students gathered under a covered patio, sporting sunglasses and caps. They took turns spraying each other with sunscreen and bug spray, while a few swallowed Dramamine with a gulp of ice water.

On May 6-7, pre-AP and AP biology classes traveled to the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. After arriving on Friday, they toured the Wetlands Education Center and learned about the importance of barrier islands like Mustang Island, estuaries, and sand dunes.

On Saturday, they did a four-hour tour

of the Corpus Christi ship channel and Redfish Bay on the UTMSI research ship, the RV Katy.

"It was like nothing I've ever done before, pre-AP student Triana Candelas, 9th, said. "The ocean both terrifies and intrigues me at the same time, and I love learning new things about it."

Students conducted a plankton tow and identified the types of plankton they found.

"Looking at the live specimens under the microscope was really interesting because they appeared so different compared to freshwater organisms," Rachel Byrd, 12th, said.

After observing the plankton, students

pulled mud from the ocean floor and identified living organisms.

"In the mud grab we found a brittle star fish and some worms that tried to eat everything," Amity Holubec, 9th, said.

"We had them taking notes, but more than that they had to put their knowledge to use in a field setting," Mr. Georg said.

A grant from the The Thrall Community Education Foundation (TCEF) helped fund the trip.

"Without their generous contribution this trip would not have been possible," Mr. Georg said.

Story by Alyssa Kramer



Seniors take picture at capitol

1. Seniors Dawson Solis, Daryn Gamez, Dylan McMurray, Denton Meiske, Avis Walls, and Noah Bucek purchase ice-cream before loading the bus. 2. Seniors prove that the travel bus may hold 72 kindergarten students, but not adults. Some had to squeeze three to a seat and some rode in the suburban. 3. After a morning of pictures, Nathan Elder and Chloe Speer fix their burgers provided by Thrall Country Dinner.

Golden Girl



After four years of competing in UIL journalism, Alyssa Kramer, 12th, captured the state championship in feature writing on May 24 and received a \$500 scholarship from the Taylor Press. Other state medalists were Chloe Speer, 12th, who placed 3rd in feature and Bailey Thelen who earned 6th in news writing. Lilly Chandler, 10th, also competed in the state news contest.