



## Kickin' Their Little Hearts Out

*By Maria Calcaben*

Rana Zeidan has been teaching karate class at the PODER Learning Center since 2014. With all the hard work and practice, she led the kids to victory in the ASK Houston Karate Tournament! Most of



the new class of white belts won first place and one got second place. Congratulations Nia, Nevaeh, Audrianna, and Darren. In the adult class, Josh and Makayla dominated their class and won first place. They're now looking forward to their tests to move up a belt color.



## Summer Feeding Program

The SMCISD will be providing combined breakfast and lunch meals at the PODER Learning Center and at the KAD Korner Store this summer. Meals will be for pickup only and will be available from 11 AM to 12 PM, Monday — Friday.



The service will be run from June 7 — August 6.

If your kids are with you, no ID is necessary but if you are picking up for your kids, you must show their school ID.

# ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

## THANK YOU MOMS!



The kids of the PODER After-school Program made Mother's Day cards for moms, young and old, in the Allen Woods neighborhood. They covered each card with colorful stickers and

even made some flower crafts. We are so grateful to hear back from some moms that said they felt appreciated and thanked us for thinking about them. Our heart goes out to you moms!



## Paving My Own Path

*The size of your success is measured by the strength of your desire, the size of your dream, and how you handle disappointment along the way. – Robert Kiyosaki*

Ana Reyna has been attending the PODER After-school program since 3rd grade. She continued to be a great leader and example to the younger kids. She says, "PODER has helped me be the person I am today. I am an outgoing person with a lot of potential. It has shown me so many opportunities to better myself and no matter where I come from, I can still be successful even if I do not come from money. My plan after high school is to attend UT Arlington to study Social Work with a minor in Business. After I graduate, I would love to work for a nonprofit and build my own after-school program that teaches core values that will build a bridge between socioeconomic neighborhoods. [To the kids who are still at PODER], listen to whoever is in charge and take their advice and help because they want the best for you too."



## STEPPING INTO THE WORLD

*Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome. – Booker T. Washington*

Jasmine Cante attended the PODER After-school program, along with her younger siblings, for 3 years and left around



middle school. She sums up her experience this way: "PODER helped me when I was a little kid by being another source of helping me get through my homework . . . and not only homework, but to encourage me to keep my grades up and to remind me that I have another family that's always there to support me. My plans for the future are to attend Texas State University and I would love to major in Criminal Justice and minor in Business, hopefully going to law school after that. What I would say to the kids that are in the program right now is to appreciate what you have because in the future, you'll appreciate what you had in the past, even though you don't think you will."

## Springtown Villa



### Arts and Crafts

Thank you to Bee First! We asked them to host an Arts and Crafts event and Cesar Camacho came through with flying colors.

Cesar provided each participant with a goody bag that includes the lunch bag, snacks, and crossword puzzles. He also included pieces of wood that are cut into special words like *happy*, *smile*, and *family*.

Everybody seemed to enjoy this time working on painting projects and visiting with each other.

### Riverwalk

For me, a walk along a river is like medicine.

Spending time on a riverbank makes me feel more relaxed and refreshed. The calming sounds of trickling water and the wind rustling the trees is naturally soothing. These noises always make me feel more relaxed. Furthermore, research shows that spending time near water will not only lower the stress in your life but helps boost your immune system. Researchers believe that being near water is restful for the mind by allowing the release of dopamine, which controls many functions, including behavior and emotion. It is often referred to as the "feel-good" hormone.

Water is one of the most beautiful natural features a landscape can possess. It makes you feel good, and is beneficial for the mind, the body, and the spirit. Reconnecting with nature can make your life better in many ways. We are taking weekly walks on the river trails and have room for more people on the van. Call me at 512-353-7343 if you would like to join us!

~ Dave Hamm



## C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE

We want to give a shout out to Natalia Portillo, Texas State student and Kappa Delta Chi member, who has been volunteering with us here at KAD since the Fall of 2016. Throughout her time here, she has put on multiple events for the kids, including our annual Halloween Carnival & Easter Egg Hunt. For six years, she has shown her dedication and love for our KAD kids and we couldn't be happier to have her here with us. Thanks, Natalia, for all you do!



The San Marcos chapter of the Salvation Army will be sponsoring "Kathy's Reading Program" this summer. Named in honor of Kathryn

McNeil, the long-time director of the local office who passed away recently, is a one-on-one literacy program for children during the summer months. They will also provide a lunch or healthy snack. The program will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 AM to 1 PM outside of the KAD Center, weather permitting.

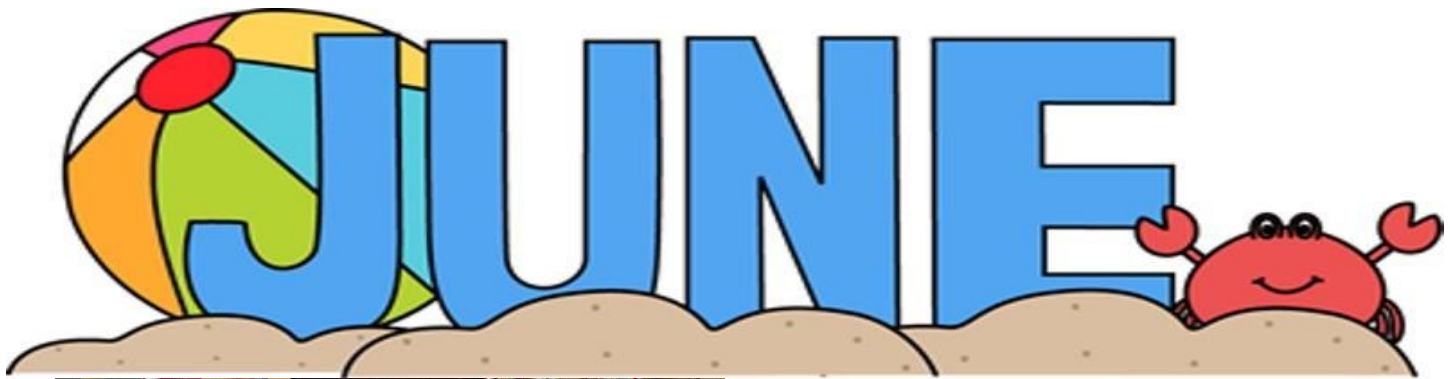


**NOTICE:** Final plans for the KAD Summer Program must wait for the completion of repairs to the KAD Center, which was damaged in the big freeze. Repairs to resident homes had priority and other complications delayed this project. We will send out flyers to residents soon.



We would like to thank Carmen Castro for the gifts to our two graduating seniors, Kalea Gumbs (left) and Melissa Ibarra. Carmen wants them to know that someone in the community cares about their education goals.



**CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER**

Chapultepec had its first book fair of the year to give children and adult residents a chance to find themselves a book (or 4!) to get those brains and imaginations working! The children got to enjoy a wide assortment of books on various subjects, and also enjoyed a small treat for picking out their favorites to take home. Watch for future book fairs as we get more donations!

## Afterschool Program



The afterschool program will have its last day on Thursday, June 3. We are making preparations for the summer program now. We will be sending summer program registration forms to parents soon. If you are interested in enrolling your child, keep a lookout for those forms or contact Matt at the office.

## Chapultepec Events



Matt got to show off his cooking skills in celebration of Mother's Day by cooking a brunch to show appreciation for the Chapultepec moms! They enjoyed homemade waffles and Frittata (even some sneaky kids too!) while socializing with other Moms. More social events are in the works so keep a look out for them!

JUNE

2021

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Read about  
the "[Martyrs  
of the Race  
Course](#)" →



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The Latin name for June is Junius. It may be named after the Roman goddess Juno, the goddess of marriage and the wife of the supreme deity, Jupiter. It may also come from the Latin word iuniores, meaning "younger ones", as opposed to maiores ("elders") which might be the source of May (Maius). It might be named after Lucius Junius Brutus, founder of the Roman Republic. Pick the origin story you like best and dare challengers to prove you wrong.

**LEADERSHIP****Board of Commissioners**

Nina Linda Ramos — Chairperson

Mittie Miller — Vice-Chairperson

Rachel Durrance — Resident Comm.

Richard Cruz — Commissioner

Gloria Salazar — Commissioner

**Executive Director**

Lana Wagner

*Commissioners meet on the 4th  
Tuesday of each month @ 5:30 PM.*

**HOUSING OFFICES****Allen Woods Homes (Main Office)**

512-353-5059

**CM Allen Homes**

512-353-1116

**Chapultepec Homes**

512-396-3364

**Housing Choice Voucher**

512-353-5061

**Springtown Villa**

512-396-3363

**RESIDENT SERVICES****Chapultepec Adult Learning Center****Family Self-Sufficiency**

512-396-3364

**CM Allen KAD Korner Store**

512-392-6273

**Allen Woods PODER****Learning Center**

512-396-3367

**Springtown Villa**

512-353-7343