



MEDIA ADVISORY

Request for Coverage

November 5, 2018

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Pre-K 4 SA Students Practice Civic Duty and Vote for Charity Partner *Gracias San Antonio encourages children to express their opinions and participate as young citizens*

WHAT: Pre-K 4 SA's *Gracias San Antonio: Children Are Citizens Project* is grounded in the belief that children are not just future citizens but are citizens today. The program encourages students to express their opinions and participate in the civic and cultural life of San Antonio. As citizens of the community, children also learn to "give back" in gratitude to their city.

Gracias begins in November with the children's participation in a program-wide election to vote on a local non-profit to support for the year. This year's charities include ChildSafe, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Haven for Hope. The voting activity encourages discussion at home related to civic engagement and participation leading up to the mid-term elections. Activities continue throughout the year as children and families engage in City Explorations with their teachers and visit different places around San Antonio. Later in the year, local artists join children in the classroom to create authentic art pieces using a variety of artistic mediums to express the children's perspective of their city and the places they visited. The art pieces are then exhibited in a public museum display in April and auctioned to raise money for the local non-profit organization selected by the students.

WHEN: **Monday, November 5, 2018**
9-10 a.m.

WHERE: **Pre-K 4 SA South Education Center (Parent Café)**
7031 South New Braunfels Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78223

AUDIO / VISUALS: Interviews with Pre-K 4 SA CEO, Sarah Baray
Pre-K 4 SA Students
Pre-K 4 SA Teachers



Students participate in the 2017 Gracias vote.



Pre-K 4 SA students, teachers and staff will participate in a mock-vote to choose their charity for the 2018-2019 Gracias program.

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About Pre-K 4 SA:

Pre-K 4 SA is a comprehensive early childhood initiative aimed at changing the education and workforce trajectory of San Antonio in one generation. Pre-K 4 SA offers full-day pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds living in the City of San Antonio. Pre-K 4 SA is free for qualifying students and also accepts tuition-paying students. The school day begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Extended hours are available at no additional charge from 7:15 to 8 a.m., and from 3 to 6 p.m. for working families. Breakfast, lunch and two snacks are included and free transportation is available to all students. Pre-K 4 SA has four Education Centers located throughout the city: North Education Center, 3635 Medical Dr.; South Education Center, 7031 S. New Braunfels Ave.; East Education Center, 5230 Eisenhower Rd.; and West Education Center, 1235 Enrique M. Barrera Memorial Parkway. The Pre-K 4 SA Professional Learning program provides pre-kindergarten through third grade educators in San Antonio with complementary continuing education to support best practice instruction to help every child in San Antonio excel. The Pre-K 4 SA Competitive Grants program provides more than \$4 million in funding annually to increase quality and access in early childhood programs throughout San Antonio. Visit www.prek4sa.com for more information.

San Antonio: America's 21st Century City

San Antonio is a global city with a dynamic economy and workforce, a deep cultural heritage and diverse communities that are resilient and welcoming. It is one of the strongest fiscally managed cities in the country with a vibrant business climate and a 'AAA' general obligation bond rating from all three major rating agencies. San Antonio is a city that nurtures entrepreneurship, encourages investment and funds infrastructure. America's seventh-largest city offers growth opportunities in bioscience, financial services, aerospace, cybersecurity, energy, transportation, manufacturing and health care. In 2015, UNESCO designated San Antonio's 18th century Spanish colonial missions as a World Heritage Site — the first in Texas. Proudly called Military City, USA[®], San Antonio is home to one of the largest populations of active duty military, veterans and crucial military commands. In 2018, the city will celebrate its 300th anniversary, honoring its rich past and a bright future focused on innovation and livability. For more information, visit www.sanantonio.gov.