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Pre-K 4 SA Partners with Miss Tristan Foundation to Teach Water Safety

Accidental drowning is the number one cause of accidental death in children under age four

SAN ANTONIO — Pre-K 4 SA is excited to partner with Miss Tristan Foundation to bring water safety education to children across the city by providing free swim lessons and promoting water safety awareness to families. Children attending Pre-K 4 SA participate in the 13-week program from January to May. School centers utilize an Aqua-Tots facility, the YMCA, SAISD’s Natatorium and four Emler Swim School facilities.

Accidental drowning is the number one cause of accidental death in children under age four. On average, close to 100 children accidentally drown in Texas every year. According to statistics, for every fatal drowning, there are eight times as many non-fatal drowning incidents that can result in life-altering, long-term injuries.

“Drowning is preventable, and after a successful pilot program last school year, we knew the partnership with Miss Tristan Foundation was a necessary offering to our families,” said Sarah Baray, Pre-K 4 SA CEO. “When innovative partnership opportunities arise and align with our mission of educating and empowering our children, Pre-K 4 SA is ready to dive in.”

Daily in-classroom instruction focuses on a key feature of water and pool safety for five days. The instruction then switches to a pool facility with trained instructors facilitating swim lessons for four days.

“Private and small-group swim lessons can be expensive for families on a budget. The cost forces the mindset that learning to swim is a luxury item or a ‘someday we will get to that’ concept,” said Izzy Huerta, Miss Tristan Foundation Program Coordinator. “In reality, until the age of four, a child is more likely to die from accidental drowning than they are to choke on food, get into a car accident, fall down a flight of stairs or any other type of accidental incident.”

The program is offered to 2,000 Pre-K 4 SA children at no cost to the families. Pre-K 4 SA and the participating children will receive instruction with five certified or trained instructors per class. Insurance, transportation, classroom curriculum kits, and backpacks with supplemental materials and a life jacket are provided to children and their families.

Miss Tristan Foundation is a San Antonio-based nonprofit dedicated to preventing childhood drowning through water safety education and awareness. The curriculum is derived from a partnership with Collins Hope, a nonprofit water safety group from Austin. Pre-K 4 SA teachers adapted the lessons for a more hands-on and interactive format for this pilot.

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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 3- and 4-year-olds living in the City of San Antonio. Pre-K 4 SA is free for qualifying students and accepts tuition-paying students. 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, and the Gardendale Early Learning Program powered by Pre-K 4 SA is the first replication site and was made possible through a partnership with Edgewood Independent School District. This program creates greater capacity for high quality early education with both pre-k and kindergarten classrooms. Visit www.prek4sa.com for more information.