



LIONS ROAR NEWSLETTER



Editors:
Michelle Lopez,
Ysabella Ponce, Estefania Quintana

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JDA Volleyball - Bump, Set, Spike!



By Chayan Castellanos and Rufino Garza
Staff Writers

JDA is making hit with our Lions volleyball team. Our school hustled at the JDA Volleyball Tournament on August 27-28. They played hard and gave it their all. They also played Hebronville on August 31 and kept the audience on the edge of their seats during the whole game with a nail-biting close game until the end. "I couldn't have been prouder of my team. Even though we fell short, we all played our hardest until the very end," said Kassandra Vela, number 23. The Lady Lions showed their Lion pride when they won their first District game on October 12, 2021. Way to go Lions!!

Our students and staff are huge fans of the Lady Lions, and we look forward to all their games of this season:

OCTOBER

- 1 – *Harvest Christian Academy 5:00
- 5 – *Kingsville Pan American 5:00
- 8 – *Brownsville First Baptist 5:00
- 12 – *S.T.C.A. 5:00
- 19 – *Harvest Christian 5:00
- 22 – *Kingsville Pan American 5:00
- 26 – *Brownsville First Baptist 6:00
- 29 – *S.T.C.A. 5:00

NOVEMBER

- 2 - *Alamo Macedonia 5:00
- 6 – Bi-District
- 9 - Area
- 13 - Regional
- 18-19 State Tournament



From left to right: Marisol Ochoa, Alexandra Aguirre, Camila Yruegas, Erika Aguirre, Madison Ortiz, and Kassandra Vela focus on winning the game on August 31, 2021 at the JDA tournament.

A Talk with Dr. Kathleen Carroll

By Maria Salazar and Viviana, Staff Writers



Dr. Kathleen Carroll is the principal at Juan Diego Academy and has been an educator for 39 years. We visited her in the office on October 1, 2021, to discuss what happens in the office every day and what new things are going to happen in the school soon.

Some of the events discussed were the Homecoming Dance and being hosted by the Juniors on October 15 with the theme of the 70's. The pro-life club is putting white crosses near the fountain to symbolize the number of lives lost to abortion. Also in October the pro-life club hosted a movie about the importance of supporting life, and Miss Kobisher plans to work with the respite center.

Other activities Dr. Carroll discussed include a speaker from STC who spoke about college on October 1, as well as a thriving JDA robotics club. "We will have a good year with one third of the school showing up to the 1st robotics meeting, which means the club will probably have to be split into two teams!" exclaimed Dr. Carroll. This will be a very exciting year for robotics.

When the Lions Roar staff writers asked the principal about sports, she said, "I believe the cross-country team will have a good season. Roberta Gonzales is a promising athlete in cross country." All the students and staff are excited about soccer, volleyball, and the upcoming basketball season.

What is Dr. Carroll looking forward to this year? "I am looking forward to the fact we are meeting in person. Virtual learning was not benefitting neither the students nor the teachers." JDA is conducting 100% in-person learning this year, and the students seems to prefer the ability to socialize and learn from real, face-to-face instruction. Dr. Carroll is also excited to work with Emily's Meals again this year. "We love to help with Emily's Meals!" she exclaimed.

Dr. Carroll wears many hats. While Mrs. Felix was out on medical leave, Dr. Carroll was one of the people running the office, and she mentioned some of the tasks that occur every day: taking fees, greeting parents, answering the phone, helping staff, and guiding students.

Finally, Dr. Carroll discussed the precautions the school is taking to deal with Covid especially with the recent cases within our community. "We are making sure the school is following CDC guidelines, and sometimes we are even stricter. The restrooms and gym get sanitized every day after volleyball practice ends, and teachers are making sure to wipe down tables after lunch as well as completing a training in food handling and handwashing." Another precaution being taken is making sure everyone is at least three feet apart at all times, especially during lunch where teachers also make sure we have our masks on after we eat. Dr. Carroll does not plan to return to virtual learning. "Only under extreme circumstances would we shut down JDA again and transfer back to virtual learning," she said.

How does Dr. Carroll feel about running a school during these times? She shared with us a quote that she enjoys: "Perhaps you were born for a time such as this."

We are very grateful and blessed to have Dr. Carroll as our principal here at JDA!



Mrs. Sandra Bitner

By Estefania Quinatana and Dulce Ayala
Staff Writers



The Lions Roar staff interviewed Mrs. Bitner regarding the lunch schedule and her activities. “I have been working at JDA for seven years,” Mrs. Bitner said as an introduction to her interview. She is part of the administration office and makes sure everything is in order regarding the students’ tuition. Another one of Mrs. Bitner’s duties is supervising our school lunches. The usual schedule is Chick-fil-A on Monday, Domino’s Pizza Tuesday, Whataburger on Wednesday, Raising Cane’s Thursday and a spirit day on Friday. The lunch orders are taken by the homeroom teachers because every student has a homeroom period. If someone is absent, he/she can send an email to Mrs. Bitner to order lunch for the next day.

What is Mrs. Bitner’s favorite part of her job? “I like being able to share my faith, being in a Catholic environment, and being around young people.” Thank you, Mrs. Bitner, for all you do.

Homecoming Week - October 10, 2021

Written by Marcelo Sierra, Staff Writer



What an exciting time - Homecoming Week!

Students and staff participated in daily activities to recognize JDA homecoming:

1. Monday, October 11 was Columbus Day, so students had a school holiday.
2. Tuesday, October 12, was themed “red, white, and blue day,” to encourage patriotism and represent the U.S. flag.
3. Wednesday, October 13 students were challenged to bring their school supplies in anything but a backpack. Most students brought their supplies in laundry baskets, shopping baskets, or cardboard boxes. Some were creative, like the student who brought a baby stroller to school.
4. Thursday, October 14 the underclassmen and the upperclassmen faced off to determine what looks better: country versus country club, respectively.
5. Friday, October 15, students wore pink articles of clothing in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an important cause to recognize.
6. All this was leading up to the main event: the Homecoming Dance - Friday, October 15 8:00-11:00 pm. The theme was the 1970’s and will feature music and clothing from the exciting era of the 1970’s.

From patriotic colors to a 70’s dance – JDA is celebrating Homecoming 2021!

Student of the Month: Monze Pereda

By Renata Angulo, Staff Writer

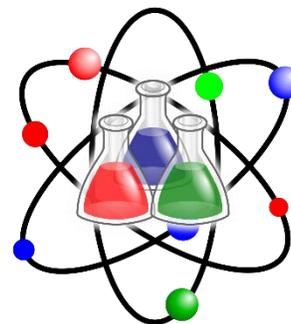


Monzerrat Pereda is a sophomore at Juan Diego Academy in Mission, Texas. She is a creative student who enjoys reading, singing, painting and drawing sketches as hobbies. Monze attended Freddy Gonzalez Elementary School in Edinburg, Texas, and then she attended Saint Joseph Catholic Junior High School. Monze's plan for the future after graduating high school is to attend Texas A&M to study criminology and biology. She hopes to serve the Lord after high school by encouraging people to go to church and invite them to say prayers at seasonal masses. Monze's hope for this year: "I hope to make more connections with my peers and level up in my academic life." It is a blessing to have Monze Pereda as part of our JDA family.



Teacher of the Month: Sarah Carvajal

by Maria Salazar, Staff Writer



Our teacher of the month for October is science teacher extraordinaire, Sara Carvajal. Miss Carvajal graduated from McAllen High School in 2014. She pursued a degree in chemistry and biology from UTRGV and graduated in 2018. Miss Carvajal worked as a substitute teacher and as a tutor until she was hired by JDA.

Miss Carvajal enjoys many hobbies, including crocheting and photography. While Miss Carvajal enjoys the scientific world, she also wants to explore the creative side of her personality, which includes these fun arts. Miss Carvajal takes photos for her church and for various high schools.

When asked what she enjoys about JDA, she said, "I feel comfortable in this religious environment where I can worship in my own way." Miss Carvajal also said that she loves the valley. "I have no plans to leave the valley any time soon. I love the culture and the people."