

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Comal ISD STAR sports bowls another strike

When Linda Nemeč's son was born with brain severe damage, she could have listened to the doctors that said he'd be lucky to be able to roll over by himself during his lifetime.

Nemeč wishes those same doctors could see her son Chance now.

Chance couldn't contain his smile on Nov. 19 when he received his silver medal during the award ceremonies of Comal ISD's STAR (Specialized Training in Athletics and Recreation) Sports Program Bowling Competition at Fiesta Lanes in New Braunfels.

"I was told when Chance was born he would have the most severe form of cerebral palsy they'd ever seen," Nemeč said. "Now, to see him bowl a strike or cross the finish line first in track and field is such a great feeling. It's like night and day compared to what I was told when he was born."

Although Chance, a student at Canyon Middle School, has a limited vocabulary, Linda said it doesn't take complete sentences to know how he feels about competing in STAR sports.



“Oh my gosh, this means the world to him,” she said. “To be a part of a team and a group is so important to these kids. If I ask him if this was a blast, he always says, ‘Yeah!’”

Nearly 100 students from eight Comal ISD middle and high schools participated in the event, which is the largest on the STAR fall sports schedule. Dozens of people volunteered their time to make it a success.

Members of the New Braunfels Fire Department handed out gold, silver and bronze medals to every student who participated.

“You feel really happy and excited for these kids,” said CHS senior Tara Schroeder, a volunteer. “They all have really big smiles and are giving each other high-fives. You can just feel the energy in the air.”

Smithson Valley High paraprofessional Betsy Veytia said it’s hard not to get emotional when you see the STAR competitions.

“Some of them start the school year never having held a bowling ball before,” Veytia said. “By the end of the year they are putting points on the board and everyone is cheering for them. It’s very touching and heartwarming.”

The STAR Sports Program students will celebrate their bowling victories at a dance at Canyon Lake High January 21. The STAR track and field season will begin in the spring.

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IN PHOTOS: Canyon Middle student Edward Rodriguez is all smiles as he and volunteer Edward Salazar get ready to propel the bowling ball down the lane at the Comal ISD STAR sports bowling competition at Fiesta Lanes.

It’s hard to tell who’s more excited, Smithson Valley High aide Mike Groves or SVHS student Sergio Aguilar during the district’s STAR bowling competition on Nov. 19.

New Braunfels Fire Department Lt. Robert Stephenson places a medal around the neck of Canyon High student Nate Bloxham during the Comal ISD STAR bowling program. Several members of the department



