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NEWS BRIEFS

Kinder Ranch dedication set for Oct. 4

Formal dedication ceremonies for Kinder Ranch Elementary School will be Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 6 p.m. The school, which opened in August, is located in the Kinder Ranch subdivision in northern Bexar County, at the corner of Borgfeld and Bulverde roads. The address is 2035 Kinder Parkway.

The ceremonies will begin with a ribbon cutting by students at the front of the school and then will continue in the cafeteria. Performances by 4th grade and 5th grade students will highlight the dedication. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited to attend.

For students fresh and local food=Simply Good

For students in Comal ISD, October is all about carrots and whole grains. As part of a yearlong theme by the district's child nutrition provider, Chartwells, students are learning

the importance of eating fresh food from local sources. Called, "Simply Good," the promotion offers prizes for creative artwork.

At the elementary level, students are involved in the "Create a Carrot" contest. "Draw it, build it, mold it...any way you choose." Students are asked to turn their work into their campus' cafeteria manager by Oct. 30 with winners receiving prizes.

At the middle schools and high schools, students are asked to create flat art that can be used on a counter display with the theme: Eat a healthy whole grain breakfast. Deadline is also Oct. 30. Winners will receive iPods, iTunes gift cards, or portable DVD players.

"We are teaching students about eating fresh and local," said Dianna Tidwell, director of child nutrition for Comal ISD. "We decided to make it fun with these art contests."

There's no better way to promote healthy eating than with a resident chef. Chef Mario Perez joins Comal ISD today. Chef Perez will be designing menus for school meals, assisting with the Chefs in Schools program and will be working with students in the Smithson Valley High School culinary arts program.

Chef Perez served as Executive Chef with the San Antonio Food Bank, Executive Sous Chef with Brigg's Ranch Golf Resort and was the Director of the Meals on Wheels program of Christian Senior Services in San Antonio.

At the San Antonio Food Bank, Perez helped launch a cooking/food service school for the homeless. Adult students learned every aspect of the kitchen for possible future employment, including maintaining proper times and temperatures, rotating food, how to keep cold food cold and frozen food frozen, and how to plan menus.

Perez also worked with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice helping place individuals who had gone through the system's culinary program into employment with the San Antonio Food Bank. Offenders within two to five years release prepared meals for the Food Bank under Perez' supervision.

"We are delighted to have someone of Chef Perez' caliber join our team," Tidwell said. "This is the best scenario I can imagine for our students as we help guide them in making decisions about food that will serve them for the rest of their lives."

Gifted and Talented information meetings this week

An informational meeting about the Comal ISD Gifted and Talented Program will be on Tuesday, Sept. 27 in the Support Services Building, 1404 IH 35 in New Braunfels, and again on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at Kinder Ranch Elementary School. Both meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

Topics to be included are: "What is the state plan for the education of gifted/talented students?" "How are gifted students found, identified and qualified for services?" "What gifted services does Comal ISD provide?" and "What do gifted/talented services look like at the different grade levels?"

Terilyn Moore, Comal ISD advanced academics coordinator, will facilitate both of the sessions. For more information, please contact your child's campus or Moore, 830.221.2044.

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