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Important Dates

March 6 – Explore UT

An opportunity for students to visit the University of Texas at Austin. Buses will depart ARS at 10:30AM and return at 4:30PM. You must sign up and turn in a permission slip to Mrs. Kenney.

April 13 – NACAC College Fair

College representatives from schools all around the nation will be present to meet students and answer questions. The fair takes place between 9:30am-12pm and 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Plan to attend to learn more about schools including Austin College, Texas A&M, Colorado State University, St. Edward's University, Rice University, Louisiana State University, Hollins University, The University of the South, Bucknell University, Texas Tech University, The George Washington University, University of Houston and many more. More than 200 schools will be present to talk to YOU!

Fun in February & More in March...

On Saturday, February 6th, a group of 30 ARS girls joined Mrs. Robinson and me for Mock Surgery and Feria Para Aprender. We had a great time learning about surgical instruments, X-rays and health at Brackenridge Hospital (yes, that is FAKE blood in the picture!). We also received lots of information about future educational opportunities.



Get ready for the following in March:

- Spring College Visits begin
- Explore UT – visit classrooms, speak with professors and learn about college life!
- Spring Break – a good time to visit schools on your own
- Parent Breakfasts

College Club chats with Alexis Jones

Alexis Jones is truly a leader in female empowerment! This smart, confident and passionate young lady came to the Ann Richards School to chat with our College Club. A few highlights from her story include:

- It's never too early to start thinking about where you want to go to school. Alexis grew up with 4 older brothers. At an early age, she was introduced to the college selection process. She encourages you to take time to think about your preferred college location, size, area of study and lifestyle.
- Set a goal and make it happen! As a reality TV "Survivor" finalist, Alexis is a fine example of a determined young lady who recognizes her responsibility in making her dreams come true. She knew college was an important goal so she used her competitive spirit to score high on the SAT and worked hard to earn scholarships.



SAT/ACT Vocabulary

Make it a goal to learn and use as many of these words as possible!

Abrasive: rough; coarse; harsh

Bilk: cheat; defraud

Covert: hidden; undercover

Engender: cause

Hangar: storage area for a plane

Knotty: complex; difficult to solve

Nuance: subtle; a fine shade of meaning

Plagiarism: taking credit for someone else's writing or ideas

Renown: fame

Tangent: going off the main subject

Contact Your College Advisor

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- Know how to balance your time. Going to school in Southern California, Alexis enjoyed spending time at the beach, outdoors and with friends. But, she will also be the first to tell you that she always prioritized her schoolwork...even if it meant studying in the library on a Friday night. One of her biggest pieces of advice is to learn good study skills and time management NOW!

Your GPA Matters

You've heard lots of talk about a GPA...

What is it?

GPA=Grade Point Average

Your GPA is an indicator of your overall academic performance and is calculated based on the grades you have earned throughout high school. For each class you take, you earn the following points per grade:

Regular Classes	Pre-AP/AP Classes
A=4.0	A=5.0
B=3.0	B=4.0
C=2.0	C=3.0
F=0.0	F=0.0

As you can see, it is to your benefit to take challenging classes and do well in Pre-AP/AP Classes. However, keep in mind that your GPA is calculated using ALL classes in high school...that means every class including PE, electives, STARS, etc. all factor into your GPA. Don't slack off in any course because one poor grade can bring down your GPA. Likewise, if you have a rough semester or class, you can work hard and improve your GPA!

9th Graders – You all should know your GPA and class rank. Remember what we discussed and set those goals! This semester is a very important semester and can make a big difference in your GPA. Work hard and stay focused!

Why does it matter?

Your GPA is one of THE MOST IMPORTANT things colleges will look at when reviewing your application. They will take into consideration what high school you attended (the Ann Richards School is a very rigorous, college-prep school) and whether you've pushed yourself by taking Pre-AP/AP classes. Your GPA is a big factor in determining college admissions and scholarships!!! DO NOT WAIT until junior or senior year to think about your GPA. By then, it is too late. Work hard to make good grades now!