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MEDIA ADVISORY

Holiday Bazaar Benefits Free IB School for Disadvantaged Austin Communities

Wayside: Sci-Tech Preparatory will host event on November 17

AUSTIN, TEXAS – Austin’s newest Holiday Bazaar allows shoppers to stock up on Christmas gifts while helping to fund educational resources for underserved Southeast Austin scholars.

Wayside: Sci-Tech Preparatory, located near I-35 and William Cannon, serves primarily low-socioeconomic scholars in Southeast Austin. One of four campuses in the Wayside Schools charter network, Wayside: Sci-Tech Prep is an authorized International Baccalaureate world school.

Commonly found at private schools, the IB programme has an increased focus on social responsibility and cross-cultural education. Wayside: Sci-Tech Prep provides some of Austin’s most disadvantaged communities with access to this type of education free of charge. However, as a charter school, Wayside: Sci-Tech Prep receives less funding than its ISD counterparts. Typically, this deficit runs over \$1500 per student each year.

To overcome this funding deficit, Wayside relies heavily on fundraising activities. This year’s Holiday Bazaar is a new effort to raise funds for scholars. The event’s proceeds will specifically benefit the sixth-grade class, helping to fund field trips and incentives for low-socioeconomic children.

Because the IB programme emphasizes hands-on learning techniques, field trips are essential for scholars to learn real-life applications for their studies. This year, Wayside: Sci-Tech scholars have gone spelunking at Whirlpool Cave, tested water samples at Onion Creek and visited Google’s downtown offices to learn about computer science careers.

The Holiday Bazaar will include well-known brands like Scentsy, Young Living and LipSense, along with artisan items, including Christmas decor, bowties, jewelry, embroidered goods and more. The event will be held on Nov. 17 from 5:30-8:30 at the Wayside: Sci-Tech Prep gym, located at 6405 S IH-35.

Please contact Halley Cade, Wayside Schools Communications Coordinator, by email at hcade@waysideschools.org, or by phone at 512-220-9182, with any questions or for additional information.

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About Wayside Schools

Wayside Schools is an open-enrollment, tuition-free PreK3-12 public charter school network that provides over 2,200 scholars across its four Southeast Austin campuses with an International Baccalaureate (IB) education. The network is made up of three elementary schools and one secondary school. Its mission is to prepare scholars to be college ready, community engaged, global citizens through a rigorous, community-enriched education guided by the IB framework and personalized instruction.