

Culinary Arts

South San “Cooking Cats” earn People’s Choice Award at Salsa Competition

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Cooking Cat Team Members: Senior Jennifer Vazquez (L) and Senior Jordyn Chandler (R) garnered the “People’s Choice Award at last week’s St. Philip’s College Hispanic Heritage Month Culinary Salsa Competition. They were named the best of 12 competing San Antonio Teams.

Salsa Invitational

October 2, 2019 saw “The Cooking Cats” of South San Antonio HS competing at the annual St. Philip’s College Hispanic Heritage Month Culinary Salsa Competition right here in San Antonio, Texas. And they ended up being “The Cat’s Meow” by garnering the coveted “People’s Choice Award” trophy for the day and “wowing” guests with their creation.

This annual, “**Invitation Only**” event allows for two graduating senior students of San Antonio area Culinary Arts programs to compete in preparing and serving their very own creative, homemade salsa. The competitors are judged, both by hand-selected professionals from the industry, and by the vote of the people attending the event.

Jordyn Chandler and Jennifer Vazquez created an unusual fruit salsa, from scratch. And stole the hearts and taste buds of a majority of the attendees. This intriguing fruit salsa incorporated all of the tastes on the average person’s palate including: sweet salty, sour, bitter and even a hint of umami. If you are interested in knowing more about the palate and how it works . . . enroll in Culinary Arts where you will learn all about “good taste”!

Our “**Fruit Gotcha**” salsa was the most popular among the people over 12 other competing schools. Chef Instructor from Lytle HS and owner of Texas Style BBQ and Cuisine said “We tried the salsa here today, it was fantastic and the pineapple with the apple had nice heat to it and great flavor. The pomegranate really sum it up over the top and you got those crunches too, and it just makes it tremendous salsa. The kids did a wonderful job!”

Cooking up some “Thanks”

When 3rd floor teacher and known socialite Mrs. J. Lucio asks “The Cooking Cats” to consider cooking up a great big dose of “Thank You” . . . Chef Kelly and his students came back with an overwhelming and resounding “Positive Response”.



Appreciative Teachers, Culinary Arts/FCCLA Students and some Fine Arts Students of the “3rd Floor A Building” say “Thank You” to our hard-working Custodial Staff in celebration of National Custodial Worker’s Recognition Day – Celebrated on October 2nd this year

Appreciative 3rd floor teachers decided to throw our custodians a private luncheon to celebrate National Custodial Worker’s Recognition Day. However since members would be in competition at St. Philip’s on the actual day for this annual celebration . . . the luncheon was move up a day on the weekly calendar.

One student commented that since FCCLA and “The Cooking Cats” are required to participate in Community Service/Service Learning every month . . . then this would be the perfect event for the month of October. We enjoy participating in Community Service and look forward to the many opportunities that come across our path every day. According to the National Day Calendar website we learned more about the celebratory day and about some of the most unappreciated people that we come into contact with on a regular almost daily basis.

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-custodial-workers-recognition-day-october-2/>

“On October 2nd, National Custodial Worker’s Recognition Day encourages appreciation to men and women who keep our schools and workplaces across the nation running smoothly.

Custodial workers operate behind the scenes. They are often under-appreciated for the hard work they do day after day.

These are the personnel keeping schools, hospitals, office buildings, museums, churches, and other buildings clean and well maintained.

With so many of the teachers on the 3rd floor pitching in groceries that they had secured on recent shopping trips . . . “The Cooking Cats” were able to create quite a selection of culinary specialties. The students prepared Fiesta Pinwheels and Seafood Canapes, which were “Butler Passed” as the custodial staff entered “The Bobcats Lair”. To wash down the appetizers, guests were invited to try a Strawberry, Banana, and Kiwi Smoothie, prepared from scratch by the students. This was followed by a Spinach & Fresh Strawberry Salad with Pecan Pralines and Homemade Poppy seed dressing. Then there were “Small Plate” servings of a variety of entrée dishes including: Korean Bulgogi, Homemade Kimchee, “The Cooking Cats” award winning gumbo and “Fruit Gotcha” Salsa. Individual Pineapple upside-down cupcakes floated on fresh whipped cream for dessert.

The custodians loved it! They were really overjoyed and grateful. There were two luncheons on the same day, one for the AM custodians and the other after school for the PM custodians, who have the after school/evening shift. Many of the beloved teachers of the 3rd floor not only supplied the groceries but also came to the luncheon to say “Thank You” take picture with the Custodial Staff Members and wish them all the best in the near future.