



Burnet Consolidated Independent School District

R. J. Richey Elementary hosted the first-ever Empty Bowls Event on December 18th. Empty Bowls is an international effort to end hunger by bringing attention to the needs of others and raising funds for community food banks. R. J. Richey decided to support two charities through its service-learning efforts. The first was local - supporting La Care, Burnet's food bank. The second was helping families in New Jersey, in the aftermath of super storm Sandy.

For weeks, students, teachers, staff and friends were making clay bowls all with a seashell theme, inspired by an art-based project called "Shells for NJ Shores". All the bowls were then fired, glazed and fired again in preparation. The project was founded by an art teacher Suzanne Tiedemann, who lives and teaches art in New Jersey. Ms. Tiedemann is a friend of Samantha Melvin, R. J. Richey Elementary art teacher. This project encouraged art teachers across the country to create work with students to support those in need in New Jersey. Take a look at her website, <http://shellsforNJshores.weebly.com>.

On Tuesday evening, December 18th, R. J. Elementary served soup donated by teachers and staff, the Maxican, Tealicious, the BHS FCCLA/Mrs. Sorrells, as well as bread donated by Wal-Mart in Marble Falls. The turnout was great for a busy school night before Christmas! Many thanks to all the donors and helpers who made the evening run smoothly. Students' families, faculty, staff and friends showed incredible support for the 2012 Empty Bowl project. **R. J. Richey raised \$2265.50 in all.** The campus presented a check to La Care in the amount of \$1375.50, and a check is being sent to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey in the amount of \$890, all to help fill "empty bowls."

