

Lee eliminates winter school, possible credit appeal offered over spring break

Guadalupe Rodriguez
News Writer

Credit appeal season is here and students will soon start receiving their invitations to begin their credit appeals for the spring semester of 2014.

Despite not having a winter school, Lee High School is still ensuring that every single student that has lost credit receives it.

“Students who have excessive absences will receive an asterisk on their report card or an ‘NG’ which is a non-grade on their transcript,” Ms. Washington said. “Those items are coming from the district because the student has excessive absences in that particular class for the semester.”

However the decision of eliminating winter school has upset many students.

“A lot of students would consider winter school as a huge impact and help to a faster graduation, and regaining credits,” Senior Karina Chicas said. “I found it helpful when I was a freshman so the fact that they’re going to take it away is unfair to the underclassmen.”

Even if a person receives a passing grade in a certain class, if they have too many absences, they will lose credit and have to go through credit appeal in order to gain it back.

“So basically that student might have passed that class with a 70, 80, 90 or above, BUT because of their absences they will not get the credit,” Washington said.

The credit appeal process includes signing a contract, keeping a full attendance as well as retaking the course of lost credit on grad lab.

“[The students] have to sign the credit appeal application that states that ‘I will comply with these following rules,’ which are coming to school with no unexcused absences, 100% attendance for the month of credit appeal,” Washington said. “Also whatever class they did not get credit for they have to take that class in grad lab and they have to

complete it. It will be signed by Ms. Litles and once signed by her it will be given to Ms. Martin who will then restore the credit”

For this semester Washington, Litles, and Martin are focusing on the credit loss from the spring semester of 2014, next semester they will focusing on the credit loss for the current fall semester 2014.

“We are trying to be proactive and think outside the box, right now we are doing credit appeals from last year so next semester which is going to be the spring we are going to be doing credit appeals for the fall,” Washington said.

Although there is most likely no winter school for this school year, there has been some speculation about a possible spring school according to Assistant Principal Tammie Moran.

“I think it’s a good idea they at least have a replacement for winter school, even if it’s during the spring,” Chicas said.

Spring school has been confirmed as of December and there is a high possibility that it will be held during spring 2015.

“We should be having spring school this year, it’s going to be geared towards credit recovery from fall courses and really towards seniors,” Moran said. “I want to run spring school for seniors who may have missed out on a course or two and want to graduate. We are also thinking of gearing it towards some juniors.”

The dates for spring school 2015 have not been set but are in the works with Lee’s administration.

“We may do it during spring break or we may do something more creative and possibly holding it over four to six Saturdays depending on the class,” Moran said. “With spring break it’s a little difficult because most teachers want their break, so we may run it over four to six Saturdays.”

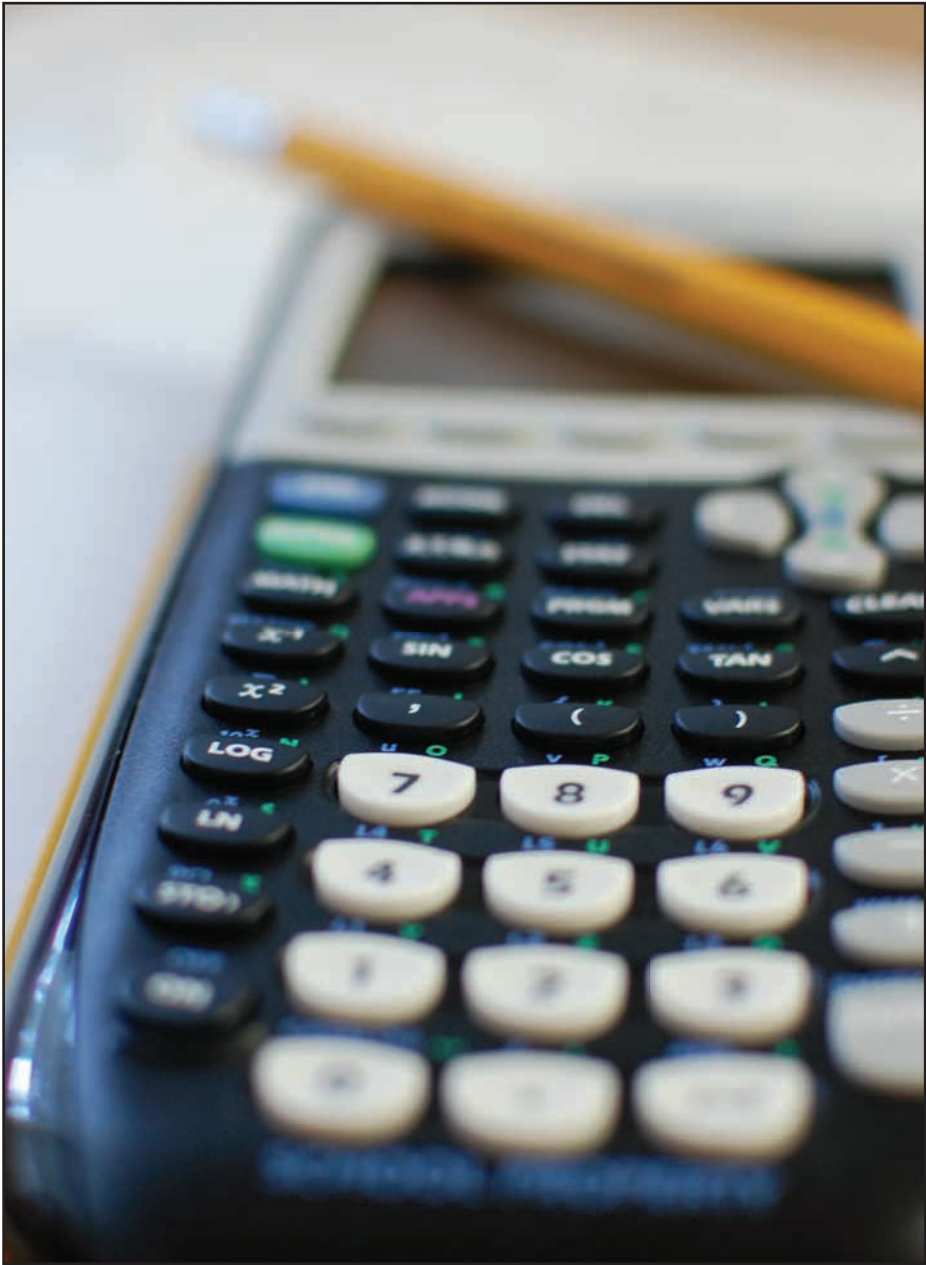


Photo Taken By Marcelin Kamdoun



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Winter dance held at Lee High School

Paola Dembe
News Writer

Lee High School is having a winter dance on December 12th at the school, the pre-sale tickets cost \$8 during both lunches every day and \$10 that Friday at the door.

The dance is from 6pm to 9pm on Friday night..

“Teachers are invited no charge for them,” School Counselor Ms. Broanex said.

The dance is a school sponsored event for High School students to

celebrate winter during the long period between homecoming in autumn and prom in May.

“I think is great idea to give the kids and opportunity to socialize in a school environment,” Algebra Teacher Ms. Hubbard said.

Winter dance has many of the same characteristics as a prom, having a band to play music and a catering service.

“I’ll go to the dance even though

it won’t be hype, but I’ll still support my school,” Junior Nathaneal Heylimarium said.

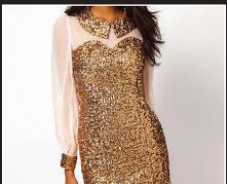
“I will come if it’s going to be better than the homecoming dance,” Senior Mounir T. said.

“I’ll love to go because I’m going to have fun with my friends, having some last moments with my senior friends,” Junior Cedric Grisby said.

Buy tickets from Ms. Broadnax in room 235.



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Upward Bound seeks to prepare students for college and SAT/ACT

Dejane Cherry
News Writer

Upward Bound is one of the newest clubs at Lee High School. This program has been at Lee for about a year and it is a great way to interact with students from other schools.

According to the U.S Department of Education, “Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits.”

The program serves students from low-income backgrounds or whose parents never graduated from college. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

Mr. Spears is the new mentor of

Upward Bound at Lee High School. He is located in the College Center and said he would be happy to answer any questions students may have about the program.

“Upward Bound is a free college prep program that takes high school students from diplomas to degrees by offering ACT/SAT programs, afterschool tutorials, and college experiences,” Spears said.

This program is open for freshmen and sophomores eager to venture out in the world to see what the world will be like when they become seniors and have to choose which college they would like to attend.

Upward Bound is supposed to help students to prepare for college and get ready for the jobs and career paths in the “real world.”

“Students are required to do one hour of tutorials monthly, two Satur-

day sessions, and interact with fellow students,” Spears said.

According to Spears, Upward Bound is more than just work, it is also very fun!

“Upward Bound students go to different places throughout the summer,” Spears said. “Some places include Six Flags, Texas State Fair, Medieval Times, and Kemah.”

Not only is the program throughout the year, Spears said that the participants also meet together to do interesting summer activities as well.

“Students participate in a summer enrichment program at Rice University where they are given the college experiences and rewarded with trips on Fridays to new and exciting places,” Spears said.

So, if you are interested in learning more or joining Upward Bound, talk to Spears in the college center.

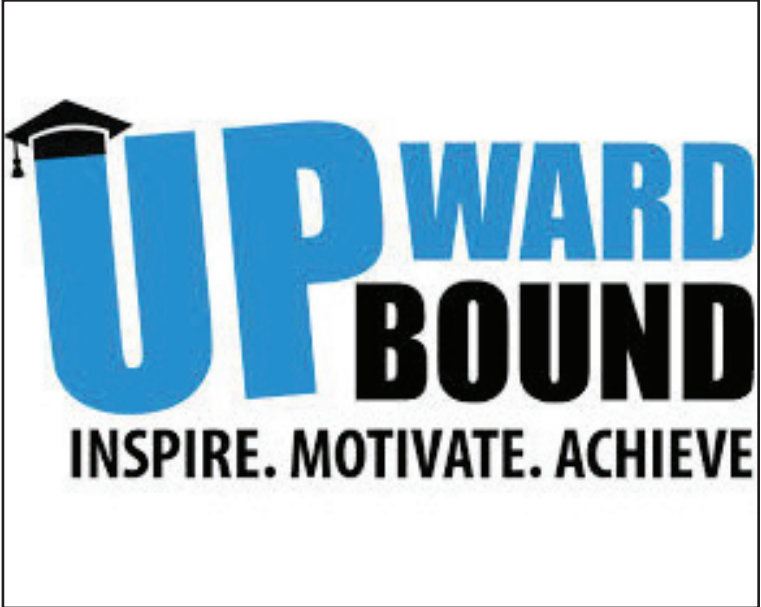


Photo Contributed By upwardboundpendleton.blogspot.com

End the first semester with accomplishments

Bryan Eriza
News Writer

Many different students share different end of semester goals. Let’s see what end of semester goals Lee High School students have.

“My goal was to pass all my classes and to establish good teacher student relationships with my teachers,” Junior Guadalupe Bonola said. “I learned a lot of new material this semester and I’m really thankful that my teachers put in the work and effort to help me get through the semester.”

Junior Ronnie Mason says he should start studying in U.S. History because it’s his last STA-AR test and he wants to receive a very good score.

“I’d like to pass all my classes with at least an 85% or higher,” Mason said. “My biggest accomplishment so far this semester was receiving a 100% in AP U.S. History.”

Junior Christopher Gamino says he has been studying in order to pass all his finals.

“I want to receive an 80% or

higher on all my finals,” Gamino said. “I’d like to maintain good grades in order to join the soccer team this upcoming January. I’d really like to get an advanced score in my U.S. History STAAR test.”

Senior Elizabeth Aguilar would like the Girls basketball team to win most of their games.

“I hope our Basketball team can make it to district,” Aguilar said. “I think we can do it if we work very hard. GO LADY GENERALS!”

Senior Guadalupe Rodriguez was fortunate enough to get accepted into Penn State University thanks to her hard work and dedication to school.

“My biggest achievement this semester was not going insane,” Rodriguez said “I’ve done great in debate and I have become a published journalist.”

Every student has different end of semester goals.

It doesn’t matter what they are, as long as you accomplish them.

Did you accomplish your end of semester goals?

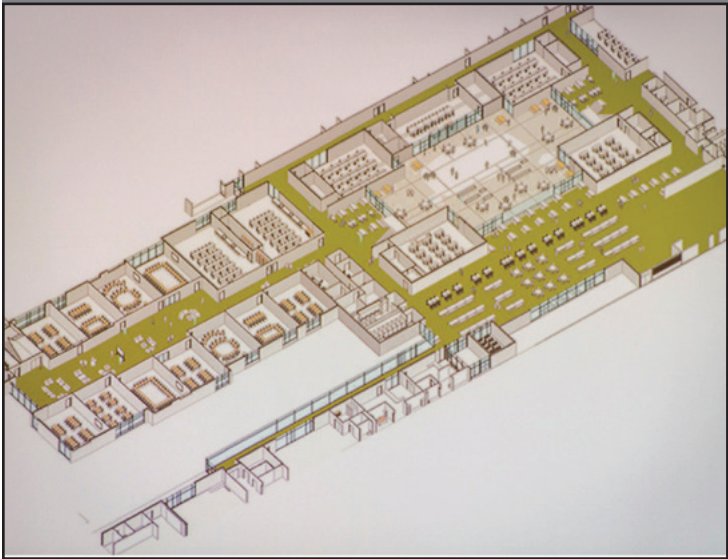


Photo Contributed By hisd.org

Donate to ‘Toys for Tots’ and make the holidays extra special for a child

Jennifer Coyoy
News Writer



Photo Contributed By toysfortots.org



Photo Contributed By toysfortots.org

Every year there are many kids that wake up on Christmas day to toys under the tree. But not every kid gets something for Christmas.

In December 1947 an organization called “Toys for Tots” was founded by Major Bill Hendricks after the night that his wife made a Raggedy Ann doll and asked him to deliver it to an organization that would present the doll to a needy child.

Major Hendricks could not find one that provided that service. That same year major Hendricks got together with other members of his

Marine Corps Reserve Unit, and collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children.

The organization was a success and it kept growing through the years.

On November 23, 2009 the President & CEO of Marine Toys for Tots received a call from the White House with news that the First Lady had declared her support for the 2009 Toys for Tots Campaign and invited the President & CEO to join the First Lady for a media event to announce her support. The First Lady visited the local campaign warehouse in

Stafford, Virginia on December 16, bringing with her a truck-load of toys collected from the White House Staff.

Mrs. Obama assisted with the sorting of toys and also took the time to meet and thank the many Marines and volunteers that have made the northern Virginia campaign so successful over the years.

If you want to donate to Toys for Tots, check the website and you can find a local sight to donate.

The website is www.toysfortots.org

Construction projected to begin

Elizabeth Aguilar
News Writer

A lot of changes have been happening this school year but one of the main ones is the construction going on; Lee High School is finally being rebuilt. The new building, bringing an updated 21st century look to our campus will be started very soon. There have been a lot of times that we’ve heard about this change but hadn’t actually seen any changes until now. Let the change begin.

What is the plan with the initial construction?

“The apartments across the street

will be bought and they will be torn down. The purchasing of the property will close the 15th of this month,” freshman assistant principal Joseph Mata said. “Once this is done they will start tearing down more parts of the school and the construction will get started.”

That same week the property is bought they will start getting rid of the back wing of the school. The Baylor Teen Clinic will be moved to its new location, as well as the daycare.

“They have been working on moving the Baylor Teen Clinic and it is almost finished,” Mata said. “There’s a good chance that once we come back from Christmas break we will see a change. It will take some time, but once the apartments and back wing are demolished we are going to see a difference.”

Slowly the new building for our school will start to show.

Students will finally see the beginning of the transformation of Lee High School.



Theater students show their talent on the ‘big stage’

Come support your fellow classmates as they put on their final performance for the semester.

Michelle Belmarez
News Writer



Are you tired of the same old routine?

Seeing your teacher talk every day, don't you think your teacher needs a break?

Do you want to watch the future stars of America perform even before they become famous?

If so, then be one of the first to witness the amazing acting talent of Lee High School.

Ask your teachers to come out and bring your classmates to the Winter Theater Show!

It will be held in the black box in room 403 on Thursday, December 11, 2014.

The students you know and love from Lee will be performing many-different kinds of plays acted and theatrical performances.

There will be shows by the Theater Production Crew and the other theater period groups, periods 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8.

These performances are the final projects for the students from the class, so if you want to support your future Broadway stars, don't miss out on seeing them before they hit the big spotlight.

Performances are free as long as your teacher signs the class up to come.

Do it yourself

Guadalupe Bonola
News Writer

Do it yourself ornaments



To make this cool holiday tree decoration, you need bottle caps, paint, ribbon, buttons, and hot glue gun. Firstly you paint your bottle caps white. If you'd like, you can add white glitter while the paint is still wet. You let it dry completely then you glue all three bottle caps together. After that you could use a bobby pin or a dotting tool to make the eyes and mouth with black paint. Next you make the snowman's nose with a paint brush and orange paint. Lastly you decorate with ribbons and buttons. Hope you enjoy your holiday decorated tree!

To make this adorable ornament for the holiday tree you need glitter, a paint of your choice, ribbon, and a hot glue gun. Next you paint the pine cones and while the paint is still wet you spray it with the color glitter of your choice. Finally you take the ribbon, hot glue it on the pine cone, and hot glue a loop to hang it on the tree. It's going to look adorable and you can make a whole bunch!



For this amazing and easy tree ornament all you need is a yellow ornament or you can spray paint one. When you have your yellow ornament you draw a thin rectangle on it with black paint then add the mouth and strands of hair. Next let it all dry before painting the eyes with silver, white, and the color of the eyes you want or simply with some eye stickers from a craft store. After the whole ornament has dried add a gloss spray to give it shine and hang it in your tree!



Do it yourself candy cane sleighs



To make this awesome gift all you need is candy, ribbon, and tape. First you stack the candies on top of each other, and put two candy canes as a base. Next you tie them together, using tape if you need to, with ribbon and add a cute bow at the top. Now there is a sweet holiday treat that will make a great holiday gift!



Photo Taken By Marcelin Kamdoun

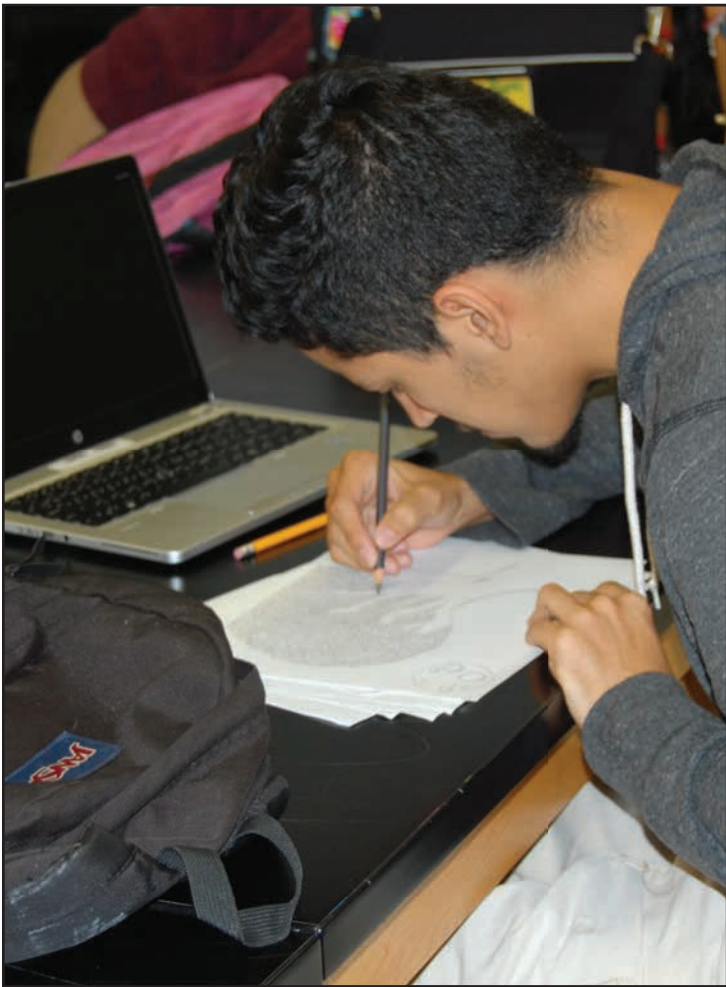


Photo Taken By Marcelin Kamdoun

Great places to eat in the Lee community

Maria Ramirez
Entertainment Writer

Rosie's Carrabas



When I went here for the first time, I felt almost overwhelmed at the elegant atmosphere. Everything seemed expensive, and the service was very well handled. I'm planning on celebrating my 18th birthday there with my family. The food is amazing! Would you like take a special someone, to a special place? Carrabas is the place to go!

Pappasito's



This place caters to Lee every day! It's a great place to go eat with friends, and to hang out. The chips and queso are beast, and I highly recommend this place to the students and faculty of Lee.

Chipotle

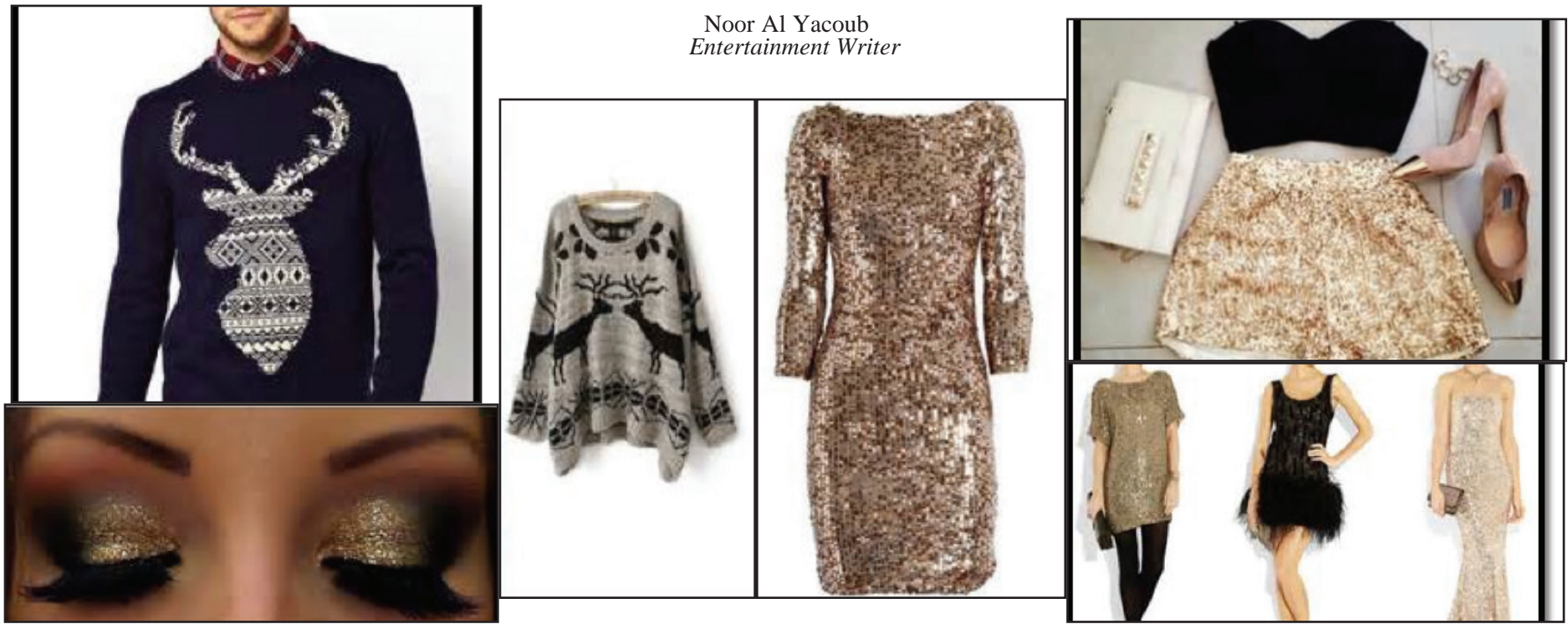


Chipotle is life! This place is awesome for all kinds of eaters. You may want a healthy salad bowl one day, or a burrito filled with fajita and yummy goodness. It's so good, and everyone should eat there all the time! Ha-ha!



How to dress to impress for holiday parties

Noor Al Yacoub
Entertainment Writer



Do you love Christmas parties, but you’re not really sure how to dress up for one? What if you are shy and just want to make a good first impression?

A big part of the fun of Christmas parties is in dressing up and preparing for it.

What you wear, however, can have a big impact on how you are perceived by others and, ultimately, on how comfortable you feel at the party. In the other case, if you have been lucky enough to be attending a New Year’s Eve party, you need to know how to dress for the occasion in an eye-catching manner.

Most parties are festive and a little wild, and your style needs to reflect that. To leave a lasting impression with your hosts and the other guests, choose a daring,

glitzy outfit and appropriately daring shoes and accessories. Finish your look by highlighting your best facial features with dramatic make-up...

Not to worry – These steps below will tell you everything you need to know about dressing and generally getting ready for an awesome Christmas and New Year’s Eve party:

1) Find out in advance if there is a dress code for the party. If the Christmas party is being held in a restaurant, theater or rented space, the organizers can probably tell you what they expect the atmosphere to be. Even just a general idea, such as casual attire, black tie, or formal will guide you in your selection of clothes.

2) If you are wearing a skirt,

keep it knee-length or longer. Bring a jacket or a large scarf to wrap around your shoulders. This is an especially good idea if you don’t know the people at the party and there’s a chance you can be over or underdressed in comparison.

3) Dress casual unless you have an indication that the Christmas party will be formal. Casual, however, does not mean jeans and a white T-shirt. Instead, pair the jeans with a nice blouse or a pastel shirt and a pair of boots or sandals.

4) Wear something red or gold, the traditional colors of Christmas. Avoid holiday sweaters or anything overly Christmas related. Instead, wear an elegant accessory such as a shawl or jewelry in the right colors.

5) Short skirts are relatively standard for New Year’s Eve, but if

you feel uncomfortable baring that much skin, stick with a skirt that falls at or just above the knee. Choose a length that makes you look and feel your best, regardless of tradition.

6) If a sequined dress is too much sparkle for your style, opt for a sequined skirt instead. Match the skirt with a simple fitted tank top or blouse. A solid black top offers an especially nice contrast with your shimmery skirt.

7) If you plan on attending a casual party or ringing in the New Year with a small group of close friends, keep things simple by wearing a metallic jean. Metallic jeans have a tint of gold or silver overlaying the denim, making them a little dressier than your everyday jeans.

8) You can get away with some

large, flashy jewelry for the occasion, but there is still such a thing as “too much of a good thing.” Instead of wearing several large pieces of jewelry, find one piece that can take center stage—like extravagant chandelier earrings or an ornate necklace—and keep the rest of your jewelry, if you wear any, simple and subdued.

9) High heels covered in straps have a festive, flirty ambiance and look great with many dresses.

10) Coat yourself in glitter. Look for an eye-shadow or lipstick previously infused with glitter, or brush a light coating of glitter dust over your cheeks or along your collarbone. Do not overdo it, though. Pick one feature to accentuate with glitter and only apply a light amount.

Students from all backgrounds share favorite holiday traditions

Fernando Campos & Ashley Perez
Entertainment Writers

What’s your favorite winter holiday?

Most people would say Christmas and/or Christmas Eve. Christmas is on Thursday, December 25th, which is only a few days from today. Although Christmas isn’t the only holiday people celebrate at Lee High School, it’s one of the biggest and most popular of the season, and many students’ favorite.

However, it is also important to remember that not everyone celebrates Christmas and a lot of families have different special traditions that they participate in during the holiday season.

“Christmas is a time when all my family gets together and exchanges gifts,” sophomore Estefany Romero said. “We also dance and eat different types of food, for example tamales, oatmeal, pozole, and much more.”

Students don’t just celebrate Christmas the majority of the Muslim students celebrate Eid.

“Eid is the Muslim Christmas where we buy new clothes and get money from older people or family members,” sophomore Zubaidah Faiz said. “It’s celebrated on the last day of Ramadan, which is after we finish fasting.”

Not only is winter holiday about giving and getting it also is about caring and gratitude.

“Christmas is not about my parents giving me presents, it’s about how happy I am when I’m gathered around with all the important people in my life, especially the ones I haven’t seen in a long time,” freshman Gabriella Maldonado said.

Most students aren’t aware about other holidays from different cultures or religions.

“Hanukah is a Jewish Holiday,”

junior Mohamed Calise said. “Our family never misses it. Although some people don’t know that Hanukah is even a holiday, I take pride and joy because it brings my family together and makes my dad proud of our family traditions.”

There is, however, one holiday that everyone shares around this time of year: New Year’s Eve and New Year’s day. But, not everyone celebrates it the same way.

“For New Year’s my whole family makes plans and buys fireworks,” sophomore Ashley Perez said. “My favorite part is when we eat the 12 grapes, which means you make a wish for each month.”

Other people celebrate New Year’s with sparkling clothes, dancing, fireworks, or maybe even some champagne or sparkling water when the Ball drops, signifying the new year.



Photo Taken By Marcelin Kamdoun

Gift ideas from *The Traveler’s* most wanted list

Cristian Morales
Entertainment Writer



The new Nintendo Amiibo figures are a portable, built-in memory saver for the Nintendo Wii U. These figures save games and updates to share and battle friends anywhere any time.



The new iPhone 6 is also one of America’s most wanted presents this holiday. It has a better image and larger screen for your eyes.



What is life without a gift card? They’re small, fast and amazing. Express and Victoria’s secret gift cards are two of the most wanted on the list for this season’s fashion.



Spend time with loved ones and show your gratitude for those special people in your lives with a nice card and some caring gestures, like chores or favors.

Holiday play-
lists to spread
joy and cheer

Kymyatta Gabriel
Entertainment Writer



Photo Contributed by activedayton.com

- 1. All I Want For Christmas Is You- Mariah Carey
- 2. Feliz Navidad- Jose Feliciano
- 3. It’s Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas- Johnny Mathis
- 4. Last Christmas- Wham
- 5. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas- James Taylor
- 6. Frosty The Snowman- Jimmy Durante
- 7. Do You Hear What I Hear- Whitney Houston
- 8. O’ Holy Night- Mariah Carey
- 9. Jingle Bell Rock- Glee
- 10. Most Wonderful Time of The Year- Andy Williams

Jolly Old St. Nicholas
is coming to town soon

Do you believe in Santa Claus? The story behind the man and how students from different countries and traditions celebrate the bearded present bearer!

Ronnie Mason
Entertainment Writer

It’s getting to be that time when we have to put our Christmas decorations up and make it safe for the big, red-coated man known as Santa Claus. Is Santa really known around the world as well as in your home?

According to Wikipedia, Santa Claus, also known as Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle and simply “Santa”, is a figure with legendary, historical and folkloric origins in many Western cultures. Every year on the eve of Christmas, December 24th, the Jolly man visits the home of all the good children to leave them presents to open when they wake on Christmas morning. Did you know that in some European countries children receive their presents on St. Nicholas’ Day, 6 December?

Santa doesn’t do everything alone as in going house to house, he also gets help from 9 special animals that you may or may not know by name.

“The 9 reindeer that help Santa are named Comet, Cupid, Vixon, Dancer, Prancer, Donnar, Blitzen, Dasher & the oh-so famous Rudolph,” Junior Bryan Eriza said.

When you were young you believed Santa was the real deal right?

“Yes I used to believe in Santa with all my heart,” Eriza said. “I believed

Santa would give my aunt & uncles my present so later they would give it to me & say it was from Santa.”

As stated in Wikipedia, since the 20th century, popularized by the 1934 song, “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town,” Santa Claus has been believed to make a list of children throughout the world; categorizing them according to their behavior, naughty or nice. He delivers presents; including toys, and candy to all of the well-behaved children in the world, and sometimes coal to the naughty children. All of this on the single night of Christmas Eve.

High school students are also expecting things from Santa this Christmas.

“I want him to bring me lots of food so I can give it out to the ones in need this holiday,” sophomore Yesly Espinal said.

Old Saint Nick or better known as Santa has looks of his own. As you may know he has a Mrs. Claus but how does the old man look?

“Santa is at least 5’10, chubby, big red cheeks as if he was blushing, bald from the top of his head, big white beard and a wrinkled face,” Eriza said.

Describing Santa could be pretty easy to some.

“Santa is an old man that puts a smile on kids’ faces when he comes around for Christmas,” Student Ricardo Rodriguez said.

What are you planning to leave for Santa?

Well according to Wikipedia, in the United States and Canada, children traditionally leave Santa a glass of

milk and a plate of cookies; in Britain and Australia, he is sometimes given sherry or beer, and mince pies instead.

In Sweden and Norway, children leave rice porridge. In Ireland it is popular to give him Guinness or milk, along with Christmas pudding or mince pies.



Photo Contributed By garcya.us

Celebrated holidays
throughout the year

Bryan Herrera
Entertainment Writer

As you know Lee High School is a very diverse school with many cultures, ethnic groups and religions.

During the winter break, most people spend their time with their family or friends.

Don’t you ever wonder what other religions or ethnic groups do on their holiday or what kind of foods they eat during this time of year?

Students at Lee High School celebrate unique and different holidays where they participate in a variety of traditions.

“We celebrate EID and Ramazan, that holiday we wear new clothes and then on Ramazan we fast,” Sophomore Ramsha Kanwal said.

During the holidays they also meet with friends and family to celebrate together, to have an exciting time during the holidays, and to get closer to their religion and heritage.

“We meet family and friends. We eat traditional foods our moms make and our friends come buy it” Kanwal said. “We celebrate this time of year with friends and family to get closer to the Muslim religion and to get closer to Allah.”

On these holidays they do several traditions like sharing different and common traditional foods with friends, neighbors, and family.

“Our big holiday is EID the big

holiday EID Fater. Usually we cut the meat and then we cook it and we share the meat with our friends and neighbors,” Kanwal said.

Teachers of Lee High School also celebrate different holidays during the winter break, as well as spend it by eating similar foods and celebrating similar holidays.

“Holiday-wise I celebrate EID, it’s pretty much Muslim, it’s where we eat a lot of Lamb,” Math Teacher Dahirou Ndiaye said. “During this break I plan to eat turkey even though I don’t cook it.”

Many would say that the big holidays for them are Halloween, New Years and even their birthday, but not everyone agrees with this. Others think that Father’s Day and Mother’s Day are very important.

“During this time of year, waiting for December and New Year’s is pretty much my favorite,” said Ndiaye. “The big holiday for me is Father’s and Mother’s Day for parents, thanking them for being alive.”

Different ethnic groups and religions celebrate a variety of traditions and eat many foods from their country. The differences between people make everybody from around the world and from each country uniquely different in the best way to represent their heritage.

Stories by Sabrina
Mixed Hearts Part 3

Sabrina Miller
Entertainment Writer

Prince

I can’t believe I picked her up but she looked so peaceful and surprisingly cute. I walked with her to her mother’s office but when we got there it was locked. Jewel takes out her phone. “Oh its 4:30. My mom has an appointment at 5:00. I can’t believe I forgot.” She turns and leaves me standing there alone. As I start to follow her my phone rings.

“Hello.”
“Hey son,” answers my father. “Did you find Jewel?”
“Yes, she just left. She was willing to talk to her father but you guys left.”

“Oh, well tomorrow invite her over for dinner. Got to go, bye son.”
He hung up without letting me say anything else. That’s surprising he usually makes me hang up. When I got home I found my mother in the kitchen and my father fast asleep in his room.

“Son come down. We need to talk,” yells my mother from the bottom of the stairs.

I put my book bag on my bedroom floor and changed out of my uniform. On my way down the stairs I heard the bathroom door open. I see both my parents on the couch talking.

“Who’s upstairs?”
My father looks toward me and doesn’t answer. I turn around to see James (Jewel’s dad.)

Jewel

My mother doesn’t get home until 8:00.
“Sorry for being late, have you ate dinner?” She walks into the kitchen and I follow.
“Yeah, I guess Dad must have snuck in because there was spaghetti set out for me.”
“Oh, that’s why he asked for a copy of my key.” Mom looks into the fridge and pulls out a chocolate cheese cake. “Yum, my favorite. It was definitely him.”

My mom goes on and on about her day until I decide to go to my room.
“I have honors homework. I’ll see you in the morning. Night mom.” I give her no time to speak and run up the stairs.

I stayed up until mid-night doing homework and playing video games. As I lay on my bed I dose off into a dream.

I see Prince standing in a corner surrounded by girls then he disappears. The girls turn toward me and I wake up to my alarm clock.

Lee students are awaiting the construction and the new school

Jackie Correa
Opinion Writer

Everyone has heard the rumors about the school being rebuilt and how it's going to fit more into the 21st century style. The school will be beginning its official rebuild during our winter break, but will that effect our school's studying environment? Will it cause us to get distracted?

Many questions are being asked but few answers are given. Everyone should have gotten a brochure sometime during summer vacation or during the beginning of the school year. It presented some pictures and information about how the school would look. If you did not receive it you can look it up on the HISD website. There was even a meeting about the rebuild and how the plans for it would look.

"There is a lot to like about the design – plenty of natural light, openness and small group learning and tutoring areas," said Lee High School Principal Jonathan Trinh. "It will provide a college-type format for student learning. I think it will draw kids who are going outside the neighborhood back to their home school."

Through HISD's 2012 bond program, \$73.8 million has been allocated to build the new Lee HS campus. The new 240,000-square-

foot facility will include state-of-the-art technology with flexibility to allow for future upgrades. The two-story school will be divided into four neighborhood wings with open spaces and plenty of windows to maximize natural light, says HISD.org.

Some students expressed their opinion on the rebuild of the school

Mark Perez, a sophomore at Lee high school, said when he thinks the school will be rebuilt and when it will finally be finished.

"Well, from what I have heard, the school will be finished when we graduate, but due to the fact that I haven't seen anyone doing anything about the repairs, I think the school will be done in 2 or 3 years after we graduate," Perez said.

Are you exited? "Yes and no, I'm excited to see the school transitions, but I'm not exited that some of the history and memories of Lee High School will go away with its new rebuild."

Do you think the new building will have an impact on the students? "Yes and no, some students will like how the technology will influence it BUT some students may take advantage of it," Perez



Photo Contribute by HISD.org

The plans for the new school are almost finalized and there is still a question as to when the construction will begin. It is possible that during the winter break, the 600s hallway will be torn down to begin building.

said.

The school will definitely look much better in its new style. When going to classes it is always really dark and dreary but the light provided by the sun will definitely make everyone feel more happy and excited. The new school build-

ing will hopefully make everyone try to work harder to finish high school and continue onto a great path.

Although Lee High School's memories will be gone, new memories will be made in the new Lee. Hopefully the new school will

have a bigger cafeteria and more tables because there is always trouble with finding seats or the food lines become so long that by the time you get to your table, either your chair is gone or you only have ten minutes until the bell dismisses you to your next class!

Appreciate all the teachers of Lee

Nicole Adnani
Opinion Writer

Teachers, we have many of them here at Lee High school, many are new, and some have been here a long time.

New teachers might not have as much experience with students as the older teachers. They might not know what to expect.

We, as students, need to give

them the most wonderful experience so they can grow and so they stay next year.

You might not like them in the beginning, but they don't expect you to. Getting used to a new teacher every year is not easy.

Many new teachers have gotten accustomed to the students and the

ways of Lee. They are not here to play around. They are here to teach and learn from their students.

There are also substitutes that sometimes have to fill in the whole year.

Be thankful for the hard working teachers and substitutes that are here to work with you and help

you.

Even if the teacher is bugging you, you have to cope with it and be respectful.

Being a teacher is not an easy task to have. It's hard, but if you enjoy doing it, you can bring out the best in your students.

Most of the time, teachers do

get tired of misbehaving students, but they still do their work, because the education of our generation depends on it.

We need to do our best in experiencing learning with our teachers, and appreciating what they have done for us, and what they have to offer.

How Lee changed this year

Cindy Wakiyama
Editor-In-Chief

It was clear that with a new principal, there would be changes in the school and thankfully Principal Jonathan Trinh has been a great addition to the campus.

The best thing about Trinh is his clear devotion to the school. He has become more than just a principal, he is a General. He has frequented football games, UIL competitions and other school events. Always showing support for his students while guiding them to success.

He has also showed a lot of support for academics by providing all teachers with personal printers in their classrooms and new, more advanced calculators for the AP Physics and AP Calculus classes.

The printers keep the teachers from having to leave their room or send a student out to get a necessary document in the

copy room. And the calculators are able to perform functions that the TI-83 and TI-84 wish they could perform. Finding the derivative of complicated functions would be nearly impossible without the TI-Nspire.

The Traveler got a great deal of support this year. Trinh's help with funding allowed the paper to be published more frequently than last year. The writers are getting more experience as they get to write more articles. There was no need for the students to fundraise, therefore students are able to spend more time in the classroom or around the school perfecting their art.

Lee TV has been a part of Friday advocacy for a few years, but now having the two broadcast classes, a bigger number of students are able to create content without having to stay after school. As the two Lee

TV periods alternate weeks for uploading their episodes, each group gets about two weeks to put an episode together. A lot less stressful for the creators which guarantees better quality episodes for the viewers.

The school saw an increased number of seniors in internships this year who are allowed to wear professional dress to school. Those students not only are branching out to show the many talents and abilities of the Generals, but they also serve as role models for underclassmen. Any General is capable of acquiring an internship and all Generals should reach to be an exemplary student in their senior year. Not having to wear the uniform is also a plus.

SWAT period has been a big help this year. Students who were falling behind in certain subjects were paired up with



Photo Contributed By chron.com

teachers who teach those subjects and are able to give extra help outside of class. The students who are on track are able to get extra time to work on whatever. The senior ambassadors are able to use this time to plan activities for the senior

class and fundraising ideas without having to stay after school. And seniors who are on track are able to use this time to apply for colleges and scholarships.

Generals, great things have come to us this year. Let's keep improving our school.

Generals...Always!

Melanie Hauser
Alumni Vice President

‘Tis the season. To make lists. To shop. To celebrate. To honor family traditions. To trim trees. To make sure the little ones are still in awe of Santa Claus.

And to start wondering if it’ll be flip-flop or sweater weather on Dec. 25. Forget about a white Christmas.

Give or take some random snow-flakes some years, it’s been that way since Lee High School opened back in 1962. Actually before.

But other things have changed in the halls of Lee the last five-plus decades.

In the 60s and 70s, we started the day with a homeroom and one of our annual traditions was that each homeroom decorated the classroom door for the holidays.

Some were outstanding works of art, some merry, some sparkly, some religious and others were just plain fun. It was a contest with winners and honorable mentions and bragging rights for the next year.

A few years, students even painted stained glass art on the windows in the cafeteria.

Early on, the Generals celebrated with Christmas programs highlighted by the two choruses – the all-female Dixiliers and the mixed chorus South-ernaires. Some years there were ballet dancers or programs. By the 1980s, the group Razz m’ Tazz took center stage at the holiday program with incredible improv.

Some teachers put up small Christ-mas trees, but there was no Christmas dance. Instead, groups of senior girls would get together and throw invita-tion-only holiday formal dances. Yes, it was girls asking the guys. Always.

But it wasn’t all punch, cookies, and construction paper. There were some semester finals, a lot of senior angst over the SAT test you took in the fall, and those college applications that had to get in the mail. Yes, mail. Stamps, envelopes. The internet was only a glimmer in a few techies’ eyes.

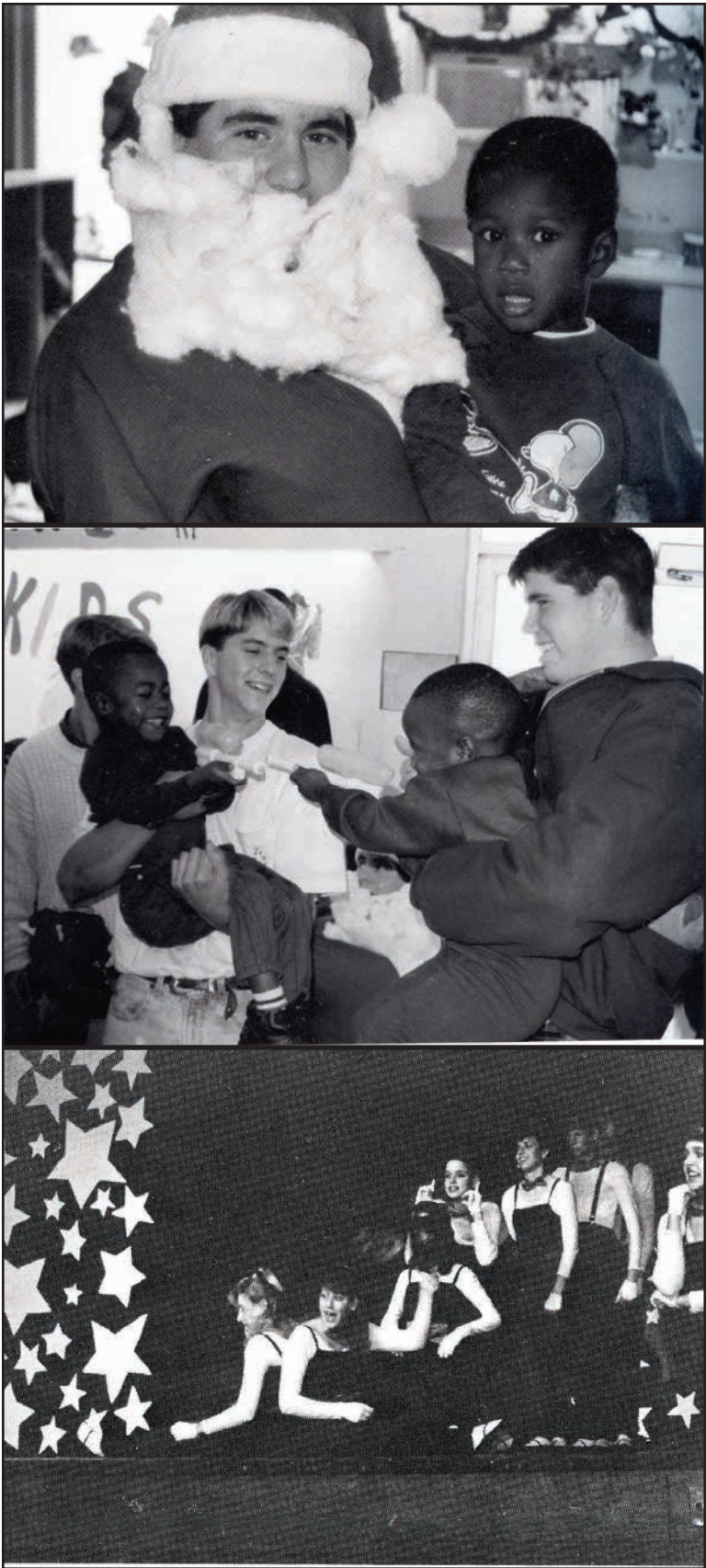
The football banquet was a December tradition and capped the end of a big season. By the time Christmas break rolled around, the basketball team was ready to tip off in at least one holiday tournament.

Yet through all the celebrations, Generals gave back – and generously.

The service clubs – the Key Club, Anchor Club and others – hosted parties for underprivileged children in the city. They played Santa, baked cookies, trimmed trees and made sure there were loads of smiles and hugs and sometimes presents.

And just like today, one of the un-spoken traditions – for students and faculty -- was being able to walk out those doors on the final day of class and say goodbye to school until next year!

Generals always!



Advice for succeeding in high school

Ixchel Perez
Opinion Writer

I still remember the first day of freshman year in high school. I was scared and nervous all at once. I did not know who I was going to meet or what was going to happen that day. All I knew is that I was going to make my high school experience the greatest memory of my life.

I made good choices my freshman year; I always had A’s and B’s. I also played sports such as basketball and track.

Freshman year is a very important year of high school because your grades will one day determine your GPA senior year. Many students do not take that year very seriously because they think it’s a fun year to slack off. However, that is not correct.

Sophomore year I thought I was cooler since I was no longer a fish. I had so much fun. I made many friends and I also became well known in school. My grades were always great and I did not stop playing sports. In fact I also joined the cross country team.

As a student it’s always important to get involved in many sports, clubs, and even do community service hours because when you try

to apply to college they will ask for your high school record. Colleges give more priority to the students who have excellent grades, play sports, and help the community and the ones who are involved in many other afterschool activities.

My third year in high school was probably one of the best. I was a straight A student and I joined two different sports: volleyball and wrestling. I was also part of Lee TV and The Traveler (the newspaper).

Junior year is one of the most important years of high school because that’s when you have to take the SAT and is also the year that colleges will rely on in order to determine whether you get accepted into their college.

My first weeks as a senior I was very happy and I felt so good to finally be in the last step before college. I was ready to get the year over with and leave behind my high school with a great reputation.

I took all of the testing that I needed, such as the SAT and ACT. Those tests are extremely important because they will play a big role in your college application. I took

those tests very seriously because I knew that they will make a difference in my college options.

Something that is very important to do right way when school starts is to start applying to colleges and scholarships early. That will give you more chances and opportunities to win. We all know that college is expensive that is why is very important to apply to as many scholarships as possible.

One of the greatest things about my senior year is that I have an internship with the Houston Chronicle and I am still part of Lee TV, The Traveler and the Yearbook class. I will also graduate in the top 10 percent of my class.

Just a few weeks ago I was accepted to Texas Tech, which has been my dream school since sophomore year. I hope to go there next year and make college the second greatest memory of my life.

Remember to never give up on a test or a class, “passing” a class in not good enough. You should always aim high because High School is just a small step to a successful life.

Lee students plan ahead for holiday financial needs

Melissa Garcia
Editor-In-Chief

Spending a lot of money is a big part of the upcoming holidays. This can be challenging if you are a high school student who only works around 20 hours a week or who doesn’t have a job. However buying your loved ones the gifts they deserve so much doesn’t have to be so difficult. Lee students share the different ways they manage their money so that everyone they love gets something special.

“ Since I don’t have a job, sometimes I give people rides and charge them for it,” junior Kimberly Hipo said. “ As the holidays get closer and closer, I start to save up little by little. This is really beneficial for me because by the time Christmas Is here I have already saved enough for my entire family.”

This is a smart way to use the things you already own to your advantage.

“This was one of the easiest ways I found to save up,” Hipo said.

The best part about this idea is that anyone can do it and it’s a quick way

to make money.

Other students who work save up by depositing money in an old fashion piggy bank.

“For Christmas I get my mother, my father, my brother, my sister, my uncle something and this year I have a girlfriend so her too,” Junior Bryan Eriza said. “I save up by buying a piggy bank and every time I get paid I put a little bit of money in there. So whatever I have I spend on the people I love. If I don’t have enough, then I save the last check I get before Christmas and use that to buy gifts.”

Although he doesn’t know what kind of gifts they want, he makes sure to remember the little things they say they want throughout the year.

“I usually ask my dad for money a couple of months before Christmas, then he forgets about it so I just buy gifts with that,” Senior Alex Dillman said.

This is a clever way to obtain money for Christmas gifts because you

are technically giving back.

When all fails, you can always make homemade holiday cards or bake something your family is sure to enjoy. We all have that one drawer that is full of forgotten items that we believe might be useful someday. This is when the objects inside it come in handy, be creative and make something unique.

After all, the holidays bring great opportunities to share special moments with those who you care about deeply. It is a time to forgive and forget, to start off the New Year without any grudges and negativity holding you back.

Although we may forget the true meaning, it is essential to always come back to earth and enjoy those who are with us for that very moment. Whether you are able to give them a gift or not it is the thought that matters.

Whether it’s with gifts or not, this holiday season, don’t forget to make sure to show your loved ones how important they are to you.

Work age for teenagers

Yesly Espinal
Opinion Writer

What are you doing during these holidays? Maybe you want to go out on the weekends and have some fun time buying holiday gifts for everyone.

You might even go to the store and see things you would like to buy like shoes, clothes or other things that you would like to have or even give out this Christmas.

Trust me, you will fall in love with most of the things you see. There are other things that you also would like to do like save up money for your education after High School.

For all of this, you need a job and you need to get a paycheck first before starting to make plans. If you’re under age 14 you might not get too lucky to find a job, you may have to choose instead to work for yourself cutting lawns, dog-sitting, or babysitting, etc....

In the United States, there are regulations on hours worked, set wages, and also safety requirements for minors in jobs. The Fair Labor Standard Act sets the age of 14 as the minimum age of employment. As long as a teen has good grades, doesn’t have too many other activities, and can arrange safe transportation to work, they should be able to handle a job.

“I believe the proper age you should be able to work is 16, at the age 16 you should have the mindset of a future adult. In two years you’ll be considered a legal adult, and the best way you could prepare for the future is by working at the age of 16 so you can actually experience it,” Junior Ronnie Mason said.

If you try to get a job don’t forget to follow some of these tips that would help you out a lot.

You should always have your resume in order and if you get an interview, try to dress formal. Lastly use proper language and look at him or her in their eyes, it will show respect and show them that you are interested in the position.

Here is a useful link in case you are looking for a job: <http://kids.usa.gov/teens/jobs/>



Rockets start the season strong, can they hold on?

Rosaria Casia
Sports Writer

The Rockets opened the 2014-2015 preseason in Dallas with a 111-108 win over the state rival Mavericks.

Rocket player Chandler Parsons paced the team in the first half with a high 14 points. Nearing the end of the game, Jeff Adrien’s tenacity around the rim created enough second chance buckets to cut the Mavericks lead down to just 2 points heading into the fourth, where Kostas Papanikolaou hit back-to-back threes to give the Rockets the lead. It was an intense night playing the Mavericks, and a great way to start the preseason.

Fast-forwarding to the end of preseason, Isaiah Canaan and James Harden helped to deliver the 96-87 win over the San Antonio Spurs. Trevor Ariza as he had done in almost every preseason game set the tone in the first quarter coming up with a loose ball, finishing with a break-away slam, on the opening play.

Isaiah Canaan checked in to start the second quarter, which was a bit earlier than he had checked in most of the preseason, but Coach McHale said before the game that he wanted him to play more tonight as season roster decisions loomed. Canaan responded with five points in his first stint, helping the Rockets build a 49-32 lead at halftime.

In the third, James Harden caught fire. The Beard erupted for 20 of his game-high 25 points in the quarter, punctuated by a beautiful step-back three off a Papanikolaou tipped offensive rebound to build an 18-point lead, Houston’s biggest of the night.

Their next stop was L.A., as the Rockets opened the 2014-2015 season, Tuesday October 28th, against the Lakers.

With a win to kick off the season against the Lakers, the Houston Rockets have battled their way to first place in the Southwest with a 16-4 winning record.

With such tough competition, however, Memphis, San Antonio, and Dallas are all on the Rockets’ heels; trailing by only a win or two.

With James Harding posting stats such as 25.2 average points per game, an 89.6 free throw percentage, 6.6 assists per game, and 1.9 steals per game (www.NBA.com); the star guard, posting nearly double the points as forward Trevor Ariza, will lead the Houston Rockets through this sure to be exhilarating season and make it a great one to be a Rocket Fan.

For more information on the Rockets and their 2014-2015 schedule visit <http://www.nba.com/rockets/>



Photo Contributed By nba.com



Photo Contributed By imgkid.com

Lee’s soccer team begins tryouts, prepares for the upcoming season

Adrian Castillo
Sports Writer

With the soccer season coming up, Mr. Carrillo prepares his players for all the upcoming games.

Mr. Carrillo sets goals to help his players to accomplish and prove they are a team that puts in a lot of effort to prepare for the season.

“My goals for this year are for both teams to come in first in the district,” Mr. Carrillo said. “I also want them to stay with the program and move onto varsity.”

To make sure they stay on track, Mr. Carrillo keeps an eye on his students for the team’s goals to be met.

“We will meet our goals by focusing more on practices and also make the players take their classes seriously,” Mr. Carrillo said.

Thanks to Mr. Carrillo, all of his players stay on track in their academics as well as their behavior.

“I will keep my players on track by talking to their teachers about the students,” Mr. Carrillo said. “I will also send a list and if they have problems they will let me know.”

Mr. Carrillo said he is prepared for the opening of the soccer season.

“The schools are going to have a tournament,” Mr. Carrillo said. “All three teams are going to play with other schools to see their skills.”

The strategy prepared by Mr. Carrillo will lead the teams to win the upcoming games and head to the play-offs this year.

“To win we are not going to switch players around instead we are going to focus on the same players,” Mr. Carrillo said. “We started captain practices earlier so they are going to have a more stable physical condition.”

Good luck Generals!

Basketball coaches push their teams to succeed

Oscar Renteria
Sports Writer



Basketball coaches and basketball players express their hopes and goals for the beginning of the basketball season and how they are getting prepared.

Coach Alyssa Loza trains her students to be great and ready for any upcoming game.

“My methods of training my students are to make them do drills, repetition of actions to make the plays etch into their memory,” Loza said.

Coach Todd also has a very similar method of training with a sequence of drills and repetitions.

Coach Loza tries to help each of her students to be fit and not get hurt with quick warm ups every day.

“What I make them do at are two laps around the track and then we hit the gym,” Loza said. “I also make my students do both dynamic stretches and regular stretches before anything.”

Coach Todd explains the process for warming-up his students for Basketball practice.

“First, we make them run three laps in the gym, stretch and then they do several drills such as the three-man weave, shuffle and

UCLA shooting drills,” Todd said.

Coach Loza’s rigorous training sessions have proved how effective they are while the players play on the court. Coach Loza says that she is proud to see her students show progress in the court. Coach Todd said he has also seen a lot of progress from his students.

The training provided is very hard and Coach Loza said her students respond to her methods of training.

“They think I’m mean,” Loza said. “But at the end of the day, they see the good that is does to them.”

Training for a sport is never easy and Coach Todd explains how his students react to all the hard work the students go through.

“At first, it took them a while to understand what we were doing,” Todd said. “But after constant daily reps, they’re getting it now.”

Coach Todd believes that they have the personnel to have a successful basketball season if they stay positive regardless of any negative issues that could occur.

Basketball player Jalon Hutchings said he feels very confident about the first upcoming game.

“I feel that we are going to do

well, but I feel we need to practice more because Yates is a good team,” Hutchings said.

The training provided by the coach is very hard but gives amazing results, according to Hutchings.

“Yeah, coach tries his hardest, he stays after school to 6 or 7, even though he has a family to be with,” Hutchings said. “He makes sure we get our plays right.”

Basketball player Taylor Mann speaks of her skills on the court in the first couple of games.

“On the first game, we won 27-26 points. In the second game, we lost 23-50 and I scored 4 points,” Mann said. “We didn’t give up until the end even though we were losing and we just kept playing until the end.”

Mann said she thanks the coaches for their hard work in the training them because she says that the training paid off.

“Yes, we have a lot to learn but our coaches are extremely good,” Mann said.

Mann said she wants to encourage all of Lee High School to come and see the basketball teams play and to help support all the sports teams at home.