

Best moments of 2014 revealed

Guadalupe Bonola
News Writer

2014 is now over and people have set goals for 2015 to change their lives for the better. But it's also great to remember what 2014 has given us. Let's see what students and teachers from Lee High School have to say about their "throwback 2014!" A throwback is a memory from a previous moment of your life; it's something you have a special memory of. Let's see some Lee students' and teachers' "throwbacks!"

"I celebrated our one year anniversary with my girlfriend Daniela and I went also went to Florida!" Junior Bryan Eriza said.

"Well I have three moments," Senior Kymyatta Gabriel said. "One is seeing everyone so dedicated and working so hard to have it done. Two was seeing Ryan Salazar and Gustavo Macoco on the tricycle delivering newspapers in the cafeteria. And the third was that the 'originals' got to have the experience outside at the Chronicle."

People have traveled and enjoyed beautiful moments with people they love in 2014!

"My favorite parts of this last year were starting the newspaper at Lee, being able to teach all media and journalism classes to my amazing students, and my most memorable part of the year was definitely traveling through South America this summer," Media Teacher Jenni Wiener said. "I got to travel through Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay and see all the beautiful scenery, meet the amazing people, eat some crazy things, and explore!"

"One of my best moments of 2014 was in the very beginning

of the year, when I had my first date with my fiancé," Communications Teacher Alyssa Loza said. "He asked me out to Chili's, not because that was his favorite restaurant, but because he had a gift card. At that moment, I knew it was magic. We had two really big things in common: saving money and a love for food!"

"My best memory in 2014 was getting engaged! It's indescribable and amazing; being able to commit to share your life with the person you love and know you're mature and responsible enough for it," Junior Gabriela Saucedo said.

Many people most enjoyed spending 2014 with the special people in their lives, but others found joy in work and accomplishments they achieved.

"Finishing the college application process and being able to know where I will be next year was my favorite moment," Senior Cindy Wakiyama said.

Wakiyama finished all her applications, was accepted and will be going to Texas A&M.

"The project we did in Ms. Wiener's class, the journalist project, was amazing. We were able to research our journalists and then we got to dress up and act the way they did. It was the best project I have ever done because I was able to investigate and learn so much about my famous reporter. That day I was Tim Russert and did my best to dress up as a man. How hilariously fun is that?!" Junior Andrea Berranza said.

"Having front page articles on three of the four newspapers this year was something I am most proud of," Senior Guadalupe Ro-

driguez said. "Also, having such an influential role in the design of our paper."

Seems like the teachers had made 2014 a great year. Projects have been fun this year, but let's not forget about the beautiful summer moments!

"This year was filled with so many memories; summer 2014 was absolutely the best summer!" sophomore Zaira Alvarado said.

"My favorite memory would probably be when my family and I went to this plantation park area. I forget the name, but it's something

unforgettable," Sophomore Brenda Zoltan said.

People also have memories of their birthday 2014!

"Throwback 2014 was when we turned up on my birthday; unforgettable moment!" Junior Yareli Vargas said.

A lot of teachers have fond memories of their classes or accomplishments at school.

"Well I remember talking to Ronald Young in my AP class last year about following his dreams and where he wanted to go in life," Art Teacher Kevin Ellis said.

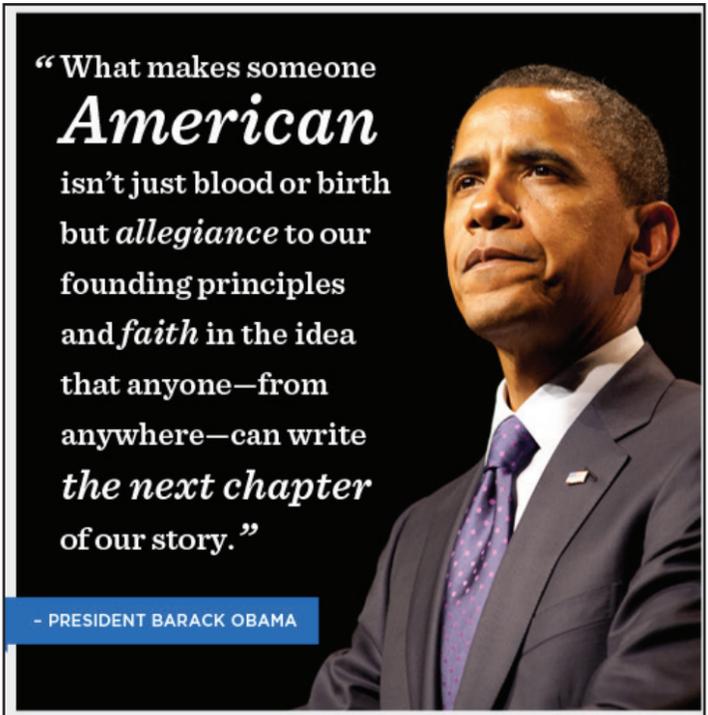
"Then he came back to visit me at the beginning of this year and he is attending the Art Institute of Houston!"

2014 had so many positive moments for people, and hopefully 2015 will continue those happy moments.

"Fall semester of my sophomore year at Lee has been the best so far," English Teacher Edward Garza said. "Homecoming, cross country, linked learning, and the teacher takeover are memories I cherish! 2015 watch out- I might just pass you up!"



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY HOLIDAYWISHES.NET



- PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY IMMIGRATIONVISAATTORNEYBLOG.COM

Obama takes action on immigration

Shermour Charles
News Writer

Immigration, the action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country, is a big part of today's society and it greatly impacts what goes on in the United States and how we live.

But recently there have been problems with the immigration system and our current President, President Obama, is taking executive action in order to fix this problem.

The problem is not immigration itself; it is when people illegally immigrate. Illegal immigration has led to millions of unemployed American citizens, depreciating wages, stolen taxpayer resources, and increased number of crime and domestic terrorism.

Some people support illegal im-

migration and some people do not. President Obama is looking for a way to fix the problem.

On November 20th, 2014, in a televised address from the White house, President Obama announced a program of "deferred action," which would allow about 45 percent of illegal immigrants to legally stay and work in the United States.

"Scripture tells us that we shall not oppress a stranger, for we know the heart of a stranger -- we were strangers once, too. My fellow Americans, we are and always will be a nation of immigrants. We were strangers once, too," President Obama said.

Lee High School is one of the most culturally diverse schools in

country. Lee High School is also a school occupied with immigrants from different places. President Obama's executive decision will ensure that immigrants will have a future and can stay and work until they are citizens.

"I am very happy with the executive decision that Barack Obama has passed because I think it is fair for the people who live here and have developed a culture here," Lee High school Junior Guadalupe Rodriguez said.

Other students at Lee are also exploring this new opportunity in the hopes of staying in the US legally.

The immigration system is still being improved with the hope it will make the United States a better place for immigrants.



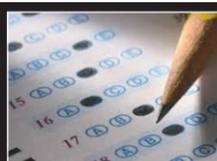
Check out students' New Years resolutions on page 3



Find fun things to do in the winter on page 4



Take a look back on the year 2014 and everything that happened



Is standardized testing really improving education? Page 14

Get involved and connected with the Lee High School community

Many groups at Lee are making an impact on the community and now so can you!

Ashley Lagunas

News Writer

Lee High School has improved on making connections with the community.

The school does everything from participating in volunteer work to marching with a band in a parade.

Ever since the Power Up project began, Lee has adapted to an educational environment for today's 21st-century learners.

The ROTC students have done many good things to help the community.

During the month of November, the Food Bank was collecting canned goods for the people that were in need for the holiday. ROTC and NHS got students and teachers to donate can goods. Both groups did well and got to donate many canned goods.

Many of the students at Lee High School that participate in sports visit schools to compete and interact with other schools in the district.

Magda Martinez, LHS Cheerleader said, "Every time we cheer in the football games the cheerleaders on the opposing team every now and then come over and give us tips and sometimes give us a little gift. I think it's really cool that we get to interact with other schools, it's a great reminder for them that

Lee High School still exists."

POWER UP! Lee has a great connection to the internet world.

There are many great resources that keep students and parents up to date with the changes that have been going on around the school.

For example, the Lee website includes upcoming events, bell schedules, teacher department lists, dress code policies, etc.

Have you ever seen an episode of Lee TV? If you haven't you've missed out on funny skits from your Lee High School peers.

The videos include, student life, upcoming events, important announcements, hidden talents, sports statistics, and funny skits that students and teachers put on.

It ranges. There's always something new on Lee TV.

Everyone at Lee High School does something to interact with others inside and outside of the community.

In today's society, it is easy to stay updated and join in on what is going on. Just check the website and social media to get ideas and get involved.

You can make a difference in the world!



PHOTO TAKEN BY CRISTAL SANTANA

600 wing to be torn down to begin construction

Gustavo Garcia

News Writer



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY EXAMINER.COM

Lee High School will begin construction on the new building this January.

The new building will be more modern than ever before.

"Through HISD's 2012 bond program, \$73.8 million has been allocated to build the new Lee High School campus," according to the HISD website. "The new 240,000-square-foot facility will include state-of-the-art technology with flexibility to allow for future upgrades."

According to the HISD website, WHR Architects presented a site plan for the new Lee High School for community members to review at a recent meeting.

And the construction will begin a lot sooner than students may think.

In fact, Mr. Mata sent an e-mail to the teachers that said, "The abatement for the 600 wing will begin in January."

This means the 600 wing has already been emptied, sorted out, and is ready to be torn down.

This occurred the week of December 15, 2014.

The mover arrived on campus to remove or relocate the surplus furniture.

The abatement of the vacant rooms will begin promptly.

The trucks will use the back administrator parking lot for long periods of time along with the ROTC parking lot, both of which should be unused by students and staff.

"It is a very exciting day but there is always a chance something will create a snag along the way," Mr. Mata said in an email.

Brenda Renteria a junior at Lee said "It will be interesting and hopefully it makes the school look better."

Rigo Mondragon also a junior said, "Other schools have rebuilt themselves, it probably motivates students to do their work because they think they're getting a good education."

Construction will be occurring throughout the second semester and in the summer. It will be finished in 2017.

Lee Police Officers return to campus after temporary leave

Benjamin Ekibolaji

News Writer

The Lee High School police officers Jason Watson and Hector Gonzalez returned after their temporary relocation period.

In November, 2014, they were both involved in an incident of allegedly using force to break up a gang fight that was occurring on campus.

That incident was filmed on a cell phone and used in the media. The video actually aired on Channel 2 in Houston, Texas.

It is standard that whenever police officers get negative media attention, they are

temporarily replaced and reassigned until the incidents have been looked into and handled. In the case at Lee High School, it turned out that the police officers were following protocols and therefore they were able to return to their normal assignments.

While they were out, both officers were missed by many students and faculty members.

In fact, some senior students took action to try and get the officers back. They went around with a petition and got over 200 signatures from students and teachers wanting

the officers back.

They argued that Officer Watson and Officer Gonzalez both knew the students really well and knew the problems of the school, making them able to act fast in the case of a fight or an emergency.

They also have the respect of the students because they have both been at Lee for about two or more years.

After winter break, the officers returned to Lee once again.

Welcome back Officer Watson and Officer Gonzalez!



PHOTO CONTRIBUTE BY HOUSTONFREETHINKERS.COM

Debate: not just winning arguments, winning life

Lexie Tran
News Writer

Do you like winning? Do you like proving people wrong?

Then you should join debate! Debate is one of the many clubs offered here at Lee High School.

"It's never too late to join," Coach Alyssa Loza said. "If you have good speaker skills, confidence, and the ability to argue two sides then you should definitely join. Debate is beneficial to all and open for all."

There are many reasons why people choose to join debate.

"Debate is a way to unleash your inner passion, intellectually," Co-Captain Amie Bigirmana said. "You get to express your opinion towards serious issues that we, as a community, face today, while being able to see both sides to a case."

Debaters sometimes spend their weekends at debate tournaments at other HISD schools. They also participate in UIL and Houston Urban Debate League (HUDL). Debaters win rounds at tournaments and receive trophies even if they don't win.

"Even though you argue with your opponents, you'll meet people who have the same mindset as you," First Year Debater Brenda Zoltan said. "You get to meet people from other schools and you get to become more open with others."

However, while winning tournaments and trophies can be fun, Debate isn't always about that.

"Debate is about the class too. The fun arguments and the positive environment really do lighten up your day, it's a class you look forward to, and the class isn't just about arguing and debating either," Captain Karim Sabar said. "It's about freely being able to express your ideas, no matter how unusual or crazy they are, and then have an intellectual discussion with somebody in the class without being judged or looked down upon for what you think."

Overall, the main reason why debaters love debate so much is because it's fun.

"It's fun because I love the environment of tournaments and I love the feeling when I'm at a podium and when I'm winning. I like the competitiveness," two-year debater Guadalupe Rodriguez said. "It's the one true thing I'm successful at and no matter how many times I lost in the past, I still love doing debates."

It's not about winning, it's about the experience. Also, many colleges like to see debate on the resumes of the students they accept. Debate is an opportunity, if you have time to do it, you should at least give it a try. Talk to Ms. Loza in room 221.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LESLIE ORTIZ

Lee Guard dances in their 1st competition

Andrea Juarez
News Writer



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ISSA YAGI

The Lee High School dance team, Lee Guard, has been supporting its fellow students and athletes this year.

Each time the Lee Guard's team played, the dance team went to support them.

Supporting everyone and being part of a known dance team, who started from zero and has accomplished so much, are the main goals of the team.

Practice for competition season happens about two days per week and also in the 8th period class.

"We are not a team, we are a family," Coach Tamara Tisdale said, who started dancing at four-years-old as a ballerina.

She is the coach of the Lee Guard dance team.

"I like the fine arts, and I love education," Tisdale said.

Competition season is around the corner, and practice is happening three times a week; Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

"I am worried about competition, but I think

we'll make it," said a first year Lee Guard member, Harronjahnee Chase.

Lee Guard has not gone to competition in three or more years, so every new and old member is very nervous.

"Everyone in this team is capable of giving a good impression in competition," Carolina Gonzalez, a sophomore on the dance team, said.

Each of the dance team members contribute in different ways to help the team accomplish their main goals.

"We all need discipline in order to maintain order and to become someone," Gonzalez said. "We will do this!"

The team comes together to become a family and to help with each other's problems.

"No one is left behind," Chase said.

Students around the school also show their support for the dance team.

"I think Lee Guard is a great way to support school spirit," Kimberly Hipo, a junior at Lee said.

Students, faculty and staff have high hopes for 2015 New Year resolutions

Rosangela Sosa
News Writer

Every year that the ball drops in New York City, people around the world start setting goals for the New Year.

For this upcoming 2015, students from Lee High School have their goals already.

"My goals are to have a higher GPA, so I can be successful in college and to go to the college of my dreams, which is Sam Houston, so I can become a lawyer," Junior Guadalupe Bonola said.

Everyone has different goals for their lives. Some of them are academic and others are personal.

"My goals are to stop procrastinating and to not stress," Sophomore Brenda Zoltan said. "But, I mainly want to be happy."

Seniors are looking forward to graduation, which is really close for them.

"To Graduate and get a scholarship is my goal for this year," Senior Jeanne Mwamikazi said.

Some people said they want to learn new things.

"I want to start learning a new language, gaining a new skill, and overall expanding my general knowledge," Sophomore Suemy Martinez said.

Classes and STAAR tests are also a priority for the students of Lee.

"My goal is to pass all my classes and the STAAR test," Sophomore Marinela Campos said.

There are some resolutions that are not just for Lee High School, but for around the world.

Surveys show that 47 percent of the resolutions are related to self-improvement or education, 38 percent are weight related resolutions, 34 percent resolutions are related to money, and 31 percent are relationship resolutions, according to Statistic Brain.

"My resolution is to start working out again for 3 to 5 days a week, to continue to eat healthy, and to find the positives in every situation," Media Teacher Jenni Wiener said. "I'd also like to help my students be prepared for college and the real world by helping them find opportunities like internships or resume-building experiences."

Statistics show that just 75 percent of the resolutions are maintained after a week, according to proactivechange.com.

Don't be the one to let your goals go! Stick with the promises that you make for yourself and the New Year.

Make 2015 the best year yet!

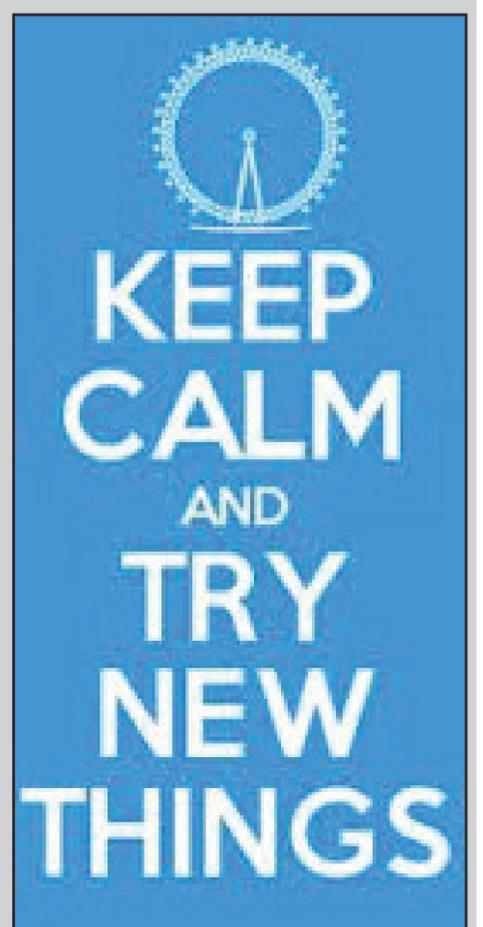


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY PINTEREST.COM

Movies to see in 2015

Jacob Ramirez
Feature Writer

With the New Year here and many people making resolutions, there are bound to be many new surprises. New cars, phones, fashion trends and movies. Many movies have been released last year but this is a new year with new movies. Whether you are into action, romance, comedy, documentary, or horror, this year will have new movies for every genre.

Marco Villeda, a junior at Lee High School was asked which movie he was looking forward to in 2015. And without hesitating he responded quickly.

"I'm looking forward to seeing Furious 7. It's going to be really good," Villeda said.

"It's going to have a lot of action and they have some amazing cars. The fact that Paul Walker died is devastating, and how they managed to pull it off and finish the film is interesting."

Furious 7 is the newest installment in the franchise. In this film, a dead man's brother seeks out revenge on the Torretto family. Miriam Hernandez, the parent of a student who attends Lee was excited to respond.

"I look forward to seeing both The Avengers: Age of Ultron and Furious 7," Hernandez said. "I'm excited to see what happens and which new heroes are revealed. The Hulk is my favorite hero because he gets angry and smashes things."

"The cars, races, action, and every single detail is what I look for in Furious 7," Hernandez said. "The fact that the characters become a family throughout each film, really adds to the acting."

In The Avengers: Age of Ultron, the avengers must reassemble as the fate of earth hangs in the balance, the team is out to the ultimate test as they battle Ultron, a technological terror hell-bent on human extinction.

There are many movies to hit theaters this year like Pitch Perfect 2, which The Barden Bellas enter an international acappella competition that no American team has ever won. Get Hard is another film coming out, which is a comedy film and is about the prison-bound manager (Will Ferrell) of a hedge fund asks a businessman (Kevin Hart) - who has never been to jail- to prepare him for life behind bars. So watch out for more great flicks to hit the theaters this year.

Artists compete for Grammys, winners to be announced Feb. 8

Journey Waddell
Feature Writer

Every year hundreds of artists are awarded a Grammy for their hard work. Not all of them get a Grammy, but just being nominated is a great accomplishment.

So many great musicians are nominated for the 2015 Grammys.

"I really hope that Artie Monkeys win this year!" Junior, Kimberly Hipo said.

The Grammys this year will have a very big range of genres.

"I think that it's really cool that the Grammys will have so many kinds of categories competing this year," Junior Delia Velasquez said.

Voting for The Grammys is going on now.

"I've already gone online and voted so many

times for all of my favorite bands and I'm waiting for the next round of voting to begin," Junior Andrea Juarez said.

The Grammys even has a section for movie soundtracks.

"When I found out that I could vote for movie sound tracks I was so excited because Frozen is nominated and that's my favorite movie," Junior Gabriela Sandoval said.

Some of this year's greatest hits are nominated for record of the year, including "Fancy" by Iggy Azalea, "Chandelier" by Sia, and also "Shake It Off" by Taylor Swift.

Beyoncé, Ed Sheeran, and Sam Smith are all nominated for album of the year. Artie

Monkeys and The Black Keys are against each other for best rock performance. The Black Keys are also competing against Paramore for best rock song.

Paramore's front woman Hayley Williams took to twitter when the band was nominated with her excitement. Hayley was really excited because the band stated that they were worried about releasing "Ain't It Fun" because they didn't expect it to do well, but now it's nominated for a Grammy.

So many things will be happening the night of the Grammys so tune in on February 8, 2015 to watch and see which of your favorite artists win a Grammy.

Famous dictations from 2014

Yizel Real
Feature Writer

"No Era Penal"- Fans everywhere.



One of the very viral quotes from 2014 was "no era penal". During the World Cup, a memorable moment, and quote, was created as fans everywhere, especially from Mexico, were outraged at a penalty call awarded to soccer player Arjen Robben of the Netherlands after he fell down on purpose and made it look as though he was fouled.

"What's 9 + 10?...21"- Vine Kid



Taking the United States by storm, this quote has caught on and become so well known that we never truly realized how often the number 21 is a part of our everyday life and language. The number 21 can no longer be read without having the Vine Kid's voice resonate through your head; those that have seen the video know exactly what I'm talking about.

"Bye Felicia"- Craig (Friday)



Another quote that has been very popular and a lot of people use it is "Bye Felicia." Even the administrator says it! This saying originated from a movie called "Friday" and it seems to have been reintroduced more recently; possibly through one of the various reality TV shows.

"Do you want to build a snowman?" - Princess Anna



Though the movie Frozen was released in November of 2013, the movie blew up and this 2014 Holiday season, even people in Houston, TX found themselves asking (in a singing voice of course), "Do you want to build a snowman?"

Fun things to do in the winter

Rigo Mondragon
Feature Writer

When the days start getting shorter and the weather starts getting colder, it becomes harder and harder to find fun things to do.

You can't do the same things that you could do in the summer, like going to the beach, and you can't even go anywhere without a jacket. Even though it is harder to do the same activities as the summer, there are other fun ways to spend your time this winter.

According to freshman Elena Janette Frenandez, fun ways to spend the winter months would be relaxing at home, reading, writing, watching TV, and ice-skating. She said she would also visit her relatives and have a vacation in Amsterdam.

Junior Leroy Marsh said that he would like to do activities inside like playing video games and sleeping, or to have a snowball fight (if we ever get snow in Houston). He would also like to go to New York to see some of his family.

Junior Thieu Le said he would like to go skating on his skateboard, make beats, rap, eat lots of food, and to vacation in Colorado. He would also like to just stay home and relax.

According to the First-Timers Guide to

Snowshoeing Magazine, "one of the fun things that you can do in winter is snowshoeing. It has been around for thousands of years. And, obviously, the art of snowshoeing has become more sophisticated over time - now it's considered a winter sport."

As mentioned earlier, this option would be more difficult to enjoy in Houston, TX, but it never hurts to have options just in case.

Another great idea to have some fun, while making a difference in someone else's life, is to spend some time this winter season volunteering.

Whether you want to volunteer as a finish line captain at the next 10k race, a person to help out at a local animal shelter or adoption site, a construction crew member building homes for the less fortunate, or inventorying, sorting, and boxing gently used books to distribute to HISD elementary schools, there are a plethora of opportunities and people that could truly use your help.

If you would like to browse all of the options that Houston, TX has for those interested in volunteering their time, visit volunteerhou.org.

Although the days may be shorter and it may be colder, there is still plenty to do!



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY HOUSTONPRESS.COM

'Obama Care' offered to cover US citizens

Rehema Nyandwi
News Writers

On March 23, 2010 President Barack Obama signed a law named The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which aimed to reform the American health care system. The Affordable Care Act has since been nicknamed "Obama Care." According to obamacarefacts.com, "Obama Care's main focus is on providing more Americans with access to affordable health insurance, improving the quality of health care and health insurance, regulating the health insurance industry, and reducing health care spending in the US."

So what are the most important things to know about Obama Care?

Started in November of 2014, the open enrollment period for health insurance coverage is still open until February 15, 2015.

During this time citizens will be able to shop for health insurance that is federally regulated and subsidized. As of 2013, nearly 44 million Americans were without health insurance, nearly 16 percent of the population. The majority of those uninsured were from working families who simply could not afford the expensive premiums associated with costly medical insurance premiums. With the Affordable

Care Act, Medicaid eligibility was expanded, and through the creation of the health care marketplace, families were offered much more cost effective health insurance coverage. At the conclusion of the 2014 open enrollment period the percentage of the population uninsured dropped from 16 percent to 13 percent according to obamacarefacts.com.

If you are paying a lot of money on bills, you can call for Obamacare and you will get health care for less than what you usually pay. According to obamacarefacts.com, in California, while on company health insurance, a person had paid \$160.00 a month per person. When that person moved to Georgia, they called to check out Obamacare pricing and now they are paying \$39.90 a month to Blue Shield for health insurance.

As a whole Obama Care appears to provide low-income and middle-income families of America the opportunity to be protected by quality health care where they otherwise would have been unable to afford it. If your family needs help from Obamacare, you can go and sign up on this website and get help, <http://obamacare-guide.org/>.



Ready to be challenged?

Brenda Renteria
Feature Writer

People really have to challenge themselves to find something fun to do when they are bored. People get bored from watching TV or playing video games. If you're looking for some new ways to challenge yourself, here are some fun/risky challenges that people have been trying. These are the top four challenges of the year that you can try: (Be aware of the consequences!)

Challenge 1: The Ice Bucket Challenge:

In this challenge you dump ice water on yourself to raise money for charity. You pretty much post and tag yourself on social media and challenge others to do the same. According to World News, the charity is for the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association, which is a disease that attacks the spinal cord and can lead to speech difficulties, muscle spasms and even paralysis. Journalism teacher Jenni Wiener participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge. "At first I was really nervous because the water was so cold," Wiener said. "But, it was for a good cause to support ALS."

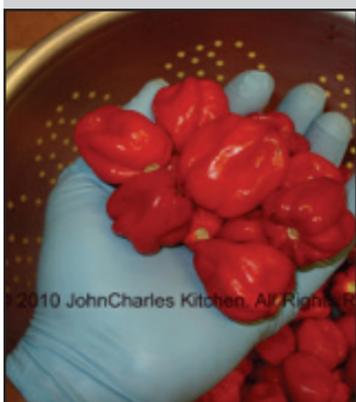


Challenge 2: Cinnamon Challenge:

This challenge consists of eating an entire tablespoon of cinnamon in less than a minute with nothing to wash it down. The cinnamon is simply so dry that it pretty much immediately removes all your saliva from your mouth, making it nearly impossible to be swallowed. According to the New York Times, this challenge can be risky because it can cause coughing or lung problems. Lee High School student Courtney Lewis participated in this challenge. "It was disgusting," Lewis said. "I honestly regret doing it. Cinnamon does not taste good unless it's on something. My tongue felt weird and dry, it made me want to throw up!"

Challenge 3: Chubby Bunny Challenge:

According to Chicago Tribune, the Chubby Bunny Challenge is where people put marshmallows in their mouths and attempt to say the words "Chubby Bunny." You're not allowed to chew or swallow any marshmallows, just hold as many as you can in your mouth. Although it can be hilarious, this challenge can also be quite risky because of the possibility of choking on the marshmallows. Lee High School student Jovanna Silvestre tried this challenge. "It was disgusting and embarrassing," Silvestre said. "Only 5 marshmallows fit in my mouth."



Challenge 4: Habanero Challenge:

According to TopTenz, in this challenge you put as many spicy peppers in your mouth as possible and see how long you can go before you need a drink. No one really enjoys it, except your friends who enjoy watching you do it and tape the results. Some people think it's fun but when you have a lot of peppers in your mouth, you won't think that anymore because your mouth starts burning.

After reading these challenges would you still want to do something "fun?" Would you risk your health for this? Well, I challenge you to try at least one and see what happens, but again you have to be careful with this!

Ebola hits Africa, virus spreads around the world

Lucia Cervantes
News Writer

The Ebola outbreak is very alarming as the spread of the disease seems to swiftly increase day by day.

It is really getting out of hand in Sierra Leone, West Africa. There have been more cases and deaths in this current outbreak than all others combined.

Ebola virus causes a dreadful and serious illness, which is often fatal if untreated. According to the CDC, of the 13,376 laboratory-confirmed cases in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, 8289 of those cases have resulted in death; that is a scary 62 percent of the confirmed cases of Ebola being fatal.

To further emphasize the deadliness of this virus, a UN health agency added, "In 11 days, two teams buried 87 bodies, including a nurse, an ambulance driver, and a janitor drafted into removing bodies as they piled up."

Health officials in Sierra Leone also fear a major Ebola outbreak may have gone largely unreported in a faraway district, Kono, where the World Health Organization (WHO) says large quantities of bodies piled up in a hospital. "They uncovered a grim scene," the UN health agency said in a statement.

"We are only seeing the ears of the hippo," said Dr. Amara Jambai, Sierra Leone's director of disease prevention and control.

She expressed concern the official figures

underrepresented the size of the outbreak in Kono, which lies along the country's eastern border with Guinea. Officially the district of over 350,000 residents had reported 119 cases up to December 9.

"It is difficult to put an exact figure on the deaths," Sierra Leone's health minister Abu Bakarr Fofanah said in an interview in Geneva, explaining that his country was only counting deaths from laboratory confirmed Ebola cases.

They are adding suspected cases, so that is causing the discrepancies in the results.

"We are going by the textbook," he said. Sierra Leone recently overtook neighboring Liberia for the highest number of Ebola cases, recording 7,897 since the epidemic was first identified earlier this year.

As the Director-General of the World Health organization said this past August, this current Ebola outbreak is a "public health emergency of international concern."

In response, U.S. President Barack Obama has asked Congress to approve another \$6 billion in emergency aid for the worst-hit nations of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, and the Australian government has committed \$20 million to set up an Ebola field hospital in Sierra Leone and another \$18 million for aid agencies dealing with the outbreak in West Africa.

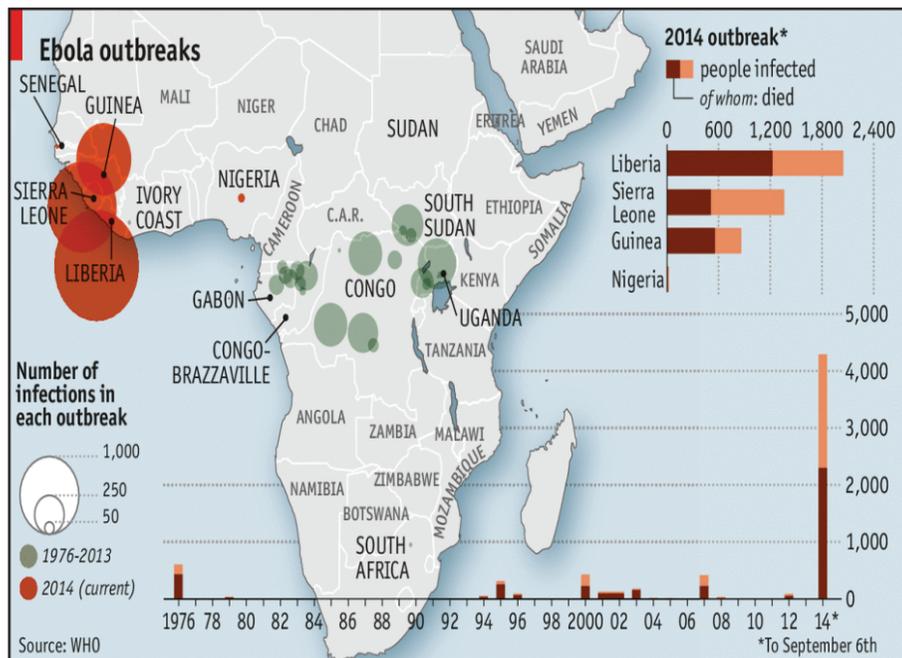


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ECONOMIST.COM

LHS welcomes new principal Jonathan Trinh

Diane Uwimbabaze
News Writer

Halfway through his first year at Lee High School, principal Jonathan Trinh is not only committed to his students, but also presented with the task of coping with the construction of a new Lee High school Campus.

As Trinh acknowledges that there are no easy fixes [in regard to the Lee High School culture], he stresses that true success begins with the teachers. The students are expected to challenge and push themselves, but it is the teachers who possess the ability to guide and support the students towards the attainment of their goals.

Entering the position of lead administrator, Trinh has made it his goal to support his teachers by spending time in classrooms to observe teaching methods, to serve as an instructional coach, and to collaborate with and encourage his teachers to be the best educators they can be.

As expressed in a quote from August 25th of 2014, Trinh expressed his confidence in his new school by saying “when students are challenged and can’t meet the expectations, we don’t lower the standards, we help the students to reach the goal...I love the challenge of learning something new.”

Trinh’s past experiences most recently include serving as Associate Principal and Dean of Instruction at HISD’s Young Men’s College Preparatory Academy serving students 6th to 12 grade; before that serving as a Secondary Science Curriculum and Instructional Specialist for HISD, and an educator in Fort Bend ISD for 14 years. Throughout the years Trinh has also coached many UIL academic teams, winning five University Interscholastic League championships.

Complimenting his career in education, Trinh achieved an undergraduate degree in biology with a minor in chemistry from Texas Southern University, a master’s degree in School Administration from Lamar University, and was in the Marine Corps of America serving in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Lee adds Linked Learning to help engage, motivate

Omar Flores
News Writer

Linked Learning is a program for high school students and it is an educational approach that combines rigorous academics with hands-on learning and the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to real-world experiences.

Linked Learning will combine rigorous academics with real-world technical education and experience to help give HISD students an edge in moving into postsecondary education or workforce training and in-demand careers.

The goal is to make education so relevant that Linked Learning will improve student engagement, decreasing dropout rates, and motivating students to succeed in school and

real-world with an eye toward a promising future path that they have helped create.

Students who might not ordinarily have had the chance will start visiting colleges and workplaces in elementary school, continuing into secondary school, where they will have added opportunities for project-based learning, internships, and workforce experiences, as well as dual credit classes to get a jump on college.

Teachers refine and share culminating projects at linked learning summer institute.

With project-based learning, students are assigned projects created by campus teacher teams.

Project assignments range from every three

months to one per semester or one per year, and cover a wide variety of subjects.

“Students will be able to carry their projects through from class to class,” said the Assistant Superintendent. “So the conversations will be similar, the vocabulary will be similar.”

The purpose of these projects is to unify student experiences and real-world applications with core subjects, such as mathematics, biology or English language arts, in the classroom. At the end of the term, students must explain their culminating project in front of a board chosen by the campus, a process similar to presenting a graduate school thesis.



New teachers enhance learning

Natalia Botello
News Writer

As we begin this second semester our “new teachers,” who had begun at the beginning of the year, now have a full semester under their belt. They have gotten to know themselves, they have gotten to know their students, and they have gotten to know the school.

It isn’t easy starting anything, let alone starting to teach at a new school.

Even for teachers with prior experience, your first year at a new school is always demanding as you attempt to adapt to the school’s culture. The new teachers have had time to try certain teaching styles, to see which ones work best with their classes learning styles. Some lessons worked out great, and some lessons didn’t. Masked inside every mistake laid a chance to better oneself, with every victory there was a chance to reflect on the causes.

So to all of the new teachers at Lee High

School, thank you for choosing to call 6529 Beverly Hill Street your home. Thank you for helping our students to get the education that they deserve. Thank you for bringing exciting new approaches and teaching styles to our already vibrant school. Thank you for never giving up on our students, thank you for never giving up on our school, and thank you for never giving up on yourself. This school wouldn’t be what it was without the great teachers that show up here every morning.

To all of the wonderful new teachers here at Lee, and to all of the amazing teachers who have called Lee their home for years, here is a quote from William Arthur Ward, “The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.” Thank you for striving to be great for all our students.

Lee TV becomes a class in 2014

Andrea Beranza Herrera
Feature Writer

This year, Media Teacher Jennifer Wiener is teaching a new elective that was a club last year.

For the last two years students would put in their time after school to make a Lee TV show to air every Friday.

This year the administration decided to make Ms. Wiener’s club a class called broadcast journalism, where students not only make Lee TV episodes but also learn how to use the technology, communication skills, and leadership skills to be school leaders.

Currently she has Lee TV classes for every-day 3rd and 4th period.

“I am very excited to have Lee TV as one of the classes I teach because I truly believe it is an entertaining, fun way to get the news from the school to the students,” Wiener said. “It’s also really fun for me because I used to work at a TV station and I really missed it before I had this class.”

As a matter of fact more students are now interested in the elective.

Aaron Johnson a junior said that he likes the

class because it is fun and more interesting and because he has never done video editing before.

“I think it’s great because students have enough time to work on our school’s TV shows!” Junior Guadalupe Bonola said. “And they have lessons on how to make it better and give their best in our school show.”

This elective helps students get exposure to various careers like reporting, anchoring, producing, directing, marketing, photography, and broadcasting technician work.

This allows students to learn important skills including how to interview and properly communicate with the people around the school. Many students gain important career and personal skills as well; such as technology, leadership, organization, project-creation, and most importantly teamwork.

Kimberly Tale a sophomore said, “It is better because it helps you build yourself up and get a good career.”

If you are interested in helping out, see Ms. Wiener in room 219.



3RD PERIOD LEE TV CLASS

PHOTO TAKEN BY YURITZI SANCHEZ



4TH PERIOD LEE TV CLASS

PHOTO TAKEN BY YURITZI SANCHEZ

Obama's DREAM Act passes and gives immigrant students a chance to achieve 'The American Dream'

Magali Ramirez
News Writer

Some of us have big dreams as well as the knowledge to make them happen, but those dreams are sometimes that- just dreams. It will surprise you how much power a simple paper can have at times.

This year many good things happened and the Obama DREAM Act is one of them, this brought the hope back to those who are ambitious to be successful, who have dreams to accomplish, and to those who have the knowledge to make our country a better place on earth for the future.

This week marks the two-year anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program, which was first initiated by President Obama on June 15, 2014.

The DREAM Act consists of helping children who have illegally arrived to the U.S., but not just any children.

There are certain requirements young people must meet in order to qualify for the conditional status that will be provided to them.

Those requirements include entering the country when they were under 16 years old, proving they've continuously lived in the U.S. for at least five years (school report cards or

any medial documents as evidence), and they enrolled or graduated from a U.S. high school or obtained a GED. They also need to have a good moral character and prove they have not committed any crime that has or will harm our country.

Only then they will be able to obtain a conditional status for a limited period of time. Only the best and brightest young people are to earn their legal status after a rigorous and lengthy process, including those who were brought to the United States as a minor through no fault of their own.

However, the DREAM Act doesn't only benefit young people, it also helps our country with important economic benefits according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. The DREAM Act in its current form will eventually cut the deficit by \$1.4 billion and increase government revenues by \$2.3 billion over the next 10 years.

Our dreams can't wait, and everyone in this country deserves an education. Just because you don't have legal papers doesn't mean that you are not contributing to society.

"To accomplish great things, we must not

only act, but also dream; not only plan but also believe."

Give us the chance to accomplish our dreams, give us the chance to fight for the country of the stars and bars.

"It's a great opportunity for the student,"

Senior David Cruz said.

"It's great for students that have been in the U.S. since they were young and have an immigrant status," Sophomore Alvaro Ramos said. "It's a major help for most Hispanics that don't have a legal status."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MEDIAMATTERS.ORG

A high schoolers' highlights of 2014

Brenda Zoltan
News Writer

As we all know, the year 2014 was filled with ups and downs. There were events that even took the world by storm. A top major happening of the year was the FIFA World Cup, which was held in Brazil. The victory went to Germany after a brutal match with runner up Argentina. This was surely an unforgettable match.

In social media, an event occurred that involved Ellen DeGeneres. DeGeneres hosted the annual Oscars for 2014. However, that wasn't what made history. The selfie that DeGeneres took with a group of celebrities had Twitter buzzing. It set the record for the most retweeted tweet of all time.

Another event that made people go bonkers was the game Flappy Bird. Although it just started as a simple app, Flappy Bird soared to #1 app in the Apple Store in just under a month. But, the game began to become more than just a way to kill time.

The creator of Flappy Bird, Dong Nguyen, was interviewed at the start of the year. According to CNN, what he revealed was shocking. Responding to its quick rise to fame and reputation for being extremely addictive, "It happened to become an addictive product," Nguyen said. "It is not anything related to legal issues. I just cannot keep it anymore." In February, Flappy Bird was removed from

the App Store. It is no longer available to be downloaded.

In media, an ongoing event that made global news was the Ferguson issue. After what happened to Michael Brown, the public fumed with rage. With Darren Wilson not having any sort of critical punishment, protests began to spread to places such as New York and Los Angeles. Protests have gone global as well. Places such as Toronto, Hong Kong, and Egypt are also speaking out for this racial conflict.

On a brighter note, Always (a brand of feminine hygiene products) launched an advertisement in the beginning of the year that took a different approach on feminism. Acting like a girl is not an insult. According to the campaign, which was first seen on YouTube, they wanted to redefine the phrase "like a girl." In the video, a cast of men and women of all ages were asked to describe what the phrase meant to them. The results were surprising to all. The video got over 53 million views in just under four months. Each day, the view count increases by 1,000. It gives people a new point of view towards the phrase "like a girl" and to not take it as an insult. This hit even made it to TIME Magazine.

So, what can we look forward to in 2015? We'll just have to wait and see.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY NBCNEWS.COM

Mexican mayor allows 43 students to be executed by cartel

Griselda Garcia
News Writer

Forty-three male students from Raul Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers' College were abducted on September 26, 2014 by police under the orders of the Iguala mayor, Jose Luis Abarca and handed over to Guerreros Unidos cartel to be executed as said by CNN.

According to official reports, they commandeered several buses and traveled to Iguala that day to hold a protest at a conference led by the mayors wife, Maria de los Angeles Pineda.

Police then blocked the highway leading into the city, and the students were detained by police after police shot six people in a series of confrontations.

Mexican authorities believe Iguala's mayor and his wife to be probable master minds of the abduction.

Both fled after the incident along with the town's police chief, Felipe Flores Velasquez. Abarca and his wife were arrested in Mexico City on November 4, and they did not resist arrest.

Tens of thousands of Mexicans; student families, classmates, and supporters have marched in protests across the country.

Protestors have also frequently blocked the highway linking Mexico City to Acapulco and burned government buildings in Guerrero.

Authorities are holding more than 70

people in the case, 44 police officers, which also forced the governor, Angel Aguirre Rivero, of Guerrero to resign.

Authorities said on December 7, the students were incinerated at a garbage dump by drug gang members.

The drug gang took the students to a nearby dump, killed them, burned their bodies and threw the remains into a river, said Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam citing the testimony of three alleged perpetrators, who have been detained.

Authorities believe the perpetrators story but many family members are holding out hope until theres DNA proof.

A family member of a missing student told The Associated Press that the remains were of Alexander Mora.

The families were given that information late Friday by an Argentine team of forensic experts working on behalf of the relatives and with the Attorney Generals Office.

The case has come to dignify the abuse of authority and corruption that is engrained in the Mexican system and that all Mexicans experience on a regular basis.

This is the most difficult challenge yet faced by President Enrique Pena Nieto.

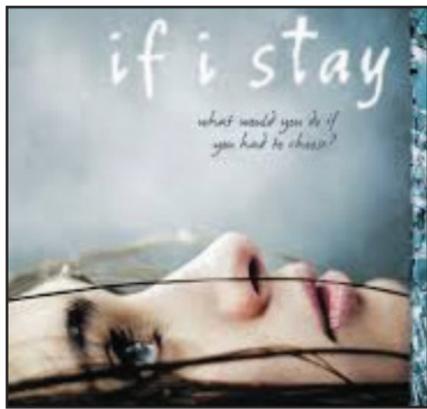
Reardless of fault his approval rating has dropped to a dismal 40 percent, revealing the peoples' distrust in his leadership and calling for his resignation.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY WSL.COM

Flicks to remember from '14

Natalya Nunez
Entertainment Writer



If I Stay

What movie are you going to miss out of 2014? Are you ready to let those movies go? 2014 is gone and 2015 is here. Now that it's a new year are you ready for the new cycle of movies? Or are you still stuck on that one movie you saw in 2014?

"The Ouija movie was a good scary movie," Sophomore Adriana Benitez said. "It was a wonderful thriller."

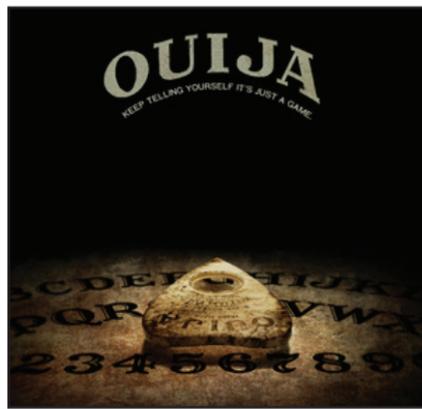
The movie Ouija is about a group of



Spiderman 2

friends trying to contact a recently passed friend by using a Ouija board. In doing so the friends must confront their most terrifying fears when they awaken the dark powers of an ancient spirit board.

"Spiderman 2! I enjoyed it very much. It brought out the inner child in me. It was sad that Gwen died, it just gets me every time," Junior Jacob Ramirez said. "Transformers: Age of Extinction was wonderful because



Ouija

Mark Wahlberg was in it. I also liked If I Stay, it was so sad. I loved the movie so much. It was devastating to see the results of the film."

"Godzilla was a good movie and sure we can buy the movie on DVD, but it's still nothing like bringing back a classic in theaters," Freshmen Valentin Rodriguez said.

"2014 brought new and old movies back to the theaters. They continued series and



Godzilla

brought back classics," Mother Virginia Rodriguez said. "It was a wonderful year of entertainment. I can't wait to see what they come up with next."

If you missed any of these great flicks from 2014; Godzilla, Transformers: Age of Extinction, Spiderman 2 and If I Stay can all be found out on DVD.

Ouija is being released on February 3, 2015.

Watch the top viral videos

Kimberly Hipo
Entertainment Writer

References nowadays refer to videos that in a matter of days have been seen by millions of people. Some videos include "Charlie Bit My Finger," "David after Dentist," and "Evolution of Dance." These videos have from 100 million to 800 million views. The current top-viewed video of all time on YouTube (as of January 5, 2015) is "Gangnam Style" by singer-songwriter Psy with nearly 2.2 billion views, and the current top-viewed non-music video is "Charlie Bit my Finger" with 808 million views. With so many to choose from, Lee High School students were asked what their favorite viral videos were and why.

"My favorite viral video is a recent one with Jimmy Fallon and Emma Stone," junior Andrea Juarez said. "They lip sync various embarrassing songs, which is super hilarious." In this video, Tonight Show's host, Jimmy Fallon, had actress Emma Stone on the show, and invited her to a game of lip-syncing. Stone chose to lip sync "All I Do Is Win," which was the most notable performance

that night.

Lip synching isn't the only thing Lee students are into. "Leave Britney Alone" has always been able to make me laugh," junior Journey Waddell said. "The guy just looks ridiculous and is making a fool out of himself." This video features a guy crying his eyes out, yelling that people "leave Britney alone," hence the name. The Britney he refers to is artist Britney Spears. His video is directed at all her haters who are always talking about her.

A Lee teacher had something to say about viral videos as well. "Viral Videos are awesome because a lot of times they're hilarious," teacher Jenni Wiener said. "They can revolve around good topics to talk about, and if you have free time, they're good to watch." Ms. Wiener has incorporated viral videos into her lessons, letting her students create their own multimedia video and compete with each other to see who can create the greatest viral phrase.



Vines to make you laugh

Gabriela Flores
Entertainment Writer



If you want seconds of fun and laughter, vines are the way to go.

These hilarious videos will be replaying in our brains nonstop.

Vines are a way for people to express themselves and make others laugh.

"I think vines are cool and funny," 7th grader Jasmin Flores said. "My favorite vines are 'Lele Pons' and 'King Bach.' They make the funniest vines ever!"

Statistics show that viner "Lele Pons" is the most famous viner with over 3.4 million vine followers. Many of her humorous and outrageous six-second bits have millions of loops. However, there are other viners on the rise as well.

"I think vines are funny," Junior Maria Cervantes said. "My favorite viner is 'Jerome Jarre.'"

It has been said by viner Jerome Jarre himself that his first 200 vines were made while he was living in the streets of New York as a homeless.

"I never liked the word 'fans.' Having followers doesn't make me better than anyone else. If you follow me, then you are my friend," Jarre said.

Now, Jarre has over 1.9 million followers and is one of the most loved viners ever.

"I like vines very much because they are fun and are a fast distraction," Junior Amie Birigmania said.

Twenty-six year old Pedro Villa also stated, "Vines are my type of videos to watch on YouTube. I never get tired of them. I see the same vines over and over and can never get just enough of them. I might even start creating my own vines as well."

People go crazy for brand-named sneakers

Saul Alfaro
Feature Writer

Many young people today, both men and women, are actually going crazy for brand-named shoe releases. Both in past years and even now, people will pay hundreds of dollars and stand in line for days just to get a pair of shoes.

One of the most common things these people do is camp out, and, believe it or not, there are many people that actually stay up late at midnight to get themselves a pair of sneakers.

When events like this happen it's because these shoes only come out once in a while and people like to collect them or just have them to look stylish. The people who collect shoes call it a "shoe game." They try to "win the game" by owning sev-

eral pairs of shoes, including brands like Michael Jordan, Nike, Adidas, Rebook, and others.

This fiasco all started with what most people believe was the person who influenced people to start buying sneakers.

This person is Michael Jordan, who was not just one of the most famous basketball players in the world, but also the one who came up with his first shoe, the Air Jordan I "Notorious," which was released in 1984-85. It was so popular that Jordan created a shoe collection that is still active today.

This shoe collection competes with different brands like Nike, Adidas, Rebook, etc.

December 13., 2014, the Air Jordans 13

Black/Gym were released and many people had to get a ticket to save themselves a pair. Some people were happy and some were not.

One of the hottest sneakers came out December 20. These shoes are the Air Jordan 11's "Legend Blue" the originals of "Columbia Blue."

Shoe collector Junior Christian Perez said, "I couldn't wait for these shoes to come out!"

If you want to check out when the next hot pair of shoes will be coming out, go to these famous websites and get ready wait in line: sneakernews.com, shoecollector.com, footlocker.com, sneakerwatch.com, kicksonfire.com, etc.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY THIRTYORSOMETHING.COM

Styles of 2014

Cindy Garcia
Entertainment Writer



Style is a way to express oneself. And in 2014 people showed who they are through their unique fashion styles. Everything from crop tops to high-wasted pants were big for women and men wore patterned shirts with patterned ties, and dark jeans. Although everyone has their own style, here are some of the trends found in 2014.



The Casual/ Professional Look: To take on a more hipster look, try a t-shirt with a vest over it with some jeans. This could be an everyday look. Just throw on a shirt with a vest and your good to go.

The Classic Look: Dress classy with a button up shirt with some slacks are normally good for a date, work or for an important occasion.



The Typical Boy: You may see this look in the halls of Lee on free dress days. It's a very easy and comfortable outfit to just to throw on. Just put on a shirt with some sweat pants and if your head is cold you can always add a beanie!

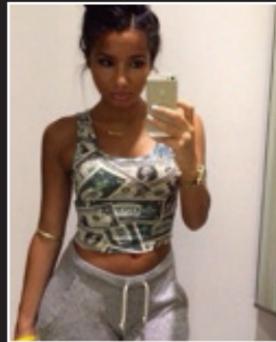
Women have even more options when it comes to fashion. Here are just a few styles to try.

Spring Look: For a cute, but casual spring or summer day, just put on a skirt with either a crop top or a big t-shirt that can be tucked into the skirt. Also, you can't go wrong with a classic flowy dress.



Typical Selfie Look: Are you ready to take a casual selfie? For this look, girls usually wear sweatpants with a bun on top of your head.

Professional Look: Going to work? Make sure to look stylish, yet professional with a button up shirt, a skirt and some high heels. Or try a dress with a blazer and flats. For a colder day, you can either add some cute tights or switch out the skirt for a nice pair of pants.



So whether you are preppy, hipster, casual, or professional, there is a style for everyone. Don't be afraid to show off who you are to the world with your own sense of fashion!

Kim and Kanye West marriage gains publicity

Leslie Garcia
Entertainment Writer



Kim Kardashian and Kanye West are no strangers to being in the public eye, like 2013, 2014 was no exception. From their wedding to their Vogue cover and Kim Kardashian's "Paper Magazine" cover. The West family has obtained its popularity.

Starting off in January of the year 2014, Kanye West was in the news for allegedly attacking an 18-year-old photographer who was apparently throwing racial slurs at his then fiancé Kim Kardashian. In February, Kim made some headlines for dying her hair back to brunette.

As March came around, the couple made wave when it was revealed that they were on the cover for Vogue's April 2014 issue. Many people including celebrities had much

to say, including, Buffy: The Vampire Slayer actress, Sarah Michelle Gellar who tweeted, "Well.....I guess I'm canceling my Vogue subscription. Who is with me???" Even actor/writer James Franco and Seth Rogen spoofed the cover.

All summer long you couldn't listen to the radio, or checkout in the grocery store and not see a magazine with a story about Kim and Kanye's wedding. May 24, 2014 they got married and their photos were everywhere! Even their wedding photo was the most liked photo on Instagram with 2.4 million likes!

Fall was no exception for news, Kim Kardashian posed on the cover of "Paper Magazine." The photos were a meme sensation on Instagram. Kim and Kanye's popularity has only risen from last year and it seems like it won't be declining any time soon.

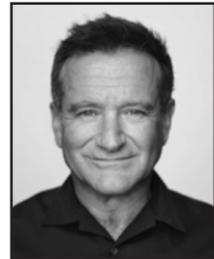
Famous people who passed away in 2014

Abraham Rangel
Feature Writer



Joan Rivers

Joan Rivers was an American actress, comedian, writer, and television host known for her often controversial comedic persona. She passed away during an unplanned biopsy of her throat on September 4.



Robin Williams

Robin Williams is one of the most remembered deaths of 2014. Williams's death was shocking; he committed suicide on August 11. Williams is remembered for his participation in many movies such as Jumanji, Hook, Mrs. Doubtfire, etc.



Roberto Gomez Bolaños

Another death that impacted many people was the death of Roberto Gomez Bolaños "Chespirito." He is remembered for bringing to life many characters such as el Chapulin Colorado, el Chavo de el Ocho, and others.



Shirley Temple

Shirley Temple, perhaps the most well-known child actress ever, also passed away in 2014. She was 85 years old when she passed away. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.



Maya Angelou

The world also lost a famous poet Maya Angelou who died on May 28 at age 86. Angelou had more than 50 honorary degrees and three Grammys.



James Bryan Hellwig

A wrestling legend known as "The Ultimate Warrior" passed away on April 8 at age 54 of a massive heart attack. He died just days after he was put into the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) hall of fame.



John Henson

John Henson, the puppeteer for the Muppets, and son of Jim Henson, the creator of the Muppets, died of a heart attack on February 14 at age 53.

Top five video games to play from 2014

Matin Alaei
Feature Writer



#1: Call Of Duty Black Ops 2

"This game is best action video game of all time. You can play campaign, zombies, and multiplayer. This is best game ever!" Freshman Juan Frago said.



#2: Grand Theft Auto 5

"This game is like real life. You can fly, drive cars, eat food, drink water, and other good stuff. It's a really fun game and I play it every day with my friends," Freshman Matin Alaei said.



#3: FIFA 14

"This game is all about soccer! You can play it with your friends and other people; It's cool," Freshman Gustavo Jimenez said.



#4: Destiny

"This game is all about galaxies and aliens. There's killing of aliens and traveling to other galaxies; it's one of best games that they have ever made," Alaei said.



#5: NBA2k15

"This game is all about basketball! You can play it online and it's really fun. I like basketball games and the graphics were way more enhanced than previous ones," Junior Jacob Ramirez said.

America's top musical hits; a 2014 play list

Maria Cervantes
Entertainment Writer



The beats and rhythms that have been stuck in our heads and given our body life this year have been tallied and according to the Billboard statistics, the number one song of 2014 was Taylor Swift's "Blank Space."

Although this may not have been your favorite, everyone has their own beat and lyrics that have tamed their hearts and kept them singing when no one was looking. Here are some of the Lee High School votes.

"Blame" from Calvin Harris and John Newman has been my favorite song," Junior Gabriela Flores said. "I love the moral of the story and I love the beat!"

It might be difficult to choose between long lists of songs that evoke different feelings, so

we choose the whole album.

"I don't exactly have a favorite song because there is so many out there, but if I have to choose I would choose the album Bad Blood by Bastille," said an anonymous student. "This band strays away from what we think of as 'mainstream' music."

Sometimes we choose our favorite songs because it gets us moving.

"Ready or not" by Britt Nicole ft. Lecra and "The Definition of Me" by Mandisa because the lyrics speak to me and the beat gets me moving and pumped up," Junior Amie Bigirimana said.

Like Junior Guadalupe Bonola would say, music is just amazing. "My favorite song is

probably 'Bang Bang' by Ariana Grande, Nicki Minaj, and Jessie J and 'Maps' by Maroon 5, they're amazing," Bonola said. "... because they're amazing, they have really nice songs."

The Billboard gives us the daily music news, charts, music downloads, and artist features for rock, pop, country, rhythm and blues, jazz, world, and hip-hop to keep track of the most popular music.

According to its statics the top hits have been "Blank Space" by Taylor Swift, "Take Me to Church" by Hozier, "All about that bass" by Megan Trainor, "Animals" by Maroon 5 and "Uptown Funk!" By Mark Ronson Ft. Bruno Mars.

Students travel the world

Carolina Gonzalez
Feature Writer

Students at Lee High School have taken many trips to different places in the world this year. Some of them have left the city, state, or even the country to visit their family or friends. Here are the trips some of them took.

San Luis, Potosi, Durango, Mexico

Tenth grader, Abraham Rangel said, "I went to San Luis, Potosi, and Durango, Mexico for the summer break. I visited my family and friends that live there. I rode horses and took care of my uncle's animals. I visited my grandma, my cousins and my girlfriend." He added that he hadn't seen them all in the past four months and that it was great to see them again even if it was for just a couple of weeks. He said that he had a lot of fun. He went to a lot of new places he had never been in before.

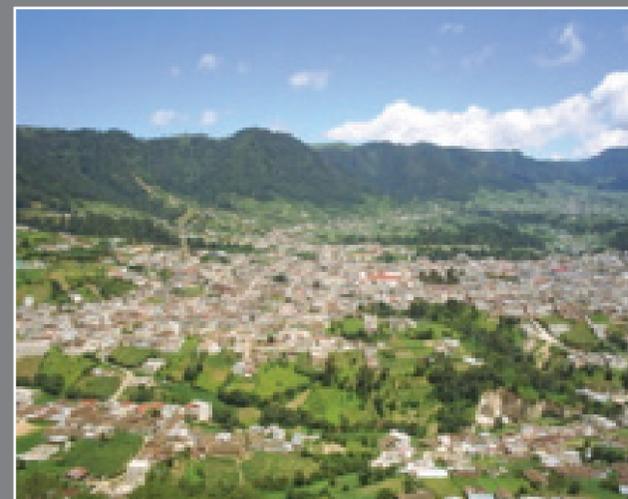


Rio Grande, Zacatecas, Mexico

Also, 10th grader Claudia Gonzalez said that she had visited Mexico during the summer break of 2014. She went to Rio Grande, Zacatecas to visit her family members and friends. She also went to visit her boyfriend there. She said, "It was a great experience to learn how to ride horses, and take care of animals by feeding them. I really missed my family members and friends, but more than anyone I missed my boyfriend. I went to a lot of parties there and danced with my boyfriend until they ended and everyone else had left. We were always the last ones to get out of the dance floor, and after that, we would go out to eat somewhere." She said that her mom and her boyfriend finally met after dating for four months, and that they became really close. She said she brought Mexican candies to bring back to Houston for her friends and family members who stayed.

San Antonio, Texas

9th Grader, Yizel Real said, "I went to San Antonio, Texas for the spring break. I visited SeaWorld for the first time ever! We also went because we were invited to my cousins fifteen. We stayed at a hotel for two days in SeaWorld. After that, we went to rent a hotel for five days. We visited our family members that live there. During the party, I met a lot of new people, but best of all; I got to know cousins I had never met before. I danced a lot that night, it was so fun!" In addition, she said that she had a great time swimming with dolphins, and feeding them, however, she added that she had got a bad sunburn.



Totonicapán, Guatemala

Ninth Grader, Cindy Garcia said "During the spring break of 2014, I left the country and went to Totonicapán, Guatemala. The first thing I did when I got there was ride one of my uncle's horses for the first time. I also went to visit my grandma for the first time. I think she really liked me, and I liked her too. When we first saw each other she ran toward me and gave me the tightest hug I've ever gotten." Finally, she said that she fell off the horse once, but since nothing happened to her, she wasn't scared to try a second time.

These are just some of the amazing places students have visited in the year 2014. With students from all around the world gathered at Lee High School, 2015 is sure to have more wonderful travel plans.

Death from above

Angel Segura
Feature Writer

It may have fallen into the ocean, been shot down by rebels, or even hijacked. This year the world was astonished by multiple plane accidents that either presented the death of many civilians or offered no overall explanation as to what happened to its passengers.

Theories of what caused the disappearance of flight MH370 are around on the internet. News media is somewhat, if not completely, dumbfounded about what to report as there is no definitive explanation as to what really happened.

Planes with a confirmed cause as to their demise include TransAsia flight 222, Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, and Spanish owned Air Algerie flight 5017.

Nonetheless, whether or not a cause has been established for the disappearance or crash of the planes, it does not diminish the overall impact of the news to the population. Families of the deceased mourn their loved ones; relatives of those whose fate is still unknown cling to hope as to find, dead or alive, the missing passengers of flight MH370, hoping to find an answer as to what happened to them.

According to ABC News, the countries hit hardest by these plane tragedies have been the Netherlands, with 193 dead or missing, and China, with 153 dead or missing. Ma-

laysia lost 81 of its residents, France, Taiwan, Indonesia and Australia have all lost dozens of citizens in the multiple tragedies. The United States lost three residents aboard MH370 and one dual U.S.-Dutch resident aboard MH17.

Statisticbrain.com states that the odds of being killed on a single airline flight is 1 in 29.4 million.

The crash of TransAsia Flight 222 killed 47, the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight 17 caused the death of all its 298 passengers, and Air Algerie flight 5017 also lost all its 116 passengers in the crash.

Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappeared, along with its 239 passenger whose fate remains unknown.

Even more recently on December 28th, 2014, AirAsia Flight 8501 went down in the Java Sea, Indonesia, killing all 162 people on board.

With the believed cause of the crash being bad weather, investigators are still revocering debris from the wreckage.

As of Sunday, January 11, 2015 search teams have located the black boxes; they hope the boxes can shed some truth to what brought the aircraft down.

Regardless of the causes, statistically speaking or not, the numbers are overwhelming.

Students reap the benefits from immigration reforms

Gustavo Jimenez
Feature Writer

Something big that happened this year was that Barack Obama was giving all the immigrants who had no papers in the United States the opportunity to get their papers. This was especially helpful as now most of the teenagers in the United States who don't have papers can have the chance to get papers, and they will be able to go to school and make it to college.

With a college education they will have the opportunity to get better paying jobs in the future.

Most of the people in the United States who are immigrants and do not have papers work in some specific jobs, jobs where you don't have to give all of your personal information and everything that is required.

The downside of this type of work is that you don't get paid enough money as you should. Typically you will probably get paid around \$6-7 per hour working at a job where there is little to no chance that you will ever be promoted or paid more money.

Besides the obvious monetary downfalls of not having proper legal status is the fact that you are always at risk of being apprehended by law enforcement and immigration officials.

The dreaded day, when some immigration patrols or police officers come to your

work unexpectedly, ask you for your identification and paper work, resulting in your deportation and loss of everything you have built here.

That's why is really important for people to qualify to get papers, especially if you're a teenager. It will allow you to have the opportunity to attend school, graduate from high school, and then go to college.

One thing about this decision that Barack Obama made about giving immigrants papers is that some of the public agreed with his decision and some of them didn't. As with any big decision there will always be people who support and people who oppose the change.

Everybody in the United States deserves opportunities to have a better life, one where they don't have to hide. They deserve to be able to go to school and make it to college. They won't have to be afraid anymore.

To take advantage of this opportunity some things are required.

One needs to gather all documents including birth certificate and utility bills (to prove at least five years residency in the United States) to help prove their eligibility.

There are also advocacy groups and organizations that can help you in your endeavor such as www.legalactioncenter.org/.

Michael Brown shooting creates controversy

Yamilex Plancarte
News Writer

According to the New York Times, on August 9th, 2014, 18 year old, Michael Brown was shot by a police officer in Ferguson, MO.

Witnesses said that Michael Brown was walking down the street of Canfield Drive with a friend when an officer in a Chevy Tahoe told them to pull over on the side walk.

While Brown was apparently in the window of the SUV having an altercation with the officer, the officer fired two shots at Brown.

Brown then tried to run away from the officer.

As the officer pursued Brown on foot, Brown stopped and turned around, for whatever reason, and moved toward the officer; at which point the officer fired several more

shots, fatally wounding Brown.

This event has hence lit a flame within the U.S. in regards to "Hands up don't shoot" and "No justice, no peace."

These were the words of the protestors on West Florissant Avenue that became very popular after Brown's death. Protestors were outraged and began rioting in many cities across the United States, including Houston, spreading the word of the injustice of Brown's Death.

"I think that Michael Brown's death is unfair because he didn't do anything wrong, meaning he didn't have any weapon on him to put the officer in danger. It sounds terrible that the officer shot him 6 times but it really

wasn't necessary," Junior Alejandra Orozco said. "I think that this was all about the race because the officer was white and the guy was dark skinned. Do you think the officer would have shot a white kid six times?"

After all, people don't know what really happened between the officer and Brown.

"I feel that these days every incident towards colored people is judged by color and it's not fair how police officers can get away with things just because they wear a badge. Instead of us the people feeling protected from the police we feel in danger surrounded by them." Brady Lopez a junior student at Lee High School said.

Was it really necessary to shoot that boy to

death?

"I want to say this to the Brown family. No one who has not experienced the loss of a child can understand what you're feeling," Thomas Jackson the Ferguson police chief said. "I am truly sorry for the loss of your son. I'm also sorry that it took so long to remove Michael from the street. The time that it took involved very important work on the part of investigators who were trying to collect evidence and gain a true picture of what happened that day. But it was just too long, and I'm truly sorry for that."

In November of 2014 the Ferguson grand jury decided not to indict the officer responsible for fatally shooting Brown.

Telethon USA raises money for medical support of children

Kimberlyn Garcia
Feature Writer

Founded in 2002, as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, La Fundacion Telethon Mexamerica (Telethon USA) sought to focus primarily on educational and charity work. Once they achieved incorporated status, however, they shifted their focused efforts on assisting organizations and institutions that supported and offered services to children needing medical rehabilitation, educational services, and physiological services throughout Latin America.

According to telethonusa.org, "Telethon USA has deep roots into the Hispanic community and its traditions." "We strive to promote essential values, including family, love, solidarity and trust, and have made it our goal to help children with disabilities, cancer and autism in the United States."

On August 6, 2013, Telethon broke ground in San Antonio, TX with the construction of the Children's Rehabilitation Institute of Telethon (CRIT). CRIT USA is a nonprofit pediatric rehabilitation facility for children who suffer from neuromusculoskeletal disabilities. According to the San Antonio chamber of commerce, the CRIT San Antonio opened on October 30, 2014 with the

intent to offer treatment to 600 patients annually. The philosophy is for children and their family members to be treated as needed, and to ensure families' ability to learn about and cope with their child's disability.

After the most recent, Telethon USA 2014, where \$15,539,427 was raised towards supporting more services similar to the CRIT built in San Antonio, TX, we are left with an important message. On a daily basis we take for granted the very things that some children are born into the world never being able to experience; walking, running, talk, and doing normal routines.

In supporting a cause such as Telethon USA, even donating something as small as \$1 can make a difference in the life of a disabled or sick child.

With the current United States population around 320 million people, even if just 1 percent of the U.S. population was to donate \$1, there would still be nearly \$3.2 raised for charity and medical services. With that sort of perspective, it is easy the impact that organizations such as Telethon USA can have towards the enhancement of the lives of children and their families in the U.S.





A look back at Super Bowl XLVIII

Abdul Hai Dhillow
Sports Writer

The temperature was a mild 49°F, it was cold but the teams and crowd were very confident and ready to thrill. According to Fox, on February 2, 2014, the best teams from each conference, the Denver Broncos from the AFC and Seattle Seahawks from the NFC, were to battle it out at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey for the title of best football team in the world. At the conclusion of the fourth quarter, the Seattle Seahawks had clenched the victory, 43-8, and won the National Championship for the first time ever in franchise history.

Not everyone watches the Super Bowl for the game; some choose to tune in for the Super Bowl's ever famous 30-second commercials and Halftime show. The Super Bowl is known for having some of the best, if not the best

commercials, that have ever been aired on television. According to Wikipedia, the total cost of a 30-second commercial was \$4 million, putting a full 60 seconds at \$8 million. At a price that high, companies can't afford to do anything other than impress the audience with their cleverly funny and memorable commercials.

At last year's Super Bowl, the halftime show was performed by Bruno Mars and Red Hot Chili Peppers. The total attendance at Super Bowl XLVIII was around 82,529 people - almost two times as many people that currently live and call Galveston, TX their home. If you weren't lucky enough to be in attendance at Super Bowl XLVIII, where seats started at \$3,715.00 each according to forbes.com, then chances are you were one

of the 111.5 million viewers watching the program from your home. Bringing in 111.5 million viewers, nearly as much as the entire population of Mexico (122.3 million), Super Bowl XLVIII became the most watched television program in United States history. The most valuable player of the Super Bowl was Malcolm Smith, linebacker from the Seattle Seahawks, who returned an interception for a 69-yard touchdown, recovered a fumble, and made nine tackles.

The race to Super Bowl XLIX is now underway. As of week 19 of the season, and second week of the playoffs towards the Super Bowl, the Seahawks and the Broncos are looking to return to the arena and compete for the title of best football team in the world. Along with the Seahawks and Broncos, six other teams are

bidding for the chance at the title; the Baltimore Ravens, the New England Patriots, the Dallas Cowboys, the Green Bay Packers, the Carolina Panthers, and the Indianapolis Colts. As each sports commentator and network picks their favorites for the Super Bowl, if the past has proven true, anything could happen. That is what makes the NFL playoffs so interesting and broadcast-record-breaking.

Whether you are part of a fantasy football playoff challenge, part of a family betting ring, following a favorite team of yours, or just looking to witness the possible 5th time in the past 6 years that the Super Bowl has achieved the record for most-watched television event in U.S. history, pick your team and relax this weekend as we inch ever closer to Super Bowl XLIX.



Germany wins the World Cup

Mostafa Ansari
Sports Writer

This summer, the most famous event, the FIFA World Cup, happened in the Brazil. It began on Thursday, June 12 and ended on Sunday, July 13. The FIFA World Cup happens every four years. Only 32 Countries all over the world qualified to play in the FIFA World Cup. Surprisingly 2010's winner of the FIFA World Cup did not do a very good job this time around, but there were some teams that did very well.

In 2014 World Cup, young player James Rodriguez of Colombia received the golden boot for the best goal scorer, Mario Gotze of Germany had been elected man of the match, Lionel Messi of Argentina received the golden ball for his outstanding displays, and the German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer received the golden glove for most outstanding goalkeeper.

This year's winner was Germany. They performed very well and did an outstanding job throughout each match. And this was the 4th time that they had won the world

cup. "Even though Germany was the strong team in the world cup, Argentina gave their best to defend Germany, but unfortunately, Germany kept on striking and won the world cup." Senior student Abdul Dhillow said.

People all over the world watched the FIFA World Cup, and there are a lot of people who actually traveled to Brazil just to watch the games and support their countries.

"The world cup was really exciting for me this year, because I got to watch Argentina play Germany in the final round while in Buenos Aires, Argentina," media teacher Jennifer Wiener said. "The people were going crazy with riots in the streets, decoration everywhere, and lots of pride for their country. It was really fan. When Argentina lost, there were a lot more riots in streets with braking into banks and MacDonald's. Overall it was an unforgettable experience."



FIFA history repeats itself in 2014

Christian Perez
Sports Writer

The 2014 FIFA World Cup was the 20th FIFA World Cup in history, the tournament for the association football world championship, which took place at several venues across Brazil. Germany won the tournament and took its fourth title, it's first since the reunification of West and East Germany in 1990, by defeating Argentina 1-0 in the final game.

Ironically, this was the same result as their last FIFA World Cup victory in the 1990. Not only did they win with the same score of 1-0, they won against the same team, Argentina. This year's tournament began on June 12, 2014 with a group stage and concluded on July 13 with the championship match. It was the second time that Brazil hosted the competition, the first being in 1950 according to FIFA's website.

Aside from history repeating itself in the finals, history also repeated itself with Uruguayan forward, Luis Suarez. Coining himself the nickname "Cannibal," according

to ABC news, Luis Suarez is known for his fondness to biting his opponents in situations of intensity. In this year's World Cup match between Uruguay and Italy, Suarez was caught on video taking a bite out of Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini's left shoulder. Unfortunately for Suarez, and his victims, this was not the first incident. Suarez had been involved in two other biting episodes in the past; one in 2010 and one in 2013. That did not serve helpful in his defense, as he would soon find himself suspended for the remainder of the World Cup.

"Uruguay forward Luis Suarez admits deep regret for the incident that led him to being sent home from Brazil," CNN reported.

Of course most every goal scored is in some way history repeating itself, but 23 year old striker James Rodriguez of Colombia's 11th international goal of his career was much different than any of his previous 10. While playing against Uruguay in a playoff match,

Rodriguez managed to chest trap a headed pass from a teammate, spin 180 degrees, and kick the ball from the air into the top left side of the Uruguayan goal. As words can't do the goal justice, the awarded accolade of "best goal of the 2014 FIFA World Cup," as voted by 4 million users on fifa.com, should do just fine.

"Rodriguez exquisitely chested the ball over his head, swiveled instantly and unleashed a venomous, dipping volley which crashed in off the underside of the crossbar in front of over 70,000 fans. That strike has now been voted as the Goal of the Tournament by over four million FIFA.com users, beating Robin Van Persie's genial header for the Netherlands against Spain into second place," Bleacher Report News said.

The next FIFA tournament, which will take place 4 years from now in 2018, is set to take place in Russia. In what clever way will history repeat itself? We'll have to wait and see.





Cross country wins District again

Solomon Fiseha
Sports Writer

Lee High School's cross country team won District twice in a row in 2013 and 2014 and they also did well in regionals. In fact, they were seconds away from making it to state.

They trained every day in the morning and afternoon with rigorous workouts designed by their coach, Mr. Garza. They came to school at 6:30 am and started warming up and getting ready to run, whether the coach was there or not. Garza always motivated his team to run a faster time.

"There are few long distance runners and we need more people who have the guts to run like these guys," Coach Garza said.

The cross country team also practiced during 8th period. However, some of the runners don't have 8th period athletics, so they had to show their dedication by staying after school to practice.

The captain of the cross country team, Solomon Fiseha, who is a junior, was the closest to making it to State. In fact, if he had run the same time as he did at Districts, he would have moved on.

Although he said he is sad he did not make it to State this year, he is not giving up hope for next year.

"I come out to the track and run every day in

the hot and cold weather," Fiseha said.

The team will also participate in Track and Field. They will have the same coach and the same goal: to go to State.

In preparation for the upcoming season, the team even ran over the Christmas break. Not only will the continuous practice help their track season, it will also get them in shape for next year's cross country season.

"Our coach is a long distance runner and we only run 3.1 miles," Fiseha said. "However tough the competition may be, Coach Garza prepares us and he even runs with us."

Although the cross country team won Districts two years in a row, some of the athletes feel that they haven't received the same kind of recognition that the soccer team gets.

"When we make it to State, cross country shall be as famous as soccer at Lee," Runner Fillmon Beyene said.

Other runners are optimistic they will do even better next year.

"As we are District champions, we will be State qualifiers too," Maebel Mogos said.

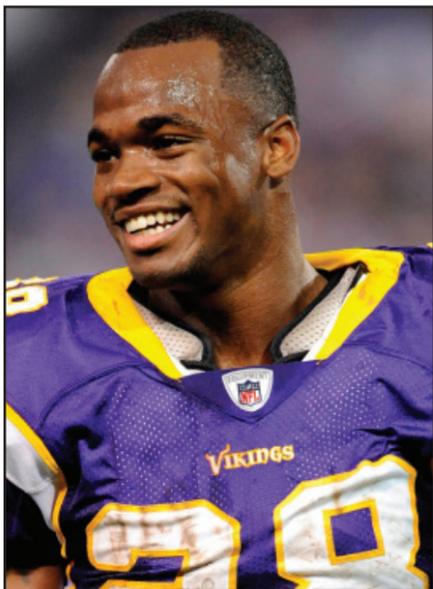
Cross country will start in August and the runners shall get another chance at accomplishing their dreams. Be sure to come out and support all the Lee High School athletes!



PHOTO TAKEN BY EVENZER AREFAINE

Peterson suspended for football season '14-'15; return date unknown

Alvaro Ramos
Sports Writer



Fantasy football players were disappointed this year when Adrian Peterson was accused of beating his son and was listed as suspended for the remainder of the 2014-2015 season.

According to Business Insider, Peterson texted the mother of the child and told her that his son had gotten "whooped" in the car. The mother asked "why?"

In response Peterson said "I felt so bad after the fact..."

The text messages go on to show Peterson saying he was disciplining his son for pushing another one of his siblings off of a video game.

According to USA Today, a former chief prosecutor of family crimes in Harris County, Randy Burton said, "Prosecutors in Montgomery County can use the text messages as evidence in a felony case against Peterson," saying that Peterson's acts were "It's absolutely criminal."

Lee High School Football Coach, Mike Todd said, "Peterson deserved to be punished for the cruel abuse towards his son and should pay a fine for doing that."

According to USA Today, Peterson will have to pay a huge fine for the abuse of his son and will not play with the Minnesota Vikings for the rest of the 2014-15 season. The Vikings have really been affected with the absence of their star running back, it has caused them many games and also their ticket to the playoffs.

Lee High School Senior, Mounir Tapsoba said, "I Believe that Peterson should be fined for the abuse but shouldn't have to wait till next season to play."

According to bleacherreport.com, Adrian Peterson is planning on returning to the NFL next year, but whether he stays with the Minnesota Vikings, or looks to join another team is still unknown.

Ray Rice indefinite suspension lifted

Grace Uwineza
Sports Writer

With 1,430 yards rushing and 37 touchdowns, three-time pro-bowler Ray Rice has found himself attempting to break tackles he can't evade.

On February 15th, 2014, Baltimore Ravens running back, Ray Rice and his girlfriend were arrested on assault charges for what his attorney described as a "minor physical altercation" according to sbnation.com.

It wasn't until four days later on February 19th that a video surfaced in the media that allegedly showed Ray Rice pulling his unconscious limp-bodied girlfriend from an elevator by her shoulders.

Later, police confirmed receipt of another video, not released publically, that showed Rice knocking his girlfriend unconscious.

Soon after, on March 27th Ray Rice was charged with aggravated assault; which is punishable with a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison.

Strangely, Ray Rice and his girlfriend, the one he had knocked out in the elevator, were married the very next day.

By the end of May 2014, Ray Rice had rejected a plea deal and accepted a pre-trial intervention program to serve as an alternative to trial where he must complete a 12-month program and stay out of trouble.

A month or so later on June 24th Ray Rice was formally suspended for two games by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. Believing that to be the end of the punishment,

as you could believe, there was still much controversy and disagreement over whether or not he was punished accordingly by the law and the National Football League (NFL).

The final straw was drawn on September 8th, when celebrity news website, TMZ, released the video of Ray Rice punching his wife, then girlfriend, in the face while in the elevator.

The public reacted in an uproar at the footage, and the NFL, claiming never seeing the video until its release by TMZ, was now in the spotlight.

How do you respond to the situation now that the entire United States, and world, is able to watch the punch that turns his girlfriend into a limp, unconscious body?

The response came quick as the Baltimore Ravens football organization officially released Ray Rice from his contract and the NFL suspended Ray Rice from the league indefinitely.

On November 28th 2014, however, Rice was able to win an appeal to his indefinite suspension from the NFL on grounds that the decision to modify his two game suspension to an indefinite suspension was arbitrary and unfair.

His appeal allowed him immediate reinstatement in the league and made him ready to be picked up by any team at any time.

The only question; which team will pick him up first and when?

Wrestling: recognized for hard work

Tyjier Spencer
Sports Writer

The Lee High School wrestling team directed by Coach Laster is not only overlooked but also under appreciated. In most schools you often find that the main sports are football, basketball, and in some schools possibly track or soccer.

As a result other sports, such as wrestling, have a tendency to go without any attention. I know this for a fact because I attend school almost every day and I never even realized that the wrestling season had begun.

Lee High School Wrestling Coach Laster said that he became a wrestling coach because of his older siblings.

"Growing up under two older brothers who were wrestlers had a very impressionable impact on me," Laster said.

He then said that he strives to teach his students the importance and impact that wrestling can have on your life.

11th grader Lijjon DeSilva said he loves the wrestling team. He said the reason he joined was to enhance his strength and to make his body into a weapon by learning how the body "ticks."

DeSilva also said that he doesn't appreciate that the students of Lee don't attend their meets or get as involved as they do for other sports.

He then explained that he feels the reason they don't get a lot of attention is because the school does not push to announce their important events.

[In regard to the lack of acknowledgement/support] "I do feel like it's unfair but it doesn't change anything. My boys and girls are still going to work hard and always do their best whether or not they are recognized for it," Laster said.

DeSilva and the rest of the wrestling program hope to gain more appreciation and support as the student body and staff learn more about their passions and the intense sport of wrestling.



Is the use of standardized tests really improving education in the United States?

Daniel Vango
Opinion Writer

Standardized tests have been a method of determining if a student has really learned or paid attention in class to what the teacher has been saying, but is the use of standardized tests actually helpful to improving education in America?

According to standardizedtests.procon.org, standardized tests have been a part of American education since the mid-1800s and their use went up after 2002's No Child Left Behind Act. So the use of standardized tests, has shown that US students ranking in math dropped from 18th in the world in 2000 to 31st in 2009 and the study showed a similar decline in science.

The site also stated, "Failures in the education system have been blamed on rising poverty levels, teacher quality, tenure policies, and increasingly on the pervasive use of standardized tests."

This part of the site has portrayed that standardized tests have proven to give back statistics about the nation's education system, but did not exactly point out if the tests are beneficial.

President of the National Education Association (NEA), Dennis Van Roekel stated, "Students as young as 6 or 7 years old are now subjected to weeks of preparation for high stakes tests. Because math, reading, and to a lesser extent science are the only subjects regularly tested, students are drilled in those topics. Meanwhile, subjects such as history, civics, music and art – which help develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills – are squeezed out of the school day."

Dennis Roekel is against the idea that standardized tests improve the education in America.

"We cheat our children," he said, "because the only thing that is taught, is what will show up on a multiple choice test."

However, Education Week blogger, Justin Baeder stated, "We need standardized tests to provide basic information about how our schools are performing... in the current environment of testing- and accountability-mania, it's easy to forget that this is actually very useful information for improvement purposes. The fact that we have used this information for other purposes, centering on punitive

accountability measures, has taken our eyes off of this benefit to standardized testing. There are dozens of non-punitive ways to use this information, such as resource allocation, professional development planning, and identifying school goals for improvement."

Baeder's statement supports the standardized tests. He also believes that the tests will assist with the achievement gap because a measurement will be made, and inequities don't have to "hide behind our good intentions and best efforts."

"Those who say standardized tests help the schools make improvements or assists with school goals for improvement all seem confused," Junior Daniel Vango said. "Students have been taking these tests for years now, and if I was to show someone who already took the test that I am about to take, there is a high chance they will say, 'oh those questions are almost the same as the ones I took.' Thus, if standardized tests do help make improvements, why can't students see it? Why can't anyone present us with hard evidence that the testing is beneficial? Where are these 'measurements?'"

Students are about to start the second semester of the school, which is the time actual test reviews or practices will begin, but with students at Fairview High School in Boulder protesting against a standardized test, that leaves us with the question, will other students from around the nation protest as well?

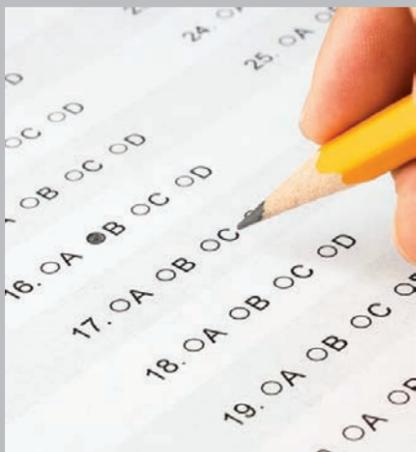


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY TEACHTHOUGHT.COM

Students express excitement for new Lee campus

Daniela Valdes
Opinion Writer

Boom Boom Boom! That's the sound that you'll be hearing throughout the rest of the school year.

As most students know, construction on the new Lee High School has begun. Many students and faculty members expressed their feelings about the new school and what they think about the new blue prints and what kind of things they'd like to see as they roam around the school.

"I saw the blueprints for the new school and I think they're really pretty," Lee High School Junior, Guadalupe Bonola said. "I think we will have more space for parking which is very important to students."

The blueprints include plans for a bigger parking lot; once the new building is finished, the old one will be demolished and the area will be used for a new athletic field and additional parking.

"There is a lot to like about the design – plenty of natural light, openness and small group learning and tutoring areas," Lee High School Principal Jonathan Trinh said. "It will provide a college-type format for student learning."

Principal Trinh said he thinks that it will draw kids who are going to school outside of their zoned neighborhood back to Lee.

The new school will be 240,000-square-feet and only two stories rather than three. It will be divided into four wings with many windows and open spaces to maximize natural light. The blueprints include a light-filled atrium,

internal courtyard, large dining commons and a natatorium.

"I'm kind of sad that we won't get to experience the new school," Junior, Bryan Eriza said. "—But I think the freshmen will have something positive to look forward to as the school meets the needs of students."

The project is estimated to take 18 to 20 months in total from the construction to the transition to the new school.

"We're committed to minimizing the impact on school activities and the community," said Ken Smith, Vice President of Satterfield & Pontikes, the general contractor for our school.

Although the construction may be a bit annoying, keep in mind the positive outcome of all this: a beautiful new school.



America: full of dreams and opportunity

Gloire Mwangaza
Opinion Writer

Lee High School is one of the most diverse high schools in the United States with students from all over the world including Africa, Central and South America, Mexico, the Middle East, and Asia.

These students come to the United States for a variety of different reasons. I, personally, am from Africa. One of the reasons that African families come to the United States may be lack of employment. America is one country that seems to always have opportunities for all people. To my family, America was a symbol of hope for making money and supporting the family.

When we arrived in Houston, Texas, I noticed a variety of differences between my new home and my old home.

Schools here in America seem easier and have

more students that graduate, which will lead them to have a better future tomorrow.

Today many people including my family see Africa with situations that cannot be solved at all. For example, war, people being killed for no reason at all, lack of opportunities compared to what is offered in the United States, etc. There is also a lot of sickness that cannot be cured.

America is one big country that from a foreign perspective comes off as a place with people that will help each other put food on the table and take care of one another.

The environment here is much more peaceful. People are being treated equally.

Most importantly, if one gets a good education he/she can go and help the people back home. This shows America is one country full of opportunities, hopes, and dreams!

Take advantage of junior year

Yoselin Torres
Opinion Writers

This year is really challenging, no time for games. I am one year from graduating and thinking about it just makes me so nervous. New rules, new teachers, and a new principal has made this year a little more interesting for all of us!

With the conclusion of the first semester behind us, and the second semester commenced, it will be May before you know it, leading us to the beginning of our graduating year. I'm pretty excited to start my senior year; hopefully it won't be as difficult as this year has proven thus far.

Journey Waddell, Junior said, "Out of the two years I've been here, this year [junior] is the most difficult."

What seems to make the junior year so much more difficult than the others is the fact that the classes and workload are more demanding. By the time you enter your junior year, teachers, staff, and even your parents assume (hopefully not to their mistake) that you have matured into a responsible and driven young adult.

The Juniors are supposed to have it all together. To top off the difficulty of rising to expectations, your junior year serves as the last year of grades that will be entered into the system to determine your cumulative grade point average (GPA) before you begin

your senior year. Typically students begin applying to colleges the first semester of their senior year, before any new grades are earned. What that means is that colleges will base their decision of your acceptance on your academic success through your senior year. With that in mind, students must put importance on their performance their junior year of high school.

Juniors have to look past the obstacles; more work, tougher classes, more tests, to realize it will eventually all pay off. Whether your hard work allows you the privilege of graduating with your high school diploma, then advancing further to learn a trade, begin a career, volunteer, travel, attend a vocational school or community college, join the military, or seek an undergraduate degree at one of the nearly 3,000 college institutions in the U.S., your strenuous junior year will lay the foundation for the successful completion of your high school career.

Be the someone you always dream you'd be. Follow all of your steps and believe me, you will get there. No one can tell you who you should be in the future; you have to make that decision for yourself. Make your goals, see them carried out, and your hard work will pay off; allowing you to accomplish your dreams.

Who do you cheer on?

Juan Fragoso
Opinion Writers

Who is the best soccer team?

1. The best soccer team is Real Madrid C.F. of Spain's La Liga.

Anthony Flores said "This team is the best team because they are the champions."

2. The best soccer team is Barcelona of Spain's La Liga.

Roberto Hernandez said that "Barcelona is second because Real Madrid won vs. Barcelona, but I still think they are the best."

3. The best soccer team is Brazil's international team.

Alexis Vasquez said that "Brazil was the champion when they played against Mexico so they are the best soccer team."

4. The best soccer team is Mexico's international team.

Guadalupe Mora said that "Mexico lost a game but they still are the best."

World Football / Soccer Clubs Ranking

As of 4 January 2015 (<http://footballdatabase.com/ranking/world/1>)

1. Real Madrid (Spain)
2. Bayern Munich (Germany)
3. Barcelona (Spain)
4. Manchester City (England)
5. Juventus (Italy)



Real Madrid



Bayern Munich



Barcelona



Manchester City



Juventus

Generals... Always!

Melanie Hauser
Alumni Vice President

It has been a little more than five years since three former Lee Generals sat down at Buffalo Grille one afternoon and formed the Lee Alumni Association. The idea was to give back to our alma mater. To reconnect and organize alums. To embrace the changes at the campus and help where we could.

To give back to a school that had given us so much.

We were from different eras – one graduated in 1965, one in 1971 and one in 1987. So many changes in so many ways over those three decades when we walked those gray and gold halls, but one thing remained the same – in our hearts we were still Generals.

And all I can say is this first half-decade has been quite a ride. It has been filled with blessings as well as frustrations; with celebrations and disappointments; with old friends, new friends and, soon, a new campus.

The first thing we did was find goal posts for the football team. The Generals had just restarted football, but had no goal posts for the field and no money.

That same fall, we hosted a football banquet. We went social with a website (www.houstonleealumni.org), a Houston Lee Alumni FB page and Happy Hours. We gave academic scholarships and mentored. We sponsored faculty appreciation breakfasts. We got to know students, faculty and even got the chance to introduce a budding film maker to Hollywood and Broadway producer director Andy Fickman, Class of '82.

We haven't stopped since. And, honestly, it's been fun to make a bit of a difference.

I can still see the smiles from the 50th Jubilee – our celebration of the first 50 years of Lee in the fall of 2012. We honored some of the most outstanding grads and packed the Westin Galleria ballroom with people from every decade. Not to mention some of the most beloved teachers.

The line just to say hello and hug Doris Countee, Lee's legendary oceanography teacher, didn't end. Eleanor Grant and Regina Satlof – the choral director and Traveler cheerleader sponsor, respectively – couldn't stop smiling. The same for Linda "Mama" Shuler, who launched many a career with Razz-M-Tazz and Dramalee.

Families of multiple Lee grads got tables, and to see five decades of Generals mingling, having fun and laughing at old photos in our Jubilee video was . . . well, just the best. Think one giant reunion.

There have been frustrating times, for sure, but those seem to be in the past.

I've been part of the project advisory team for the new campus and I've gotten to know some outstanding teachers and impressive students. Mr. Trinh and his administration have opened more ways for us to be involved. And, we're about to get to work on a history project for the alumni area in the new campus so when you drop by Lee in five years, you, too, will feel like a part of school.

The best gifts? The teachers and our friends gave us so many we didn't even realize we were getting when we were at Lee.

Now the best gift for us is just giving back.

. . . Generals . . . Always!!!!



Shout out to Lee's terrific teachers

Emily Castillo
Opinion Writer

In the year 2014, teachers were remembered for their drive and everlasting dedication to helping prepare the students of Lee High School to pass their STAAR tests and their classes. All the hard work from the first semester has paid off and Lee High School is now commencing the second semester; heading towards the end of the year.

The students of Lee are recognizing the hard work that their teachers put in every day, and want to give those teachers a shout out of appreciation for their commitment to education. Many teachers have put forth maximum effort into setting high expectations for student success. As the teachers' enthusiasm rises, the students work harder, and look they begin looking forward to working more closely with and for those teachers.

Shout out to Ms. McGiniss for her perseverance and determination for her students to move forward and never backwards.

Shout out to Ms. Thornhill in her persistence in positive attitude and tendency to stay strong. Her passion and spirit are so contagious that you cannot help but leave her class with a smile.

Shout out to Ms. Hubbard and her devotion in teaching students. Her admiration has comforted and inspired students to work at their best levels.

Shout out to Mr. McCaskill for his allegiance has brought students to work diligently. He's dedicated in his studious work.

Shout out to Ms. Carmouche, and the consistency on her work. Her veneration is appreciated.

These teachers are among the many of the proud, encouraging, purposeful, caring, and enthusiastic educators that call Lee High School their home. Let us all strive to start 2015, and finish the school year, the best that we can be.

Young marriage: right or wrong?

Gabriela Saucedo
Opinion Writer

Recently, the country of Norway had its first child marriage as twelve-year old Thea walked down the aisle towards the altar to meet her thirty seven year old fiancé, Geir. The story of Thea has gone viral since her first published announcement of her engagement, more than thousands of people around the world have engaged together to #StopTheWedding as they have hash-tagged in social media. On Thea's big day, everyone, including the audience inside the church, continuously kept insisting, "Stop the wedding!" They exclaimed as minister, Rolf Berg, asked Thea if she would take Geir as her husband.

To everyone's relief, 12-year old Thea shook her hair in a no gesture, turned around and walked away. Her mask of gloominess faded, only to be replaced with a bright smile. Norway's first child wedding was in fact the work of the United Nation's International Day of the Girl Child, used to raise awareness of the fact that 39,000 girls every day are forced into marriage, some as young as 8 years old.

No child deserves this sort of abuse, it is one of the leading causes of death during pregnancy/labor, loss of schooling, and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

"During the course of this campaign we have given the world an insight into how brutal a child marriage is," National Director of Plan Norway Olaf Thommessen said. "Thea's wedding blog has provoked and engaged people from around the world, and we have had responses from, among others, South Korea, Russia, and Australia, as well from world stars like Ashton Kutcher to world leaders. We hope that this protest will help to open the eyes of the world community and show that we must join forces in the fight against child marriage and to secure girls' rights."

People from different backgrounds, cultures, religions, and parts of the world have joined this international fight against child marriage, including Ashton Kutcher. Lee High School students also express their opinion about such cases. "I think it's wrong because I think they should be able to go to school and learn, what kind of sick-o would marry a 13 year old, that's just wrong," Sophomore Jose Muriel said. Junior Guadalupe Bonola plainly states, "I think it is wrong to force someone to get married to someone who is three times older and they shouldn't force the kids to marry grandmas and grandpas."

Geometry teacher Danielle Hubbard couldn't stay behind on this topic either.

"I believe a child, regardless of gender, shouldn't be forced into an adult situation like marriage," Hubbard said. "A child's brain isn't fully developed (i.e. frontal lobe) so they don't have the capacity to make optimal executive decisions."

Switching gears, there's also a huge controversy about young marriage in the United States, teenagers getting married at a young age - marrying in high school? Would you do that if you fell in love in high school? "No, because when you're in high school you're not mature enough to handle a relationship like that and you don't even know if they're the right one," Bonola said. Bonola's opinion is correct about maturity; marriage requires a lot of work, and more than that, responsibility. High school itself is stressful enough with homework, projects, extracurricular activities, final exams, STAAR testing, and much more - not to mention the

everyday drama. Adding a husband/wife to the package is even more work! Those factors considered, it does not seem that teenagers in high school are mature enough yet for such big responsibility.

That said not every teenager is the same. There are youths that, for their age, are very mature and responsible. We shouldn't judge a teenager's decision to get married just because society says that every single 16 or 17 year old is immature and irresponsible. On the other hand, take the time to actually analyze their story, their character, then you can gather your own judgment if they're mature or not. There's an anonymous story of a girl which I know personally that actually got married in December 2014 at the age of 17 with her fiancé who is in his 20's. Coming from a broken home of divorced parents and having a brother whose marriage was a constant roller coaster ride, her family members predicted that she'd end up with a destroyed, problematic marriage with a drunken husband.

Yet she proved not only her family but everyone that didn't believe in her wrong. Her husband also came from a dysfunctional family where his parents were in an abusive relationship, his brother's and sister's marriages were also problematic: constant fighting and incomprehension between them. All he ever hoped for, all he always told himself was that he wouldn't have a marriage like that. He decided he wouldn't mistreat his wife, he'd love her and treat her with respect. Both of them strived to be different than the marriages in their families and they would prove that there's such a thing as a happy marriage.

"Honestly I never thought I would get married at 17, 18 maybe, but not 17 years old. It all happened so fast but I know that as long as we both put in our part, my husband and I will have a great marriage blessed by God. I'm happy, and neither society nor critics can change that."

For a 17 year old girl, she's mature and has learned to be responsible, carrying out her duty as a student while also managing her role as a wife. She is prepared and excited to begin a successful and happy marriage. Both her and her husband put in their part and sacrifice to make their conjugal relationship work out, while supporting each other as she finishes high school and as he continues to work.

When you're mature enough to make decisions in "adult situations" like marriage, there's no problem as long as you're conscious of the vitality of the step you're committing to. Marriage is pure, it is the dream of the majority of girls to get married (guys dream about it too just... secretly). The day that they'll be united forever to the person they love, whom they want to spend the rest of their lives with, share their dreams and accomplish those dreams.

It is tragic that this unique and special moment is ruined for many little girls as they're forced into marriage at such young age, and we should be aware of the fact that is happening in many places around the globe; in fact we should support the movement to raise awareness in any way we can.

For more information on this topic, and to find ways to get involved and raise awareness visit <http://www.icrw.org/what-we-do/adolescents/child-marriage> or <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/about-child-marriage/>, because as Nobel Peace Prize winner Kofi Annan once said, "Knowledge is Power. Information is Liberating."



Rank	Country	% girls married before 18
1	Niger	74.5
2	Chad	71.5
3	Mali	70.6
4	Bangladesh	66.2
5	Guinea	63.1
6	Central African Republic	57.0
7	Mozambique	55.9
8	Burkina Faso	51.9
9	Nepal	51.4
10	Ethiopia	49.2

Moments to remember from Lee High School in 2014



PHOTO TAKEN BY YOHANES NYAMA

Houston Texans' cheerleaders came to cheer with the Lee cheerleaders for our Generals' football and volleyball teams at the first pep rally of the year.



PHOTO TAKEN BY GILBERT SOSA

Lee High School's soccer team won district championships last year for the first time in the Houston Independent School District's history.



PHOTO TAKEN BY YOHANES NYAMA

Students and teachers participated in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge to help raise money for ALS research.

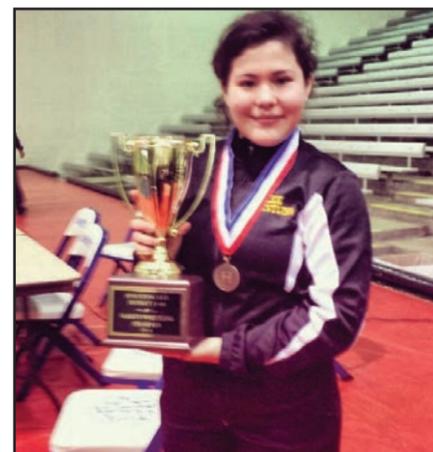


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY IXCHEL PEREZ

In her junior year, Ixchel Perez won districts in women's wrestling and went on to compete at State.



PHOTO TAKEN BY JENNIFER WIENER

Dr. Kinion and her students won first in the District UIL competition for the One Act Play category. The students performed the show *Infancy* for UIL.



PHOTO TAKEN BY JENNI WIENER

Newspaper students from 2013-2014 won an ice cream party for their hard work on the paper that year. Clearly they are enjoying and appreciating it!



PHOTO TAKEN BY YOHANES NYAMA

Teachers got creative during 7th period as Linked Learning became an initiative at Lee. These teachers work together to "link" their lesson plans.



PHOTO TAKEN BY ISSA YAGI

Students got a chance to show off their talent at the student talent show sponsored by the Fine Arts classes.



PHOTO TAEN BY MARCELIN KAMDOUN

JROTC helped give blood to hospital patients in need by holding some blood drives during school.