



## President Obama visits Lee High School and awards teacher 'Hipster of the Year'

Maria Ramirez  
News Writer

No one was expecting the visit from President Barack Obama. The cold and windy Friday the 13th of February was already giving off a weird feeling as many students mentioned. Some students came to school with their presumptions of the day already being bad, since it was the day before Valentine's Day.

But Valentine's Day was the least of Michael Kucek's - a Calculus teacher at Lee High School - worries.

"The announcements came on and all of a sudden Mr. Trinh cancelled classes for the day in second period!" Freshman Blake Mannington said. "I initially was worried, but then I got so excited when I was able to go home early and sleep."

The announcement caused great distress as parents had to leave their work and come back for their children.

"I was so furious," Tay Williams, Mother of Sophomore Lashanda Gill Williams said. "I was with a customer showing a house when I got the call."

Williams forgave the school once she found out the President visited.

"The call said a very important person was visiting," Williams said. "When I found out it was Obama, Oh lord! I couldn't believe it!"

Once the campus was cleared, Principal Jonathan Trinh held a staff meeting with President Obama.

"It was an honorable experience," Trinh said. "To have one of our faculty members nominated for such an honorable award in history? Words can't explain the joy I am feeling."

Obama posted the award title picture on his Instagram page and asked that the high school students of America nominate a teacher that they believed was the biggest Hipster of all time.

"As you have seen times are changing and so am I," Obama said on his Instagram post when the New Year started. "I would like to give out a title for a teacher in America to be called, 'Hipster of the Year.'"

The news channels all over the country exploded. The social media was losing control. Statuses and updates all over on how Obama was paying attention to the wrong things.

"When I saw it being reposted on Instagram and Mr. Kucek was being nominated I had to join in!" Senior Michelle Perez said.

Perez posted flyers around Lee and all over the city of Houston of Kucek in support.

"We all love Mr. Kucek and how he teaches!" Perez said. "He came to our school when we were juniors and we all called him a hipster because of his unique style, so it was destined to be him!"

Kucek, all the while, had been clueless of the whole contest and had no idea the President was coming to the school to meet him.

"I was shocked!" Kucek said. "I didn't even know this was going on. I was wondering why students from all the grade levels suddenly knew my name- even the freshmen."

Kucek suddenly began getting more followers on Instagram as the month of January passed along and his image was spreading throughout the country as all high school students in America began voting for him to become Hipster of The Year.

"I was signed out of Instagram due to being so busy at work, so I didn't notice the increase of followers," Kucek said.

"I really didn't know that the school day being cancelled was because of me and I don't really consider myself to be a hipster anyways."

The contestants were filtered through a poll that was made on the website for the White House. Kucek had about 1 billion votes. The only competition he had was against Heather Brooks, an English teacher at Jamestown High School in Williamsburg, Virginia. She had only half as many votes.

"I was sad when I was not nominated Hipster of the Year," Brooks said. "But I saw Kucek's posts and what he looked like and I was certain I had no chance."

Teachers said that Obama hid behind the door of the staff meeting room and that when Kucek entered the meeting, late as planned with English Teacher Edward Garza, Obama jumped out of the hiding spot and surprised Kucek.

"He jumped away from Obama, and turned extremely red," Garza said. "Every word that came out his mouth was a murmur, it was hysterical."

Kucek then left the room and Trinh followed him out to tell him what Obama was there for and what he had been awarded.

"I thought it was a joke at first honestly," Kucek said. "I was then very honored to be awarded the biggest hipster of the country."

Obama apologized for scaring him by also awarding Kucek with a new wardrobe year round filled with vintage clothing and thrift store inspired fashions, tight-fitting jeans, and some classic old-school sneakers.

Also, Obama took a photo with him, gave him a certificate, and announced it to the country that Kucek was The Hipster of The Year.

"He has displayed good vibes, peace, and has been known for listening to the bands of the unknown!" Obama mentioned in his speech. "I am happy to celebrate today to give Michael Kucek this award."

"I will not forget this ever!" Kucek said. "I am very thankful for what Obama has awarded me. My life has changed forever."

Kucek is still teaching at Lee High School, but plans to inspire others by starting an awareness campaign called, "Be Your Hipster Self!"

This campaign will be contributed to all the people who don't want to follow the crowd and encourage people all over to be themselves no matter what others say.

The campaign will tour during the summers. Kucek will dedicate his time in speaking to students all over the country. This campaign is meant to start June 6, 2015, and Kucek encourages everyone to join in the awareness.



PHOTO TAKEN BY GUSTAVO MACOCO

## Principal pays students to earn good grades in hopes of better scores

Cristian Moralez  
News Writer

Call it a job with future benefits. Lee High School Principal Jonathan Trinh will start paying Lee High School students cash if they maintain a B average and above throughout the whole school year.

Trinh will be paying 200 dollars to each student if they receive between an 89 and 100 grade average for both semesters throughout all their classes.

Trinh confirmed this news after evaluating grades and test scores of many Lee students in hopes of motivating them to achieve better results.

"When I came to Lee High School, I saw that many students lacked in their studies and seemed to not take school seriously, therefore, I'm providing a great motivation to them," Trinh said. "Starting the end of this school year, I will give \$200 dollars to every student who is able to maintain a B or better average."

Junior Dean Alfie Herron also approves of Lee students getting paid and believes Lee High School has enough funds for that.

"At first, I wasn't in favor of anything and believed that such an act was unnecessary," Herron said. "But later, I realized that many students in Lee would appreciate a little gift at the end of their grading cycle, this will also bring more competition and dedication towards their studies. Who doesn't get motivated by the money?"

Sophomore Rebecca Ramirez commented that with this news she will definitely try harder.

"I am so excited and in need for this extra money," Ramirez said. "Now with more reason, I will attend school and try my best more than I ever have before."

The pay plan is scheduled to begin in the 2015-2016 school year. Trinh said he advises students to start studying now.



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# HISD announces 4 months of break

Rosaria Casia  
News Writer

For the first time ever, Lee High School is finally going to have four months of summer instead of three. HISD made this announcement February 13, 2015.

It was decided to extend the summer vacation because the district wants students to have more rest and time to relax. According to an article from the HISD Gazette, this wasn't an easy decision to make because some members of HISD did not agree on extending the vacation.

Principal Jonathan Trinh said he was really shocked when he got an email from the district. He will be announcing the news on the last day of school so everybody can go home and be satisfied to start their summer.

"I already have a lot of things planned for the, first time ever, four months of summer," Principal Trinh said.

The principal decided only to give two weeks of summer school to the students that need to pass classes and the STAAR Tests

because he said he wants them to enjoy three and a half months of summer vacation.

"I like the fact that we are having four months of summer," Sophomore Lauren Sierra said. "I can't wait to go tell my parents the awesome news. I can't believe that we are going to be away from school that long."

Other students agree, saying they are ready for a long rest-filled summer.

"I am so ready to start summer 2015," an anonymous freshman student said. "Wow,

that's sounds really awesome. I am going to be in Mexico with my family for four months."

"My parents are not going to believe the news," Junior Jennie Orellana said. "Many students are so excited and pumped for summer 2015, it's going to be a summer to remember."

So whether you have big plans for the summer or not, Lee High School will see you back in the middle of September.

## Administration declares free dress for all students

Jennifer Coyoy  
News Writer

After weeks of meeting and voting, the Lee High School Board decided that Lee students will have free dress beginning next week.

Principal Jonathan Trinh and the staff of Lee agreed that if students were able to control themselves, they could try giving the students the liberty to have free dress.

Students said they are excited about the free dress they are able to have now.

"I'm excited about having free dress because now we don't have to use these uniforms and we can actually express ourselves with how we dress," Junior Guadalupe Bonola said.

Even if Lee gets free dress, it could be taken away if students do not do what they're supposed to, according to the administration.

Although it is "free dress," there are still rules about what students can and cannot wear. For example, students may not wear ripped jeans. Closed toed shoes must be worn at all-times; No sandals allowed.

"ID's must still be worn all-times," Trinh said.

Many feel that having to wear uniforms is boring and they don't feel like coming to school.

"When we have free dress I actually feel like going to school to show off my outfit," Sophomore Jessica Campos said. "The rules for free dress must be followed or it will be taken away again. Hopefully if the school can get allowed free dress maybe the school will give students more privileges as well."



PHOTO TAKEN BY AARON JOHNSON

## State and standardized testing cancelled forever

Oscar Renteria  
News Writer

Are you tired of those long hours of reading, guessing, and bubbling answers that will ensure your graduation? Well fear no more! STAAR testing and other EOC exams will never come across you again.

State testing will now be over for Lee High School, along with any other school in the Houston Independent School District.

"Testing for students will now be over. No student will need to sit in their classrooms for countless hours answering challenging questions on the most important topics," Principal Trinh said. "Though these questions prepare them for work that teachers will give them in a college classroom."

Students will now be able to graduate without taking any form of high school exit exam.

"Students will now be able to enter any college as long as they have the tuition money for the education," Principal Trinh said. "All students are expected to pass with excellency in all their classes."

According to some of the HISD staff, this decision was made to ease the minds of all the students, because of all the work they

are going to include in their school year.

"Students feel a lot of pressure with all of the school work they have to accomplish in the end of the year as a final grade, so we decided it would be better minimize the pressure and not add all of the EOC exams," HISD staff said.

"All of the students so hard all throughout the year, so we decided to take a little weight off of their shoulders."

Students will be very happy with this decision, because they will be able to enter any desired college.

"This school year is going to be a lot better for me. I have always had a hard time with all of the STAAR exams," sophomore student said. "This is a great opportunity for me to enter the college of my choice, instead of having my grades and academic abilities do so for me."

The only thing the students will need is to pass all of their classes and have the tuition for the career they choose to take.

Students will now be less pressured to accomplish things during their high school years.

## Lee High School closes forever, new building cancelled

Guadalupe Bonola  
News Writer

Remember the rumors about the new Lee High School building, well it's not happening. Houston Independent School District has announced that Lee High School is closing forever due to the students' behavior and grades.

"I'm so sad the school is closing, but it looked and felt like a jail anyways. I am interested to see what the future holds and what my new school will be," Junior Cristina Garcia said.

There have been a lot of problems this school year, all of which have led to the school closing up this semester. These will be our last few weeks in Lee High School.

"I don't really care or mind about this but I'm worried about us seniors, is it going to affect our grades, our GPA's, and most importantly our credits! I'm worried! If this is going to affect my future, I just hope

they know what they are doing," Senior Argentina Barrios said.

The administration says seniors may have their graduation affected by these changes.

"I'm really upset about this. I hope some of my friends are zoned to the school I will be zoned to... because it would be so hard to make new friends in less than 2 months or so," Junior Jennifer Coyoy said.

Some students will be sent to Bellaire High School or Jane Long High School. Basically it all depends on the area that you live in but most of the students will be spread out in Houston.

"It's really sad that Lee had to end like this due to our behavior and bad reputation. Hopefully we learn from this and stop misbehaving by actually working in our classes and trying to learn," Junior Yareli Vargas said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY WIKIPEDIA.COM



## Ms. McGinnis's free-style tops charts, album to come

Lauren Sierra  
News Writer

Everybody knows Ms. McGinnis the geometry teacher.

Nobody would've ever thought that her free styling video on YouTube would hit 1 million views in only 4 days!! Even famous rappers like Drake and Chris Brown are sharing the video, they're comments were that she "killed it."

"I've never heard a freestyle so sick," Lil Boosie said.

Ever since that video got uploaded to YouTube a lot of record deal companies have been asking Ms. McGinnis if she would sign with them.

"If she wrecked a freestyle, imagine how sick her lyrics would be if she planned it out and practiced," Kendrick Lamar said.

Ms. McGinnis is recently dropping a new album called P.H.E.D Up it's about her lessons learned in life. The album will be

released this summer, so get ready to listen to the hottest album of the year.

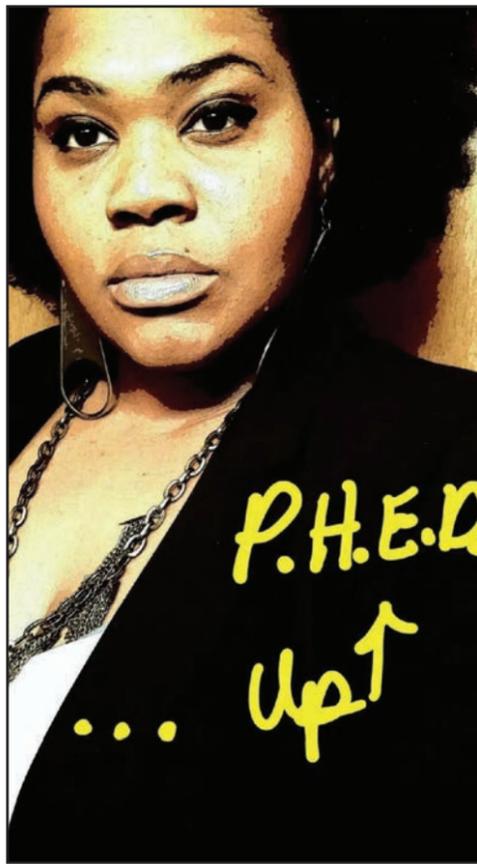
"I'm so excited for Ms. McGinnis's new album! I've been waiting five months, I hear it's the best album of all time and it features Lil Wayne. He is my favorite rapper!" Paloma Aspiritual said.

The album can be purchased on iTunes, so get ready because the album is limited.

"For all those Apple users, don't wait until the last minute to buy the album, it might be too late... Love You Mom You Rock," McGinnis's son said.

Can't ask for anything better, this is not stopping me from teaching; I love my career and my students.

"I really appreciate my fans for all the love and support that they have been giving me, I've had fun working with all these famous rappers," McGinnis said.



## Tsunami to hit US

Fernando Campos  
News Writer

We're all going to die! Research shown from CDC.com/Tsunami states that by Saturday, April 18, 2015 a tsunami will hit most of the United States, destroying everything in its path.

This tsunami will be caused by a meteorite, as big as 410,000 feet that will hit the Atlantic Ocean, without any means of stopping it.

"I think instead of trying to stop it, we should all just build high ground where we could all get away from the disaster," Tetumbot Utanga said.

A tsunami is a catastrophic sea wave that achieves landfall and causes destruction. The most devastating tsunami in history was the one that occurred in the Indian Ocean in 2004. This tsunami measuring at 9.1 out of 10 on the Richter scale occurred off the northern coast of Sumatra.

Imagine a tsunami measuring at a 13.7 scale out of 10. That's a big wall of water measuring 1,370 feet tall, that's taller than the height of the twin towers. That kind of damage could wipe out all 7 continents. According to oceanographers, this much force is the same as being pushed by a train.

## Miracle at Lee: Sgt Conrod grows afro

Ixchel Perez  
News Writer

After many years of being bald, SFC (Sergeant First Class) Conrod grows hair again. The crazy Houston weather has forced him to the extreme.

Not too long ago, he had a horrible headache and he felt as if his head was turning into ice.

The doctor told him that the only way to solve this problem was by growing his hair out because his skin was very sensitive to the cold weather.

The doctor did not give him many options other than to grow hair. Sergeant had to spend a long time making this decision; it was very difficult and emotional for him.

The last time Sergeant had long hair was when he was in high school. Ever since then, he has always been bald.

This was a hard decision to make, half of his friends and family are anxious to see him with long hair, but, on the other hand, many of his students disagree with his decision. Many of his students have never seen him with hair. They think he would not be the same person with a full head of hair.

His decision is final, there is no turning

back. He will start buying hair products again after many years of not having to worry about having a nice looking haircut.

He will now experience the "bad hair day" moments. He is a bit worried about this drastic change because he is not too sure of how to treat hair, since it has been quite a long time since he's had some.

This is a long process, he researched how to grow hair faster and he found really interesting facts. He did not only stop going to the barber shop but he also made a change to his eating habits, he has added more protein to his daily menu since it is a good way to rapidly grow healthy hair.

His hair is now 17 centimeters long; he never thought that he would be as excited as he is now. He has even considered growing an Afro again like he did in high school.

Every morning, his alarm goes off 30 minutes earlier than what it used to sans hair. He now has to wake up earlier than before so he can make sure that his hair is on fleek (on target).

This is a journey, he (and the people around him) will never forget.

## Ms. Wiener wins lottery, plans to quit and travel

Melissa Garcia  
News Writer

March 17th, a teacher at Lee High School won the Texas lottery worth \$50 million. The winning numbers were announced on local television last Tuesday and that is the moment the teacher described as life changing.

From teacher to millionaire journalism teacher Jennifer Wiener, has decided that she will quit her job and begin to travel the world.

"I am so thankful to have taught at such a wonderful school, but now that I am rich, I want to travel the world and explore different cultures," Wiener said.

She described her experience as life changing and full of opportunities.

"When I first found out that I had won the lottery, I couldn't believe it," she said. "I could not stop screaming and jumping around."

She wants to start by buying her very own private jet.

"Now that I am rich, I will buy my very own private jet and hire a butler," Wiener said.

She said her new necessities will include expensive trips and a lifetime supply of her

favorite food, chile con queso and chips.

"I will never have to go another day without chile con queso," Wiener said. "I can finally have chile con queso every single day of my life and not have to wait until I go to a Mexican restaurant."

Wiener also said that although she will miss her students, she will not regret traveling the world and enjoying her wealth.

"I have always loved teaching and I will always love my students, which I worked with for many years," she said. "I have had some of the best times of my life teaching at Lee High School and I'm going to miss working on the newspaper and Lee TV with my classes. I have met so many great students that I will donate some money to them, so they can also pay for college."

Wiener said that she has no problem sharing her wealth with her soon to be former students because she has had some of the best moments of her life with them.

Wiener said that she will soon be giving her two weeks' notice as well as donating as much money as she can to her students. She hopes to travel the world and help end world hunger.

## Ms. Loza calls off wedding

Ronnie Mason  
News Writer

As many of you may know, Speech Teacher and Basketball Coach Alyssa Loza is getting married this summer. Well, let's say she was supposed to get married this summer, June 26. Loza's new last name was going to be Holder, just as her ex-future husband Cody Holder.

The first bad thing that led to Loza calling off her wedding was that Holder forgot her birthday.

"That day I felt like the happiest woman alive," Loza said. "I was expecting something, I don't know what, but just something special from him. I mean I'm his future wife, right, so I deserve at least a flower or so. That night, I went home and I found him sleeping on my bed. I understand if he's sleepy because he is a hardworking man, but he has to understand it's my BIRTHDAY. I bugged him and all, just trying my best to wake him up. Cody woke up and yelled 'Leave me

alone I'm tired!'"

The second bad thing that Holder did to Loza was that he left her in the rain and the temperature was 25 degrees.

"It was a couple of nights after my birthday (which he forgot)," Loza said. "He told me he was going to make it up since he forgot. I woke up that morning thinking it was going to be an amazing day. He rolled over to me, saying this night is going to be very special, so put on your best dress. The forecast that night was going to be 100 percent rain, but nothing was going to ruin that night. It was about 9:00 p.m., I was waiting outside of my house because Cody took the keys, I'm still clueless on why he took them. It was getting late and the clouds started to come, but I wasn't as worried because I knew he was coming, well I thought he was. Little rain drops started coming, I was getting scared because I didn't want it to mess up my

makeup or ruin my dress. Before I knew it, it was raining cats and dogs. I just stood there because I had nowhere else to go. My tears, makeup and rain mixed up at that moment. The rain stopped and guess who decided to come- Cody. I just grabbed the keys to the house and went inside my room and slept. Cody slept on the couch that night."

After the incident in the rain and the forgetfulness, Loza said she started to question if she could spend her whole life with a man who does that.

"One night I spoke to him and told him how I was feeling," Loza said. "Cody I can't do this anymore. The things we have been going through are not what I want to live through when we're married. I don't know how you're going to feel about this, but I can't marry you. I'm calling off the wedding. It's not you and also it's not me, it's the way you treat me."

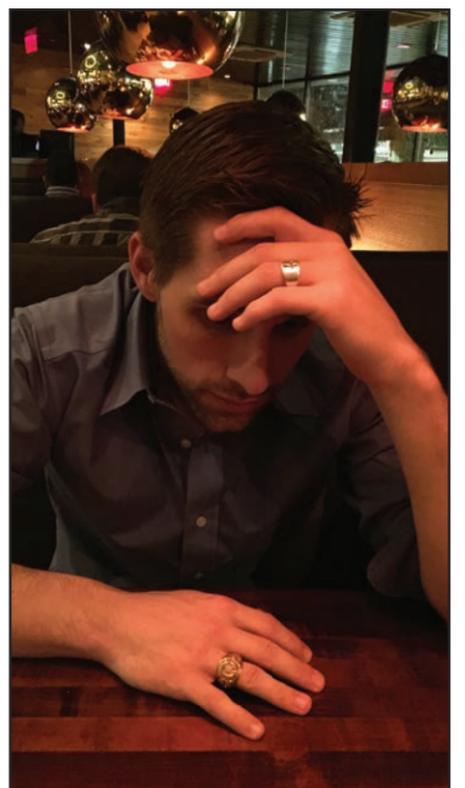


PHOTO TAKEN BY CODY HOLDER



# Lee principal drafted to the fight against ISIS

Kymyatta Gabriel

News Writer

The United States partnered up with the United Nations and other allies, has decided to partake in the battle against ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

President Obama has announced that the Army, Navy, Airforce, and Marines are all desperately recruiting and drafting people back into the troops.

"I am sad to announce, that I will be leaving Lee High School," Principal Jonathan Trinh said. "The war effort to fight ISIS is a tough one, and I have been called back into the 1st Battalion of the 23rd Marines Expeditionary Force."

Trinh is not the only one that will have to leave Lee due to drafting. Many of the JROTC students who are 18 and older will also be leaving to support the war efforts.

"Although I am leaving, the school will be left in good hands," Trinh said. "Ms. Moran will be taking over as temporary principal. I will be fighting for project Iraqi Freedom Number 2."

Trinh will be sent straight to Iraq to start on April 15, 2015. Students are outraged about the drafting and even more upset to lose the school principal.

"I cry every night because I cannot imagine Lee High School without JROTC and our principal," Senior Kymyatta Gabriel said. "My grandmother says these are dangerous

times and instead of coming to school, she may try to homeschool me, so I can hide from the draft."

While some students don't want the students to leave there are others that are prepared for it.

"I enlisted in the army a while back and the fact that I will be able to go and do what I have been preparing myself for is pretty amazing," Senior Nathan Santos said. "Although it's sort of frightening because there is always that possibility but who cares. I'm going to do what I love sooner than I thought."

This new change for the students was something that was unexpected and they are anxious.

"I don't understand why they are taking people from our school," Senior Cooresha Ross said. "The school year is almost over and so many of our JROTC people that I've been with the past four years and have prepared to graduate with will be leaving and I won't be able to graduate with them anymore. This is honestly extremely sad and depressing to me."

Although Trinh and the other students are leaving, Moran ensures that school will go on as normal and insists that efforts will be made by the school to show support for the service men and women.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JONATHAN TRINH



PHOTO TAKEN BY AARON JOHNSON

## Principal Trinh plays video games in office

Cindy Wakiyama  
Co Editor-in-Chief

While students sit in their classes and listen to their teachers, Principal Jonathan Trinh spends his days playing Super Smash Brawl on his Nintendo 3DS.

"I can't help it, it's such a good game," Trinh said. "My secretary always tells me to stop and actually do some work, but this new release made it so much fun. I can take my Smash with me everywhere I go."

Teachers have noticed the principal's absence and they are concerned for the future of the school.

"I have such a hard time every day because I can never find him," Calculus Teacher Michael Kucek said. "Then I finally go to his office and his face is buried in that game. Not to mention the days when he brings his Wii U to his office and just stays there the whole day."

Not only is his gaming addiction getting in

the way of his work, but Trinh also disrupts students in class to get them to challenge him in the game.

"Mr. Trinh is always asking me to play online with him during class," Senior David Cruz said. "He tells me to just connect my 3DS to the school's Wi-Fi so I can play with him while I'm in class. He said that he'd clear everything up if I get in trouble. I just hate that I have never been able to beat him, he's just so good."

Some students are outraged by the principal's actions.

"I can't go to a school like this," Senior Maria Ramirez said. "Mr. Trinh is really cool and he supports journalism, which I love, but this is not OK. How can we go to a school where our principal is just focused on getting high scores? Man, I can't wait to graduate and get out of here."

## Lee decides not to continue volleyball program

Dejane Cherry  
News Writer

There will be no more volleyball next year due to the fact that the girls think they're too cute to come to practice.

Volleyball is a respectable sport that has to deal with teamwork and people coming together and making it towards one common goal.

"This year was all about the girls doing their makeup, even in the game," said Coach Dunn.

Volleyball at Lee is played by the girls, but is it true that the girls are only into their make-up and not into playing the sport itself?

"Yes! I remember one time we were playing against Yates and one of my girls missed the serve because she had eyeliner in her hand" says Coach Dunn "I didn't know what to think about the team."

I understand that girls like makeup, but are they really into makeup or is that just at specific times?

"No, they always have their makeup kits when we are on our way to the games; they have MAC, LOREAL, and even COVERGIRL," said Coach.

Is it really that bad?

As a closing remark on the situation Coach Dunn said, "Yes, it is that bad. Why does it have to be make up? Why can't they eat some candy and call it a day... there's plenty of types of candy? Either way there will be no volleyball team next year due to the fact that they think that they are too cute to play and take the game seriously."

Students are upset about this news and said they plan on starting a protest to attempt to continue the sport at school.

## Study shows students' education benefits from longer spring break

Michelle Belmarez  
News Writer

Houston Independent School District has decided to increase the length of spring break in the coming years for all high school students.

The board met and decided this March 25 after evaluating the renewed energy levels of students that had relaxed over the week-long break.

Studies confirmed that students and faculty who had received a weeklong spring break regained half of their energy, causing a .5 increase in energy to perform well in school and particularly on the STAAR and EOC tests.

Studies also showed that increasing the break to two weeks in the middle of the

twenty-week-long second semester allowed students and faculty to regain .95 of their energy levels, causing even better test results.

After running this experiment multiple times with the same results, scientists encourage all school districts around the world to give students a two or more week-long break in the middle of their second semester.

Houston ISD will be trying this two-week-long break out on its students in the 2015-2016 school year.

So, students start planning how you can take advantage of those weeks of relaxation next year.

## Student finds worms in lunch served at school

Jackie Correa  
News Writer

Have you ever gone to the cafeteria and noticed how good the food looks? Well, for one specific student it wasn't what they expected. Please note that this student asked to be kept anonymous, so we cannot tell his identity!

From what he told us, he went to the normal food line that he always goes to; line number 3. He got a burger and grabbed a bag of chips. As he sat down in his usual spot with his friends, he noticed something odd about his food. His food was not the same color as the rest of the people around him, it had a murky color and the meat was falling apart every time he poked at it with his fork.

Finally when his friends were pressuring him to open the burger he saw "the most disgusting thing I have ever seen," said anonymous.

The reason why the meat was falling apart was because there were mealworms in it!

The food was already decomposing and somehow no one had noticed that the food

had gone bad and was rotting near the other fresh food. He said his friends instantly started to search through their foods to see if something like that was in everyone else's food.

Apparently, it was just Anonymous's food that was like that, everyone else's food was normal and edible. Could it have been a prank that was pulled by someone or could it have been that the food was going to go bad and the lunch lady's just decided to serve it because there was nothing else to serve apart from that?

Anonymous said he is very shocked about what he had found. Now, he said he would rather bring lunch from his home than get anything from the lunch lines. Anonymous can't get the image out of his head of the mealworms.

So next time you go to the cafeteria and get anything, look at it very carefully before digging in.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY.ALLHIPHOP.COM

## Student stars on show "The Wonderful Life Of Bryan"

Guadalupe Rodriguez  
News Writer

"The Wonderful Life of Bryan," premiered over winter break and quickly became a hit. It has brought Lee High School Junior Bryan Eriza much success.

"My life is pretty wonderful," Eriza said. "My show is about me and how wonderful my life is."

According to Eriza, his current life is what makes him "wonderful."

"I have a great family, great friends and I have a skateboard. Oh and 17 pairs of shoes," He said.

But his life only got better ever since his show debuted over winter break, which has received ten trillion views per episode.

He even met his wife through the creation of his show.

"Jhene Aiko is my wife. We were just strolling in the park one day and I asked her if I could have her number and she was like 'duh!' I was like let's go on date and she was like 'I don't know I just met you' and I'm like 'come on don't

be a witch' and she was like 'alright I guess I'll go'" Eriza said. "She thinks my show is on fire."

Eriza has also met his lifetime idol Andy Milonakis who personally invited him to swag out on his private jet.

"I chill with Andy Milanakis. Andy and I were disregarding females and acquiring currency all weekend long," Eriza said. "We went on his private jet several times. It was crazy. We were doing tricks and everything!"

Eriza also respects other artists in the industry, even if they're not as cool as him, but he doesn't get a long with everyone in the scene.

"I really respect Yung God and Lil B. I'm also pretty cool with Kendrick Lamar," he said. "Tyler doesn't like me because I dissed him in all my raps."

The first season of "The Wonderful Life of Bryan" is currently over but you can find it on Netflix.

Season two premieres in August, so stay tuned.



PHOTO TAKEN BY JENNI WIENER



PHOTO TAKEN BY JENNI WIENER

## Ronnie Mason drops mix tape, instant fame

Bryan Eriza  
News Writer

As of March 20, 2015 Ronnie Mason will drop his much anticipated mix tape! Fans have been waiting for this since his debut song, "MacaRonnie wit Cheese" came out on December 19, 2014.

Mason has been so popular due to his mix tape that he got the pleasure of meeting Obama who called his mix tape "fire."

"I like that you (Mason) are not a republican," Obama said. "You're welcome to play basketball with me any day."

But meeting Obama hasn't been the most exciting thing about this mix tape.

"I got to work with one of the greatest rappers alive, WEEZY F. BABY!" Mason said.

Some of his favorite songs from Lil Wayne's album include: Try Me, Dreams and Nightmares, Holly Weezy, and Sure Thing.

"Yeah, young Ronnie has a lot of potential, he might even become one of the greatest rappers ever once his career blows up," Rapper Lil Wayne said. "It was an honor for me to work with hot, fresh, young talent. YOUNG MULA BABY!"

He's also gotten many shout outs from prominent artists such as SauceTavo, Drake, J. Cole, and Nicki Minaj.

"He has so much going for him," Nicki Minaj said. "If he keeps this up he might be able to make a song with me one day."

The young superstar said although he has his new found fame, he plans to finish high school. Students can encounter him in the hallways of Lee High School, but may have to watch out for the body guards as he walks by.



## Robot 'mother' gives birth to a baby boy

Noor Al Yacoub  
News Writer

Everyone knows that humans birthing children is the miracle of life, but now scientists have come up with a way to make that a reality for robots as well.

Sunday, March 15, 2015, the owner of the robot called D53100 had a big shock when he realized his robot had given birth to a human baby boy near Southern Texas.

Thirty-five-year-old physician John Ashley is the owner of the robot and said he is both excited and worried about what he had created.

"It was January when a woman came from her duty in the army to my hospital. She was badly injured and although she was in recovery, it was clear she wouldn't survive more than five days," Ashley said.

Army General Ana Garcia was pregnant with a baby boy in her 7th month when she was badly injured and told she would not live to have her child.

"I felt sorry for Ana and her unborn baby," Ashley said. "I tried to help out and I promised her I would do my best to save her baby. I had the D53100 robot and had an idea that I could simulate a similar environment of a womb and transport the baby there before it was too late."

This was a risky experiment, but Ashley's robot proved successful when the baby boy was born March 15.

"It was almost 11:30 pm when I heard a cry coming from next door," Ashley said. "I ran and opened the bedroom door and there was the surprise!"

This news was both shocking and somewhat disturbing to the people who heard about the incident.

The child was inspected by government officials before being returned to his father. The experiment proves that technology has the power to create miracles as well.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SHEKNOWS.COM

## Lee High School haunted by ghosts from the past

Ashley Perez  
News Writer

On Friday the 13th of February, a janitor named Camper Wesley took a picture of something abnormal he saw after school while he was cleaning.

"I didn't know if someone was pranking me, or if what I saw was real, but I was one hundred percent sure I was the only one in the school," Wesley said.

According to [www.ghostwiki.com/schools](http://www.ghostwiki.com/schools), 50% of schools are predicted to be haunted with ghosts or abnormal spirits.

"When I walk by the hallways, I feel a presence with me, I feel like I'm being watched," Sophomore Pansy Contreras said.

According to the school's webpage at <http://www.houstonisd.org/domain/27438>, this school was built in the 1950s. It used to be an asylum, a hospital for the mentally ill, in 1890. It was believed to be burned down after a fire broke loose. The staff transferred more than 78% of their patients but the 22%

to stay, including nurses and patients, were burned alive and their bodies were not discovered. Students from all years have felt like something unexplainable was watching over them, maybe it's the souls of the patients wandering around the school.

"While I was using the restroom, I saw a guy through the mirror; his face was old and creepy. I don't know if what I was seeing was real, but I was scared. I'm never going to the girl's second floor restroom again!" Catherine Jacobabubu said.

"I've worked here for 10 years now, honestly I don't know most of the school's history but I know that this school was built over the Dorsey Mental Hospital for the Ill," Claudia Marranada said.

So if you see any paranormal things happening around the school, make sure you don't get frightened so the ghosts won't follow you home.

## Vampires suck the life out of students at Lee

Sabrina Miller  
News Writer

Ever wonder why people disappear and you never hear from them again? They tell us they moved away or dropped out, but is that really true? Did these people really move or drop out?

No. Lee High School is infested with vampires. Yes, actual blood-sucking creatures of the night. They are after our students and using our bad reputation to hide their actions.

"One of my friends disappeared one day," Sophomore Sage Gomez said. "She was just a normal girl with average grades. Never got in trouble nor did she have troubles at home. I called her home and her mother told me that she didn't know who I was talking about. The teachers tell me she dropped out."

The girl disappeared and not even her parents knew who she was. Isn't there something wrong here? This girls' parents don't even remember her and the

teachers are telling her friends that she dropped out. Vampires are using the fact that people drop out to hide what is really going on. It is up to the students to take charge to prevent this.

"My girlfriend dropped off the face of the earth when she found out she was pregnant," Senior James Blake said. "I thought I was the father and was going to start saving money for the baby, but a week after finding out she was pregnant, she disappeared. Her parents moved away and I have no way to contact anyone. Her Facebook account was even deleted."

Blake's situation has supernatural written all over it. There is a serious infestation going on and if the students don't stop it, our bad reputation will increase. Save your fellow students by creating awareness of these creatures that surround us from the darkness.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TUMBLR18.COM

## APRIL FOOLS!

April Fools Lee High School! We are sorry to anyone who fell for any of the stories on pages 1 to 6 of *The Traveler* March edition, but they were all made up as April Fools pranks. So, although they are not true, we hope you enjoyed reading the creative and entertaining articles that the newspaper writers and editors made up for you. We also promise that pages 7 to 12 are full of true newspaper articles that will provide real news that you can and should believe. Have a happy and safe April Fools holiday!

Love,  
The Staff of The Traveler



# Urrutia awarded Teacher of the Year

Cristian Morales  
News Writers

ESL Algebra 1 teacher Oscar Arturo Urrutia has joined the ranks of 'Teacher of the Year' at Lee High school.

Urrutia, in his second year teaching at Lee High School, has won the teacher of the year award and he couldn't be more proud.

"I was brought to Lee High School because of the challenge," Urrutia said. "I like the student population, we have a lot of ESL [English as a Second Language] kids and that's my teaching field."

Urrutia's main goal as a teacher is to help all his students to pass their end of course (EOC) exams.

"My goal as a teacher would be for all my students to pass, especially Algebra 1," Urrutia said. "Passing the state test is my goal as a teacher and it's the law. As a requirement to graduate, if they don't pass the test in the 9th grade then they will have to keep taking the test until they pass it."

To Urrutia, he said it was a huge surprise to win this year's "Teacher of the Year" award.

"I was surprised," he said. "I believe I won because of the good test results from

last year and I have an extraordinary math team."

For our Algebra 1 teacher, there are no secrets to his success and his strategies.

"I don't use any strategies, I believe when you like your job, when you enjoy your job, you come prepared to teach the kid's; that's my only strategy," Urrutia said. "I didn't do anything other than just make sure my kids get the lessons."

With great support and motivation from his award, Urrutia appreciates the accolade and is excited for the future.

"I feel proud and this is going to give me a motivation because teaching is not an easy career," Urrutia said. "I have to give much thanks to the support of my team and administration."

Two months away from the end of the school year, Urrutia expects his students to be ready for their sophomore year.

"I want my students to get ready for 10th grade. I want them to have very strong foundations in Algebra because they will need that in algebra 2 and geometry," Urrutia said with a smile.



PHOTO TAKEN BY DAVID CRUZ

# Students win CIS contest

Maria Ramirez  
News Writer

In a time in our lives when love seems to be the most focused topic of our generation, the conversations about being careful in love seem to be small.

But that is not the case for the students who had attended Community In Schools (CIS).

The program is meant for all students of all grade levels.

It helps not only the students of the school but the families of those students as well.

The CIS program had an initiative in February that promoted healthy relationships.

They set up a writing contest called, "What is love?" and had students from all over the school participate in the experience in learning about love and healthy decisions.

"We wanted students to really understand what love is and what love isn't," staff member of CIS Damelis said. "Because it's really important that they are in healthy relationships."

CIS also has groups that meet on Wednesdays to talk about domestic vio-

lence, love, and life.

"During lunch we encouraged students to come and learn in CIS about love," Damelis said. "It was really fun and nice to see how everyone was interacting with one another."

The contest had many entries but only three students could place.

The guidelines followed that the piece would be from the student's point of view of what love is. They could not plagiarize and foul language was restricted.

The first place winner was Ricardo Servin who will receive two Houston Rockets Luxury Suite tickets.

The second place winner was Alicia Andrade who will receive an AMC Movie Date night gift card.

The third place winner was Eric J. Quiros Rivera who will receive \$20 Gift card.

Congratulations to those students, but also good job to all those whom participated.

All entries will be displayed in the Communities in Schools office for the rest of the school year.

# SWAT not to return

Guadalupe Rodriguez  
News Writer

School Wide Achievement Time, an implementation during the first semester of the school year was cancelled after one semester in the running.

The original purpose of SWAT was to provide embedded tutorials to students that were retaking the STAAR test.

SWAT was implemented due to lack of teachers that could help.

"The purpose of SWAT was to provide STAAR interventions during the day in a mini tutorial format because we did not have the full classes," faculty member Michael Kucek said. "Going into the second semester, Mr. Trinh was able to budget for extra intervention teachers and Ms. Moran and Ms. Broadnax were able to balance some classes and create new ones to service students with STAAR failures."

With these new teachers hired the culmination of the program happened right after the second semester started.

"This meant that there was no longer a need to hold the program because we were able to fix the issues we had at the beginning of the year that led to the creation of SWAT," Kucek said.

Despite not having SWAT in our daily schedules anymore SWAT proved to be effective for the students that were motivated to

pass the STAAR.

"[A] student that under[stands] the importance and reasoning behind the program was more likely to benefit from the extra time provided," Kucek said.

In addition to STAAR tutorials SWAT offered other benefits for the students of Lee High School.

"Other benefits of SWAT included additional time for our newcomers to practice English, more time on extracurricular activities like newspaper, Lee TV, band," Kucek said.

Some programs that were also vital withered away with SWAT's disappearance.

"...And an opportunity for seniors to apply to colleges and scholarships in lieu of the college readiness class we offered in the past," Kucek said. "Unfortunately, these benefits will also be going away with SWAT."

SWAT will not be coming back for the 2014-2015 school year and will also not come back for the 2015-2016 school year as for Principal Jonathan Trinh has another schedule planned.

"Nine classes is a lot for both students and teachers," Kucek said. "As for next year, there will be no shortage of intervention classes because Mr. Trinh's plan into the master schedule from day one."

# Apollo Fellows to begin STAAR Olympics, help prepare students for Algebra I test

Ixchel Perez  
News Writer

Apollo Math Models students put on your game face and get ready for the STAAR Olympics starting this April.

There is an upcoming algebra 1 STAAR test; therefore, there will be events that will help students get ready for this day.

Apollo algebra 1 STAAR Olympics was designed to help all Apollo students prepare and master their math skills for the Algebra 1 STAAR test. Students will review the most commonly tested concepts.

During the week of this event, the regularly scheduled program will be suspended.

Students will rotate through the Apollo rooms, and watch quick videos reviewing specific math skills. There is still more, the students will also compete for prizes after the videos.

Students will be asked questions about the video's topic and the more correct answers, the more points the students will have at the end of the week. Those points

can be traded in for candy, chips, drinks, soccer balls, school supplies, t-shirts and other prizes.

On April 23rd, the best students from each team will compete in the finals at the auditorium. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place groups of champions will get medals and many more prizes.

Get ready to compete students.

HEB, Kroger, Affordabletours.com, the Apollo Fellows, and Lee High School are sponsoring the events.



# Teachers give advice for STAAR

Oscar Renteria

News Writer

With the STAAR test coming up, students start to worry about how to prepare themselves.

The teachers have ways to help these worried students prepare for the tests.

Different teachers have different ways to prepare their students and each subject has its own needs that a student needs to fulfill. English teacher Ms. Lafond gives advice about how students should prepare for the English STAAR test.

"Students should read every night for at least one hour to increase their vocabulary, and they need to make the best of the time in class because teachers create lessons designed to help students," Ms. Lafond said.

Ms. Hubbard, an Algebra teacher, has her own suggestions about STAAR test preparations.

"A strategy that students should use is talking to each other and peer studying, because the more you talk, the more you learn. 'No habla, no aprende,'" Ms. Hubbard said.

These teachers all have expectations for their students on the STAAR test and their results.

Ms. Lafond expects her students to all pass the STAAR tests by doing their best and

by using all of their test taking skills. Ms. Hubbard expects all her students to pass, but she also expects ten percent of those students to pass with Excellency.

The teachers are all very confident of their students' possibilities of passing the STAAR test.

"I am very confident my students will pass this test, because all of them have worked very hard all year," Ms. Lafond said.

The confidence Ms. Hubbard has about her students passing the STAAR test is unchanging and very firm.

"I am 100% confident that more than half of my students will pass on their first try. I am more concerned about my students' confidence, because if they don't believe in themselves then no one else will," Ms. Hubbard said.

The teachers have left advice for all students to follow while taking the test as well as good wishes.

Ms. Lafond wishes all of us good luck while taking the tests, while Ms. Hubbard has some advice. "Never leave a multiple choice question black, because if you are a positive person, then, even if you guess, you will guess positively," Ms. Hubbard said.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY DUNCANVILLEPANTHERPRINTS.ORG

# Juniors prepare for SAT/ ACT tests

Melissa Garcia

Co-Editor-in-Chief

The SAT is a national test required for almost all college admissions in the United States. Most colleges require applicants to have good scores in order to be admitted. For this reason, students say the SAT is one of the most important tests during high school. This year at Lee High School many juniors have already signed up and have already started to prepare.

Junior Guadalupe Bonola said she has already been preparing for the SAT.

"I have been sleeping early and have been doing all my homework", Bonola said, "I ask questions during class and try to learn more."

Many juniors have at least one or more sub-

jects that they do not feel comfortable with.

"I am worried about math," junior Guadalupe Bonola said. "I have asked my teacher for help and I am also paying attention in algebra 2."

She has looked online for testing tips.

"I have google tips on how to make the SAT easier," Junior Guadalupe Bonola said she hopes to score high and get into a good college.

Other juniors like Jennifer Coyoy said that the writing part of the SAT is what they feel the least comfortable with.

"I am practicing writing more and also listening to my teacher's feedback," Coyoy

said. "I have asked my teachers for help and I have also found information on the benefits of scoring high on the SAT."

Coyoy has also purchased an SAT prep book. SAT prep books usually include sample tests and strategies for the SAT.

"The book has been helpful because it helps me see how the test will be like," Coyoy said. "My favorite section is math."

Coyoy says she is anxious for the SAT.

Seniors, who took the SAT last year and possibly this year share their experiences.

"The SAT was challenging but it felt good testing my knowledge and seeing how well I did. My least favorite part about the SAT was

that they time you," Senior David Cruz said. "I don't like being rushed because it makes me nervous."

However Cruz said there were some perks about the SAT.

"One thing I liked about the SAT was the math section," Cruz said. "I did really well and for me it was really easy and I think it helped me score a lot."

Cruz said he advises juniors to study as much as possible and retake the SAT as many times as you can.

Lee High School's upcoming SAT day will be in April and requires all juniors to test during a school hours.

## Lee's Best Buddies club begins, helps students

Guadalupe Bonola

News Writer

Lee High School's Best Buddies is a club that meets to help special education students. This program benefits both the students and teachers; the best part is, anyone can volunteer.

The LBB Club meets every Friday in the cafeteria during second lunch. During lunch, they sit with the special needs students, interact, and help them.

They have a lot of events coming up like the rodeo, special education Olympics, and more. They are happy to be able to help; seeing those kids smile and spending time with them is such an awesome feeling.

"Best Buddies is a fun club because we get to interact with our special needs kids and also help them with what they need. Whenever we get together we play games with them and we bring them food. I love helping them because we make them feel like they belong with everyone, because they do," Junior Jennifer Coyoy said.

In LBB, there are lots of activities for the special education students. They have popcorn and any kind of food that the students like and activities that they enjoy.

"The Lee's Best Buddies is a club that my friend invited me to. It's a nice way to help these students who don't spend time much time with us during the school day. We have a chance to treat them right and learn more about how they are, their personality, and their way of thinking. I'm also excited for the activities that we will do with them, it's going to be great to make those memories together," said Junior Hiba Akhter.

This year, the club is making posters to represent LBB! It's going to be an amazing way to support them during their Olympics.

"I'm excited for this year's activities. I know that the kids are going to do amazing and it's nice that we can support them. They will feel motivated and encouraged while competing in the Olympics. It's so exciting and cool that we are going to have fun with the kids and events," Junior Guadalupe Bonola said.

This club was started by Math Teacher Michael Kucek and he encourages students to join. They are still open to new volunteers; sophomores and juniors are desperately needed.

## Lee's UIL One Act Play team presents 'The Shadow Box'

Michelle Belmarez

News Writer

This year's UIL One Act Play theater program competed March 26 in Districts and is hoping to act their way to the State Championship. The Theater Production Team has been practicing since January, and is planning to make it all the way to State Competition by acting out the play called "The Shadow Box."

"The play takes place over twenty-four hours, in three separate vacation cabins on the grounds of a large hospital, in the United States. Within the three cabins are three patients Joe, Brian, and Felicity, who are to leave with their respective families as they have reached the end of their treatment. They have agreed to be part of a psychological scheme where they live within the hospital grounds and have interviews with psychiatrists," Junior Dejanee Cherry who is an actress on the theater team said. "Theatre has helped me come out of the shell that I was in. To love being around my team because I can be myself around them, I can act crazy and not even be judged."

Also the President of the Theater Production Team junior Michelle Belmarez said, "For being in the theater production team for almost 3 years I always see the team work very hard during the rehearsal hours from after school at 4:15pm until 8:00pm, Mondays to Fridays! We work on the script

and do warm ups so we can be prepared either to act or do tech. We don't just consider ourselves a team, but we all consider each other as family. We go through everything together and no one gets left behind."

The theater production team hosted a show on March 23, 2015 for the public to view. They presented a Theatrical Play from the author Michael Cristofer called "The Shadow Box." Many students and teachers came out and supported them. Now, they are continuing to practice as they compete in the UIL Competitions. Please show support for the team If you see them.

The Cast

Joe- Charles Forest

Maggie- Bria Davis

Steve- Javier Suarez

Felicity- Jeevandeep Kaur

Agnes- Dejanee Cherry

Mark- Kendale Martin

Beverly- Kimberly Hippo

Brian-Ibad Rehman

Interviewer 1- Claudia Grant

Interviewer 2 – Larry Greer

The Crew

Lead &amp; Sound Tech- Michelle Belmarez

Assistant &amp; Light Tech- Marcelin Kam-

doun

Stage Manager- Marian Igbozurike

Assistant Stage Manager- Yaneth Martinez

## Safe, fun April Fool's pranks to try at home

Dejane Cherry  
News Writer

April Fools is no longer a holiday. April Fools, geez are you gullible!

This year April Fools will fall on a school day, Wednesday April 1st, so be expecting some people to pull pranks in school.

Some will be from your teachers, fellow classmates, or maybe even your very best friend. April Fools is a day to pull pranks, but sometimes pranks do go too far and hurt or offend people's feelings.

Luckily for those being pranked during the school day, most jokes will probably be "Rated G."

Some teachers may find that more of their students had their homework eaten by their dog that day, or maybe students apparently "transferring" to other schools.

There are some pranks that people have shared that you should keep your eye out for if you see them this April Fools.

"I would use the 'you have something on your shirt' prank, the 'I miss you prank', and the 'I love you' prank," Senior Lupe Rodriguez said.

Some more from your fellow classmates "I would zap my friend" said Junior Karim Sabar.

"I would go up to a girl and tell her that the boy behind me likes her," Freshman Dominique H said.

Some pranks that people could use on Aprils Fools include:

The classic air horn as door/wall protector trick- you tape an air horn behind a door, so when the door opens wide it will hit the button of the air horn and make a "THUNDEROUS" sound. That would be great, but the consequences not so much.

The old toothpaste-in-the-Oreos prank gets them every time! Just give a friend an Oreo, but instead of that lovely crème fill it with minty toothpaste. That will be sure to create a memorable moment.

Regardless whether you do the pranking or get pranked, we all should remember that it is in good fun and we are still going to be in school; so keep it rated G! Happy Pranking.

## Summer job opportunities

Fernando Campos  
News Writer

Summer is just around the corner and if you're still thinking about what to do, check out these jobs opportunities:

Company: Dave & Buster's  
Job Title: Dishwasher  
Job Type: Full-time, Part-time  
Hours: Not Specified  
Location: 6010 Richmond Ave Houston, TX 77057



Company: Kroger  
Job Title: Overnight Grocery Clerk  
Job Type: Full-time, Part-time  
Hours: Not Specified  
Location: 1801 S Voss Rd Houston, TX 77057



Company: Pizza Hut  
Job Title: Team Member  
Job Type: Full-time, Part-time  
Hours: Varies  
Pay Type: Hourly  
Wages: Competitive  
Location: 6415 San Felipe, SteM-1 Houston, TX 77057



Company: Raising Cane's  
Job Title: Crew Member  
Job Type: Full-time, Part-time  
Hours: Not Specified  
Pay Type: Hourly  
Wages: Competitive  
Location: 6015 Hwy 6 N Houston, TX 77084



Company: Dunkin' Donuts  
Job Title: Donut Finishing / Night Shift  
Job Type: Part-time  
Hours: Not Specified  
Location: 5406 Bellaire Blvd Bellaire, TX 77401



## Birthdays to be celebrated

Ashley Perez  
News Writer

Birthdays March 20 to April 20

The symbol for Aries is that of a ram for a good reason. Aries is full of life and possesses high energy, which makes this sign always looking for a challenge. The typical Aries person is full of vitality, curiosity, and has a lightened sense of justice.

Birthdays April 21 to May 21

Taurus's symbol is the bull because the sign's characteristics are to be peaceful and methodical. The sign is often very deliberate in their actions, relaxed, and enjoys all of the sensual pleasures that abound in this dimension.

Luis Garrido  
April 16



Karen Hernandez  
April 13



Elda Guzman  
May 6



Rudi Garcia  
May 17



Natalya Nunez  
April 3



Emmanuel Ekuruke  
April 6



Naomy Santoga  
May 5



Manlio Penado  
May 17



Paola Rodriguez  
May 19



Mark Perez  
April 29



Anthony Diaz  
April 8



Sheila Benitez  
May 15



Sandra Sotelo  
May 10



Ricardo Servin  
May 20



Angelique Ojeda  
March 12



## April Fool's origin remains mystery

Bryan Eriza  
News Writer

In 1708 a correspondent wrote to the British Apollo magazine asking, "Whence proceeds the custom of making April Fools?" This is a question many people still ask today.

April Fools reference did not start popping out much until the 18th century. Around this time, it was already regarded as a custom in northern Europe. People wondered how the tradition was adopted by so many people without being recorded. April Fool's references can be traced

back to the early 1500s. However, most of these references were a bit shaky and unreliable. Shakespeare, writing in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, made no mention of April Fool's Day, despite being a writer who "delights in fools in general."

There are many traditions as to how the tradition was started but unfortunately none of them are very proven. So the actual origin of April Fool's still remains a mystery, as it always has been.

# Build that summer body by getting healthy

Bryan Herrera  
News Writer

Now that Prom and summer are nearby, it's time to get in shape to show off that beautiful prom dress or that attractive tuxedo and of course that summer body.

The most effective way to get in shape is to stay physically active. Working out at least 30 minutes every day is very beneficial and it will have its effects.

Not only that, but eating habits have a lot to do with staying fit. Remember, you are what you eat.

"Since prom is right around the corner, I have been trying to stay in shape by working out, lifting and eating healthy," senior Alicia Reynoso said. "I go to the park and run 3 to 5 miles daily."

Reynoso is very dedicated with her daily workouts, she is willing to go beyond and above.

"One thing that I always motivate myself to do is to begin to think about the times I've had unhealthy foods and it keeps me working harder every single day, determination is my main focus," Reynoso said. "I encourage others to always think about the things that motivate them to keep going. No pain no game."

Many students have the same goals as each

other but the goal for the seniors is to get that body and dress perfect for prom.

"There are only a few weeks left before prom, therefore, I have been going to the gym almost every day for three hours or more, I have eliminated unhealthy food from my daily menu, and I try to drink more water," senior, Ixchel Perez, said. "My goal is to have my dream body before I buy my prom dress."

Just like Reynoso, Perez is also another committed senior who is determined to work really hard to accomplish their dreams before prom and summer.

"There is a quote that always motivates me to keep working harder when I am tempted to give up, 'If you want to succeed as bad as you want to breath, then you will be successful' this quote has played a big role in my life," Perez, said. "Find something that is very meaningful to you, something that will encourage you to overcome your strongholds. I believe that there are no enemies, you are your own enemy."

Advice from teachers can be wise, helpful and kind of overwhelming, but the idea that they are helping is the thought that counts.

"For summer, if they are planning going

to college to make sure to take the SAT and ACT and to work really hard on that, fill out as many applications to different schools," Health Teacher Jacque Tinsley said.

Although if planning to go to college is not your thing, you can also plan to go to the military or do as many different things with your future.

"If they're not on planning to go to college or if they are planning to go the military to visit recruiters to see what they have to offer. Then try to see what kind of job placement, also you can go to the Texas Work Force Commission and see what kind of jobs are available for those students who don't plan to attend college," Tinsley said.

Students won't be the only ones attending prom this year but as well as some of the faculty and staff at Lee High School will be attending.

"Well, I didn't know I was invited, but I may or may not go, it sounds like it'll be really fun and really nice, am I invited? If I do get invited I would love to go."

Even though prom and summer are right around the corner, still means you got some time to get that perfect dress, tuxedo, or even

that body.

"To not panic, you still have time you know getting ready for prom is just a matter of defining then date and getting your dress or tuxedo but if they're not ready just keep asking, for the guy to get don't get your nervous build up to ask a young lady to got to prom," Tinsley said.

Looking for that prom dress and tuxedo isn't the only problem some seniors have to get ready for their big day but also is finding the money to get the accessories to fit your outfit.

"Consult with your family members about the money they need for the prom. Start asking family members they support them on that," Tinsley said.

Asking someone you like to prom can be difficult and nerve wrecking, but asking a friend who you enjoy to have around is a lot more calming.

"For the girls if they don't have a prom date they might want to consider one of their best friends that are a guy, somebody who they like being around or hanging around with is the best advice I can give for prom," Tinsley said.

## Light recipes to enhance healthy eating

Jackie Correa  
News Writer

Spring is here and summer is right around the corner and it's time to start eating yummy foods.

These recipes will hopefully help you enjoy green foods. Remember always eat your green's even if they taste nasty.

You might have seen some girls carrying around something like this drink is called "detox water" because it helps flush out all the bad things in your system and it also tastes pretty great. While dieting, this drink is healthy with a burst of flavor. There are many combinations to detox water but here are the best one's you should try out for this spring to try and get in shape. (Note: Just drinking this will not make you lose weight, you have to also exercise!)

- Lemon & orange
- Cucumber & lemon with a few leafs of mint
- Blueberry with strawberry and some raspberries.

There are many other types of combinations, but because you don't know if you will like the flavor, start out with the Lemon and Orange combination.

The only item's that are required for Detox water are a bottle and lots of fruit.

These bottles can be bought online or at almost any store you go to. The reason why these bottles are the most used is because it's easier to put the fruit inside without having to make it a huge mess.

You chop your fruit (You can leave the skin on for oranges and Cucumbers!) and place it into the bottle, add ¾ of water into the bottle and leave it in the refrigerator for 1-2 hours. Sometimes the fruit may go bad so try to switch it out every time you are finished with it.

Now it's time for foods that you can try

out with your family, they may be a bit tricky, but they are still worth it because they are delicious!

"Omurice is a popular contemporary Japanese fusion creation blending Western omelette and Japanese fried rice." Says Nami from Just one cookbook. It's a very yummy recipe to eat and easy to make as well.

Ingredients:

- ½ medium onion
- 1 chicken thigh, rinsed and pat dry
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- ½ cup frozen mixed vegetables, defrosted
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1½ cups cooked Japanese rice
- 1 Tbsp. ketchup and more for decoration
- 1 tsp. soy sauce
- For 1 omelette
- 1 large egg
- 1 Tbsp. milk
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 3 Tbsp. sharp cheddar cheese (or any kind)

If you wish to learn how to cook this go to <http://www.justonecookbook.com/recipes/omurice-japanese-omelette-rice/> and continue on with everything! Good luck!

Last but not least is some Salmon! Salmon is good to eat with a small portion of white rice and lemon to give it a nice burst of flavor.

The ingredients for this recipe are; 4 (5-ounce) center-cut salmon fillets (about 1-inch-thick), skin on or off

2 tablespoons olive oil

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper. To continue with the recipe go to <http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchens/pan-fried-salmon-recipe2.html>



## 5 ways to build healthy habits

Noor Al Yacoub  
News Writer

Do you always want to feel fit? Girls, summer is coming up and you want to feel confident about wearing shorts, shirts, and bikinis? Of course, you do! Every one of us wishes to have this perfect body. It doesn't take you forever to lose weight, you just have to feel confident, believe in yourself, and be faithful that you will get the body you always wished you had in one or two months.

To lose weight in four weeks and feel more motivated:

1) You have to set goals: Remember, dramatic weight loss is risky and often ineffective; the faster you lose weight, the easier you can gain it back. Only real lifestyle changes can give you effective results. "Fad diets", such as diet pills or liquid cleanses may help you lose water weight, but most work by essentially starving you. The body adapts to this sudden lack of food by slowing down metabolism so much that, once you start eating again, it still processes food slowly and stores most of the food you eat, resulting in immediate weight gain.

2) Take your measurements: Taking measurements is the most effective way to track your progress because weight can fluctuate dramatically and doesn't tell you where exactly you are shedding inches. Take measurements around your shoulders, bust, waist, hips, and thighs and measure them about once each week.

3) Cut out unhealthy foods: It's fine to indulge once in a while, but to lose a significant amount of weight in a month you need to eliminate unhealthy items from

your day-to-day diet. Here are some common culprits to avoid: Soda pop, Chips, Candy, White pasta, rice, and bread, Foods high in processed sugar, cane sugar, or high fructose corn syrup, Energy drinks and sugary/creamy coffees.

4) If you want to lose weight, you have to exercise. It's the best way to burn the fat already on your body. Exercise doesn't have to be painful and mundane, and can be approached in any number of ways. You have to make time for exercise. Get creative! Go for a walk before work, or maybe go to the gym right after work. Bike to work, and even start scheduling more physical activities over the weekend. Instead of going to the movies with a friend, go hiking; the views can be incredible and the strain is much less distracting if you have company. Make exercise dates with others. If you make a commitment to someone else, you're much less likely to break it.

5) Drink water! Not only can water keep you feeling full, it can help clean out your system and is by far the healthiest way to hydrate. Carry around a water bottle. You may see that with the reminder of a full water bottle, you'll find yourself drinking much more water simply because it is there. There are ways to jazz up your water without adding lots of calories. Try adding citrus slices (lemon, lime, orange), 0-calorie drink mixes like Crystal Light, making decaf or herbal teas, or adding things like chia seeds, which expand in water and have a fun jelly texture.

So what are you waiting for? Get out there and get healthy!



# Generals...always!

*A column written by Lee High School's proud alumni who want to share their experiences and advice with all of you!*

Melanie Hauser  
Vice President

It was a tradition like no other. And it never failed to shock you. In fact, the first time you were walking down the hall to class and saw someone with a jagged scar down one side of his or her face, or a horrible bruise, it scared the heck out of you. Welcome to an old R.E. Lee tradition – Scar Day.

It was gory. It was sometimes gnarly. And those true-to-life scars? Always ripping-the-stitches-and-dripping-with-blood perfect.

Artist and iconic Generals art teacher Henri Gadbois lived for scar day. So did his students. It was their gotcha moment for the year – even if it was at Halloween and not April Fools Day.

“It was a fun thing to do,” he said. “We wouldn’t do art projects that day, we would do scars.”

“I remember, too, they started asking me to write ‘It’s Scar Day, don’t be afraid’ on the board in the office so the teachers would know and wouldn’t get scared.”

One by one, Gadbois would call his students up that day and start the process. Sometimes he created something on the face, other times, a hand or an arm. He loved it.

“He took such pride and joy in creating something tailored for each person,” said Sooze Johnson, Class of 1973. “He really worked hard to make it perfect for you.”

Gadbois, who taught at Lee from 1962-1989 and was also the Key Club sponsor, was like a master holding court. He didn’t do 100s of scars, rather he kept it just to his art students.

And, yes, they were works of art. Gadbois, a native Houstonian, started exhibiting art in 1947 and is still working today. He concentrates on painting and decorative

faux foods – [www.realfauxfoods.com](http://www.realfauxfoods.com) -- and his work has been featured in newspaper and magazine stories and in the Museum of Fine Art. And he was inducted into alumni Hall of Honor in 2012.

But back to Scar Day.

Think stitches breaking across a forehead and blood dripping down. Think horror movies and all those folks that make gnarly slashes and bruises look real.

The first time you saw his scar art you did a double-take. After that, it was fun when the day came to search faces and arms as you walked down the halls.

“When I was a sophomore, I was walking down the hall and saw older kids horribly messed up - scars, bandages,” said Alex Johnson, Class of 1974. “I honestly thought they’d been hurt, but I knew it was unlikely. I was so confused. I wanted to ask, but thought better of it.”

The irony is, as popular as that day was, as iconic as it became, there are no pictures in the Saber or The Traveler to record it.

Today, Scar Day would be all over social media. But there is no record of Gadbois’ work – and the grins on his students’ faces – in the Traveler or the Saber yearbook.

It started before The Texas Chain Saw Massacre (1974) ushered in that movie genre. It was decades before I-phones and digital cameras.

Surely, some of Gadbois’ kids have a photo or two tucked away in shoeboxes in closets. But for those of us who loved that day – the images are still there. They’re just tucked away in our minds.



## Spring events to attend

Nisa Adnani  
News Writer

There were many events during the week we had off.

The Spinnaker Beach Club hosted an event March 11th and 12th on Panama City Beach. Spinnaker has something for everyone. No matter what your Spring Break getaway’s plans are, The Spinnaker Beach Club is sure to have it. If you missed out on some Spring Break Events this year make sure to get informed for next time. There were many interesting things happening this Spring Break, many people went on vacations for a week, many stayed home and enjoyed time with family and friends.

The Houston Zoo had many events going on this spring break; they have teamed up with Texas Medical Center to provide 3,000 additional spaces for guests along with a free weekday shuttle to the west (Medical Center)

entrance of the zoo. This happened from March 7th to March the 22nd, Parking was limited in Herman Park and motor vehicle access to the park was restricted during Spring Break. Many wonderful events happened during this week that we had off. Don’t miss out on new events coming up next Spring Break! Many interesting things happened this year; the same thing might happen next year if you’re lucky.

Hopefully you didn’t miss out on Spring Break this year! Hopefully you went out and had fun, explored, took a small vacation with the family, were creative, took a risk, and did not just sit home every day. If you didn’t get a chance to Spring Break appropriately, no worries, you can always set some time aside this coming weekend to at least kick back, relax, and make some memories.

## Visit the College Center

Cindy Wakiyama  
Co Editor-in-Chief

Many of us as we go through high school imagine the possibility of going to college. We study hard (or hard enough), participate in different activities and volunteer in community service events.

One thing that many of us don’t do until our senior year is go to the College Center.

I frequented the College Center before my senior year only because as part of the top 10 percent, I was occasionally invited for different presentations.

I had the chance to work with Strive for College and UT Outreach, for example.

Not everyone is in the top 10, but they still want to go to college. By going to Mrs. Smith-Davis’ room, you can read books about the SAT, the ACT and other topics relating to college and the college application process.

Something that many students don’t know is that you don’t need to be a senior to apply for scholarships. I honestly wish I had applied for scholarships earlier. During your senior year, you will have very little free time.

Take my advice and visit Mrs. Smith-Davis. Take control of your future.

## Internships bring positive experience to Lee students

Ixchel Perez  
News Writer

It is very important to get involved in different organizations and clubs at school. When students do that, it shows leadership and power of determination to succeed in life.

But, there is something more important, many times students forget that their leadership skills should be used outside of school as well.

Internships are a great form of showing leadership skills outside of school. Being part of an internship will open many doors in the future, especially if the student interns at a place that relates to their dream career.

Seniors should be part of as many organizations as possible because those are the things that colleges and scholarships look at.

The judges who decide who will earn a scholarship or who will be accepted into a college, care about not only the things that students did at school but

also the ones outside of school.

Internships are like jobs, many internships pay their interns, while other do not.

It also depends where the students are interning.

The point is that, whether the students are being paid or not, it should not matter because the students will be part of an environment where they will interact with professional people who have already experienced the college life.

If someone wants to be successful, they must hang around successful people, it will only encourage them to accomplish their dreams.

Internships offer this inspiration. It also introduces students to very important people who will play a big role in their lives in the future.

What could possibly be better than to start practicing your career at a young age?

## Spooky Fictional Stories by Sabrina

*Creatively written fictional stories to thrill and terrify*

Sabrina Miller  
News Writer

April fool’s day wasn’t always a joke. In young Zinka’s village the first of April was the day one ten year old girl vanished. This year she would turn ten, but not on any day. She was born April first. She is known as the cursed child.

According to the villagers’ folklore, those who are born of the devil; the greatest fool of all, are born on April first. Since they are only children, the villagers allow them until the age of ten to live with their mothers before they are cast off out of the village.

Young Zinka has been trained to survive on her own by her mother. Ever since she was born, her and her mother have been outcasts in the village. Today is the day of the ritual; also known as her birthday.

Her mother takes her to the river of blood; blood of the angels the fool has sent to their doom. A little black boat with fresh water, bread, fruit, and clothes awaited her. Zinka lay down on her back as the ritual demanded. Her mother pushed her boat away while citing the ritual. The current began to swirl and her mother was swallowed up by the water. Unable to move the boat floated far, far away.

She awoke in a white pure place that resembled a chapel. She had a memory of this place from a previous time, but it was very faint. What was her name she wondered? A boy approached her holding out his hand. Whatever she had been laid upon vanished, because she started to fall. The boy grew white wings and flew toward her. No matter what he never seemed to get closer. Zinka is the last word he said before vanishing.

(This story is completely fictional.)

# Cheerleaders show spirit

Rosaria Casia  
News Writer

Cheerleaders represent and bring spirit to the school; they cheer their heart out when they go to the games and pump up the crowd. The girls have a lot of dedication to cheerleading and they work on stunts and cheers everyday in order to be ready to cheer at the games.

"I have high expectations that my girls put academics first and their athletics second; always trying their best no matter what," Coach Thornhill said.

Thornhill always tells the cheerleaders to keep on going if you mess up in a cheer and the most important thing is to smile to the crowd.

Thornhill is an excellent coach mostly because she was a cheerleader in high school herself.

"I was all about school spirit. I loved cheering to the crowd and I loved the attention I received," Coach Thornhill said.

She loves being a cheerleading coach even though it is a lot of responsibility; she also makes sure she is being a good leader and good example to look up to.

Not only does the coach have responsibilities but the captain does too.

"As a captain you have to make sure your teammates are doing well in school and during cheer" Captain Brenda Ndukong said. "It can be difficult when you are captain because you have to think of the good of the team and communicate things to your

friends that they sometimes might not want to hear. Either way, we have fun or a good leader does what's best for the team."

Ndukong has a lot of dedication and great spirit. She joined cheerleading because she wanted to try something different; it was going to help her character, make her a fun person, and even give her the opportunity to wear a cute uniform.

Everyone on the team has goals on what they want to improve.

"I want to improve my dancing skills and be more comfortable in my skin. That's what we as cheerleaders have to do for ourselves," Ndukong said.

The cheerleaders have many amazing memories that they have created and their best memory of all is of them spending a full day in Austin, TX cheering and supporting the varsity soccer team.

"I had a lot of fun hanging out with the cheerleaders, I wish I can go back to that day," Ndukong said.

The Lee High School cheerleaders are full of positivity and love cheering their heart out. They hope that they can go to competition next year as it will be an awesome experience to go and represent Lee High School.

Shout out to the new girls that made it on the cheerleading team. Congratulations Isabel, Ashley, and Celia; hard work pays off.



PHOTO OF UIL ONE ACT PLAY TEAM TAKEN BY GUSTAVO MACOCO



Students help students in the Super Buddies Club



MS. DIAZ WON NEW TEACHER OF THE YEAR

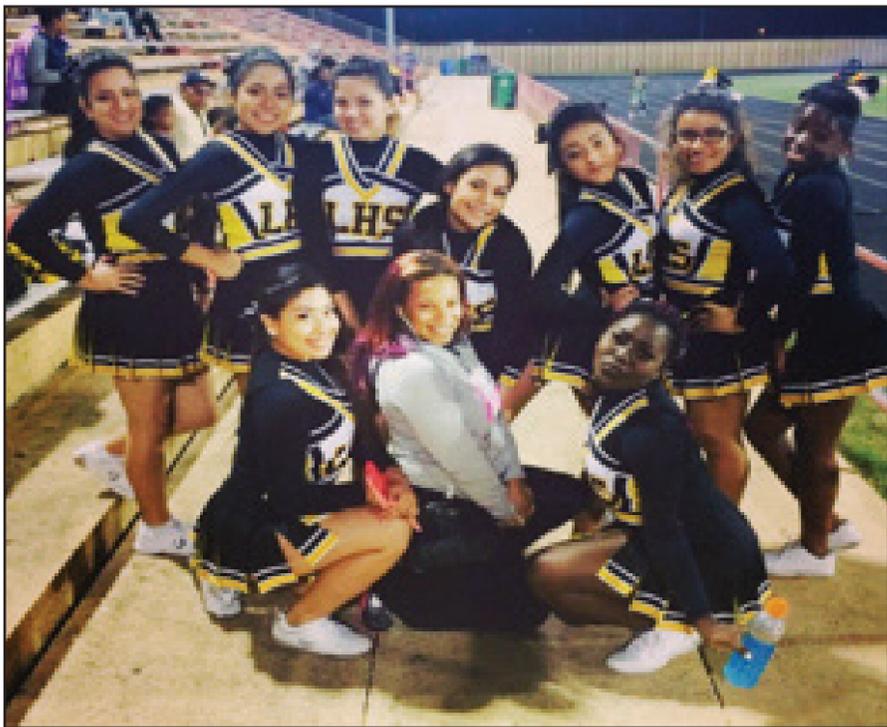


PHOTO TAKEN BY ROSARIA CASIA



ROTC LEADERSHIP TOOK FIELDTRIP, PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MAJOR CORONA

## Spring dance show to be announced

Kymyatta Gabriel  
News Writer

Although the day for the spring talent show is still up in the air, students are now preparing for it.

"There's going to be three shows, two during the day and one during the night," Co-Captain Kendale Martin said. "And we will be doing seven to nine dances."

The dance classes have performed so well in the past years that students are not anxious for this year's show.

"I'm so excited to see what the dancers perform," junior Dejanee Cherry said. "I love watching them because they bring so many new dances that I don't know out onto the floor and I like to see them

do it."

While students just watch the end performance, there is a lot that goes into making it.

"To get prepared for the show, we practice 8th period, and some days, we go to the gym to practice formations," Martin said.

The students still have plenty of time to prepare for the show due to the fact that the date, although completely unsure, is thought to be in late April.

So, make sure to watch out for news of when the show will be and come out and support and cheer on our Lee Guard Dance team!

## Lee HS students and teachers show enthusiasm for baseball

Ronnie Mason

News Writer

Many of you may or may not know that there was going to be a baseball team at Lee High School. That's right a baseball team! Another sports team at school, now that's something to be excited about. Lee sometimes faces difficulties and getting a baseball team was one of those difficulties. Unfortunately, Lee wasn't able to acquire a baseball team.

Coach Tinsley was planning on organizing the Lee team to play with the Sharpstown High School team, of which he is already a coach.

"I played baseball when I was at Lamar High School and also while in college at Southern University," said Coach Tinsley. "I wanted to spread my love of the sport to the students."

According to Tinsley, the UIL Athletics rules do not allow students from one high school in HISD to combine with another high school. That mixed with some other problems is why Lee was not able to establish a team.

"Mr. Trihn told me that there were monetary issues; there were no funds available for a baseball or softball team," said Tinsley. "Most may not know this, but in order to have a baseball team you need to have a softball team as well."

Despite not having a team this year, Tinsley is still optimistic about coaching and possibly having a team at Lee in the future.

"I'd love to coach at Lee," said Coach Tinsley. "I think there are a lot of kids here who

would love to play baseball and I also think it would be beneficial to the school. It would give the students here a positive outlook as well."

For now, the Lee community can still show their spirit and enthusiasm for the sport by supporting Coach Tinsley with the Sharpstown team.

"I coach at Sharpstown and our first game was March 10th," said Tinsley. "I'm excited about the team this year, I think they have the opportunity to win district."

Coach Tinsley speaks on the boys playing their roles during the game.

"Of course everyone has to play their own positions, be in tune with the game," said Tinsley. "All of it starts in practice. Once you're prepared for it, then you'll be ready for whatever is thrown at you."

Although Tinsley may seem like a nice teacher in the classroom, when it comes to coaching, he's very hard on his athletes.

"I'm very hard on the boys that I coach," said Coach Tinsley. "I just want to teach them about being responsible and working hard, because what they learn here they are going to have to use it in the real world."

A baseball coach loves baseball in every way, so who does Coach Tinsley root for in Major League Baseball?

"My favorite baseball team would be The St. Louis Cardinals," said Tinsley.