



Robert E. Lee High School, Houston, Texas, 77057

Lee senior shares hardships

Ixchel Perez
News Writer



Photo Taken by Raenelle Hernandez

No one knows what it’s like to go home to an empty refrigerator unless you have experienced it. No one knows what is like to go home and receive a note that says, “you only have three days left to pack your stuff and get out,” unless you, too, have been evicted from what you once called home.

Senior Maria Ramirez has had many reasons to give up on life and drop out from school. She had many opportunities to get lost in drugs and hang out with the wrong crowd, but she did not do so because she will not allow the struggles of life put her down.

“I went through many things growing up,” Ramirez said. “I have been through depression, and had a bad problem of self-hate.”

Five years ago Ramirez said she met someone called God. God taught her not only how to love and respect herself but also the ones around her.

“When I met God, I was in a messy place in life,” Ramirez said. “I was mean, and didn’t give people a chance. But God made me a much more joyful person, and showed me that I was beautiful.”

Before she met God, Ramirez was a very emotional person who practiced self-harm. She hated her life as much as she hated the ones around her.

“I would cut myself every day for 3 years straight,” Ramirez said. “I begged my mom to get me a therapist but she never got around to it.”

Self-harm was the drug that she used for

three years, Ramirez had an addiction. It helped her get away from her problems and struggles.

“I loved it! I thought it was the answer to my problems,” Ramirez said. “But all it really did was leave me with scars.”

Ramirez has been clean for three years now, she said that meeting God was the best thing that could have happen to her as a teenager.

“I am a completely changed person,” Ramirez said. “God has made me new, and shown me that I can overcome anything with his help and love.”

As years passed by Ramirez has not only made a difference in her own life but has impacted her family’s lives. She is a young leader for the YoungLife club and she is also the head leader for the youth cell at her church.

“Being a leader isn’t easy,” Ramirez said. “But it has been so worth it! I love being able to see God use me as his instrument for his kingdom and share the testimony of my life to help others.”

A year ago, Ramirez’s family was going through a harsh economic situation and they could not pay for the rent. Eventually they were evicted from their apartment. Ramirez

and her family moved in with her mother’s friend.

“At first I was really upset and I was confused,” Ramirez said. “Over time God has shown me what it’s like to be content in all situations, and this situation has humbled me completely.”

Her family is still working hard to get their own place. Ramirez is also getting help from the school, every Friday she gets a bag of groceries from a program at school called CIS.

“It’s a rough time financially,” Ramirez said. “But I know with the help from the school with the grocery’s, and encouragement of my peers around me, I can get through it.”

CIS has helped Ramirez and her family since the school year started.

“God has not left me yet,” Ramirez said. “He hasn’t left me before, and I know he won’t leave me now. This is only a small block in the road to something amazing he has planned for me.”

Today Ramirez stands in the top 25 percent of her class and she will not allow a temporary storm to put her down instead she uses her life testimony to help others and encourage her peers that are also facing the same situation.

Student survives four years of camp life

Noor Al Yacoub
News Writer

“Don’t give up on the middle of the road, but continue to the end for a new beginning!” Daddy always said.

It was a life, but what kind of life? Those years we spent living in a dark tent. I was thirteen years old without school, friends, or healthcare. I was wondering how awful my childhood was, or what will my siblings be in the future? How will they support their families without a career or some money? What college will my eighteen-year-old brother go to? Or how will my sister get an education? My grandmother was an old women that had osteoporosis. She wasn’t able to walk or move easily from one place to another. She couldn’t handle the ghastly camp life that made her feel weak day after day. She had no Medicare and we didn’t have enough money to pay for her to get medical attention. My mother was worried the most about me because I’m the youngest in family. She was afraid that one of us would get sick or hungry, or that the exhausting life-style would destroy my tough father.

We lived in a horrible camp that was located near the border of Iraq and Syria. It was a dangerous place without any protection from the government or the law. It was a camp for Palestinian refugees who have nowhere else to go because of the war that was happening in Iraq. There was no electricity, and the camp looked scary and dark at night and very terrible in the morning because of the bad weather. Whether it was winter or summer, all we heard were dogs and wolves howling that we sometimes

couldn’t sleep because of the creepy sounds.

How long would we have to live in those grossly tents? I always questioned myself. Should we be patient like my father always told us to? Or would it be the end of life in this disagreeable camp?

Three years of suffering passed, despicably. I lost three years of my life without learning or going to school. I used to cry everyday that I needed to go to school. I wished to have a beautiful life. I asked myself, why am I different from other kids? Why are they very healthy, happy, and enjoying life in a safe home, while my life is boring without fun or friends? I was that depressed little girl who had many questions without any responses. I wondered why my family and I didn’t have the same rights as others, like a house to protect us, or a peaceful life with pillows to put our heads on at night without any fear? Aren’t we human like everybody else?

Camp life was extremely difficult. In fact, we didn’t have any electricity to use. Just imagine a life without technology. It shows you how hard life can be. Sometimes, we didn’t have enough food for lunch or dinner. My parents spent days without eating, not even a small piece of musty bread. There was no fresh water, however, it was water that mixed with soils, which made our stomachs and bodies hurt most of the time. Restrooms were located out of the tents and we sometimes had to wait in line for thirty minutes. In the summer, life got very impossible. The sun was very hot; it

melted our bodies. There wasn’t enough water for taking a shower, or air-conditioning, or even a small fan to stop our sweating. During winter season, the weather gets rainy for a week without stopping that flooded our tents and all of our clothes got wet. Also, it used to snow for so many days and the weight made our tents fall down. In the winter, there was nothing to cover our bodies with. I remember my mother used to hug me very tightly so I wouldn’t feel the freezing air go through my body. My grandmother felt the pain because of her sickness. She screamed out loud, but sadly there wasn’t any hand to help. The three years passed with all the pain and life got my family and me down to our knees, it made us so weak.

Disappointedly, camp life was getting worse. However, we never knew there was only one year left for us in this miserable life. It was winter, a huge, evil storm hit the camp. It was 1 am midnight, darkness was all over the place. My siblings and I were sleeping next to each other. Suddenly, we woke up in shock, it was the loudest noise I’ve ever heard. A big dust storm hit our camp. “Daddy!” I screamed. My dad came over, carried me in his hands, and screamed at my brother, while I was crying, “Take grandma and run son!” He said to my big brother. We went outside the tent. The weather was so stormy that nobody was able to stand without falling. It was hard to walk. Everybody was screaming, children were fearing the storm. The dust was all in the air. It made everybody cough and my grand-

mother was breathless. My grandma’s life was in danger. We started to walk slowly, trying to find a place to protect ourselves. My dad put his right hand in mine, scared I would get lost. “I can see light!” My mom said. A traveling man was about to pass through, going to Syria. He got my grandma in his car and took her to the nearest pharmacy and finally her life was saved.

Months passed and it was July. We heard that the United States would take a large number of Palestinian refugees and send them to the US as migrants. My family and I felt very pleased to hear this good news. It was the afternoon of August 16, when I saw my father’s face for the first time lighten up. “We’ll leave the camp.” Daddy said, happily. The United States accepted us to be in the country in three days from now. We started singing and jumping around and finally the four years of suffering came to an end.

Life camp was tough, however, it taught us how to be patient no matter how hard life gets because at the end of pain there is success. Camp life was a good lesson because it made me stronger today. It built up my brave character and taught me to fight for my dreams. As my grandmother always said, “Never give up on your goals or dreams, even if it takes you a long time to achieve them. Be sure you will reach this goal one day because giving up destroys your life, however, hope and patience make your dreams become reality.”



NEWS

Lee hires six new teachers to accom- modate the bigger ESL population

Guadalupe Rodriguez
Layout Editor & News Writer

Seven teachers were hired in mid-October in order to alleviate the high population of students in classrooms. This year, Lee High School had an influx of over 300 new freshmen at the beginning of the year. Most of those freshmen were straight from other countries and knew little to no English. Three freshmen classes were added to alleviate the high amount of students, including an English teacher, a World Geography teacher, and a CATE teacher.

“We needed many more teachers this year because of the high enrollment that was coming in,” Dean of Studies Alicia Puente said. “The students were coming in to enroll and, for many of them, their first language is not English. So we needed a lot of ESL teachers.”

Ms. Carswell took Mr. Hans’s place as the new English teacher for freshmen.

“My new English teacher is very helpful,”

Freshman Zohaib Malik said. “She helps me manage my grades.”

The new World Geography ESL teacher is Mr. Ball. Students said they enjoy going to his class.

“Mr. Ball is teaching us about Latin America,” Sophomore Suemy Martinez said. “He shows a lot of pictures so it is really fun to be in his class.”

With the new Linked Learning program this year, there is a need for more CATE and electives teachers to teach the specialty courses. Ms. Taylor is the new CATE teacher.

“Ms. Taylor is very energetic,” Sophomore Juliette Acevedo said. “She is always in a good mood and attentive to her class.”

Besides ESL and the freshmen teachers, other classes were overcrowded as well. So Principal Jonathan Trinh hired another art teacher, Ms. Mattox, and aquatic science

teacher, Ms. Greene, to help the overpopulation in both classes.

“Ms. Mattox’s class is really fun and peaceful,” Sophomore Yesly Espinal said. “There are about 20 students in her class. We are making water color leaves, which represents the fall.”

The new teachers have brought a more individualized education for the students.

“Being in the new classroom with Ms. Greene, we actually get assignments done,” Senior Elizabeth Aguilar said. “There aren’t many distractions going on. People actually pay attention and focus on whatever the teacher is saying, unlike a crowded classroom where we barely get anything done.”

In addition, a new Spanish teacher, Ms. Pernalete, was hired after Mr. Villareal left in early September.

“She makes learning Spanish fun by playing games,” Junior Dejanee Cherry said. “It’s nice to finally have a real teacher instead of a substitute in class.”

Mr. Cho, a geometry teacher, is the most recently hired, just last week.

“I’m excited to have Mr. Cho as a geometry teacher this year,” Sophomore Oscar Renteria said.

Currently two more teachers are still needed in order to balance the ESL classrooms.

“We are still trying to hire one ESL ELA teacher and we’re trying to hire a math ESL teacher,” Puente said. “We still need more ESL teachers. So, we’re trying to hire those to balance out the classrooms.”

The new teachers include Ms. Greene, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Ball, Mr. Cho, Ms. Pernalete, and Ms. Mattox, and Ms. Carswell.



Photo Taken by Jennifer Coyoy



Photo Taken by Oscar Renteria



Photo Taken by Paloma Mendez



Photo Taken by Paloma Mendez

As of November, Lee High School has seven new teachers since the beginning of the year. Ms. Taylor (left) is the new CATE teacher, Mr. Cho (middle left) is the new geometry teacher, Ms. Mattox (middle right) is the new art teacher, and Mr. Ball (right) is the new world geography teacher. Other new teachers include Ms. Pernalete, Spanish, Ms. Greene, aquatic science, and Ms. Carswell, English.

Linked Learning spotlights star students

Melissa Garcia
Editor-In-Chief

This year, Lee High School was chosen to be one of the few HISD schools to participate in a program called Linked Learning. This new program provides students with hands on opportunities to prepare them with their future careers.

Computer and Technology teacher Jettie Greene is the lead teacher for Linked Learning. She says the program is a great opportunity for students to gain experience that will benefit them in their future careers.

“We are going to do a lot of project based learning. Studies show that projects enhance learning because students get a chance to actually learn and then do it,” Greene said.

The fact that linked learning has a lot of hands on activities benefits students greatly, according to the district.

Aside from experience in future careers, Greene said linked learning, “Links them to getting a job and getting internships and the information they need to go to college.”

Every month there are students that become the Linked Learning students of the month. This month it was Freshmen Lexie Tran and Yzhbl A David.

“I think this program is a wonderful idea because it helps students with the real world and

that’s very helpful. It prepares them for responsibility,” Tran said. “It also helps because it links each class to what your career track is.”

Linked learning also brings students together and allows them to grow closer to their teachers, which results in a more personalized education.

“Teachers familiarize themselves with students and know what each student is good at,” Tran said.

Freshman Yzhbl David agreed.

“They work really hard to help us understand everything and they help us catch up; even when you’re gone for some reason and when you’re struggling with a class they always give you advice on how to improve,” David said.

David said she also believed that it is a privilege to have Linked Learning at Lee High School.

“I am in the welding department and right now we are helping to plan the new bridge that our new school building will have,” David said. “When I leave it will be like our legacy. I think it is more like an honor to be in the program because only a few students were selected out of a thousand so I think we should all take advantage of the great opportunity we are given.”



Photo Taken by Yesly Espinal

NEWS

Woodshop prepares students for real world

Cristian Moralez & David Cruz
News Writers

Mill and cabinetmaking, also known as woodshop, is a program at Lee High School designed to prepare students for jobs in the wood industry. It teaches how to work the wood, and how to build different things such as beds, dressers, dining room tables, entertainment centers and much more.

This workshop provides students with the skills necessary to be successful in an industry. It teaches the main entry level skills and encourages creativity in projects design.

This year, new machinery and equipment has been introduced to woodshop, incorporating a touch on the latest technology used in the wood industry. An example of this is a new table saw, designed to stop cutting whenever a body part gets in contact with it, making this work an easier and safer one.

Another new tool is the CNC (computer numerical control), which will allow students to cut parts of wood in an easier and faster way, but at the same time increasing productivity.

Lee High School is the main school with this type of advanced technology in the Houston area, giving to its students a very unique advantage. Some of the successful students from last year are now working for really important

luxury-furniture industries in the U.S. or are in college with full-ride scholarships.

Johnny Brooks is the instructor of this program in Lee. He has been in this field for about 33 years and has successfully won many competitions. He studied at HCC where he obtained his associates degree, then got transferred to the University of Houston Main Campus where he obtained his bachelors degree. And finally, he graduated from Prairie View A&M University with his master’s degree majoring in Technical education. He has been certified in WoodLINKS USA Trainer, NCCER Craft & Master Trainer, AWS Trainer, and OSHA 501 Trainer.

According to Brooks, the woodshop program is also a part of Linked Learning this year.

“A group of 150 incoming 9th graders are starting this off,” Brooks said. “The whole premise of Linked Learning is setting them to get into a particular discipline area that their interested in and that all of their core curriculum is lined with that particular discipline aside and discipline them.”

Brooks said he looks forward to the seeing the projects his students will be creating this year in his class.



Photo Taken by Jennifer Coyoy

New building construction to start over break

Fernando Campos
News Writer

Lee High School is soon to be under renovation as the plans for the new school begin to be finalized. This winter and spring, students may begin to see some changes to what they have always known as the old Lee High School.

According to Assistant Principal Joseph Mata, construction could begin as soon as winter break, depending on the building inspection. The 600 wing of Lee, which has been closed off to students this year, is

awaiting the inspection to test for asbestos and other harmful chemicals before the construction begins, just to make sure all the safety precautions are met. Once that happens, the new school will take about one to two years to build. Most of the construction will occur during the summer, but the 600 wing will be the first to be torn down, according to Mata. So sit back and watch as Lee High School gets a makeover and transforms into a brand new facility.

Young Life leader inspires students

Maria Ramirez
News Writer

In your lifetime, you will go through a lot of changes. Changes that could either shape you up or break you down. In the case of Younglife leader Lucho Llanca, it was all for the better.

Llanca is from Venezuela, he is Christian and has been working like a missionary for the past 18 years. He is currently the Area Director for Houston Central Younglife, and a Younglife leader at Lee High school.

Before becoming a Younglife leader and coming to Lee he went through a lot of life changes in order to be the leader he is today.

His story starts off with the relationship he had with his father and when he went to the army.

“I intentionally never wanted to go to the army,” Llanca said. “I was mad with my dad, and I thought this was a good way to get to him. But when I signed off, he was happy.”

When Llanca went to the army he learned a whole new way of life for himself.

“I enjoyed being in the army and I’m glad I went,” Llanca said. “Being in the army for me was my opportunity for me to build my character, and my personality.”

As well Llanca believes that because of the army, it has helped him to be who he is now.

“It taught me how to survive,” Llanca said. “I learned how to go beyond my limit, to do teamwork, I got train people, learn to be a good person, and made friends that would last forever.”

After coming back from the army, Llanca was a completely changed person. He believed that God called him to be Pastor but it wasn’t easy for him.

“At first I was confused coming back from the army and going into Gods work,” Llanca said. “But I was so glad to have had mentors and leaders help me when I came back.”

Llanca believes that without his leaders help at the time, he would have remained lost after coming back from the army.

“They helped me realize that I went to the

army for Gods reason,” Llanca said. “I can now understand that. I believe that I am now a better leader for God because I went to the army.”

After becoming an ordained Pastor in Venezuela, he left as a missionary and when he got o the states he became a Younglife leader.

“The first year being in Younglife wasn’t easy, but it was only because I was learning to be a leader in a different ministry,” Llanca said. “Since the training is one of the best in the country, I caught on quickly and have the time of my life since.”

Llanca believes there is many benefits to be a Younglife leader.

“I get to go anywhere because Younglife is everywhere in the world,” Llanca said. “I also get to bring my family everywhere I go, which is important to me since I am a family guy. As well being able to grow in the mission fields, and have great vacations, I love it,” Llanca said with a chuckle.

But there’s more to Younglife to Llanca than just good vacations. He enjoys being able to have fun and lead the students of Lee high school.

“When I’m spending time with the Younglife kids, it really does keep me alive,” Llanca said. “Being able to see them changing, and wanting to be different in their lives, makes me believe that it’s all worth it, no matter how late or how early one of the students need any of our advice, it’s all worth it in the end.”

Llanca is excited to be a part of Lee High school, and is excited to see God move into the students of Lee. But not only that, but to show kids its okay to have fun and be a kid at this day and age.

Younglife is all about having fun, learning new things, and exploring a different side of yourself that you’ve never known.

If you haven’t shown up to Younglife club this year at least once, then you are missing out! Look for them every Tuesday after school, and be ready to have fun!

ROTC volunteers at T.H. Rogers

Ashley Perez
News Writer

Lee High School JROTC students not only learned how to march in line, but also learned to give back by helping the autistic kids from T.H. Rogers Elementary School on October the 13th.

“I was so excited to go because I wanted to help those kids and experience how it felt after helping them,” freshman Jessica Pineda said.

Some JROTC students said they had so much fun while helping the autistic elementary students.

“I had lots of fun and I think that was one of my best days,” sophomore Lynnete Perez said.

It’s a very rewarding thing to be able to go help and have fun with the kids, according to the JROTC students.

“The most rewarding thing was hearing the

autistic students laugh with a big smile on their faces, letting me know they understood,” freshman Manuel Sabrera said.

The JROTC students said they would like to go again so they can help out and spend more time with the kids.

“I would like to go again because I like seeing the kids smile,” Perez said.

Sergeant Trint Conrod said that the purpose of going to T.H. Rogers was to assist the school staff in their presentation of awards to the autistic children. According to Conrod, the presence of the uniformed cadets increased the significance of that event for the children.

“It is very emotional and it is a great experience for the cadets to go assist at T.H. Rogers,” Sergeant Conrod said.



Photo of ROTC Taken by Ashley Perez



Photo of NHS Taken By Brenda Ndukong

NHS students make a difference in education

Ixchel Perez
News Writer

Being the nation’s premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students, National Honor Society (NHS) was established by The National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1921.

NHS is an organization of outstanding students who volunteer their time to make their community a better place.

A good place to start off making a difference is in your own school. It takes students who are committed and determined to make a change.

The National Honor Society club is one of the few clubs here at Lee High School who are making a change in the school.

In the month of October students volunteered to stay every Friday after school to tutor other students in subjects such as math, social studies and English.

These NHS students are willing to give up their Friday afternoon to help their peers improve themselves before the upcoming STAAR tests.

Every week the students meet up in the morning before school and after school to come up with new ideas on how they can help build up the school’s reputation.

Every month there are different goals that students setup for themselves.



Photo Taken by Paola Dembe

Music to brighten your winter blues

Rosaria Casia
Feature Writer



The 1975
Bayou Center Houston
Wednesday, November 26
8:00pm



Justin Timberlake
Toyota Center
Monday, December 1
8:00pm



Maroon 5
Toyota Center Houston, TX
Tuesday, February 17, 2015
7:30pm



Usher
Toyota Center Houston, TX
Friday, December 5, 2014
7:30pm



Alex Clare
House of Blues Houston, TX
Thursday, December 11, 2014
8:00pm



Augustana
Fitzgerald's Houston TX
Monday, December 1, 2014
7:00pm



Ryan Adams
Bayou Music Center Houston
Wednesday, December 3, 2014
8:00pm

Sending a text could cost a life

Think before you pick up the phone to text while driving.

Lauren Sierra
News Writer

Do you text and drive? Have you ever wondered what could happen if you take your eyes off the road just for five seconds? Approximately 1,600,000 people die a year in car accidents due to texting and driving, according to [textinganddriving.com](#). “I don’t text and drive because it’s really dangerous, I wouldn’t risk my life over a text,” Sophomore Amber Jubuty said. According to [textinganddriving.com](#), five seconds is the average

time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 MPH that’s enough time to cover a football field. Imagine how much damage you could do if you end up crashing just by replying to a text that could’ve waited. “Sometimes I read the message, because I never know if my family is having an emergency,” junior David Apestososasin said. Other Students are guilty of texting and driving. More laws are

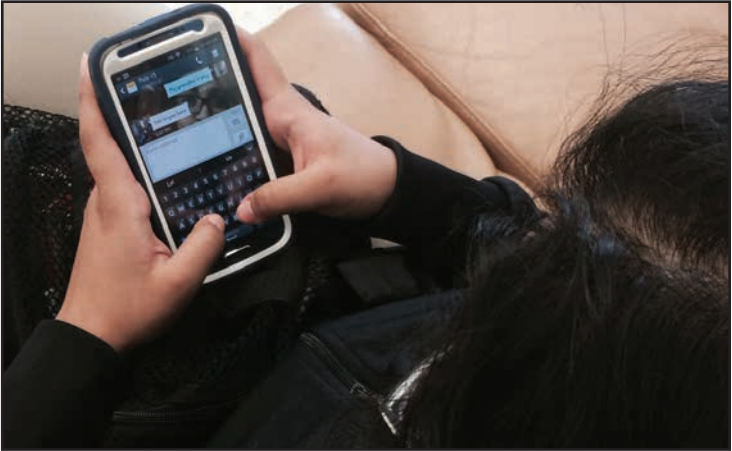


Photo Taken by Ms. Wiener

being created because way too many people are getting into accidents or dying. Thirteen percent of drivers ages 18-20 involved in car wrecks admitted to texting or talking on their mobile devices at the time of the crash. Thirty-four percent of students say they have texted while driving, teens who text while driving spend approximately 10 percent of their driving time outside of their lane, according to [textinganddriving.com](#).

“I used to text and drive,” senior Jose Corondo said. “I almost got into an accident one time and that changed my mind about texting and driving. Now, I actually think twice about texting and driving because I don’t want to end up dead.” If you need to text or talk on the phone while driving, pull over in a safe place. Don’t text while driving. You are putting your life and the lives of others on the line.

Do it yourself crafts for all!

Guadalupe Bonola
Feature Writer

Do it yourself: Thanksgiving nails

Do it yourself Thanksgiving nails, the first step is to paint your nail in a basic color in this case we used gold. Next you paint your nail with brown color and make the shape of the turkey as the picture shows. Then you paint the turkey’s feathers with the color you prefer in this case we used green, red, orange, and yellow. Then you make the face with the dotting tool apply clear coat to finish it off enjoy!



Do it yourself: hot chocolate



Nutella + milk in the microwave will give you the best hot chocolate ever.

When you add Nutella and milk in a cup and put it in the microwave for 50sec will give you the best hot chocolate ever! It’s great for the season when all you want to do is drink something warm.

Do it yourself: nutella sandwiches

To make Nutella mini sandwiches all you need is Nutella marshmallows and squared chopped dough. Next you add as much Nutella and marshmallows as you want to then fold the dough to look like a triangle and you may decorate it as you wish with lines and anything that you want. You leave them in the oven for 360 degrees for 30min it all depends on your oven so check on them! There you have the perfect fall/winter snack enjoy!



Do it yourself: tie dye clothing



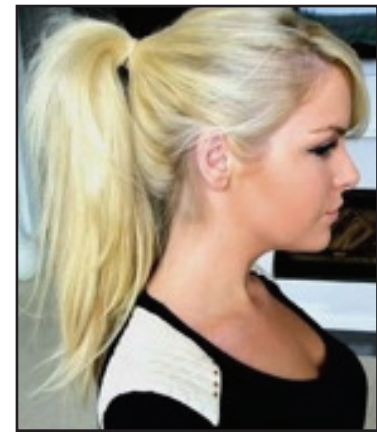
All you have to do is get a bucket with warm water and buy the tie dye from Michaels or any crafty store. You put the dye in the bucket with water before you start wash your clothing. Afterwards you put the dye in the bucket, mix it then you dip your piece of clothing and let it air dry for at least 15 hours enjoy your renewed piece of clothing for more details visit this website!! <http://www.wikihow.com/Dye-Clothes>.

Jazz up your hair with new, fun styles

Jennifer Coyoy
Feature Writer

Milkmaid Braid:

To get the milkmaid braid you will have to separate your hair in half, and then you will braid both sides. Next you just grab one braid and bring it across your head and bobby pin it to the back and do the same to the other braid.

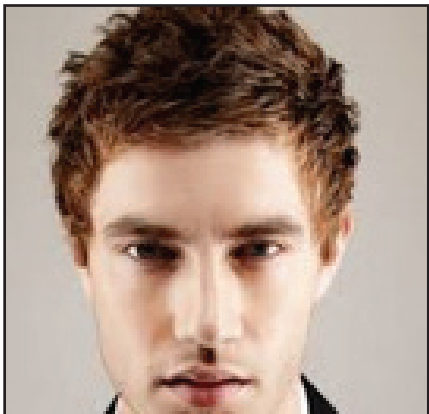


High Pony Tail:

What you want to do for the high pony tail is just bend down and gather all your hair. Tie it then make sure you don’t have any hair out, apply some hairspray, and then accessorize with a simple headband.

Comb-over:

First, to do a comb-over, comb your hair all the way back. Next flatten your hair using hairspray until all the hair sits in place on its own. Then simply comb your hair, on the top, to the side keeping a perfect part.



Messy Look:

For the messy look you can just get gel and apply generously to your hands. Next, rake your hands evenly through your hair, then just spin your hands make it messy.

How you can spice up school

Ronnie Mason
Feature Writer



Photos Taken by Raenelle Hernandez

How Can We Spice Up Lee High School?

School spirit is something that can make or break a school; almost as important as the quality of the staff and students is their ability to identify themselves as one unit proud to be a part of each other’s journeys toward success. Before you think to yourself, “Here we go again…” consider this for a moment. Any successful team must not only work together, but be proud of who they are, and feel connected as they work towards a common goal. No one would go cheer for a sports team where each player is “fending for themselves” out on the court or the field. It is actually our ability to work together; as a team, family, unit, that has made our species so successful in the animal kingdom throughout history. So the question is posed again, “How can we spice up Lee High School?”

Many students have their individual opinions; varying from bi-weekly early dismissal days, free dress for students, cell phone privileges during lunches, music privileges during classes, increased school spirit, to even finding ways to integrate hip hop music into our school. As awesome as some of these changes to the school procedure would be, there has to be more viable options that could improve the overall aura in the hallways.

Regardless, it first must start with the understanding of all the staff and students, that we

all come from different backgrounds, all have our different likes and dislikes, and all have our own life struggles. Besides all our differences, every weekday we wake up to enter the same building with the same ultimate goal; to be happy and successful. With that in mind, a few small, but potent changes could “spice” up the environment much more than expected. And instead of coming in the form of new privileges, which might well come in the future, it would be more powerful coming from each individual that calls Lee High School, their school.

One small thing that can truly spice up the Lee High School, especially as the season brings colder weather, is a warm smile. I’m sure you’ve heard that smiles are contagious, but according to pickthebrain.org, a study by Swedish scientists found that people had difficulty frowning when looking at other people who were smiling and subjects would find their muscles twitched into smiles all their own. Of all the contagious aliments in the world, this one seems like the perfect contagious spice to spread through our hallways. Aside from boosting your immune system, smiling also releases endorphins which are found to lower stress levels and boosting people’s moods. Crazy to think that by using a few muscles in your face, you can reduce another person’s stress levels, boost their

immune system, and make them chemically happier.

One other thing that is a recurring theme in any school improvement discussion is school spirit. It is no surprise that people tend to take their time, put in more effort, and feel closer to things that they feel they are directly connected to at a personal level. How can we do this is the big question. The thing is there are so many answers to that question that a whole paper could be written on just that. One thing is for sure, the more involved the students get, not only in classes, but in extracurricular things as well, the more connected they will feel, and in turn more proud to be a Gen-

eral. It is no coincidence that colleges and companies put so much emphasis on school involvement in teams, clubs, events, etc...on their applications. It is a direct show of the person’s willingness to be part of something bigger than themselves and work together to make their world a better place.

So before we can have free dress, and the ability to listen to music, and use cell phones during lunch (all of which would be a great bonus), seems that before anything else, a larger change or “spice” can be brought to our school with nothing more than a little more involvement on everyone’s part, and if not that, at least a genuine smile.

Stories by Sabrina: Mixed Hearts Part 2

Sabrina Miller
Fictional Story Writer

Prince

As me and Jewel get up to go to the principal’s office. Everyone looks at us in different ways. The girls stare at me like what does the principal want with both of you “together.” The girls stare at her like get away from him. I think she notices but doesn’t care. The guys stare with a blank look in their eyes.

When we exit the class Jewel turns to look at me.

”Don’t think I put her up to this. All I know was that she said she’d call me out of my last class,” she said with a look of irritation and sincerity.

“Okay,” I tell her before continuing on.

Jewel reaches her mother’s office before I do and opens the door but freezes. Once I get to the door to look inside I see my father and another man.

“Hello Jewel,” says the man. “Oh nice to see you again Prince. You might not remember me but I’m Jewel’s father. You two were so cute when you were only babies.”

Jewel looks at her father with such intensity I didn’t know how she had held up in her little body.

“Leave us alone. You were never there for me or mom. Don’t even pretend you care.” She turns and runs off down the hall.

“What just happened?”

My father looks at me with sad expression in his eyes. “James and I are getting married. We wanted to tell you and Jewel at the right moment but I guess James was right. His daughter really hates him.”

James looks at my father, then at me. “Your son really looks like you.”

“Oh James don’t make me blush.” My father’s expression changes to seriousness. “Please take

care of Jewel for us and tell her what we told you.”

“Okay I guess.” The bell rings then the announcements come on. I leave the office to go find Jewel, not looking back.

Jewel

I hate my father so much and can’t believe he’s trying to be friendly with us. I ran out to get away from him. I went to the church that’s a part of the school. It’s old and abandoned. No one would think to find me here.

When I decided to lay down on the bench in the front row I heard the doors of the church open. I didn’t dare get up because footsteps started to near me.

Closing my eyes pretending to be asleep a familiar voice whispers to itself “silly girl.” Whoever it is picks me up.

I wait a minute and open my eyes to see Prince.

”Hey put me down,” I shout.

He smiles and allows me to stand on my own.

“Don’t get the wrong idea. I was going to take you to the nurse’s office, so you can sleep in peace.” Prince turns and walks out the open doors of the church.

“Wait,” I jog a little to catch up to him and grab his arm. “They told you something didn’t they.”

That was the only reason I could think of for him to come looking for me.

“Yes but I believe you should at least hear it from them not me,” Prince says.

He doesn’t understand what my father did to us, but I guess he must have some reason for me to hear what they have to say.

I follow him back to my mother’s office.

Movies to check out during the holiday season

Jessabelle



After Jessabelle is released from the hospital two months after a car accident that took the life of her boyfriend and ended her pregnancy, she seeks support from her long-estranged father Leon.

At first he is not emotionally ready to see her in a wheelchair. He decides to take her back to the bayou home where she grew up after her mother Kate died from cancer. Little does she know that the home she returns to has a long tormented spirit that has been awaiting her and will not leave her alone.

Release Date: November 7, 2014

Mocking Jay Part 1



Katniss Everdeen is in District 13 after destroying the games forever. During the leadership of President Coin, Katniss will spread her wings to free the nation she moved with her courage to save them and Peeta from tyranny.

“I will go see this movie a week after it comes out because it gets too crowded that I would rather wait so I can go with friends. I’ve been waiting for this movie to come out since last year,” senior Bryan Herrera said.

Release Date: November 21, 2014

Penguins of Madagascar



The most hilarious undercover birds in the global espionage biz are Skipper, Kowalski, Rico and Private. These spies are joining forces with a chic undercover organization. Together they will complete a mission that is full of adventure and silly moments as well as emotional ones.

“Personally, I would like to watch the Penguins of Madagascar because I thought they were the highlight of the Madagascar movies, plus I love Nick-elodeon,” Junior Bryan Eriza said.

Release Date: November 26, 2014

Horrible Boses 2



The employees from Horrible Bosses are still dealing with supervisors, but there’s a new change, now they’re self-employed. They think they will become millionaires after inventing a gadget. However, due to certain mishaps, the trio will attempt to pull off a rewarding kidnap.

“This movie looks hilarious and it would be a good chance to go out with friends,” Junior Ronnie Mason said.

Release Date: November 26, 2014

Dumb and Dumber To



Twenty years after the very first movie Dumb and Dumber are back, but this time they are on a hunt to find dumb’s long lost daughter who he has never met. The two will have to work together and try not to get carried away by unusual decisions.

“I would definitely watch this movie because the first one was pretty good. I think it was a good idea that they made the second movie after 20 years,” Sophomore Samantha Campos said.

Release Date: November 14, 2014



WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Bryan Eriza
News Writer

Thanksgiving is a time in which families get together and eat a big dinner, while saying what they’re thankful for and appreciating what they have. Traditionally Thanksgiving is celebrated with a turkey and other side dishes, while gathering together with relatives and close family friends. At Lee High School, however, there are students from many different countries, backgrounds, and ethnicities. Here are some things our Lee Generals do during Thanksgiving and some things they’re thankful for.

“On Thanksgiving, my family and I eat together at my aunt’s house,” Junior Daniela Valdes said. “My aunt makes some amazing Cuban delicacies and we have a small party. I’m thankful for my family, friends, and for my boyfriend.”

“On Thanksgiving, my family gets together and we eat,” Junior Ronnie Mason said. “The adults get together and catch up with one another while the children play games. I’m thankful for being alive everyday and for having friends and family who care so much about me.”

“Well, my mom normally cooks chicken and the whole family comes over and we eat dinner together,” Sophomore Yesly Espinal said. “Afterwards, my father plays music and everyone dances and has a blast. At the end of the night we all gather around and play ‘La Loteria’. I’m thankful for having a wonderful family.”

“My family and I usually move furniture around because everyone is home and available to help,” senior Melissa Garcia said. “When we’re done we go watch a fireworks show close to the Galleria Mall. Afterwards, we go home and eat steak. I’m Thankful for my family, who is very supportive, and for my healthy newborn sister.”

“During Thanksgiving, my family and I get together and we make a meal, the meal depends on what we’d like to eat,” Junior Michelle Belmarez. “Sometimes we make a Cajun meal for Thanksgiving and sometimes we make an Italian meal. We watch football and movies the rest of the night. Overall, we just try to have a good time together as a family. I’m thankful for having my family with me and being able to spend time with them and I’m thankful to be able to have my friends in my life.”

So no matter how you celebrate Thanksgiving, remember, it is a time in which you should give thanks and be grateful for all you have.

Thanksgiving recipes to share with the whole family

Kymyatta Gabriel
News Writer

TURKEY



DRESSING



SWEET POTATO PIE



POUND CAKE



<p>Ingredients</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 stick unsalted butter1 lemon zest and juice1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme leaves1 fresh turkey thawedKosher saltFresh ground black pepper1 large bunch fresh thyme2 halved lemons1 onion1 garlic head <p>Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Melt butter in small saucepan and add lemon zest, juice, and Thyme leaves inTake the insides out of the Turkey and wash inside and out<ul style="list-style-type: none">Place on a large roasting panPlace the salt and pepper on the side and stuff with thyme, half lemons on-ions and garlicBrush the outside with the mixture and sprinkle salt and pepper<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tie the legs togetherRoast for 3 hours or until the juice runs clear	<p>Ingredients</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 cup chopped celery1 cup chopped onion1/2 stick butter or stick margarine, melted1 pan white or yellow corn bread, cooled and crumbled1 can chicken broth1 egg, beaten2 to 3 teaspoons poultry seasoning1/4 teaspoon salt1/8 teaspoon pepperCream of Mushroom <p>Preparations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Preheat Oven to 350 degrees F.Sauté celery and onion in melted butter until tenderIn a large bowl combine the crum-bles corn bread, sautéed mixture, broth, egg, poultry season, and salt and better and mix completely.Place in pan and bake for 30 min-utesAdd Baked Turkey and bake an ad-dition 15-20 minutes or until golden.	<p>Ingredients</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and sliced1/2 cup butter or margarine3 large eggs1 cup sugar1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk1/2 cup evaporated milk1 teaspoon ground nutmeg1 teaspoon vanilla extract1 teaspoon lemon extract1 (12-ounce) package frozen deep-dish piecrusts, thawed <p>Preparations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Boil sweet potato in boiling water for 30 mins or until tender then drainBeat sweet potato and butter on medium speed until smooth then add eggs, sugar, condensed milk, evaporated milk, vanilla and lemon extract and beat wellPour into thawed pie crust evenly	<p>Ingredients</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3 sticks - salted butter, softened3 cups - white granulated sugar6 large - eggs (room temp.)3 cups - sifted Swans Down Cake Flour1/2 teaspoon - vanilla extract1/2 pint - Heavy Whipping Cream <p>Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Preheat oven to 325Mix butter and sugar until creamyAdd eggs on at a time beating over each additiveAlternate between cake flour and heavy whipping cream when add-ingBeat at low speed until blended<ul style="list-style-type: none">Add vanillaPour into bunt pan that you pray with cake spray<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bake for 1 hourRemove from pan and let cool
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Festival of Lights begins at Moody Gardens

Nicole Adnani
News Writer



Photos Contributed by moodygardens.com

Are you looking to enjoy what is said to be the “Gulf Coast’s largest holiday lighting event,” according to galveston.com? Then save one of your nights from November 15th to January 3rd to take in all the holiday brightness that Moody Gardens in Galveston has to offer. For its 13th year, Moody Gardens will be hosting its “Festival of Lights,” a fusion of more than one million lights, 100 sound-enhanced animated light displays, and nightly live entertainment; perfect to put anyone into the holiday spirit. To top off the thrilling views, the festival also boasts the area’s only outdoor skating rink and a thrilling arctic ice slide. To make it even more enticing, who better to drop in and kick off the 13th Annual Festival of Lights than the jolly big man himself? On the night of November 15th, Santa Claus himself will parachute in and officially switch on the lights to the festival. Thus will begin the opening night festivities with singing choirs, musicians, dancers and holiday music for the whole family.

Is a trail full of Christmas lights and holiday music not enough? Then maybe flying down a 100-foot arctic slide on an inner tube will do the trick. For just a \$7 ticket (worth two slides), you could find yourself hurdling down that arctic slide. Still not enough? Then maybe the Aquarium Pyramid®, Rainforest Pyramid®, MG 3D Theater, 4D Special FX Theater, Ridefilm, Discovery Museum, or the Colonel Paddlewheel Boat will make it worth the drive (each only \$7 per ticket). With admission set at \$8.95, including ice rink admission (but not rental), it seems that Kris Kringle himself would be disappointed if you didn’t go to get into the holiday spirit.

To make this season of giving even more meaningful, the festival will be hosting its “Food Drive Fridays,” where each patron who brings in a non-perishable food item will receive a two-for-one festival admission. All of the food collected will then be donated to the Galveston County Food Bank. Two-for One admission to over 1 million lights, attractions, live entertainment, and all the holiday music one could absorb, while giving back to those in need; you’d have to be a scrooge NOT to head down 45 South for a memorable night of lights this season.

Watch out for Black Friday madness

Ixchel Perez
News Writer

As the holidays approach and the craziest shopping day gets closer; getting ready for the endless lines, crowded places, and loud dramatic customers should be one of the best things to do.

Many people find Black Friday to be a fun adventure, while others find it to be the worst shopping experience of their lives.

According to a Black Friday survey, 42 percent of people think Black Friday is their best shopping day of the year and 43 percent say Black Friday is the worst shopping day of the year. The other 15 percent have a neutral response.

Why is it that so many people sleep overnight outside the doors of a commercial store just to buy a few electronics?

Black Friday is the day that many Americans look forward to. This has been happening since 1869 when it initiated. On this day, there are a lot of promotions and special sales. Almost everything is half the original price.

At the end of the day all the waiting is actually worth it.

To the point of view of some people, Black Friday is a dangerous shopping day because many people are very aggressive and dangerous to be around, while shopping. Many of them might get out of control and act insane.

In the last eight years there have been a total of seven deaths and 90 injuries all over the country during Black Friday shopping, according to blackfridaydeathcount.com.

Regardless of all the troubles that many people go through, and the struggles it takes to get something that you have been saving money for all year, Black Friday ends up being completely worth it.

If you are planning on going out for Black Friday shopping, you should consider keeping yourself under control and stay safe and aware of any dangerous activities that might happen around you.

Lee cross country wins District meet

Michelle Belmarez
Sports Writer

The Lee High School cross country team made it to regionals after placing 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th at the district meet.

“Sweeping district was amazing,” Coach Edward Garza said. “We were awarded District Champions of District 5-A and it was the greatest feeling to know that it takes hard work. It was all their hard work and it wasn’t my hard work. I was just along for the ride. Knowing that they did that was amazing.”

Lee had four of the athletes out of 176 runners at the regional event in Humble, TX. Regionals is a 5k or 3.1 miles. Two of Lee’s runners made the top 50 and three runners made the top 100. Out of 24 teams, Lee ranked 19, and Lee also got 2nd place out of the HISD schools.

“We didn’t make it to state this year, but you can expect to see us at the State tournament

next year,” Garza said. “It’s frustrating not going to State, but I am so proud of my runners. They work so hard. They are here early in the morning, they stay late after school, and they walk home on top of the workouts I give them.”

According to Garza, Lee’s cross country runners run a mile in about five minutes. A passing period is about four minutes long. So by the time you get settled in class and figure out your Do Now, the runners would be able to complete a mile run.

Cross Country Runner Solomon Fiseha said he was sad he didn’t make it to State, but is optimistic for the future.

“I promise to take my team to the State tournament next year,” Fiseha said. “It was exciting making it to Regionals, but we will get State next time.”

In January Coach Garza will be starting a run club that will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays where Coach Garza invites all types of runners to come out there and run, join and build a love for running.

“I don’t want anybody to think just because we have these fast runners that we don’t have any slow runners or we don’t have time to work on slow runners,” Garza said. “But if you’re interested in joining cross country definitely get a physical going and we can get you out here and get ready for next season.”

Garza also said he hopes to build a girls’ cross country team in the future.

“I know this year we were mostly focused on the boys, but we are expecting a girls’ cross country team next year that will rival our boys.”

If interested, see Coach Garza in room 320.



PHOTO CREDIT 1 PHOTO CREDIT 1

Cheer on Lee basketball

Paola Dembe
Sports Writer

Varsity Players

Vincent North
Marvin Cultom
William Liby
Cedric Grisby
Huguet Ndzaka
Julian Ordaz
Nyaire Harris
Xavier Thomas
Nathaneal Heylimarium
Head Coach: Daryl Hobbs

JV Players

Bonton Rodriguez
Preston Camocho
Lorenzo Censineros
Danny Chisley
Guybeni Dembe
Ahsan Khan
Israel Mazuera
Yohanes Nyama
Lawrence Perry
Jailon Hutchings
Innocent Ndurunziza
Sebastian Flores
Kevin Iguana
Head Coach: Daryl Hobbs

Freshmen

Noor Abdi
Jacolbee Alston
Sid Amin
Dominique Hatungimana
Joseph Johnson
Michael Jones
Jacque Lwabanya
Francois Murishi
Dontray Pittman
Dishod Rowe
Richard Sengiyarbye
Wilson Velasquez
Head Coach: Daryl Hobbs

Varsity Players

Elizabeth Aguilar
Ricki Bijarro
Andrea Cardenas
Quintasha Caldwell
Paola Dembe,
Sandra Emorkhor
Naomi Garcia
Jamesia Gibson
Geraldine Hudgson
Amber Jefferson
Taylor Mann
Cristina Ocampo
Alengandra Orozco
Guadalupe Ramirez
Head Coach: Alyssa Loza

Junior Varsity

Andrea Beranza Herrera
Rosaria Casia
Symone Dargins
Asia Farley
Zubaidah Faiz
Diana Gomez
Marian Iboznrike
Samatha Jackson
Saada Mohammad
Yesica Relic
Tracy Ramirez
Chelsea Robinson
Diane Uwimbabaze
Jazzlyn Young
Diana Alas

Freshman

Amber Boyd
Autumn Boyd
Eryka Brewster
Haja Kabbah
Jayden Smith
Brianna Washington
Jahzzae Wynn
Coach: Jaqueta Dunn

2014-2015 Boys Basketball Schedule			
11/18/14	Lee HS	vs Worthing HS @ Lee HS	5:00pm *
12/8/14	Yates HS	vs Lee HS @ Barnett Stadium	4:00pm
12/18-20	HISD Boys Basketball Tournament		TBA
1/5/15	Lee HS	vs North Forest @ Butler Stadium	6:00pm
1/9/15	Austin HS	vs Lee HS @ Barnett Stadium	5:30pm
1/13/15	Madison HS	vs Lee HS @ Butler Stadium	6:00pm
1/16/15	Lee HS	vs Waltrip HS @ Butler Stadium	5:30pm
1/20/15	Lee HS	vs Davis HS @ Butler Stadium	8:30pm
1/24/15	Sharpstown HS	vs Lee HS @ Butler Stadium	7:00pm
1/28/15	Lee HS	vs Yates HS @ Butler Stadium	4:30pm
1/31/15	North Forest HS	vs Lee HS @ Pavilion	2:30pm
2/4/15	Lee HS	vs Austin HS @ Butler Stadium	7:30pm
2/7/15	Lee HS	vs Madison HS @ Butler Stadium	7:00pm
2/11/15	Waltrip HS	vs Lee HS @ Pavilion	8:30pm
2/14/15	Davis HS	vs Lee HS @ Pavilion	1:00pm
2/18/15	Lee HS	vs Sharpstown HS @ Butler Stadium	7:30pm
**** Scrimmage Game ****			

2014 – 2015			
Lee Lady Generals			
Varsity Basketball Schedule			
11/ 21	Davis HS	Butler	6pm
12/4 – 6	HISD Tournament	TBA	TBA
12/ 9	Sharpstown HS	Butler	6pm
1/ 12	Yates HS	Barnett	5:30pm
1/5	North Forest HS	Butler	4:30pm
1/10	Austin HS	Barnett	1pm
1/14	Madison HS	Butler	6pm
1/17	Waltrip HS	Butler	1pm
1/21	Davis HS	Pavilion	7:30pm
1/24	Sharpstown HS	Butler	5:30pm
1/27	Yates HS	Butler	6pm
1/31	North Forest HS	Pavilion	4pm
2/3	Austin HS	Butler	6pm
2/6	Madison HS	Butler	4:30pm
2/9	Waltrip HS	Pavilion	4:30pm

Swim team practices begin

Bryan Herrera
Sports Writer

Although there was rumor that we wouldn't have a swim team this year, Coach Edward C. Garza is starting up swim tryouts and creating an after-school team.

"Well the position was open, that's why I became the swim coach," Garza said. "I've always had a connection with the water. In high school I swam, in college I worked with the recreational department. I built a pool at Texas Tech University. I played water polo and I was a master lifeguard in college, so I've always enjoyed the water and the ability to approach the school that has a pool on campus was an amazing opportunity that I couldn't pass up."

This year Garza has a couple of goals for the swim team and for newcomers that are interested in joining.

"As of now the swim team's goal is to participate and do well in district that's a long term goal," Garza said. "A short term goal is to establish the foundation needed to create better swimmers for exposure to the water for students that haven't had the ability to work in water."

Garza plans to achieve his goal by having practices available to the swimmers, as well by having several meets here at Lee High School.

"I plan to achieve it by holding daily practice

before and after school for my swimmers and hopefully having a couple of meets here on campus and inviting other schools to come and swim with us," Garza said.

Garza is letting both teachers and students know if they are interested in the swim team that they are more than welcome to join, but only if they meet certain requirements.

"I'd like to extend the offer to teachers and students to come out," Garza said. "If you have not seen our facilities on campus, we do have a pool and it's something that should be used so if you are interested in the swim team or want to get a summer job as a life guard this is a great step to get you in the right place."

The Swim Team had their first interest meeting in November to let those who are interested know what the Swim Team has to offer.

"We had our interest meeting on the 10th, 11th, 13th and 14th and first day of practice was November 17. If you missed those dates please come and see me. You can see Coach Davis for a girl's physical, and boy's can go see Coach Hobbs for a physical. Before you can jump into the water, you need to get those physicals on file."



Photo Taken by Ms. Wiener

Laster coaches for sport and for life

Adrian Castillo
Sports Writer



Last year, Lee High School had two athletes compete at state in wrestling. Those students wouldn't have gotten that far without their fearless coach, Coach Laster. This year, Coach Laster has high hopes for his team again. He said he has planned goals for himself and his students to aid his coaching abilities.

"I want my students to go to state again this year," Laster said. "I have high expectations for them as athletes and their behavior in their classes as well."

But, Coach Laster is more than just a coach for his wrestlers. He is a life coach as well. Laster has a Support Service class, in which he helps his students gain the skills they need to be able to adapt to the expectations and norms of mainstream society. Coach Laster is responsible for keeping track of his students throughout the year along with their activities.

"My goal this year is to have at least half my students placed in mainstream by the end

of the year," Laster said. "I will keep track of my students by monitoring their behavior and keeping in touch with their parents so we can both be on the same page to help them become better students."

Laster said he has to deal with some behavior problems and has to help students change and adapt their behaviors so they can adapt to society. He said he wants his students to learn and live with a lot of life lessons.

"Most of my students comply with the rules and are able to accomplish their goals in the Support Service classes," Laster said. "Support Service classes teach children about life lessons and social behavior," Laster said.

Coach Laster said his students have improved their behavior from last year.

"I had more students from last year and they had more behavior problems," Coach Laster said. "This year I'm dealing with students that have behavior problems that come from home and not from the school."

Although Coach Laster has seen problems with his students, he said he always tries to improve it.

"Every day is a new day and I try not to look at what happened yesterday and give the kids the benefit of the doubt that their behavior will change," Laster said.

Coach Laster's students give it their best every day and he does his best to keep them going on the right track.

Hagos Petro sprints into Athlete Of The Month

Cindy Wakiyama
Editor-In-Chief

Cross-country district champion Hagos Petro was nominated the athlete of the month by Coach Edward Garza.

Petro finished three miles in 16 minutes and four seconds, which got him first place. Despite being the best runner on the team he is humble about his accomplishments.

"He is very humble," Garza said. "He motivates others and that's a big thing. My motto is 'no one finishes last,' and all my runners know that when someone is finishing last, we go and pick them up in the end."

Although he ranked first in district, Petro did not brag about his position.

"He is very modest," Garza said. "Even though he ranked first in district and beat everyone by over a minute, you wouldn't have guessed that he was the top runner in our district. That's admirable."

Petro keeps it clean and classy by not gossiping or saying rude things to other students despite possible frustrations.

"I've yet to hear him talk ugly to anybody," Garza said. "Sometimes when you run it's frustrating if people can't keep up, or it's frustrating when you're always leading. He's probably my quietest runner, but he makes the biggest stance. ...He makes an impact without speaking."

Since running is not a sport that is televised with the intention of having new runners learn from the pros, as basketball and many other sports are, by having Petro on the track the beginner runners are given someone to aspire to.

"Having a quick runner out there is great to

show our beginner runners that yes, you can get at this level if you practice and you stick with it," Garza said. "... Having an athlete that is exceptional at a skill is great to have as a model and encouragement to other students."

While it was Petro's first year in cross-country, he is thankful to have won first place without too much preparation and he congratulates the other runners of Lee, he said.

The cross-country team has an open door policy: runners of all skill levels are invited to join the team, Garza said.



Coach Davis inspires athletes

Dejanee Cherry
Sports Writer

Lee has many teams and star players, but have you ever asked who is behind those skills or who molded these great players?

Coach Bridgette Davis has one of the key roles in coaching girls' volleyball at Lee High School.

"It is challenging and rewarding at the same time," Davis said. "It is challenging because you have high school girls that don't have skills that others have. It's rewarding because when I do train them they gain those skills."

Coach Davis has been the varsity volleyball

coach since 2008.

"My best memory of this year's volleyball season is when we were going through a rally with Madison High School and we won the rally," Davis said.

Coach Davis's hasn't always been the volleyball coach.

"At first I had I had a basketball scholarship and never played the sport," Davis said. "But once my daughters were interested, I got interested."

Next year, Davis said she will be handing

over her coaching of the volley players to Coach Dunn.

"I will be a UIL coordinator, meaning I will be in charge of making sure athletes are eligible to play," Davis said.

Coach Davis has a daughter that goes to the same school, Bria, so does she embarrass her?

"You will have to ask her that, but I don't think that I do," Davis said.

Bria did not agree.

"Yes, she embarrasses me," Bria said. "She treats me like a baby."



Renaissance: more than just a festival

Maria Ramirez
Opinion Writer

The Texas Renaissance Festival took place in Todd Mission, TX and started in 1974. There is an event, item, and food for ALL kinds of people out there. Some of those whom have attended before have seen the attire that is admired, and decided to follow it and came in similar clothing.

It was an amazing experience, as it had been last year. Knowing that nothing is cheap there, I brought a total of \$25 to buy souvenirs, which in surprise got me everything I had wanted!

We entered and were immediately greeted by all the workers, whom were in character throughout the festival.

Seeing the characters last year compared to this year has been a complete change. Last year, I thought they were weird, and they made me feel uncomfortable by how convincing they were.

As I walked in this year, I actually went along with what all the characters said! They spoke in mid evil terms and addressed us all as either, “My lady” or “Lord.”

I bought a perfume bottle from a store called “La perfume Parlour,” which originally was \$15 to \$20 last year, but I was so happy that they only made it \$10 this year.

For all the ladies who are into flower crowns, the Renaissance is the perfect place to go! The head bands were \$15 and possibly the best \$15 I’ve ever spent!

Everything there is very pricey, and this is only because it’s handmade. The clothing ranges from \$75 to \$100 if you want to become a part of the Renaissance yourself.

My initial reaction must have been the one you’re possibly having right now. But if you really think about it, this is the full time job of many of the people who work there.

I met a woman there named, Lady Susan Griffin. She had been working at the Renaissance now for 38 years face painting and was excited to have been working at the festival. “It keeps me off the streets and out of the pub,” Griffin said. “I have greatly enjoyed working here.”

Griffin had also been in the circus prior to the Renaissance.

“I was with the ‘Ringling Brothers’ many years ago,” Griffin said with a chuckle. “I

was an aerialist, I use to hang about 30 feet in the air until I broke my neck in an accident.” Griffin said she believes her life has much more excitement yet to come.

“Hey I’m alive still after that accident,” Griffin said enthusiastically. “God’s not done with me yet, until he says he is.”

Griffin is sure that this job is a real job. “I’ve done this for 38 years,” Griffin said. “Why would I want a ‘real’ job?!”

The festival happens all over the country, and is for everyone.

“People think that these people out here only work on the weekends,” Griffin said. “These shops are producing product 24/7, it’s very hard.”

Those who have worked there for many years, also have home town shows, according to Griffin.

“Many of them will go home to their particular area of residence to produce stock all week,” Griffin said. “Then that’s when they put it in their wagon to sell it on the weekend and do it all over again.”

The festival is expected to end November 30 and is open on the weekends from 9 am- 8 pm. If you haven’t gone to see all the great activities, treasures, and amazing people, then you are missing out.

There are authentic items, fun prizes, and food for all kinds of people. I didn’t have a lot of money to bring, yet I still had a lot of fun! If you just go for the experience, it is worth it! So go before it’s too late, and enjoy the medieval language, people, and atmosphere.



Photo of Lady Susan Griffin Taken by Maria Ramirez



Mixify helps mix up and track health

Oscar Renteria
Opinion Writer

Mixify is a program to help increase healthy habits for teens. The program was started by Coca-Cola, Pepsi, and Dr. Pepper. When they say the word “Mixify” they mean to balance your activities with the amount of calories you are taking in along with the drinks. When you are lazy about in your home eating a little less is recommended, but when you have a hard workout you deserve a little more. When you are “Mixifying,” you have to take in mind the amount of calories you take in and the amount of exercise you do. The website to be able to check how you can mixify is mymixify.com. Through this website you can check what other people are doing to Mixify in other parts of the world. You can also share what you are doing to Mixify by taking a picture and uploading it to #mymixify.

For a firsthand experience, I gave this program a try for five days and I found it very intriguing. On the first day I was feeling energetic so I chose to get on my treadmill and run a couple miles in the morning. That same day I ate French toast, which was loaded with calories and energy, with a glass of milk. In the afternoon I ate some chips as a snack and about one hour and a half hour later I went for a swim to lose the heat. That night I ate a bowl of cereal to go with a not so full but really good dinner.

On day two, I was not feeling very excited or energetic so I decided to not exercise as much or eat as much. I ran about three miles, then went for a very short walk. Once home, I ate a bowl of fruit and drank a bottle of water. At around noon, I ate an orange to curb my thirst

and hunger for a little while. Later that day, I wanted to sleep and relax so I did not eat very much other than a bowl of salad, which was ample for my small appetite.

Day three was a very fast day because I was able to do a lot more than before and exercise more due to the restful day I had the night before. I woke up early and jogged for a couple hours to keep myself going for a long time and to be able to use my energy wisely. That same day, I ate a lot of fruit continuously because I kept feeling empty in my stomach all day. In the afternoon, I went for a stroll for about an hour and when I got home I ate some stew and went to bed.

Day four was very calm so I did not do much except for lay down. I had a very light breakfast, a small bowl of oatmeal. I did not do exercise that day at all so I had to limit my calorie intake by eating fruits at noon and vegetables for dinner.

On my last day in trying out this program, I wanted to make a comeback for the day before where I did nothing. I pushed myself to run as much as possible after breakfast. In the afternoon, I went for a long walk to the park and did a couple laps. I had a bowl of fruit for dinner and rested the remaining of the day.

My experience with Mixify was very intriguing and helpful. This program has a great chance of decreasing obesity in the United States. I would definitely recommend this to all my friends and family because of the experts who are very helpful. If you want to try this program for yourself, go to mymixify.com and see how you can Mixify.

Axent Cat Headphones revolutionize music

Jackie Correa & Jaqueline Martinez
Opinion Writers

What are the cat headphones?

They are a new and unique type of headphones that have never been created until now.

What makes them special?

So, you may be wondering what makes these headphones different from all of the mainstream headphones? Well, apart from having cat shaped “ears,” the ears can turn into speakers! If you press a part of the headphones, the ears will start working and the music that you were listening to will be heard by everyone else around you. It’s a cool way to share your favorite music with all of your friends.

Can you buy them in stores?

Sadly you can’t. You have to order them online, but I’m sure they will be up for sale soon, once many people start to notice the headphones. You can find them at; <http://www.axentwear.com>.

What’s the price? Why are they so expensive?

The price is \$150 for each headphone. They come in red, blue, purple, and green. If

you want a customized pair, you would have to pay more. The gold ones that come with different color LED lights cost more because it’s a custom design and it includes a few other things like a microphone when playing online games.

Yes \$150 dollars does sound like a lot of

money for headphones, but compared to beats by Dre they cost almost half the price. The beats range from a price of \$299 to \$399, plus the design for the beats is very common among other headphones while Axent cat headphones are unique.



Generals... Always! Free Dress Mondays to return?

Melanie Hauser
Alumni Vice President

He never met a project he couldn't turn into a short film.

English assignment on Romeo and Juliet? No problem. He was already scripting a comedic parody in that teenage brain.

Meet Stiles White. Editor of The Traveler in 1986-87. Lee Class of 1987 and budding script writer. While everyone else was putting pen to paper, White was gathering his film crew and hitting the neighborhood streets.

"If there was any kind of assignment, we would ask the teacher if we could make a film instead," he chuckled. "So any excuse if we could get special permission to do a film for a class project, we would jump at the chance to do it."

Fast forward 28 years to Halloween 2014 when "Ouija," which White co-wrote with his wife Juliet Snowden, opened as the No. 1 movie in the nation.

Did we mention it was also his directorial debut?

Universal Studios came to White and Snowden with the idea of making a movie that explored the idea of a Ouija board, a device that has been used to conduct séances since the late 1800s.

"We loved that idea," White said, "... and we thought a group of modern day characters who had to try and use the Ouija board to try and contact a friend who had recently passed away was a scary and intriguing idea. And the opportunity was there not just write it but for me to direct it, as well. I've been looking to direct my first film and it all came together in a great way for us."

Finally.

White was involved in a lot of things at Lee, but always wanted to be a writer. After graduation, he headed to film school in Los Angeles where a new world opened up.

"I liked film and I wanted to write, but I graduated in 87 and I had never seen what a screenplay looked like," he said. "I knew films were written, but I thought they were more like stage plays. But when I got to college, I finally saw my first couple of screenplays and the format and it all really made sense to me."

There, too, he finally had all the film-making tools at his disposal – lights, cameras, microphones and sound equipment. At Lee, he and his buddies had made their using someone's home video camera and a couple of VCRs.

"Back then, we had very crude editing abilities, so we would grab two VCRs and edit tape-to-tape, using the pause button and the play button and trying to make our own

edits," he said. "There was no iMovie back then. You were editing actual film if you were doing anything."

"Now that there's digital video ability and editing capabilities on our laptops and iPads. Now you can shoot video on your phone. The opportunities have become personalized and affordable and any opportunity to learn and experiment and work with a crew is the first step toward being a filmmaker."

After college, he took any opportunity to work in the business. He even worked for a company that called theaters to find out the movie revenues each week.

His first break came when a neighbor who worked for legendary special effects man Stan Winston ("Jurassic Park III," "Predator 2," "Aliens," "The Terminator") helped him get a job at Stan Winston Studios where he worked on "The Sixth Sense," "Jurassic Park III," "Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles," and more.

"I got to see the inner workings of how a lot of movies got made and how and lot of different directors put their movies together -- how the scripts come together; how the prepping and planning all comes together," said White. "At night or on the weekends I was writing my scripts and trying to get ahead there as well. It was like extended film school for me."

The next door opened when he met Snowden, who was finishing up at USC. Both were aspiring screenwriters with similar interests and ways of telling stories who were "hoping one day to get paid for it." And to be honest, he said, "when we started writing together that's when that little something extra clicked and people started to read our scripts and hire us for jobs. So it was a winning formula."

Their first movie was "Boogeyman," produced by Sam Raimi ("Spiderman 3," "The Evil Dead"). It was a success and jump-started their careers. A number of writing opportunities came their way including "Knowing" and "The Possession."

Now, "Ouija" is opening more doors.

"We're definitely interested in exploring more territory in the super natural," said White, whose brother John (Lee Class of '91) was an actor. "Some scary things, some weird things. I like telling stories that are about weird ideas or unexplored phenomenon trying to begin to find answers to certain weirder aspects of our culture."

Generals . . . always!!!

Elizabeth Aguilar
Opinion Writer

Wouldn't you rather wake up and be able to decide what clothes to wear instead of putting on your regular school uniform. Would Mondays be more exciting if you could go to school in your favorite clothes?

For the past couple years, Lee High School has offered free dress on Mondays for the grade level that had the best attendance the week before. This year, however, students have not yet been rewarded with this option.

"I believe we should have free dress on Mondays because it could give us a boost to go to school," Junior Ronnie Mason said. "Usually when Mondays come, we do not want to come to school, but knowing that we have free dress, we think 'maybe we can impress a certain person by looking this way.' Also uniforms are dull, and at times we get tired of them."

Other students agree that they would like to see the Monday free dress reward come back this year.

"Mondays aren't the best day of the week," Junior Bryan Eriza said. "Students come to school tired, lazy, and unmotivated. I think free dress on Monday would help them feel better

about school and themselves."

Some students also feel that having free dress Mondays will motivate them to want to come to school. Plus, it will also boost up their confidence because they can express themselves by what clothes they are wearing, according to Lee students.

"I think we should have free dress Mondays because if we have free dress Monday we can get our uniforms ready for the week," Senior Paola Dembe said. "If we haven't had time to wash them, then we have an extra day to get school uniforms ready for the week."

Freshman Assistant Principal Joseph Mata said free dress was suspended this year because students took advantage of the privilege.

"We suspended free dress because people abused it," Mata said. "Some students would wear free dress when they weren't supposed to. Whenever you would question them about wearing free dress when they were supposed to be wearing their uniform, they would bring up an excuse saying they didn't know. Free dress was suspended as well because of other little issues."

Don't let bullies define you!

Maria Ramirez
Opinion Writer

My name is Maria, and I've been a victim of bullying.

When I was in middle school, I was bullied in every way. I was told I was fat, that I was gross. People stopped talking to me because I was different. I was automatically made to be an outcast. I didn't think it was fair. I was angry at the world and God for allowing such people to exist and I wished I was dead most of the time. I was a foreigner to true joy. My childhood already seemed like a failure. I didn't have the best relationship with my mom, or family. We seemed to be moving all the time. Because of all of that, I was quiet, insecure, and didn't want to talk about it, unless you felt the same way. Negativity was my best friend. All of my other friends in school felt the same way I did, so we all kept each other company. And everyone would just look at us weird, because we wore dark clothing.

We dressed differently and related to things that seemed peculiar to most. I personally think we are all the same in the way that we are all going through something. We just deal with it differently. Some people around me wanted to smoke their pain away, or go get into fights. My friends and I were the outcast of coping mechanisms. We all were addicted to self-harm. My reason differed from most. I desired attention, love, and some sort of acknowledgement that I was more than my body weight, and wished so desperately for someone to know I had feelings too. Words hurt. I went home every night and hated that I felt so alone. Many times I contemplated suicide. I really wished my bullies would see the welts that were appearing on my arms every day. But I had too much pride to ever admit that I was a self-harmer to those outside

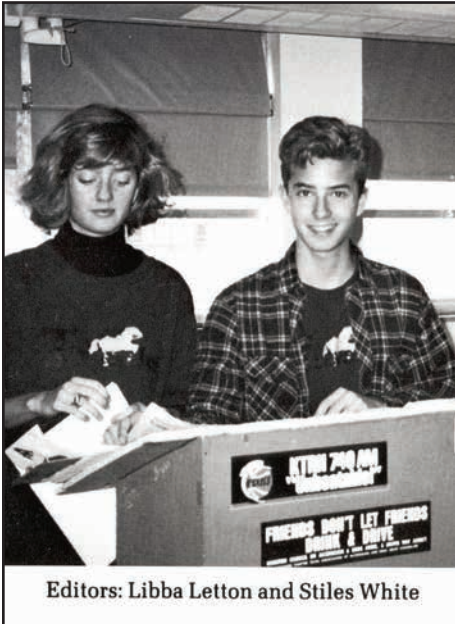
of my friend group. In a way, it didn't matter because eventually the way I was carrying myself made that very clear. My overuse of Hot Topic eyeliner, Manic Panic hair dye, and heavy metal music spoke for me. Eventually many started to make fun of that too. It was a never ending cycle.

But once I became a follower of Christ, I began to see myself in a whole new way.

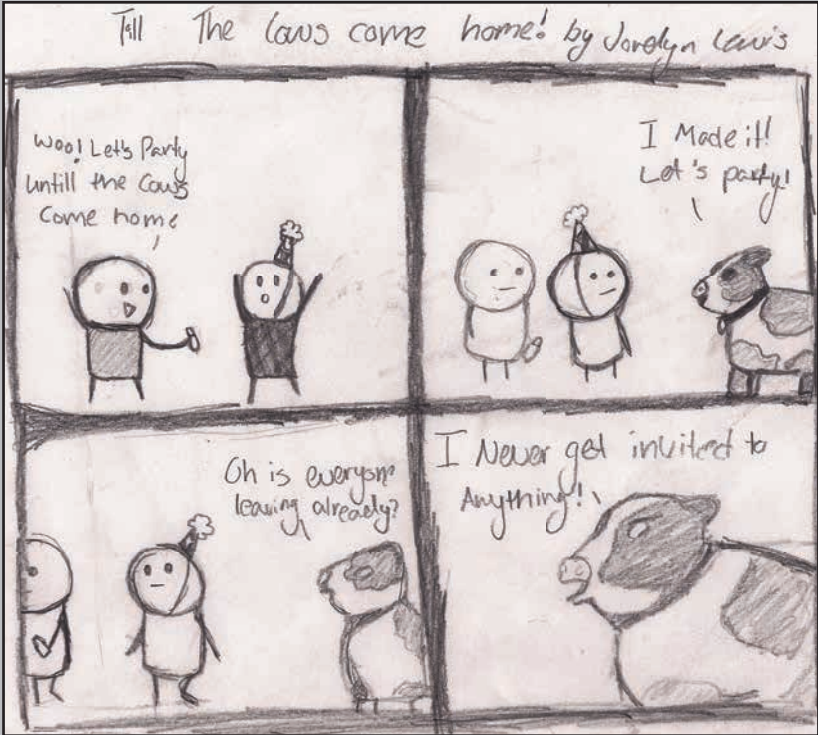
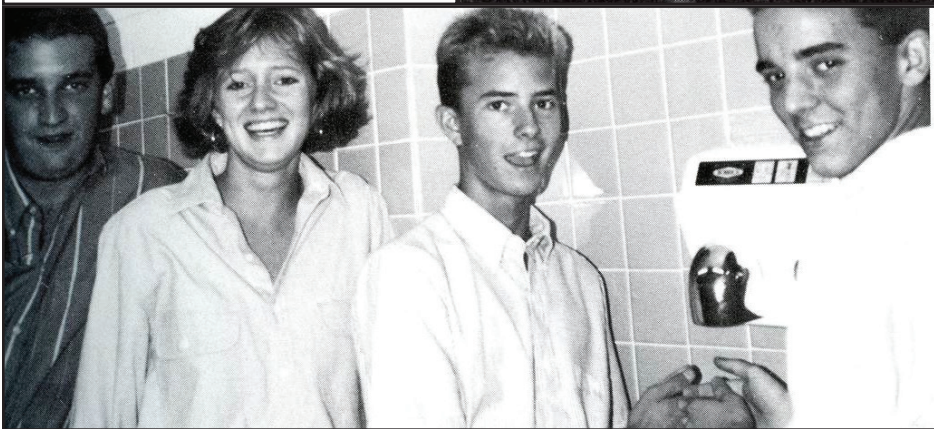
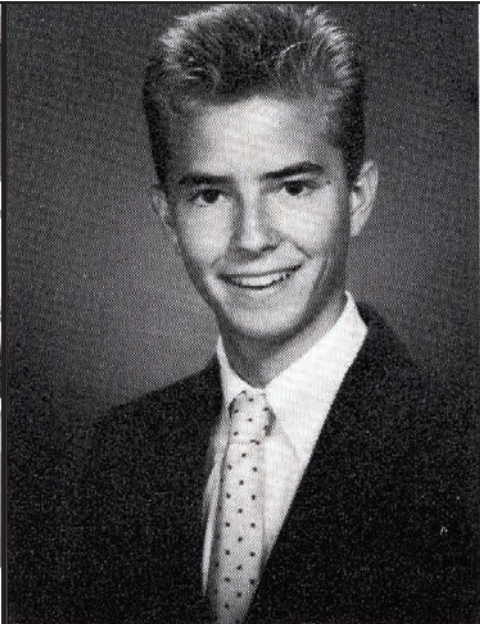
Many think I was "brainwashed" or that it was weird that I all of a sudden changed. But many were happy for me because I no longer wanted to end my life, and I realized people actually wanted me around. I began to stand up to my bullies by showing them love, and telling them that things that they were saying weren't true. Since I began to see that I really was beautiful, I carried myself that way. I dressed differently not because was forced too, but because I wanted too. I was beginning to see that my life was too significant to end, and that I had a story to be told. My life, since becoming a follower of Christ, has been so much better. I see life in a different perspective, and handle things differently than the way I used to. I am no longer bullied about my appearance because I took a stand to change myself, not because I wanted to please them, but because I cared enough about myself to do so.

If you have been a victim of bullying and are at the verge of suicide, please don't think it's too late because if I could overcome it, YOU CAN TOO. If you'd like to get more advice or help on this, I encourage you to see the school counselors, or to tell someone who cares about you. It's never too late to make a healthier and happier change. Don't let the bully's words overcome you.

Your life is worth more than you know.



Editors: Libba Letton and Stiles White



Remember to thank your teachers for all the hard work they do!

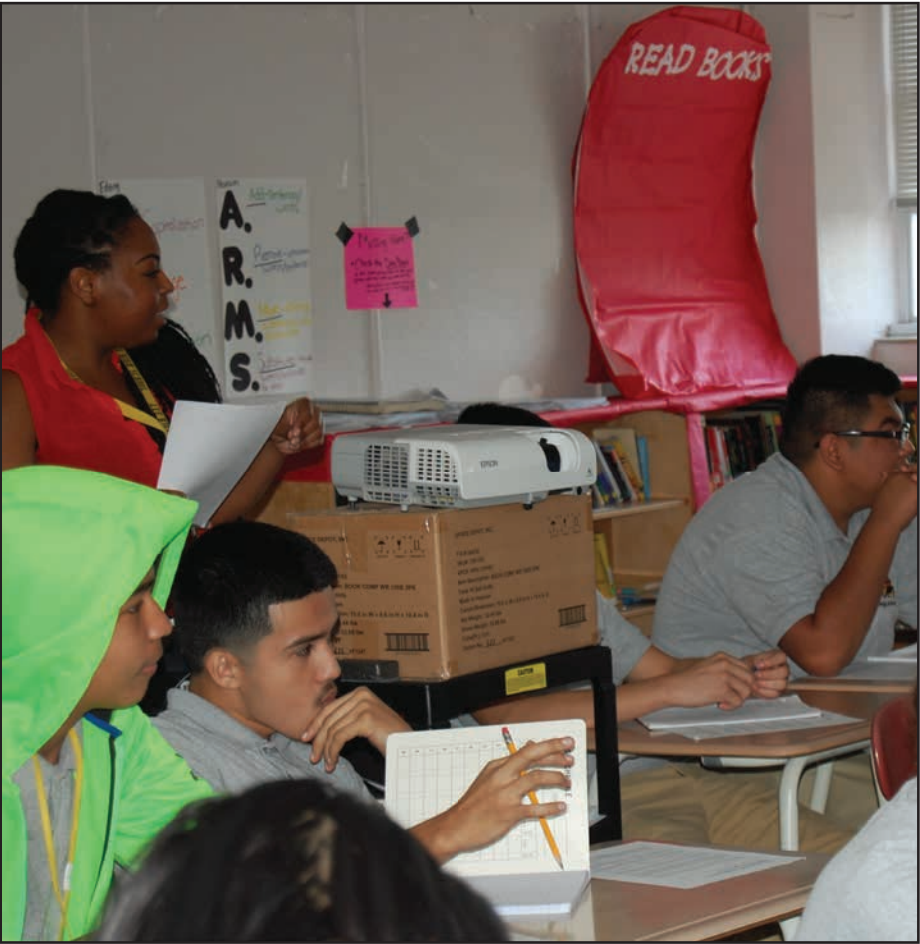


Photo Taken by Ashley Perez

Ms. Carter teaches English to her sophomore students. She is working towards preparing them for the English STAAR test they will take this year.



Photo Taken By Paloma Mendez

Mr. McCaskill teaches Chemistry to sophomores at Lee High School. His class does many group activities that helps enhance the learning in the room.



Photo Taken by Paloma Mendez

Ms. Tovar teaches World History and Advanced Placement World History at Lee High School. She engages her students in group and individual work.

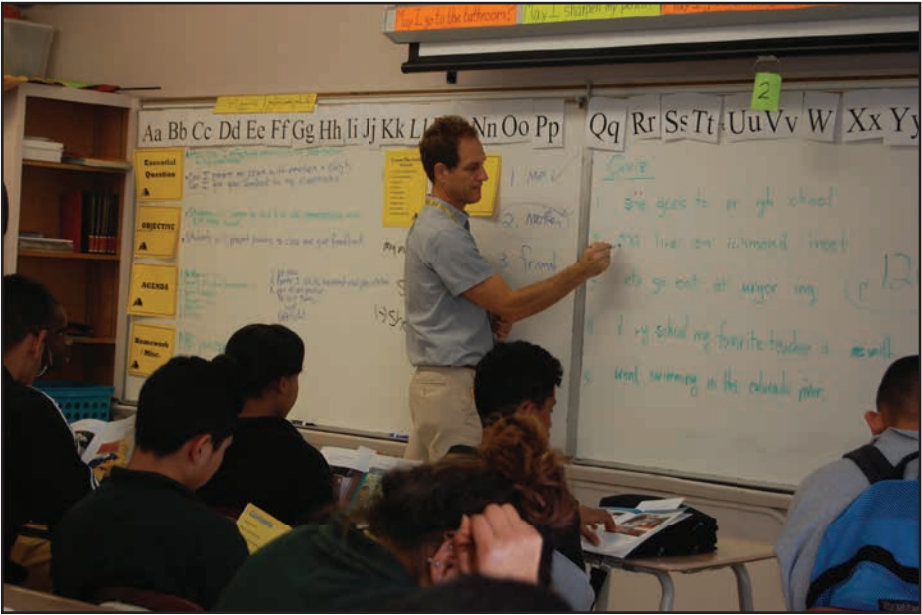


Photo Taken by Fernando Campos

Mr. Reed has been teaching at Lee High School for over 18 years. He teaches English as a Second Language to students who are new to the country.



Photo Taken by Jennifer Coyoy

Ms. Greene is a CATE teacher. She teaches computer and technical skills to her students of all grades.



Photo Taken by Guadalupe Bonola

Ms. McQuiggin teaches history at Lee. Throughout the years, she has taught Gov., Econ., US History, etc.

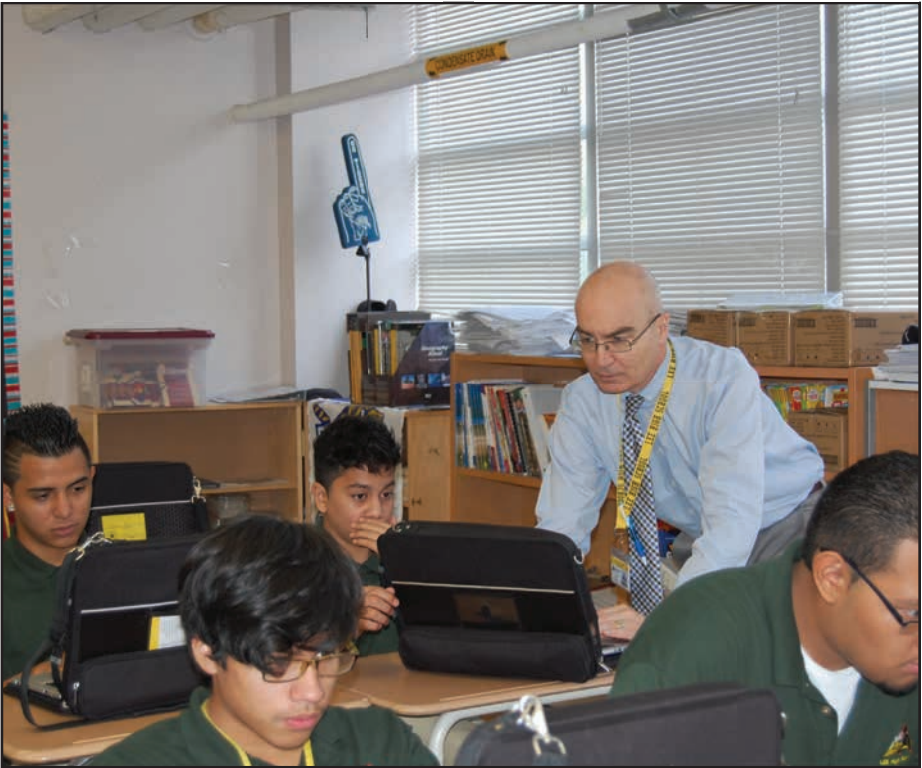


Photo Taken by Fernando Campos

Mr. Sliva teaches World Geography ESL at Lee. He helps the students who are new to learning English learn about the history of the world.



Photo Taken by Guadalupe Bonola

Mr. Jolly teaches English to freshmen at Lee High School. He monitors his students and helps them.



Photo Taken by Yesly Espinal

Ms. Loza is the Speech and Debate teacher at Lee. She spends time after school coaching varsity basketball.