

PRINCIPALS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN

by: Cheyenne Kirksey



Photo courtesy of the school website  
Mr. Summers, Principal of Sam Houston MSTC.

Do you want to have fun this year?! So does Mr. Alan Summers, Principal of Sam Houston Math, Science and Technology Center. Summers wants to see a rise in school culture and school spirit. As our Principal, and someone who's been working in education for a long time, is pushing his "Open Door" policy, in hopes that students and parents feel comfortable coming to him with concerns.

"Being back on a Campus is what I really love," says Summers, speaking about his history with the HISD School District. He was at Scarborough for four years as a principal, and before that he was an Elementary school principal. "A good reputation is hard to lose,"said Summer, "but so is a bad reputation." Summers believes we can quickly turn the reputation around and become a high performing campus.

Mr. Summers is a principal who wants to have fun, and is here for Sam Houston staff and student body. From his own mouth came the words "I want to have fun." This isn't just hearsay, it was a joy to interview him and I encourage students to stop by and say hi.



DID YOU ESCHEW HOMECOMING?

by: Alyssa Vargas

Homecoming 2016-2017 was not as popular as previous years at Sam Houston MSTC high school. Much of the fault falls to school safety regulations. Teachers weren't really able to publicize homecoming or its activities due to student safety rules or regulations that the school has. Few students around campus claimed they weren't properly informed about the activities occurring in the week of homecoming. Consequently not as many students participated in homecoming activities making our school spirit lackluster.

A Sam Houston high school student, Shanecey Hick'erson, went to Westfield High School in Spring, her experience with homecoming was memorable. Every day students would dress out or participate in activities like the dance, the football players would show their spirit by cheering and promoting the game in the halls and teachers would have their rooms decorated specifically for homecoming. Hick'erson plans to run next year for homecoming court and has plans to try to get everyone to be in school spirit. So I ask you, Did you eschew Homecoming?

Did you let this one week be just another regular week of the scholastic school year?

IS GHETTO a PLACE or a mentality?

by: Raymond Schmitz, Cesilia Saavedra and Rigoberto Rojas

Many students here at Sam Houston feel that the overall environment of the school is "ghetto" and at this moment of time a majority of the staff may feel the same about the conditions of the school. Even though the teachers admit to the school being rather rundown they maintain a positive outlook. "To be honest. I guess that there are some parts of the school that, because it's old can be fixed up a bit," Niggli stated. "I do know that we will be getting a new school soon, so that's very exciting."

Although Niggli has a positive outlook for the future of the school environment, things still need to change. A new building is not the final solution to solve all the problems that are currently affecting the school. Sam Houston has quite the reputation Houston community for being unsuccessful. Niggli counters that stating "I have been working here and I don't think that people understand what the environment of the school is really like. I think that the people making those comments are only listening to other people's negative words about the school and are not considering all the good things we have at Sam Houston."



The Sam Houston MSTC Homecoming dance kicks off with a line dance. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Turpie)



A bale of Turpies (photo courtesy of Mr. Turpie)  
The 500 Hallway dresses like Mr. Turpie (second to left) for Twin/Squad day during Homecoming. Pictured left to right, Dr. Pitts, Mr. Turpie, Mrs. Perkins, Ms. Benson and Mrs. Jefferson.



Mr. Niggli is an administrator here at Sam Houston MSTC. He is well experienced in the education field as he has attained 20 years working for HISD with 15 of those being a teacher. He has now been working at Sam Houston MSTC for 5 years.

Mr.Niggli believes the changes to a better school have already begun. He believes it's evident by saying " I see teachers working to get students the knowledge they need, and I see students performing random acts of kindness on a daily basis. Overall, the school culture is heading in the right direction." Niggli believes in order to make change we must start with The Golden Rule, "treating others as you wish yourself to be treated"

If you have any questions or concerns for Mr.Niggli visit his office at Room Number 702.





Photo courtesy of Laudon ISD website.

**Turn Down For Sam**  
by: Raymond Schmitz

This year students at Sam Houston MSTC have been introduced to a new program titled Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, or otherwise named PBIS. “Basically PBIS is a framework for how faculty, staff, and students should communicate between one another.” Said Mr.Hines, assistant principal and lead of PBIS here at Sam Houston. “The whole purpose of school is to get the best possible opportunities for our students. PBIS strives to do that by creating more positive interactions rather than negative ones.”

Freshmen and Seniors both attending Sam may ask how exactly does PBIS work? Simply put “PBIS works because people make it work.” Stated Hines. PBIS works to find areas that can be improved upon in Sam’s interactions and systems. “Once we identify an area that could use some improvement, we ask people what they think would make it a more positive place or system for school.”

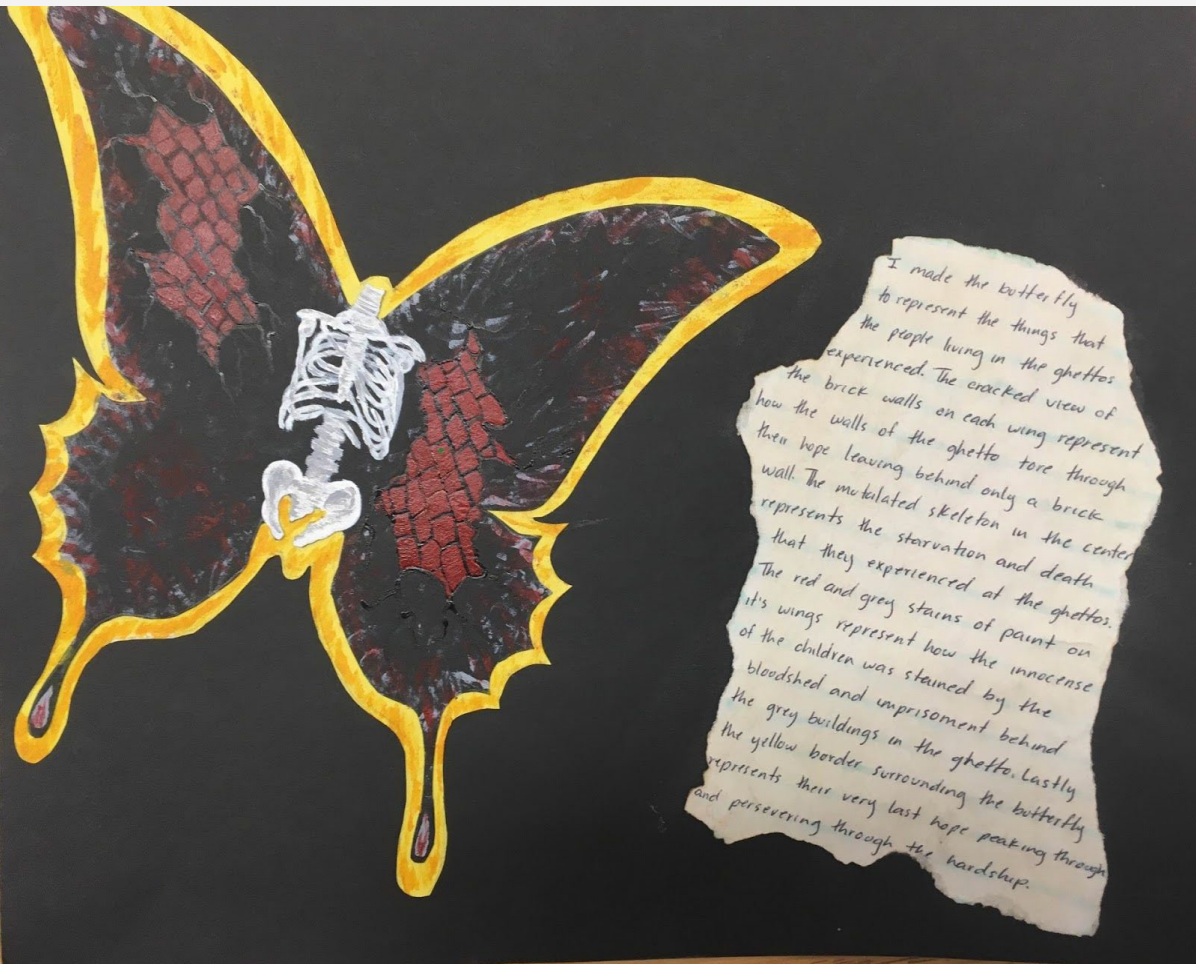
PBIS has been integrated into the students’ school environment in hopes to positively benefit the students. With new procedures being incorporated such as tardy sweeps, having to walk on the right side of the hall, and also a larger presence of teachers in the halls during passing periods. All of these new actions are all intended to teach students skills that can also be used outside of school and in the future.

If you have any questions for Mr.Hines concerning PBIS or if you have any recommendations on how to improve school positivity. Stop by his office in the 300’s.

*Mr.Hines is an Assistant Principal at Sam Houston MSTC. He has been working in the education field for 9 years now starting in 2007. He has spent 3 years as an Administrator, Testing Coordinator and Algebra 1 lead for 2, and has now been an Assistant Principal at Sam for nearly a year.*

**September Student  
Spotlight Interview  
“When It’s Gone” By  
Brenda Rubio**

**Created for Dr. Pitts  
Holocaust Class**  
by: Ruby Rapalo



**“When it’s Gone” by Brenda Rubio**

**Interview with the Artist**

**Interviewer: What was the assignment?**

[Brenda]: The assignment was to create a butterfly that represented life in the ghettos. We were given a poem about a butterfly and that was meant to be used as a basis for our inspiration for the butterfly.

**Interviewer: What inspired you to draw that type of artwork as opposed to the ‘pretty butterflies’?**

[Brenda]: When I read the poem to me it was as if when the butterfly left the ghettos it finally hit the writer that this was their reality and that along with all the butterflies the hope and all that was beautiful was also leaving their lives. So I didn’t feel that the butterfly was meant to be a representation of hope but rather of all that was gone and the horrible that was left behind in its place. And so it wouldn’t be completely beautiful but rather tainted by the situation.

**Interviewer: When you were done, how did you feel?**

[Brenda]: When I was done, I felt that I had done what I felt that the poem meant to me but at the same time I was a little concerned that it didn’t look like the rest but it was a true representation of how I interpreted the poem and life in the ghettos so I felt good about it.

**Interviewer: Did you expect to come up with that artwork?**

[Brenda]: I didn’t expect it to turn out that way but since I paint and draw on my own time, I didn’t really see it as an assignment but more like another one of my artworks and also I love this topic of the holocaust and it’s something that I really enjoy learning about so when I was working on it, I kind of just did what I typically do with my other artwork which is work not with my mind but rather with my feelings and so I didn’t have a plan I just went with what felt right and in the end I feel like it shows what I felt.

*Interview with instructor continued on pg 3.*

## Club News Section

### Student Council News:

**Movie Nights: October 14th and 28th-** We are in the process of finalizing two halloween movie nights that will be held Friday evenings in the auditorium here at school. The plan is to charge students a minimal amount for entrance (maybe \$1 or \$2) and have concessions available for purchase just like a normal movie experience. We will do a poll through the newspaper soon to decide on the movies being shown, but some early ideas include: *The Conjuring, The Boy, Insidious, Sinister, Jeepers Creepers 2, A Haunting in Connecticut, The 4th Kind, Grudge, Dark Skies, Night of the Living Dead, and Devil.* We will update you as more information is finalized, and hope to see a full theatre both nights!

**Dress-Up Day: October 28th-** Halloween specific theme pending, but we will let everyone know in advance. Students will buy \$1 wristbands beforehand to be able to participate in the dress-up day festivities, and must follow the guidelines we will provide for appropriate costumes. We also encourage full staff participation, and are thinking of awarding costume prizes to both staff and students who have the best dress-up day outfits. Stay tuned for more details!

**Recruitment-** Student Council is also still recruiting new members, so feel free to stop by most Tuesday mornings in room 137 with Ms. Charles. You can also contact Mr Turpie in room 506.

### School Beautification:

Now that is early October, we want to start giving back to the school and local community through service. If you need community service hours for another club such as NHS or Student Council, or to help on your college applications, or you just want to give back this is the club for you. We have many great ideas about potential projects from recycling to creating areas for students to relax and enjoy our campus more, but we need students to make this possible so join today in room 506 with Mr. Turpie. As soon as details are available we will be sure to update everyone.

### Robotics Cub Recruiting:

**The Robotics club meets in 816 on Thursdays 3:30-5:00**

Mr. Lea and Mr. Darkis are the club sponsors.

They focus on building and programming robots for competition and are open to all skill levels.

### Mr. Watson (room 2B) Club Announcements:

**Christian Club** is sponsored by Ms Dokes and Mr Watson, with meetings on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 7:00 a.m.. If you are interested please feel free to drop in and try our our club.

**UIL** teams in Poetry Reading, and Persuasive and Informative Speaking will begin October 15th so

Continued from pg 2...

### Interviewer: What was the assignment?

Mr.Pitts: The idea of the assignment came from the Holocaust Museum of Houston where they had the idea of making butterflies for the millions of children that died during the Holocaust. The root of the idea came from a children’s book where a poem “The Butterfly”, was featured.

### Interviewer: Were you surprised when she turned in the artwork?

Mr.Pitts: I was, as you can see looking around the room, there were some really pretty butterflies and good paragraphs. But her piece was a brilliant piece of work, with significant depth and meaning. I actually showed it to my next class and it wasn’t a Holocaust Class but they were like ‘Wow’. (Chuckles)

### Interviewer: How did the artwork make you feel?

Mr.Pitts: I thought the piece of artwork was moving, and she’s got the paragraph that explains what each piece meant, I was kind of blown away. I’m not artistic and she obviously is, I was extremely impressed with the artwork and story.

### Interviewer: Did you expect to receive that type of art?

Mr.Pitts: N-No, I can’t say to expect something that nice. It could be framed and sold, it’s beautiful and deep. All of them were moving, but none of them were as moving as Brenda’s. As soon as she put it on my desk I was like ‘Wow, you’re an artist.’

## EXTRACURRICULAR EVENTS

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Football ( <i>Varsity</i> )	Sam Houston	Bellaire Sam	Cowart	10.7.16	7:00 PM
				10.14.16	
	Westbury Sam	Houston	Butler		7:00 PM
				10.22.16	
	Houston	Lamar Sam	Cowart		1:00 PM
				10.28.16	
Volleyball( <i>Jr. Varsity</i> )	Westside Sam Houston	Houston	Delmar		7:00 PM
		Chavez	Cowart	11.4.16	7:00 PM
	Sam Houston	Heights	Sam Houston	10.4.16	5-6:00 PM
	Sam Houston	Bellaire	Sam Houston	10.7.16	5-6:00 PM
				10.10.16	5-6:00 PM
	Houston	Westbury Sam	Houston		
				10.14.16	5-6:00 PM
	Westside	Houston Sam	Westside		
				10.18.16	5-6:00 PM
	Chavez Sam Houston	Houston	Chavez Sam Houston	10.21.16	5-6:00 PM
Volleyball( <i>Varsity</i> )		Carnegie		10.25.16	5-6:00 PM
	Sam Houston	Lamar	Sam Houston		
	Sam Houston	Heights	Pavilion	10.4.16	7:00 PM
	Sam Houston	Bellaire	Pavilion	10.7.16	5:45 PM
				10.10.16	
	Houston	Westbury Sam	Pavilion		4:30 PM
				10.14.16	
	Westside	Houston Sam	Pavilion		8:15 PM
				10.18.16	
	Chavez Sam Houston	Houston	Barnett		4:30 PM
				10.21.16	
	Houston	Carnegie	Pavilion		4:00 PM
				10.25.16	
	Sam Houston	Lamar	Pavilion		4:30 PM

<u>CLUBS</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Debate	HUDL Tournament			8AM-9P
	3	Sam Houston	10.22.16	M
	HUDL Tournament			8AM-9P
	4	Wisdom	11.12.16	M
	HUDL Tournament			8AM-9P
	5	Yates	12.3.16	M
	HUDL Tournament			8AM-9P
	6	Sam Houston	1.14.17	M



please drop in and chat with Mr Watson in 2B if you are interested.

Senior Committee:

REMINDER- PLEASE SELL YOUR COOKIE DOUGH TO SUPPORT SENIOR EVENTS!

This is how you will pay for senior trips and prom so be sure to sell, sell, sell!

Newspaper Club Recruiting:

Coincidentally, our club is also recruiting interested students to help us create the student newspaper here at Sam Houston. We are the oldest newspaper in Texas, and are trying to build-up the paper to the level of the richness of our successful past. The newspaper wants to be the voice of this community and highlight all the good work being done here by our excellent staff, energetic student body, and inspiring leadership team. Please contact Mr Turpie (room 506), Ms Benson (room 504), or Ms Mascarenhas (room 309) if you are interested in getting involved.

YOUR SEPTEMBER ISSUE CLUB MEMBERS

Raymond Schmitz

Cheyenne Kirksey

Ruby Rapalo

Alyssa Vargas

Maria Barahona

Cesilia Saavedra

Rigo Rojas

Elva Valdez

Mercedes Perez

Dafne Cortes

Aracely Gomez

Sponsors:

David Turpie

Colleen Mascarenhas

Cheyenne Benson

Special Thanks to:

Mr. Summers

Dr. Pitts, Mr. Niggli

Mr. Hines

Brenda Rubio.

THANKS FOR READING!



Photo courtesy of Mr. Turpie and the Volleyball Team

Breast cancer awareness

by: Maria Barahona

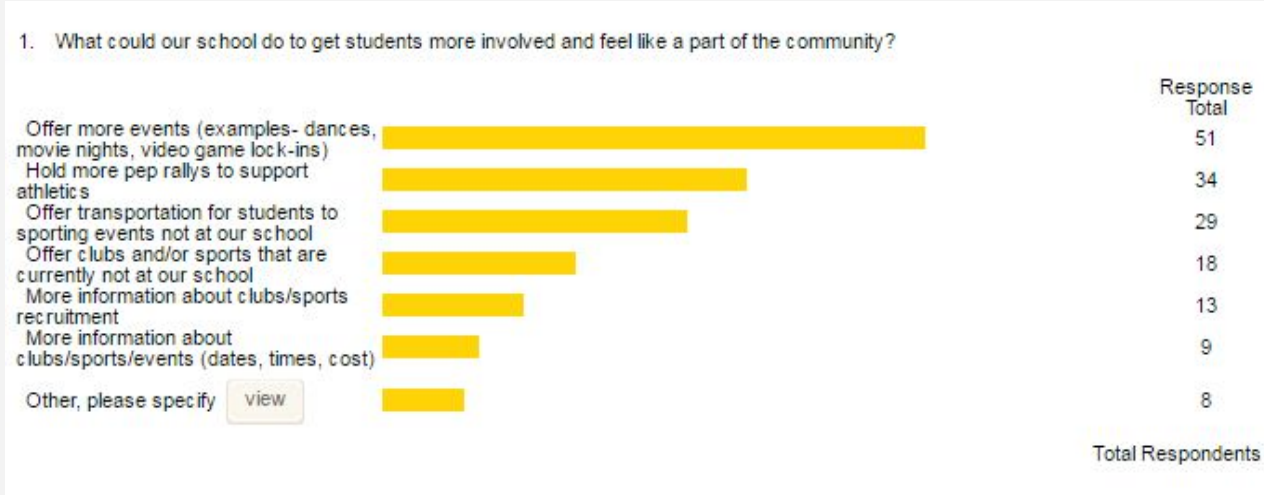
I asked students at Sam what BCA (Breast Cancer Awareness) really meant in their perspective. Some students said they just knew it had something to do with breast cancer. But is that really what’s behind those pink ribbons? In 1990 the first breast cancer survivor program was released in Washington, DC and it was named the Komen National Race For the Cure. In 1993, Evelyn Lauder, Senior Corporate Vice President of the Estée Lauder Companies, founded The Breast Cancer Research Foundation and established the pink ribbon as its symbol. Although this was not the first time the ribbon was used to symbolize breast cancer.

However, there was a ribbon that symbolized breast cancer before Estee Lauder’s. The first ribbon, according to Think Before You Pink, was not the pink color we know today, “A 68 year old woman named Charlotte Haley, whose sister, daughter, and granddaughter had breast cancer. Her peach-colored loops were handmade in her dining room.” After Haley’s ribbon debut the Estée Lauder Company got the idea where they would give away pink ribbons at their makeup counters, they sold over 200,000 pink ribbons. Unfortunately, after Lauder’s success Haley’s peach ribbon was history. Within the years companies started joined in the pink ribbon bandwagon these companies were Avon, Panera Bread, Kroger, and Chevrolet.

“The National Cancer Institute annual budget is \$1.8 billion, only 5 percent goes for cancer prevention. Help us wake up our legislators and America by wearing this ribbon.”

– Charlotte Haley

PS: don’t forget to purchase a BCA shirt this coming October from the volleyball team.



ISSUE #2 WILL BE ON POLITICS AND ELECTIONS...