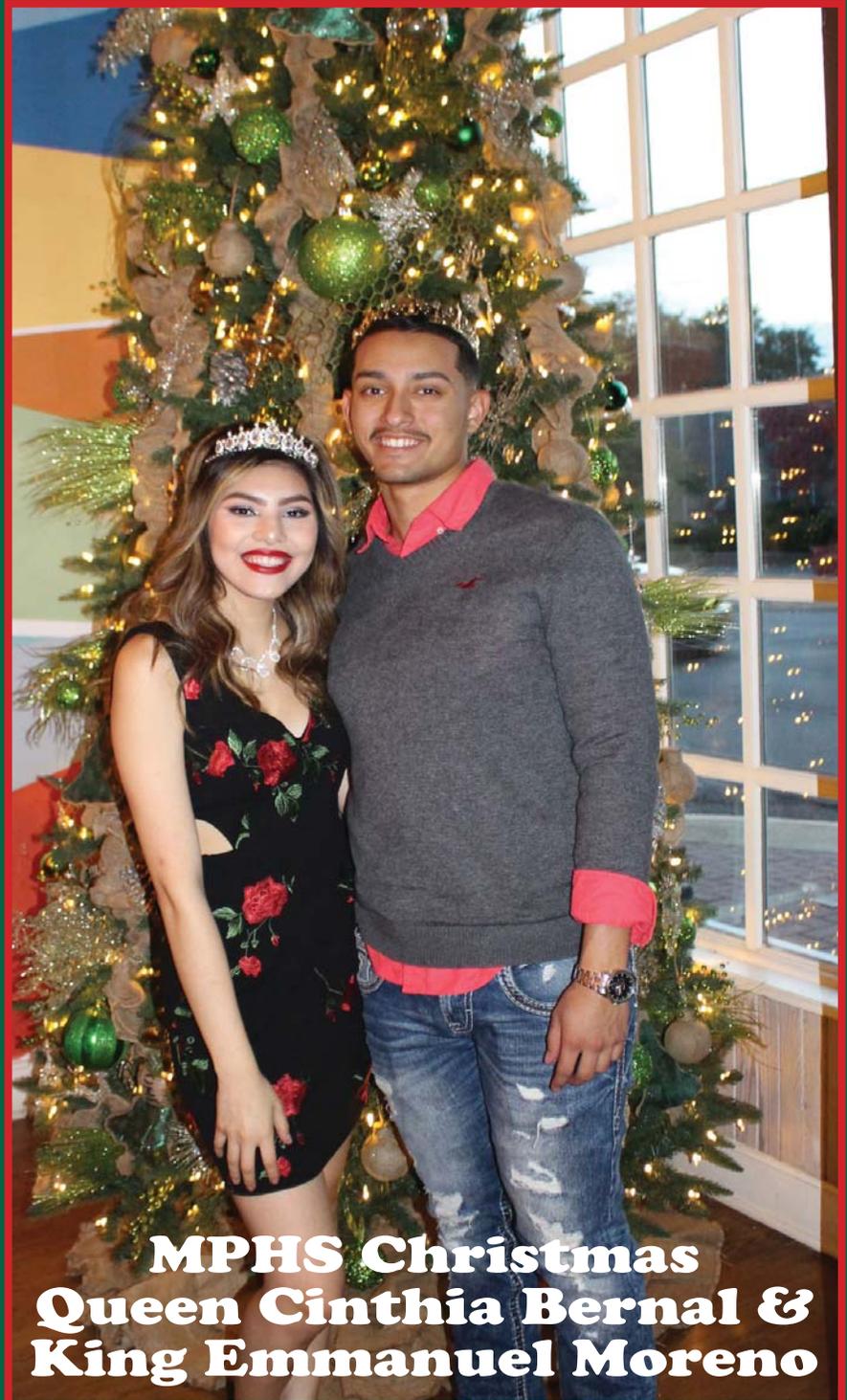


Tigertalk

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Christmas
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**MPHS Christmas
Queen Cinthia Bernal &
King Emmanuel Moreno**

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P.E. Wallace students are in the Christmas spirit for the parade earlier this month. For more parade photos, see Page 5 and 22-27.

Tigertalk

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Foreign exchange students adapt to MPHS, being away for Christmas

By HARPER DAVIS
Tigertalk Staff Writer

This year the high school has two foreign exchange students --- Piyada (Amy) Phunrob and Bo-Wen (Benson) Yeh --- who are experiencing a culture then what they are accustomed to at home.

Amy, a sophomore, is from Thailand and Benson, a senior is from, Thailand.

We interviewed them about spending the holidays here, their Christmas traditions and the difference in their education experiences.

1. How do you celebrate Christmas at home and what traditions do you have?

Benson- My mother puts ornaments on the Christmas tree and simply decorates the interior of the house. We usually go to church on Christmas Eve and every year my family and I go to a nice restaurant for a feast to celebrate.

Amy- Most Thai are Buddhist so they don't celebrate Christmas but I am in a Catholic school. We exchange gifts on December 24th and we have a break from December 25th to January 3rd.

Every year we decorate the school and we play games.

2. What are you going to miss most about being with your family during the holidays?

Benson-I think I'm going to miss seeing my parents, brother, and cousins every day and talking to each of them at the dinner table the most.

Amy- I am going to miss the trip my family goes on every year and all my favorite foods.

3. Is Santa Claus or someone similar prevalent in your country?

Benson-Not really. Almost everyone knows who Santa Claus is, but generally speaking, Christmas isn't a very big holiday in Taiwan. In addition, most children, myself included, believe in the existence of Santa Claus until we learn the harsh fact that Santa is nothing but an imaginary figure.

Amy- We believe in Santa Claus.

4. How often do you have contact with your family?

Benson-At least once every two weeks or more through facetime and Facebook messenger.



Amy Phunrob



Benson Yeh

See Students, Pg. 4

Students from Page 3

Amy- Just once or twice a week. If I contact them too much I'll get homesick and sad.

5. What has been the biggest adjustment to living here?

Benson-The transportation has been the biggest adjustment. I used to ride a bicycle to and from school for six years and cycled to wherever I felt like going in the city. In Mt. Pleasant, you can't go anywhere without a car.

Amy- The biggest adjustment is the language. In Thailand I learned how to read and write English but actually speaking it is new and has been very difficult, I am learning though.

6. What has been your favorite part about living in the U.S.?

Benson-My favorite part about living in the U.S. is meeting and befriending all kinds of people, even exchange students from other counties.

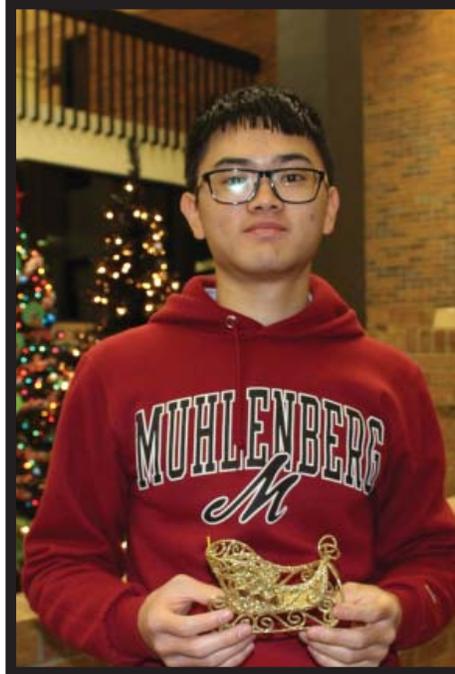
Also, I love how curious students and teachers at MPHS are about what life is like in a foreign country.

Amy- I like that I can dress how I want for school and I don't have to study as much as I did in Thailand. Also, I like that Americans can drive when they are 16, in Thailand you must be 18.

7. How is school here different from school in your home country?

Benson- Well for one, the academic environment here is less stressful and more diverse and a greater variety of courses are offered for students to choose from. Students here get to build their own class schedule where in Taiwan curriculum is decided for the students.

Secondly, American high school places a greater emphasis on sports and extra-curricular activities whereas schools in Taiwan focus on academics and getting into good colleges/ universities.



Benson and Amy are wrapping up their first semester at MPHS.

In America most schools are coed and students can dress as they please. In Taiwan schools are normally separated by gender and have school uniforms.

However, American high school is more fast-paced with only 5-minute recess and no nap time after lunch break. Students in Taiwan practically stay in the same homeroom throughout the day and teachers come to each classroom instead of students running from class to class.

Lastly American high school has Homecoming and Prom where in Taiwan the events are things like an annual in-school athletic meet and a school fair.

Amy- In Thailand there are a lot more subjects and students don't get to pick. There have about 12 subjects in a week's time so the schedule is different. We have uniforms for each day depending on what subjects are that day. Also, we stay in the same classroom and different teachers come to us.

Eleven students advance to state in TAFE competition

Eleven of the Ready Set Teach students are advancing to State competition at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville on February 15-18. These students competed in various events this past weekend ranging from Testing knowledge of Educational Fundamentals to Impromptu and Public Speaking as well as creative materials for teachers.

Ten Seniors and one Junior will be traveling in February to represent Mount Pleasant TAFE at the Teach Tomorrow Summit.

Seniors advancing: Individual Events: Leslie Damian, Nancy Ibarra, Helena Rios, Peyton McClendon

Team events: Itzel and Ilse Vargas, Tonita Graniel and Jocelyn Moreno, Flor Perez

Junior student Lauren Southerland advanced in Educational Fundamentals Testing.

Christmas Parade



Page by Payton Tyler and Zannah Hutchings

Staff picks Segovia, Sneed for All-School Boy and Girl

By MATTHEW ARMSTRONG
Tigertalk Staff Writer

As the first semester comes to a close the faculty and staff have selected Nathon Segovia and Abby Sneed as All School Boy and Girl.

Nathon is the son of Jose and Jehovana Segovia. He plans to attend a four-year university after completing Marine Corps Basic training, after graduating college and being commissioned as a 2nd Lt. he will attend medical school and plans to become a pediatric cardiac surgeon.

Segovia was asked who inspires him and he said his grandmother.

“My abuelita inspires me to strive [for] my best because she and her family are the reason I have access to these opportunities and honors,” Segovia said.

After he came to the realization that he has received this title he was grateful and honored.

“I am extremely grateful and honored to have been selected by such an amazing educational staff and faculty for an accomplishment like this,” Segovia said.

He is involved in many different organizations including: UIL, Debate, HOSA, and NHS. Segovia has been very successful throughout his high school career and has received countless honors, only some of which are included.

Segovia’s speech and debate awards include: Policy Debate District Champion, District Top Speaker Award, Academic All American Award, and World School Debate National Qualifier. In UIL he received: Science District Champion, District Top Physics Score, and District Top Chemistry Score. Segovia’s other academic accomplishments include National Hispanic Scholar, MIT WISE Program participant, QuestBridge National Prep Scholar, NASA High School Aerospace Scholar, and three academic blankets in Physics DC, Pre-AP Chemistry and Pre-AP Biology.

Sneed is the daughter of the late Kevin Sneed and Angela Sneed. During her time in high school she has received numerous awards and recognitions including: Class Secretary, first division on a class two solo, first division on a class one solo advancing to state as a sophomore and junior, serv-



Sneed and Segovia pose for a photo.

ing as the 2016 MPHS Ambassador to the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Conference.

She is currently the NHS Treasurer, color guard squad leader and choir chaplain.

After graduation high school Sneed plans to attend Southern Nazarene University and receive a degree in elementary education, her goal is to one day teach kindergarten then become a principal.

When asked about who inspires her the most she said her father.

“My dad is a huge inspiration to me because he was never afraid to dream big, put his dreams into action, and he didn’t give up if something went wrong,” Sneed said.

After she realized she received this award she was honored that the faculty and staff felt so highly of her as a student.



Mendoza and Palacios were honored to be named Mr. and Miss MPHS.

Mendoza, Palacios selected for Mr. and Miss MPHS honor

By HARPER DAVIS
Tigertalk Staff Writer

This year's seniors voted Steven Mendoza and Guadalupe Palacios as the 2018 Mr. and Miss MPHS.

Steven was humbled to have received this honor representing Mount Pleasant High School. Steven believes his peers were looking for someone who was humble, kind, courageous, and determined when casting their vote.

As a Head Drum Major in the MPHS Goin' Gold Band and a member of HOSA, FBLA, and Student Council, Steven is very involved in school. Steven said that having so many opportunities is one of his favorite parts of MPHS.

Outside of school Steven is involved in his church group, volunteering at Titus County Cares and has a job at Super Bueno. In the future Steven plans on

pursuing a career in music education at Texas A&M at Commerce.

Guadalupe said she was honored to receive Miss MPHS out of all the girls in the senior class. Guadalupe believes her peers were looking for someone who was kind and humble, things she strives to be.

Guadalupe is on the varsity soccer team, a member of FFA and NTHS, and is also a part of the Arrowhead staff.

Her favorite parts of MPHS are the bonds she has made with her friends and her team and how dedicated all the teachers are to their student's success. Outside of school Guadalupe has a job and enjoys spending time with her family.

After high school Guadalupe plans on attending Tyler Junior College and pursuing a career in dental hygiene.

Pg. 7 Tigertalk

Superlatives for seniors announced

By ODALYS MACEDO
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Congratulations to the following students on being selected for senior superlatives by their fellow classmates. The winners are listed below.

Mr. MPHS - Steven Mendoza

Miss MPHS - Guadalupe Palacios

Most Athletic Boys - Juan Ottino, Kevin Savage and Hugo Valdez

Most Athletic Girls - Jazmin Martinez, Alexia Thompson-Nance, Erika Vargas

Most Talented Boys - Addison Hunter, Steven Mendoza, Allan Ruan

Most Talented Girls - Zannah Hutchings, Peyton McClendon, Payton Tyler

Most Likely to Succeed Boys - Hunter Grant, Orlando Olivares, Nathon Segovia

Most Likely to Succeed Girls - Angela Flores, Verania Leyva, Rachel Sharp

Best Dressed Boys - Micah Grant, Jeremiah Roney, Tristan Zuniga

Best Dressed Girls - Yisel Ayala, Odette Garcia, Ilse Vargas

Most Changed Since Freshman Year Boys - Uriel Chanez, Alexis Morales, Seth Robertson

Most Changed Since Freshman Year Girls - Stacey Henderson, Brooklyn Mata, Autumn Velin

Most Likely to Be Late to Graduation Boys - Rex Grissom, Reuben Montoya, Emmanuel Moreno

Most Likely to Be Late to

See Seniors, Page 9



Elizabeth Bailey with the Challenge Coin and Cristian Contreras with the letters they received from Stockton.

Students write condolence letters to law enforcement

Law Enforcement teacher Elizabeth Bailey challenged her Law Enforcement II students to write condolence letters to Police Departments around the country for their fallen officers. Students found the names of Departments who had lost officers on the Officer Down Memorial Page.

Bailey said the class has received letters of thanks from several of the Police Departments including Dallas, San Antonio and Las Vegas, Nev.

Senior Cristian Contreras selected the Police Department of Stockton, Calif. because he had relatives in the area. He wrote the Department about Officer Scott Hewell, a member of the Mobile Field Force Team who died in June 2014. Stockton Chief of Police Eric Jones wrote back and in his letter of thanks said:

“Officer Scott Hewell gave the ultimate sacrifice in protecting our community and being a law enforcement officer... After his death, Scott has been sorely missed by the entire Police Department as he was part of our family. He will never be forgotten, nor will any of our other fallen officers who valiantly gave of themselves to keep our communities safe.”

Jones also enclosed a Stockton Police Department Challenge Coin. This coin is given to officers at their retirement to show that they are life-long members of their police family and to show their allegiance to the law enforcement profession.

“I was surprised that he included the Challenge Coin with the letter,” Bailey said. “This coin is usually reserved for their own officers. It really shows that he appreciated receiving the letter from Cristian.”



Hospitality students are shown at the Gaylord.

Hospitality students visit Gaylord Hotel in Grapevine

On Nov. 17, the high school's Hospitality and Tourism class took a select number of students to the Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine. The students in this class are interested in working in the Hospitality industry which includes lodging and restaurants.

The students were taken on a tour of the resort and

were guided through the facilities employee tunnels. They were shown the banquet kitchen, employee cafeteria and the HVAC equipment along with many other aspects of the building. Our students were given the opportunity to talk with employees along the tour and ask questions of the Human Resources Department. Af-

ter lunch students then enjoyed the ICE! Sculptures shown in the attached picture. The day finally ended with a stop at the Galleria Dallas Mall where many of the students went ice skating for the first time. At the end of the day, many students expressed interest in working at the Gaylord Texan in any of their departments.

Seniors from Page 8

Graduation Girls- Gitsel DeJesus, Shelbi Haupt, Crystal Zuniga

Most likely to be Famous Boys - Ivan Almazan, Alan Lopez, Kevin Savage

Most likely to be Famous Girls - Taylor Bartlett, Ariana Garrett, Jennifer Zuniga

Most Dramatic Boys - Thomas Collier, Tristan Richardson, Eric Vasquez

Most Dramatic Girls - Sha'kera Evans, Kamille Gill, Abby Sneed

Most Talkative Boys - Roberto Alvarez, Josh Menhennett, Josh McGill

Most Talkative Girls- Emily Bonilla, Cailyn Mendoza, Trinity Turner

Most likely to procrastinate Boys - Israel Chavez, Devon Reynolds, Luke Scoggin

Most likely to procrastinate girls - Nancy De Jesus, Tessa Land, Daisy Ysasi

Best Friends Boys - Max Burrows and Andrew Matkin, Carlos Lopez and Allan Ruan, Dylan Ingram and Noah Wall

Best Friends Girls - Abigail Amerson and Rachel Sharp, Alejandra Sambrano and Noemy Valles, Yisel Ayala and Lixie Chavez.



FBLA students pose for a group photo outside of American Airlines Center.

FBLA members take tour of American Airlines Center

By MATTHEW ARMSTRONG
Tiger Talk Staff

The high school's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter had the opportunity to travel to Dallas and attend the Mavericks game against the Brooklyn Nets on Nov. 29. FBLA students started with a tour of American Airlines Center and learned numerous facts about the venue and the business aspect of the events that are held there.

During the tour, students were shown the facility and along the way information was provided pertaining to what was currently being viewed.

While in the south lobby, which contains model American Airlines aircrafts, students were informed that American Airlines agreed to pay \$195

million over a 30 year period for their name to be advertised throughout the building.

Once the tours ended all the attending students from FBLA, DECA, and BPA convened in the area to listen to speakers.

Those who spoke worked for the Mavericks in various jobs that relate to many events that are offered in FBLA.

The speakers including Veronica Cantu, Director of Sales Marketing, also touched on branding and how students should strive to be a brand that others would want to associate with. The students were also informed that as an employer she goes to social media to see how prospective employees brand themselves. The importance of how social me-

dia can affect your future was discussed many times proving that what one posts can have consequences.

Before the game FBLA Officers Grace Whitten and Matthew Armstrong were given What-A-Burger High-Five Line Passes. This allowed them the opportunity to give each of the Mavs players a high five right before the game.

After the game started, all of our members has a great time cheering on the Mavericks and making memories with their peers and chapter.

This was a great opportunity for students to learn about the different careers available within the sport and entertainment industry, and it allowed the students to learn specifically about how to market in this industry.

Segovia receives DAR Award

Nathon Segovia was recently selected as the MPHS DAR Good Citizen. He is a senior and is the son of Jose and Jehovaha Segovia.

The Martha Laird Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsors the DAR Good Citizen program in our area. This contest is designed to honor an outstanding young person in a high school's senior class who demonstrates the four qualities of a DAR Good Citizen: Dependability, Service, Leadership, and Patriotism.

Nathon holds various leadership roles in organizations in which he is a member. He is currently Vice-President of National Honor Society, Captain of the Speech and Debate Team, and has previously served as Sophomore Class President, Freshman Class Treasurer and Assistant Drum Major of the MPHS Goin' Gold Band. He is an Assistant Youth Leader at Greenhill United Methodist Church and is a member of HOSA and FBLA.

Service to the community and patriotism are also important characteristics that good citizens possess. Nathon made a decision to serve his country in the United States Marine Corps before he enrolls in Texas A&M University, where he will major in Nuclear Engineering. Serving his country and his community are honors that he is proud to fulfill.

Throughout high school he has participated in the Salvation Army Bell Ringer program, Relay for Life, Titus County Cares Food Pantry, and helped plan school spirit events for Student Council.

This year he sought another way to serve by co-founding Cosmos Scholars, a free tutoring service that provides academic assistance to students in MPISD.



Segovia is pictured with Principal Dustin Cook.

Nathon has won numerous awards in Speech/Debate as well as UIL Science. He was UIL Policy Debate District Champ and District Top Speaker in his junior year. He received the Academic All American Award, was a World School Debate National Qualifier, and was a member of the Texas Forensic Association state-qualifying Policy debate team.

Also during his junior year, he was UIL Science District Champion and District Top Scorer in both Physics and Chemistry. During his sophomore year, he won Top Speaker honors and numerous other awards at various invitational meets.

Nathon is a National Hispanic Scholar, MPHS All School

Boy, and Rotary Student of the Month. He has received Academic Blanket awards in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

He participated in the NASA High School Aerospace Program, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Weekend Immersion in Science and Engineering, and competed at the National Speech and Debate Tournament.

Being selected as the MPHS Good Citizen provides Nathon the opportunity to participate in the scholarship portion of the program at the local Chapter level. Each contest entry is evaluated by independent, non-DAR judges. The winning entry is advanced through state and national levels of judging.

Dorsey, Ottino are selected for Wendy's Heisman honor

Molli Dorsey and Juan Ottino were selected by ACT, Inc. as the Wendy's High School Heisman school winners for MPHS. The leadership award-honorees are well-rounded young men and women who work harder, show more passion, and lead by example---in the classroom, on the field, and in the community.

Students were judged based on their academic achievements, athletic accomplishments, community-leadership, and involvement in various extracurricular activities during grades 9 through 11.

Molli is the daughter of Robert and Candye Dorsey. She is a 3-year member of the powerlifting team, where she has been an officer and excelled as both a regional and a state contender. Her sophomore year, she placed 4th in her weight class at Regionals. During her junior year, she placed 2nd in her weight class at Regionals and 10th in her weight class at the State competition.

She has also been a member of the softball program where she received the Lady Tiger Heart Award. Molli is a 4-year member of Varsity Choir, where she currently serves as President and served as



Dorsey and Ottino are pictured with Mr. Cook.

Vice-President during her junior year. She has also been a member of HOSA for 4 years, Student Council for 3 years, and was selected to the National Technical Honor Society as a junior. She is also a member of the National Society of High School Scholars.

In addition to her extracurricular activities at school, Molli has participated in numerous com-

munity service events, such as Titus County Cares Food Pantry, Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, League of Dreams, Circle of Friends Camp for Adult Traumatic Brain Injury Survivors, Anchor Club, Footsteps Ministry, and one of her favorite events is the Community Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by her church.

Molli is an active mem-

See Heisman, Pg. 13

Theatre busy preparing for next play

By **REBECCA YOX**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Currently theatre is preparing for their next play entitled "Wings" written by Arthur Kopit.

"You really have to have a passion for what you're doing," sophomore Skylee Ford said.

Theatre rehearses every Monday, Thursday and Saturday along with practicing during regular class time.

"Theatre is different because our auditorium isn't just where we practice, it's where we live," junior Ja'Quacy Minter said.

In order to perform a play, it requires not only a lot of practice but also a strong team effort.

"I think the fact that we're all so incredibly close is the reason we achieve every goal for ourselves," Skylee said.

The theatre director Mr. Jace Sturgill was influenced to teach theatre by his high school English teacher Mrs.



Pictured are cast members of the "Eric and Elliott." It was a play put on by the theatre group this fall.

Anderson and hopes to improve the program by inspiring his students as Anderson inspired him.

"I want students to be the best they can be inside and outside the classroom," Sturgill said.

Student motivation is a key

factor in any organization but especially important in theatre.

"My number one piece of advice for someone who wants to join theatre, is to never doubt yourself," Skylee said. Theatre will perform this play in the spring.

Heisman from Page 12

ber of Trinity Baptist Church and serves on the youth leadership team and the Student Worship Arts Leadership Team. She has been a co-leader for Kids Camp and sings in both the youth and adult choirs

Juan is the son of Gregorio and Cynthia Guerrero. He is a 2-year member of the varsity football team, 4-year member of the varsity baseball team where he has been a 3 year starter, a member of the Tiger Track team, a 3 year member of the Cross Country team, and was a Region-

al team qualifier for cross country during both his junior and senior years.

He received Academic All-District honors in football, was chosen as Honorable Mention for baseball, and received the Built Tiger Tough Award for Tiger Baseball.

In addition to athletics, Juan is ranked in the Top 10% of his class and will graduate from high school with over 20 hours of college credit. He serves as the Vice President of HOSA, is a member of the National Honor Society, and Phi Theta Kappa

honor society.

Juan volunteers at Titus County Cares, the HOSA Health Fair, Relay for Life, and HOSA Leadership Conference, and attends Trinity Baptist Church.

Since 1994, Wendy's and the Heisman Trophy Trust have honored more than 600,000 of the nation's most esteemed high school seniors who share Wendy's values of giving back to their communities, treating people with respect, continuing education and excelling on the athletic field.



Henderson dribbles against Gilmer in a game earlier this season.

Lady Tigers hoping for another successful season on the court

By **KARSON HUTCHINGS**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The Lady Tigers have had a successful season so far on the basketball court and putting in countless hours during practice to secure their wins when it comes game time. Senior Stacey Henderson shares her thoughts about the season thus far

“I feel good about [the season],” Henderson said. “I feel like [the team] will get it together and do whatever it takes. It’s a process, and we choose to trust”

As she feels great about the season already, Stacey sets her bar high for the prediction of her team for the rest of the 2018 season. She predicts her team will win 1st in district”

For any sport, practice isn’t always fun and games. You have to work hard and work up one heck of a sweat. Henderson says Kendria Robertson and Keandria “KeKe” Craddock make practice fun.

Speaking of breaking a sweat, Stacey says the worst part of practice is Syracuse Running. But, the best part of her practice in her opinion is “having a whole two hours to be with my team/ coaches. Even when it’s a bad day, they make things better.”

At practice, it is very important to come to-

gether as a team. In every team, there’s one player that is the heart of the team, if they aren’t there, something is surely wrong. Stacey says that Summer Baldwin is the heart of the team.

After countless hours of practice, it’s game time. It’s very important for every athlete to zone in and focus.

Stacey said “team talks and playing music in the locker room” gets her hyped before a game.

After being locked in and focused, Stacey says her thought process during a game is “do what you have to do to get a win. Make as little mistakes as possible.”

A great mindset to have somebody whose position is called “The Shooter.”

Henderson said “the pressure of making your shots” is the hardest part about her position. For every great team, there are some setbacks. Stacey says “the wind” has been their setback, “just a lot of team problems [the team] faced. [The team] went through the struggle. But for the Lady Tigers, they bounced back and have set their goals high this season. “My main goal this year is to beat Sulphur Springs. I also would like to beat Coach (Tina) Carrillo’s record of 8 three pointers in one game.”



From left are Scoggin, Hearn, Sharp, Greco, Jones, Houchin and Elliott.

Swim team turning good laps

By **SAMANTHA GONZALEZ**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The high school Swim Team has competed in some of their meets this fall as they get ready for district.

In the first meet the team went against Lufkin, Robert E. Lee, J J Pearce, Longview High, Texarkana High and Hallsville. The girls relay team placed 8th in both the 200 meter Freestyle Relay and the Medley Relay. The relay team consisted of Lily Grace Jones, Anna Elliott, Makayla Houchin and Isabella Greco.

Also individually, Greco placed 12th in the 100 yard freestyle and 16th in the 50 yard freestyle. Houchin placed 9th in the 100 meter backstroke and 11th in the 100 meter freestyle. Elliott and Jones placed 13th and 14th, respectively in the 100 meter breaststroke.

For the boys, Ryan Sharp placed 3rd in the 100 yard Butterfly with a time of 59.28 and 4th in the 100 yard backstroke with a time of 1:02.94. Ty Hearn placed 12th in the 50 yard freestyle. Overall this meet went very well for the team.

The swim team competed in the North East

Texas TISCA meet in Texarkana November 17th and 18th. There were 529 swimmers in this meet.

“I am very proud of the rankings our swimmers had after all three sessions were done” Coach Echo Johnson said.

In this meet, Houchin placed 40th, Jones placed 66th, and Elliott placed 77th. In the 100 yard freestyle, Makayla placed 53rd and Greco placed 62. The relay team consisted of Lily Grace Jones, Makayla Houchin, Anna Elliot, and Isabella Greco placed 27th in the 100 Medley and 29th in the 200 free relay. Luck Scoggin also swam his best personal times.

In order to make finals on Saturday you had to be in the top 16 swimmers from Friday’s sessions. Freshman Ryan Sharp accomplished this feat by qualifying in the 100 Butterfly and 100 backstroke. On Saturday he made his personal best times in each event.

The team is very excited to represent Mount Pleasant High School in the district meet. They are preparing the best they can to improve their times and strategies. Good Luck MPHS Swim Team We wish you the best!



From left are Team Coach Cody Morris, Connelly Cowan, Taryn Thurman, Seth Robertson, Audrey Courreges and Maritza Zambrano.

Speech, Debate Team have good showing at Whitehouse UIL meet

The Speech and Debate Team competed at Whitehouse the weekend before Thanksgiving Break. They brought home three 2nd place medals, two 3rd place medals, and earned one 4th, one 5th and one 6th.

Seven students brought home medals from the contest. Two of them, Aslin Barrientos and Ryan Sharp, placed in two events while Seth Robertson placed in three.

Winners included:

Seth Robertson 2nd in Poetry Interpretation, 3rd in Humorous Interpretation and with Audrey Courreges 5th in CX Debate

Jaquacy Minter 2nd in Dramatic Interpretation

Ryan Sharp 2nd in Humorous Interpretation and with Taryn Thurman 4th in CX

Debate

Aslin Barrientos 6th in Dramatic Interpretation and with Tripp Hinton 3rd in Duo Interpretation

The team improved at their next Meet on Dec. 2 at All Saints Episcopal in Tyler. They brought home the 2nd place overall trophy and earned two 1st place, two 2nd place, one 3rd place, two 5th place and four 6th place awards.

Seven students brought home the 11 medals. Minter placed in four events, while two students, Barrientos and Sharp - placed in three events and Thurman placed in two events.

Winners included:

Minter 1st in Poetry Interpretation. 2nd in Program of Oral Interpretation, 5th in Dramatic Interpretation and

with Barrientos 1st in Duo Interpretation.

Sharp 3rd in Prose Interpretation, 6th in International Extemporaneous Speaking and with Thurman 2nd in Policy Debate

Connelly Cowan with Anthony Preciado 3rd in Policy Debate

Thurman 5th in Poetry Interpretation

Barrientos 6th in Poetry Interpretation and in Program or Oral Interpretation

Maritza Zambrano 6th in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking

“We congratulate these students on their success at these two meets,” said MP-ISD Director of Communications Dr. Judi Saxton. “We look forward to what they will achieve throughout the rest of this school year.”



From left are Coach Andy Speir, Pornphiphat Saiboonchan, Jose Liera, David Barboza, Grace Whitten, Shelby Courreges and Patricia Roque.

Calculator Applications, Math do well in UIL Academic Invationals

The high school Calculator Applications and Math teams earned first place finishes at the Whitehouse Thanksgiving Invitational Nov. 11 and at the Spring Hill Meet on Dec. 2.

Whitehouse Thanksgiving Invitational

The Math team members at the Whitehouse Meet were Jose Liera, David Barboza, Pornphiphat Saiboonchan, and Shelby Courreges. Individually Jose Liera placed 1st, David Barboza placed 4th, Pornphiphat Saiboonchan placed 5th, and Shelby Courreges placed 6th.

Spring Hill Math/Science Meet

The Calculator Applications team took 1st place at the Meet beating second place finisher Pine Tree by 9 points (588 to 579) and third place team Hallsville by 27 points (588 to 561).

Individually Patricia Roque placed 4th in 9th grade, Grace Whitten placed 2nd in 10th grade, Jose Liera placed 1st in 11th grade, David Barboza placed 4th in 11th grade and Pornphiphat Saiboonchan placed 5th in 12th

grade

The 1st place MPHS Math team outdistanced second place Hallsville by 150 points (710 to 560) and third place finisher Pine Tree by 210 points (710 to 500).

Individually Courreges placed 3rd in 10th grade, Liera placed 1st in 11th grade, Barboza placed 2nd in 11th grade and Saiboonchan placed 1st in 12th grade

In Science, Liera placed 5th in 11th grade. “This year’s teams are following in the footsteps of last year’s teams who took state in Calculator Apps and 2nd in State in Math,” said MPISD’s Director of Communications Dr. Judi Saxton.

“While three members of last year’s Calculator Apps team and two members of the Math team graduated, the students who continued on the teams and the new members Coach Andy Speir has brought on board are continuing the tradition of excellence.

“We are excited to see what the rest of the year will bring as these students continue in UIL Academic competitions.”

Art Department lends a brush to help paint downtown mural

By ERIC VASQUEZ
Tigertalk Editor

The Art Department has been busy these past few months preparing for the VASE (Visual Arts Scholastics Events) competition and painting the Alley on 3rd Mural alongside artist David Freeman.

Art teacher Laura Kirkland and her students Maddison Weddle, Dianna Daugherty, Itaii Luna, Abdeil Nava, Cessia Gonzalez, Stacy Brown, Kachina Swafford, Mya Grace Clark, and Anaeli Navarro participated in painting the mural.

“The Mural Design would be considered Abstract Structuralism,” Freeman said.

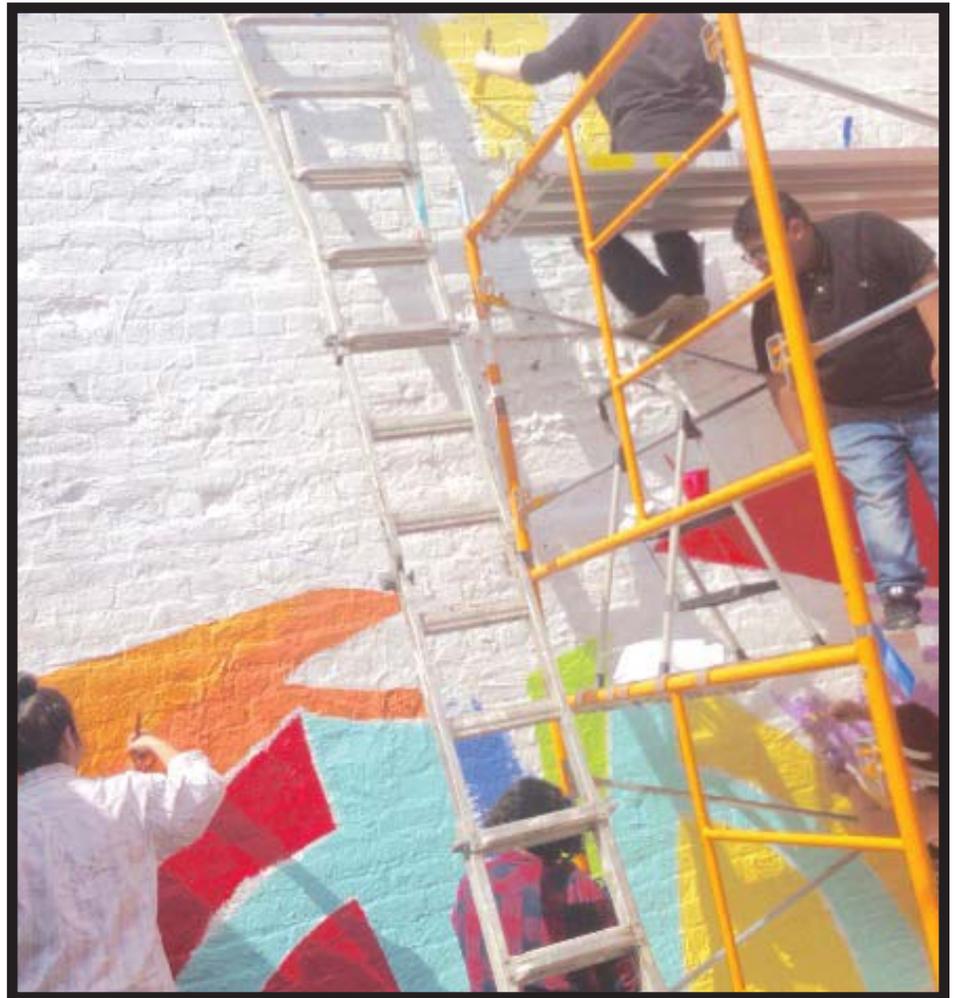
“The design creates a space that defines and defies three-dimensionality.

The Alley on Third Mural is located in the courtyard area of the alley on Third Street in Mount Pleasant.

The courtyard area with the mural is open weekdays 8:30am -3pm and on Thursday night 7pm -9pm for anyone to go relax and admire the mural.

“Laura and her art students all contributed time over the span of three Saturdays having fun and learning hands on (mural art production) and with their contribution the mural was worked half-way prior to its completion,” Freeman said. “Art production continued on mural fine-tuning and finalizing to make sure it was completed on time.”

The students experienced hands-on (mural art production) including: wall preparation, undercoat priming, creation of wall grid using measurement and level for



Art students work on the mural located downtown.

design transfer, design transfer, scaffold setup, color mixing followed by hand-painted color application using brush on a large scale heavy textured brick surface. The wall measures 16 feet tall x 21 feet wide.

“I did grid work, lines, and paint work, generally I did work up on the tall ladder since I’m like the only one besides the muralist who wasn’t a wimp” senior Kachina Swafford said.

All the students that participated enjoyed the experience and have gained so much knowledge from this opportunity.

“I learned to not fret when

it came to heights and paint, and also to take it easy when it came to the lengthy process it took,” junior Cessia Gonzalez said.

Freeman did the mural design along with the students who participated in the sketch and color designer Steve Barker.

“It was a privilege to work with a professional like David,” Art teacher Laura Kirkland said.

“One of my philosophies as an art teacher is that the students should be exposed to many different art instructors and opportunities. I believe this helps them become artists that are well-rounded.”

Halloween Party



Page created by Odalys Macedo

20 Questions with Ms. Deciga

By **DEBORA TREJO**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

In each issue of the Tigertalk, the newspaper staff features a different teacher.

This issue puts the spotlight on Ana Deciga, who teaches Algebra.

1. How long have you been a teacher?

I have been teaching for 5 years.

2. Do you like teaching high school students?

I enjoy teaching high school students because they are the future of our world.

3. What are some of your hobbies?

I enjoy dancing.

4. What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Being the 1st one out of my family to graduate college.

5. What college did you attend?

Texas A&M Texarkana

6. If you did not teach what would you do?

I think I would've liked to become an accountant.

7. What's your favorite season?

I love winter!

8. What is your favorite subject in math?

Teaching linear equations.

9. If you could choose your own nickname, what would it be?

I don't think I could give my own self a nickname.

10. Did you always want to be a teacher?

I did when I was a little girl but when I got to high school I wanted to become an accountant.

All that changed when I started college and I decided to go back to my dream of being a teacher.

11. What is your biggest fear?

My biggest fear is failure. There are certain things that I plan for but there are factors



Deciga originally wanted to be an accountant.

that interfere with my plans that are out of my control. Therefore, I have learned to identify the things that I can control and those that are out of my control in order to be successful.

12. What is the easiest and hardest things about this job?

The easiest thing about being a teacher is knowing the content but the hardest thing is trying to teach the students the content in a way they understand and will be successful in learning the material.

13. What would you change about your job?

Not having an 8th period class because students are exhausted by the end of the day.

14. What do you dislike about your job?

All the paper work that we have to keep up with.

15. What is your favorite TV show?

My favorite show is This Is Us.

16. What's your best memory of your job?

Attending a conference in Tennessee with my Junior High coworkers/friends.

17. What all do you do at MPISD?

I teach Algebra I.

18. What is your favorite type of music

I like all genres of music. However, I love salsa, merengue, bachata, and cumbia.

19. Why did you want to become a teacher?

I wanted to become a teacher to help students be successful in math and to motivate them to achieve all their goals in life.

20. What motivates you?

My two beautiful children motivate me to become a better person and they also remind me how blessed I am in every aspect of my life.



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Campus Spotlight-MPJH Junior High having successful year

By PAYTON TYLER
& ZANNAH HUTCHINGS
Tigertalk Staff Writers

MPJH has enjoyed a successful first semester from an undefeated football team to having an excellent math team.

The student body had a few things to say about how their year is going. Carlie Cunningham specifically had to say that her year so far is “fun and stressful at the same time.”

Seventh graders are at a new school with new people and new friends. Mallory Stokely mentioned how much she loves her new school, while Emma Snodgrass said “It’s fun being at a new campus!”

Tytus Nance said his favorite thing so far is “the Outdoor Adventure class.” While 8th

Band students earn All-Region honors

Thirty-five Junior High School band students qualified for the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Region IV Middle School All-Region Band.

Twenty-one students qualified for the Symphonic Band and 14 qualified for the Concert Band.

Eight students earned 1st chair, essentially 1st place in their category. Seven of those top 1st chair in the Symphonic Band: David Perez on Flute, Hannah Harvill on Oboe, Taylor Hubbs on Bassoon, Holly Reese on Bass Clarinet, Hannah Bowles on Contra-Bass Clarinet, Pablo Mata on Tenor Saxophone and Donoven Young on Percussion. Adrian Resendiz earned 1st chair on Tuba in the Concert Band.

This is the largest number of students to earn 1st chairs in the history of the MPJH Band program.

MPJHS also earned more 1st chairs than all the participating schools.

“I am so proud of all the MPJH students who auditioned for the All-Region band,” Luckett added. “We took 46 students to Pine Tree High School for the auditions. These

grader Mackenzie Lide said her favorite part of the school year is “being on the Advanced Dance Team.”

While the 7th graders are adjusting to a new school, the 8th graders are getting ready to move to an even bigger school. We asked a few 8th graders how they felt, Noelly Martinez mentioned that she was scared about going to the high school.

On the flip side, Audrey De Santiago said “I’m ready to go!”

Teachers are under a lot of pressure when it comes to teaching students new things at a new school, so we asked Mrs. Moore what her plans were for the rest of the year, “We plan to prepare for the STAAR test, and read *Diary of Anne Frank*.”



Pictured above are Junior High All-Region Band members.

students put in an extensive amount of time and effort to prepare for these auditions. We have been preparing for them since the first week of school. I am pleased that so many of them auditioned. I congratulate them all whether they made the All-Region Band or not.”



Members of the football team march in the Christmas parade.

Campus Spotlight-Wallace

Wallace celebrates 20th Anniversary of their annual Veteran's Day program

By MATTHEW ARMSTRONG
Tigertalk Staff Writer

P.E. Wallace Middle School recently held their 20th annual Veterans Day program. Principal James Gibson conducted the program, and many Wallace groups played an intricate part in the overall success.

This year was not only special because it was the 20th anniversary, but the keynote speaker was former principal Rodney Huffman. He served as principal when Wallace began this event 20 years ago. Former staff members Jana Milam and Vicki Sinclair were instrumental in beginning the program. Both ladies also were in attendance at the 20th anniversary.

"The highlight probably in my opinion was that the keynote speaker was Mr. Huffman," P.E. Wallace Principal James Gibson said. "To have him come back and Mrs. Milam and Mrs. Sinclair was pretty special for a lot of people that had been here and for the veterans who attend regularly."

The program was started to honor veterans and allow students learn about the sacrifices of those who served. The program was full of music: the MPHS Jazz Band, the Wallace 5th and 6th Grade Choirs, the "Andrews Sisters" (Tracie Johnson, Zena Lawrence, Julie Merrill, Shonda Randle, Nan Verner, Deanna Warren and Diane Swiger on the Piano.)

Along with the entertainment, various school groups participated in the event.

"Pretty much every department helped with the program," Gibson said. "We don't have a ton of organizations like the high school and a lot of the kids overlap in those organizations."

"We have the main groups that help like Student Council, kids that are in GT (Gifted and Talented) and other various programs like choir."

Gibson praised the students for their service.

"Without the students and teachers, parent and everybody else, it would be really hard to do everything," Gibson said. "The Student Council greets the veterans, they escort them to different places and serve them their food. They're very gracious hosts on that day and it's nice to see the kids getting to give back."

Over the years, the program has grown with more community involvement. Originally, veterans were served a meal in one room and then moved to the gym for the program. Now, they are served in the gym and don't have to relocate.



MPHS Stuco members are pictured with Milam, Huffman and Sinclair.



Wallace Choir sang during the program.

"We have a lot of people in the community who donate and get involved so it's really kind of turned into a community event," Gibson said.

Police Department members posted and retrieved the USA and Texas flags, while Wallace students presented the military branch flags along with the POW-MIA flag which was accompanied by a moment of silence. During the program, veterans, active members, military award honorees and military widows were honored.

Campus Spotlight-Brice Toney, Brice staff helping students achieve success

By SAMANTHA GONZALEZ
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Mr. Craig Toney is currently in his second years as the principal for E.C. Brice Elementary. He graduated from Pittsburg High School then attended University of North Texas and graduated from East Texas Baptist University.

"I was a full time Pastor for 15 years, at the end of that 15 years I've continued to do that part time but just needed shift and do something a little different," Toney said.

He went back to school and got his alternative certification through Texas A&M-Texarkana. He then taught 7th grade science in Hallsville for 3 and a half years.

"I really just decided the greatest way to impact a school is to be the principal" Toney said.

This year reading has been a struggle at Brice, but fortunately after sitting down and saying OK what can we do to help all our kids read, they came up with some great ideas.

The winner and now current idea is serving as a program at E.C. Brice called the AR Olympics, AR standing for accelerated reader. The program consists of setting goals for every 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade kid for a 9-week period.

If the student meets their goal they receive a bronze medal, if they double their goal they get a silver medal, and if they triple their goal they earn a gold medal.

Although every student can re-



Brice students brought joy as they sang Christmas carols at Guaranty Bank.

ceive a medal independently the class together can reach a goal that will give them bonus points. Mr. Toney pointed out that "it becomes a team effort, where their all really challenging each other to read."

They give the medals out at award assemblies and recognize the kids. However, at the end of the 9-week period the class with the most bonus points get to carry a huge tiger flag around for the next 9 weeks. Brice had 3 flags to give out one for 4th grade, 2nd grade, and 1st grade.

The program has been working extremely well. Mr. Toney said they "just got the benchmark scores back

and there are quite a few surprises on there, so there really going up!"

Brice is getting prepared for the STAAR test as well as the next grade to come.

Besides academic programs Brice has also been Christmas Caroling. Mrs. Verner, the music teacher at Brice, has been taking them around town singing beautiful classic Christmas music. The class has so far gone caroling to Guaranty Bank. But the Christmas spirit in E.C. Brice doesn't stop there!

The school has an angel tree where the students and staff can deliver Christmas to children who receive little to nothing on Christmas Day. So far 96 children are getting to have an enjoyable and wonderful Christmas!

E.C. Brice is a fantastic school that is determined to prepare their students for the future.

"I want kids to come to Brice, have a wonderful experience, and just begin to love learning," Toney said. "We have a lot of kids who for whatever reason whether it be their background, or just their environment some don't have the support they need to really value and love their learning. We hope to have them enter P.E. Wallace, Junior High, and High School with a passion for learning."

Mr. Toney's words are truly inspiring, Brice is doing such a phenomenal job now that we can't wait to see what big plans they have for next year!



Brice students had an "Up" theme for the parade.

Campus Spotlight-Corprew



The Corprew Polar Express is filled with children dreaming of Christmas.

Corprew holds annual Fall Festival

Frances Corprew Elementary held their annual Fall Festival on Tuesday, October 17th.

Students and their families enjoyed a great evening of fun, food, and friends. Children enjoyed the fun filled games and a haunted house while the parents and staff scrambled to over bid on great items offered in the Silent Auction.



Campus Spotlight-Fowler

Vivian Fowler wins Santa's Elf Award



The Fowler Express is all decorated for the Christmas Parade.

Smokey the Bear pays visit to Fowler

Vivian Fowler students learned more about the importance of fire safety and different things they can do in the event of a fire during a special visit.

Taking time to educate the students on fire safety were Mount Pleasant Fire Department members along with special guest Smokey the Bear.



Campus Spotlight-Sims

Sims float takes first in Christmas Parade



Annie Sims won their float honoring those who have battled cancer.

Dual language program helping students

By REBECCA YOX
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Annie Sims, along with the rest of the district, has been growing and developing. This year they have added a dual language program that will help students be better prepared for their future.

"Instruction in two languages leads to enhanced creative and analytical thinking, which affects general academic performance," Director of Bilingual and ESL education Eva Beles said.

The district began the dual language program so that students could have a sturdy foundation of two languages. Being bilingual and biliterate has been proven advantageous in the work force and starting at kindergarten all students who attend Annie Sims have the opportunity to be in dual language class.

"Parents are only asked to attend information meetings and sign a Parent-District compact," Beles said.

With a lot of requirements, it can sometimes be difficult to find an ESL teacher.

"Bilingual and ESL certified teachers receive intensive Dual Language training prior to implementation," Beles said. "They also attend ongoing follow-up training in



First graders Ella Anderson and Andrea Yanez read in Spanish together.

the specific components of the Dual Language model."

Currently the dual language program goes through 4th grade and will grow into 6th grade in the next two years.

Tiger Roar

What was your favorite Christmas present?

Tiger Roar page by Tigertalk Staff Writer Maria Mendez



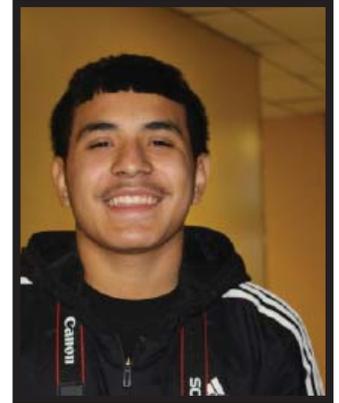
“Clothes”
--Joshlyn Pabloblanco, 9



“Racecar”
-- Brandon Matkin, 9



“Marvel Merchandise”
-- Keatra Brown, 10



“Clothes”
--- Joseph Gongora, 10



“When I got my iPod 5.”
-- Jihsleiny Rios, 11



“Socks”
-- Jorge Banda, 11



“A new phone”
-- Claudia Cupil, 12



“Money”
-- Enrique Martinez, 12



“Surprise trip to Washington D.C. from my husband..”
--- Mrs. Dean



“My kids got me a heart necklace with their picture on it.”
--- Ms. Rocha



“A nice bicycle when I was younger.”
--- Mr. Taylor



“My grandpa’s old .270 Winchester.”
--- Mr. Hunnicutt