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## Ouellette Awarded Teacher of the Year

■ Bethany Brown  
Staff Writer

A bouquet of balloons and a sign with a message of congratulations was carried to Ms. Barbara Ouellette on Friday January 27. Commonly known as Ms. O to most students, she was congratulated on receiving teacher of the year.

She says that it came as shock but a huge honor all the same.

“I’m honored. It’s a huge honor,” Ouellette said. “But I totally was not expecting it.” Becoming teacher of the year to Ms. Ouellette is only a small detail in what really matters to her whole teaching experience. She expressed that teaching is more than just the teaching itself.

“You get to see life through the eyes of an adolescence and that can be very inspirational,” Ouellette said. “Absolutely love the kids, even the ones



Photo By Larry Turner

The administration surprise Mrs. Ouellette with the Teacher of the Year Award and her students congratulate her afterwards.

that drive me crazy. It’s just fun. I just really enjoy trying to motivate them and [see] what they can do mentally.”

Ouellette’s students also mean a lot to her and her way of teaching. Kieron Yin, a sophomore and past student of Ms. Ouellette’s, says that she pushes her students to success.

“She works hard as a teacher to give her students lots of opportunity to succeed,” Yin says. “She pushed me to work hard as a student and made learning biology memorable.”

“I treat my students like they were my own kids, much to their dismay,” Ouellette said jokingly. “I am their mother

away from home but I School District. How-treat them the way I would ever, teaching hasn’t want my own children always been her area of to be treated. I tell them work until she moved from day one, if you’re in to Texas.

my class you’re mine. If I “We lived in New York need to get on to [them] I and I realized I really will. If [they] need a hug, enjoyed it.” Ouellette I’ll hug [them].” said. “I was in biomedical

Alyssa Hugo, a current student of Ms. Ouellette, I just realized that I really says that she appreciates like teaching. When Ms. O. we moved to Texas, I had the opportunity to

“She’s nice, funny, disciplined, awesome. She deserves it,” Hugo said. “She teaches us really hard things but in a way to make us understand.” This year has marked Ms. Ouellette’s nineteenth year of teaching. The whole of her teaching career has been here in Denton Independent

work.” Ms. Ouellette, as this year’s teacher of the year, has expressed that teaching is something she loves to do.

“I absolutely love teaching. I love the kids, I love my colleagues, and I [love] where I work.”

## Fine Arts Students Perform at All-State

■ Sana Syed  
Assistant Editor

After grueling rounds of auditions, Senior Connor Wooley earned a spot in the All-State band, senior Kate Gillman made it into the All-State choir, and senior Abhishek Shah and sophomore Ethan Nguyen were accepted into All-State Orchestra. These students got the honor of performing at the 2017 Texas Music Educators convention in San Antonio in February.

Senior Connor Wooley said that there are both positive and negative aspects to auditioning.

“I have a love-hate relationship with auditions because on one hand, I enjoy getting to listen to other people who share a love for music, but at the same time the pressure can be high,” Wooley said. “The hardest part about



Photo By Bianca Ramirez

Senior Connor Wooley, Kate Gillman, Abhishek Shah, and sophomore Ethan Nguyen earned spots in the All-State Band, Choir, and Orchestra.

auditions is keeping your nerves under control. I would advise next year’s students to relax to help with auditions. Auditioning isn’t easy to do, but beginning to let go of the performance jitters and experience helps with that.”

Sophomore Ethan Nguyen said that he practiced a lot to

prepare for the auditions.

“I just practiced a lot and the auditions were nerve wrecking,” Nguyen said. “Overall, it was a lot of work, but it was also really fun.”

Senior Kate Gillman said that she was surprised she made it despite being sick the day of her audition.

“Even up until the week of my audition I felt confident about where I was, but the day before my final audition, I woke up sick,” Gillman said. “For a singer, that’s the worst nightmare, and I even lost my voice for the morning of the audition. The night before, I couldn’t sleep because I was mentally preparing myself for failure. However, I auditioned anyway and forced the sound out of my mouth and ended up making the top choir. When I found out I made it, I was so relieved and almost didn’t believe it.”

Senior Abhishek Shah said that going to All-State was an amazing opportunity to play with and be inspired by other great musicians. “It was a great experience; we played Sheherazade, an amazing piece that is both beautiful and heroic,” Shah said. “Our conductor was wonderful and he molded the orchestra into a cohesive, musical group. To be surrounded by musicians who are all impeccable on their instruments is a humbling experience, and I always leave wanting to practice more and play more.”

Furthermore, Gillman said that students planning to audition next year should be prepared to put in a lot of effort.

“Hard work is everything,” Gillman said. “Even if you

## Impact of Mental Illness in Teens Understanding the Causes and Symptoms

by Kim Gomez  
Staff Writer



Photo By Kim Gomez

Senior Adair Boe talks to counseling administrative assistant Staci Taylor about mental illness..

Mental illness is defined mental health conditions, or disorders, that affect behavior and mood as well as train of thought. Mental illness can include depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders and addictive behaviors. Mental illness makes the daily things people do in life hard, such as work, school and socializing with others. There has always been a stigma on mental illness, and while times are changing and things are getting better, there is still a lot of work to do.

Many don't really see the severity of mental illness, especially in

teens. It's often brushed aside as teenagers being too dramatic or attention seeking. It makes it harder for teens to trust an open up to others, afraid of being rejected or shamed for something that they cannot control.

Adolescence is a crucial period for mental wellbeing and development. Twenty percent of youth ages 13 to 18 live with a mental health condition, 11 percent of youth have a mood disorder, ten percent of youth have a behavior or conduct disorder, and eight of youth have an anxiety disorder. However, mental illness and its influence is more than sta-

tistics. It's real and raw emotion. Having a mental disorder is not any different than having a physical illness. It's not a choice, or a moral failing based on how someone was raised.

It's important to remember that no one sign means that there is a problem. Things that also have to be taken into consideration is the nature, intensity, severity and duration of those signs. Experiencing the first signs of mental illness can be very scary and confusing. The first step a person should take to getting help is talking with someone trustworthy about what the person is going through. While speaking up and asking for help can be very hard, it is important. Once someone has take the step to ask for help, they will be amazed by the support you get.

Acknowledging and handling mental illness is very important in this day and age. Suicide is the third leading cause of death in youth ages ten to twenty four, with ninety percent of those who died by suicide having an underlying mental illness. With statistics like these we cannot afford to ignore the severity of mental illness in today's youth.

### WARNING SIGNS OF MENTAL ILLNESS

- Decrease in enjoyment and time spent with friends and family
- Significant decrease in school performance
- Strong resistance to attending school or absenteeism
- Problems with memory, attention or concentration
- Big changes in energy levels, eating or sleeping patterns
- Physical symptoms (stomach aches, headaches, backaches)
- Feelings of hopelessness, sadness, anxiety, crying often
- Frequent aggression, disobedience or lashing out verbally
- Excessive neglect of personal appearance or hygiene
- Substance abuse
- Dangerous or illegal thrill-seeking behaviour
- Is overly suspicious of others

## New Lunchtime Policy Causes Overcrowding

by Dylan Linnabary  
Staff Writer

During this semester lunch periods have undergone a change to keep students in the commons during their lunch time. This is done by locking the doors to the main hall during the lunch period and unlocking it during the passing period between lunches. While this system is done with good intentions, it has become more of a hassle than a helper.

The main issue with locking the doors to B hall during lunches is the extra steps added to passing periods. Students in the lunchroom have to wait for someone with a key to unlock the doors to return to class, which causes congestion within the hallway as students leaving lunch are met with a wave of students going to lunch. While this hallway traffic has always been there even before this new system, it seems to be more of an issue now. It does not help that the doors only lock one way, so students going to lunch can just walk into the



Photo By Dylan Linnabary

Students leave their lunch as Assistant Principal Matt Hill closes the doors to the B hall. Closing the doors during lunches has led to more congestion in the hallways.

lunchroom while students returning to class have to wait for the doors to be unlocked to even return to class.

Locking the B hall doors also limits what students can do during their lunch period. Many students like to use their lunch period to go to the library to check out books or work on the computers. With the doors being locked, however,

students now have to either go to the library before lunch or go before or after school, which some students may not have the time to do. While keeping students in the lunchroom keeps them in line, it hinders the potential for productivity that can be accomplished if a student has finished eating.

There is no easy way to please everyone in this situation, but a com-

promise can be made. The doors can still be locked, but they should be unlocked between lunches three to five minutes before the passing period bell so students aren't waiting for the doors to be unlocked while those going to lunch are clogging the hallways. Students may also want to consider taking one of the stairwells to return to the main hallways. It may be out of the way, especially if one has classes on the ground floor, but the flow of student traffic may be smoothed out if both levels of the school are used during passing period.

Having the doors locked is an advantageous but flawed system which could use improvements to satisfy student needs. After all, passing periods should be like a smooth drive rather than a traffic jam.



**“Secret Keeper”**

**By junior Rachel Reed**

“Secret Keeper was based off of a photo I took of my sister in San Francisco. In the photo (and hopefully the drawing) she looks like she knows a secret and that’s what I wanted to highlight. I tell my sister all kinds of secrets and she tells me hers in return.”



**“The Vulnerability of Youth”**

**By junior Matthew Hunter**

“My real inspiration for my piece was not only me wanting to stick out from the crowd but also the raw emotion felt within Jon Bellion’s, John Williams’s, and Vincent Van Gogh’s work.”



**“Boy With Acid Gave On Brown Board”**

**By sophomore Lydia Belinski**

“Certain technical aspects of the artwork could be changed if I had time, but I didn’t. I like the expressive colors because they are unique.”



**“Portrait Oil On Canvas”**

**By junior Ashley Moudy**

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## NEWSPAPER POLICIES

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## Varsity Baseball Excited for District Competition Team Hopes for a Playoff Run

by Bianca Ramirez  
Editor-in-Chief

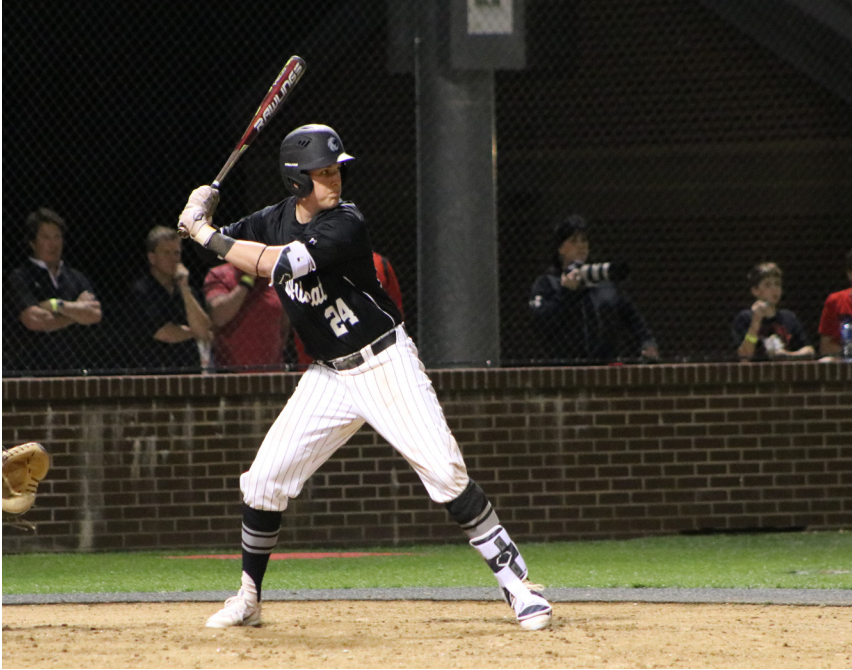


Photo by Molly Henry

Varsity player and senior Ryan McCans prepares to bat at a game against Marcus High School at the Lake Cities Tournament on Feb. 23.

As the season kicks into gear, the varsity baseball team is optimistic about the team's chances at district, and they are excited for their upcoming tournaments.

For the most part, the team has been doing well during games, and junior Morgan Allen said he

hopes these victories will help them as they head towards district.

"The season is going good so far," Allen said. "We are doing well in tournaments and are hoping to take this momentum into district play. I am really

looking forward to competing in our district and hopefully winning a district championship."

However, regardless of how the team does during tournaments, coach Spencer McFarling said that how the team does at district is what matters the most.

"You can lose every game in a tournament and still go undefeated in district with a bad record, so district is what matters," McFarling said. "It's a good mix of the old players and the new players, and after tournaments we're figuring out who our district starters are."

McFarling also said that the returning varsity players have been a big help this season.

"The older varsity re-

turning players have done a good job of being leaders and helping the [former] JV and freshman players who have worked their way up," McFarling said.

While the team is doing good as a whole, for players such as senior Lee Livingston, this season has also been about personal improvement.

"My changeup and slider are the two pitches I've had to improve this season," Livingston said. "So far they've gotten a lot better and I believe I can use them to get anybody out."

As a senior, Livingston said he is going to miss playing on the team.

"I'll miss playing with all the friends I've played with for last 4 years," Livingston said. "My favorite thing

about baseball is competing. I just love being on the field trying to win."

Both he and senior Kurt Gscheidle are planning on playing in college, and Gscheidle also said that he is going to miss playing on the team, especially after all the progress they've made.

"Our team has gained a chemistry and a work ethic that we didn't have last year, and I think our depth is better," Gscheidle said. "I'm going to miss the friendships that I have made and the emotion that goes along with the game."

## Water Polo Teams Expect Winning Season

by Sana Syed  
Assistant Editor



Photo By Sabrina Erdmann

At a game against Ryan High School, junior David Smith passes the ball to a teammate in the hopes of making a goal.

As the water polo season begins, both the girl's and boy's water polo teams look forward to a competitive and successful season. The team members reflect upon their strengths, weaknesses as well as how they've grown as a team.

Noah Austin said that the team's best attribute is how well the work together.

"Our greatest strength is the bond we share," Austin said. "We all work hard every day, caring for one another pushing us to the limits. This bond we have shows in games as we play in perfect unison."

Ashley Adkins said she's glad she joined the team and has seen them improve over time.

"I chose to join because my sister played when she was in high school

and ever since I've joined I've loved it," Adkins said. "I've seen us mature as players over the past two years and really come together and start playing as a team instead of just individual players."

Madeline Connell said that she's anticipating the team bond growing.

"This season I am most looking forward to getting closer to my teammates and making great memories with some of my best friends," Connell said.

Avery Ragsdale said that it's a challenge to remember all the skills and advice while playing in an actual game.

"The hardest part is getting used to applying skills we learn in practice to actual game situations and remembering what our coaches taught us," Ragsdale said.

Freshman Kylee Noble said that she was apprehensive at about joining the team at first, and that she's seen the team improve within the past year.

"As a freshman, I was super

nervous to be swimming with upperclassmen, but on the first day I couldn't have felt more welcomed," Noble said. "From the start of the year to the end I have seen people that have never swam before joining the team and now they're beating experienced swimmers. Everyone gives 110 percent and never quits. It is one of the most inspiring things I have ever seen."

Coach Chis Cullen said that although the team has a few weaknesses, his expectations for them remain high.

"We will need to improve upon defensive quickness and decision making," Cullen said. "I am looking forward to the team gelling as the season progresses so we can peak at the end of the season moving toward the state championship."

## UNICEF Club Strives to Serve Community

by Sana Syed  
Assistant Editor



Photo By Sana Syed

President and founder Nabeera Rao, speaks with club members about their upcoming meeting where they plan to screen a movie about modern day slavery.

Hoping to make a positive impact by helping to raise awareness of current humanitarian issues, the United Nations Children's Fund club looks forward to future events and reflects upon previous accomplishments.

President and senior Nabeera Rao said that she decided to found this club because she wanted to raise awareness of both international issues that can have a local effect.

"I founded this chapter of

UNICEF at Guyer because the work that UNICEF does is commendable and I think that students here should be educated on events occurring around the world," Rao said. "I think that this club important to the community because it educates individuals in the community about global issues and their effects locally, nationally, and internally."

Treasurer and junior Vishvani Patel said that her favorite part of UNICEF is working with and helping people around her.

"My favorite part of this club is the experience I have attained through working with others and working for others," Patel said. "To me, the greatest feeling in the world is knowing I did something right. And joining UNICEF at Guyer has brought me exactly that."

Senior Theya Detorio said that she hopes to gain and raise more awareness to the issues that women and children face around the world.

"I want to become more aware and active in tackling the issues children and women face around the world," Detorio said.

Senior Erick Quintanilla said that he's looking forward to one of the club's projects to donate food to the community.

"I'm looking forward to using the bands that will count our steps and donate food based on how many steps we take," Quintanilla said.

## Club Updates

**National English Honor Society:** Members can sign up to volunteer for the Adkins Elementary Fairy Tale STEAM Night on Thursday, March 23 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

**National Spanish Honor Society:** All volunteer hours are due by the beginning of May. Members are expected to have 25 meaningful volunteer hours. If you are unsure of what hours count, talk to Ms. Gore.

**Literature Club:** The club meets every Thursday at 7:45 in Ms. Trice's room, C106. Currently, the club is reading and discussing *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, and they plan to begin reading *Where'd You Go Bernadette* soon.

**Secular Student Alliance:** The club meets after school on Wednesdays in Mr. Noel's room, D202 to discuss science, current events, and secularism. There's occasionally food.

**Key Club:** Members, remember to pick up your t-shirts in Ms. Erwin's room. The club is participating in the Great American Cleanup on March 25 at 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

## Lit(erature) Club Focuses on Developing a Community

by Bianca Ramirez  
Editor-in-Chief

Although Lit Club is a group focused on literature and analysis, it actually began when senior Kate Gillman and her friends had an idea in anatomy class.

"After reading and analyzing *The Kite Runner* for AP English, we all discussed the sense of community we felt when talking about books with each other," Gillman said. "We wanted to reach out to the rest of the school, so we decided to make it an official thing."

The club meets every Thursday at 7:45 a.m. in Ms. Trice's room, C106, and they typically read one book every month. During that time, they discuss their thoughts and opinions.

"My favorite part of the club is the community," Gillman said. "I love getting together with people and exploring new books and new ideas about them, and I love hearing what everyone has to say."

Another focus of the club is getting members to read books they

normally wouldn't. While senior Emily Wilson initially joined to be around people who love the same books as her, she said she found something that she liked even more.

"My favorite part is reading new books that I wouldn't normally pick up and expanding my genre choice," Wilson said.

Lit Club members said that one

**"My favorite part of the club is the community."**

of their main focuses is both expanding their reading choices and their analysis skills.

"I joined lit club in order to further expand the type of genres I read," senior Piper Scogin said. "I'm looking forward to pushing myself out of my reading zone and being able to commu-



Photo By Bianca Ramirez

Before the meeting, Lit Club member and freshman Michael Gillman reads *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* to prepare for the upcoming discussion.

nicate my thoughts better."

As the founder, Gillman said she is not only excited about what the club has been doing, but she is also looking forward to the club becoming a larger force at the school.

"I want to see this book club grow to more varieties of people, and I want to see it expose

new types of literature to people who wouldn't necessarily read that type of genre," Gillman said. "I'm excited for its growth because I want to see it truly become a community where people can come and express their opinions and learn deeper levels of analysis and thinking."

## Art Students Advance to State

by Kim Gomez  
Staff Writer



Photo by Sophie Lopez

Junior Abby Stovall received a 4 on her work, “Continuous Stress,” and fellow junior Rachel Reed advanced to state with her piece, “Secret Keeper.”

The Texas Visual Art Scholastic Event, or VASE, is an art competition that provides students the opportunity to bring artworks created in their art classes to regional event where they are interviewed by a certified juror who evaluates their work based on a standard based rubric and their understanding of the art processes involved in the development of their artwork.

On February 25, over fifty Guyer students entered artwork into the Visual Arts Scholastic Event, or VASE competition. Of those student, four of them advanced to the state VASE event. Juniors Ra-

chel Reed, Matthew Hunter, Ashley Moudy, and sophomore Lydia Belinski went to VASE with an abundance of hope and came out successful.

Reed began drawing in middle school but didn’t take her first official art class until her freshman year. Her artwork ‘Secret Keeper’ was based off of a photo she took of her sister in San Francisco.

“In the photo she looks like she knows a secret and that’s what I wanted to highlight,” Reed said. “I tell my sister all kinds of secrets and she tells me hers in return.”

Reed takes inspiration for her art

from fellow artist friends and her teacher Tiffany Fitzsimmons. Their art encourages her to work on her own skills.

“I was really surprised that I made it to state,” Reed said. “While I never thought my drawing was bad, I never thought it would go to state. I was very flattered when I heard the results and am excited to go to San Antonio in April.”

Reed has never thought about pursuing art as a career but plans to continue to make art regardless of what she decides to do with her life.

Bilinski’s interest in art has been prevalent since she was a child. Her winning piece, ‘Boy With Acid Gave on Brown Board’ didn’t have a direct source of inspiration but rather the beauty she sees in all of the art around her.

“I like the expressive colors because they are unique,” Bilinski said. “Certain technical aspects of the artwork could be changed if I had time, but I didn’t.” Despite the technical aspects she wanted to change with her piece, Bilinski still feels pride of her advancement to state.

Bilinski doesn’t plan to pursue a career in the art field but still wants to continue to make art in

her free time.

The start of Moudy’s fascination with art began when she was young as she watched her father work with pastels and ebony pencils. She’s happy to have come so far since then to have advanced to state with her piece ‘Portrait Oil On Canvas.’

“Honestly, there were so many talented people that entered the competition,” Moudy said. “For mine to be one of the pieces chosen was surprising.”

Hunter’s inspiration for his piece ‘The Vulnerability of Youth’ was about wanting to stick out from the crowd but also from famous artists such as Jon Bellion, John Williams, and Vincent van Gogh.

“The main principle that I very much enjoy in my piece is the way that I’m able to captivate the audience with emotion causing one to be easily lost in the details,” Hunter said. “I am absolutely thrilled and excited to go to state. I couldn’t have been able to do it without Mr. Reid, Mrs. Fitz, and my family.”

## Jam Sessions Focuses on Making and Learning Music

by Eryn Bing  
Staff Writer

In the fall of 2016, sophomore Jolie Lyssy, approached orchestra director and future club sponsor, Michelle Hanlon, with an idea for a club where students of all grades could learn and make music. The product of their meeting was the Jam Sessions Club.

“I came up with the idea for the club when I realized that there wasn’t any after school clubs that promote or teach Music,” Sophomore, Jolie Lyssy said. “I brought the idea to Mrs. Hanlon, the orchestra teacher, and she gladly agreed to sponsor it.”

It’s not orchestra for students who didn’t join. Jam Sessions Club covers everything from the basics of instruments like the guitar to the process of making music in a studio. The club is a place for students to explore and expand their musical knowledge through a hands on experience. Hanlon takes part in club meetings by demonstrating on instruments

and sharing bits of information, but Lyssy is at the forefront of the presentations.

“If we have students who know what they are doing and want to learn about different musical styles or how to be better musicians, we can work with that,” Orchestra director and club sponsor, Michelle Hanlon said. “If we have beginners who want to learn basic notes, we can work with that.”

On January 25th, they had their first meeting which focused on the ukulele. Students learned the history of the stringed instrument and watched clips of famous ukulele players like Tiny Tim and Israel “Iz” Kamakawiwo‘ole. The meeting ended with students learning notes on the ukuleles provided by other members.

“We bring extra instruments to the meetings, but if there are not enough instruments for everybody, we do provide a kazoo,”



Photo by Eryn Bing

Club founder and sophomore, Jolie Lyssy plays the ukulele with sophomore and club member Thamh Pham during a club meeting.

Lyssy said. “The extra instruments usually get passed around so everybody gets a chance to play.”

Hanlon and Lyssy vote on club topics at the meetings before to give Lyssy time to put together a presentation. Club topics have so far been about instruments but Hanlon and Lyssy are open to suggestions from club members. Hanlon and Lyssy have discussed

future meetings where they talk about songwriting, recording, and composing.

“In the future we plan on doing a singer-songwriter day that will be whatever the students want,” Hanlon said. “We could talk about how to accompany yourself on piano or how to make a band. The possibilities are endless.”

## New Club Wheels its Way into School Cycling Club Emphasizes Exercise and Safety

by Eryn Bing  
Staff Writer



Photo by Eryn Bing

Cycling Club members prepare to head out for a morning bike ride.

The makings of the Cycling Club started in the spring of 2016. Andrew Winn, then a sophomore student, was an avid cyclist like Pre-AP English 2 teacher, Ben Hokamp. After being made aware of their shared hobby through Beth Sullivan, Pre-AP English 2 teacher, the Cycling Club was established in September 2016.

Club members meet every Thursday after school in Hokamp's classroom to bike for an hour. Most students in the club ride to school on

their bikes everyday so they are already equipped. Students' without bikes ride one of Hokamp's old bikes. The cyclists ride behind the Kroger on Teasley, through the Wheeler Ridge and South Lakes neighborhoods, and end up at Eureka Park. They make a big loop and come back through Cross Timbers park and behind McNair Elementary. The trek takes about an hour and is roughly twelve miles.

"Once I got into the club, I started biking to school," senior Geronimo

Perfecto said. "It helps me by being able to work on my stamina and endurance and allows me to compete against people who have been riding for years."

Membership isn't limited to students who bike in their free time. Hokamp and other members are willing to help those who have little to no experience riding a bike. The club is about physical activity, bike safety, and having a fun outdoors experience.

"It's a good opportunity to exercise and have fun while doing it. I didn't even know how to ride a bike before joining the club," junior Bryce Schaefer said.

Since most of the students who ride with a club are used to riding alone on sidewalks, the cyclists discuss group bike safety. When riding in a group, communication is important. The club learns how riding in the street is different from riding on the sidewalk. Hokamp talks about cyclist's rights on the road and when it is okay to take a lane and when it is okay to let cars by. They try to avoid busy roads like Hickory Creek and Ryan but they briefly cross them. Before

they ride, everyone checks if they have a helmet, air in their tires, and working brakes. The cyclists prepare themselves by wearing their pants in the clubs' style called the "clump and tuck" which is where the legs of the pants are rolled up and knee-high socks are pulled over the clumps.

"It prevents my baggy jeans from dragging on the gears." Sophomore, Ibi Eni, said.

Hokamp's main goal is to encourage as many students who join to ride recreationally or even in a group outside of the cycling club. He and co-club sponsor English 2 teacher, Lori Trice, are working towards a second ride after school geared towards athletic cycling.

"[Bryce Schaefer] came in having never ridden a bike," said Hokamp. "He came to a few meetings and rode the clubs' tandem bike and has now bought his own. That was an exciting milestone to see. Hopefully we're encouraging everyone to ride more. It's about fun, community, and safe cycling."

## Student Practices Special Effects Makeup

by Kim Gomez  
Staff Writer

All throughout the halls are an array of students with hidden talents. Of those students, sophomore Ashley DeWitt does prosthetic makeup, otherwise known as Special Effects makeup or SFX.

DeWitt began doing makeup and special effects at the end of her eighth grade year when she saw people on social media doing it and took an interest. She decided tried it out for herself and became attached to it and the endless possibilities that came with it, finding inspiration for different looks in all the things around her from movies and stories to social media.

The process DeWitt uses when putting on the makeup is a long one. Her favorite thing about SFX makeup is that she can create any illusion and make it look realistic without anything really happening to her.

"If it's blood or gore or any type of skin illusion I usually start with the latex around where I'm working and building it up to where I want it to look like." DeWitt said. "If it's

a makeup effects, I usually begin with where the look will be and draw the 'frame' around it, marking off where inside I will be working, and then carefully design the outline of the look. Filling it in with shadows and blending comes after that until I get the perfect look."

DeWitt describes taking the makeup off as both her favorite and least favorite part. With latex and a quick-drying solution of gum used to keep latex and other materials secure called "Spirit Gum" on her face, DeWitt has to use Spirit Gum remover and then a makeup wipe after to remove the makeup entirely.

"It's satisfying seeing it all peel off, as it would peeling off a face mask, but it's always upsetting to see your hard work wipe away," DeWitt said.

DeWitt says her family and friends are very supportive of her makeup, a few of her friends even like to watch her do it or occasionally join her in the process.

"My friends and family love to see



Photo by Ashley Kohr

Sophomore Ashley DeWitt first became interested in SFX makeup in the eighth grade, and has since worked on improving her skills.

what I do," She said. "My family used to think it was a waste of time and money, but since then they have come around and discovered all the things that I do with it."

DeWitt says she can see herself possibly becoming a professional makeup or special effects artist, but as of right now she has been focusing on becoming a writer.

"Anyone can do this if they set their mind to it," DeWitt said. "It's a fun and simple process that involves perfection and time at the same time. I can spend up to maybe two hours just applying the makeup to my face, but I enjoy every moment of it and time genuinely does fly by."

## Spring in to the Season

The first day of spring is called the vernal equinox. The term vernal is Latin for “spring” and equinox is Latin for “equal night.”

The first spring flowers are typically lilacs, irises, lilies, tulips, daffodils, and dandelions.

1.5 million students go on spring break every year and collectively spend over one billion dollars.

According to Greek myth, the return of spring coincides with the return of Persephone, the daughter of Demeter, who is the goddess of plants.

The early Egyptians built the Great Sphinx so that it points directly toward the rising sun on the spring equinox

South Padre Island, TX is the second largest domestic spring break destination with an attendance of 225,000 students reported in 2013.

Honeybees are more likely to swarm during the spring. They swarm as a way to start new colonies from successful ones. Surprisingly, swarming honeybees are very docile and the most friendly they will ever be all year.

Facts from: <https://www.factretriever.com/spring-facts>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/spring-break-2015-interesting-facts-brian-roblyer>

## WIRED ZODIAC BY STAFF

### AQUARIUS: JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 19

Having trouble sleeping? Try counting endless array of star like lights that appear in your bedroom every night. Don't question where they came from. Also don't question how we know about them. Just trust us.

### PISCES: FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 20

This month is the time for change. It's time to form your yearly chrysalis or molt your shells and become an entirely new person. What person will you turn into this time? A businessman? A carpenter? Award winning actress Viola Davis? The possibilities are endless!

### ARIES: MARCH 21-APRIL 20

The last nine weeks is upon us and now is the time to start thinking of the summer ahead of you. Have any plans? No? Then make some. Go scuba diving, find the forbidden city and make your ancestors proud.

### TAURUS: APRIL 21-MAY 21

Listening to the same thing everyday can get tiring so try mixing it up a bit! We suggest some vaporwave Norwegian hip hop or a little Albanian techno pop. Just go wild!

### GEMINI: MAY 22 - JUNE 22

Making new friends is hard but the stars have aligned and whispered to us that you should branch out and meet new people. They also think you should try eating more fruit. They say your soul is starting to taste a little sour.

### CANCER: JUNE 23-JULY 23

March is the perfect month for you to break out those spring colors and go for a new look. Go for more light colors like lilac or sky blue or Pepto Bismol pink. They go great with your skin tone.

### LEO: JULY 24- AUGUST 23

Never be afraid to follow your dreams! Even if that means wearing a blonde wig and renaming yourself after a state, go for it.

### VIRGO: AUGUST 24-SEPTEMBER 23

Feeling lonely? Why don't you look into getting a plant? There's all kinds you can look for from a nice little cactus to a beautiful succulent.

### LIBRA: SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 23

It's time to stop putting off all that homework you've been ignoring and get to work! The more you put it off the more they win. Who is they you ask? We don't know who they are either, but I'm sure they're laughing smugly somewhere, reveling in our stress. Shame on them.

### SCORPIO: OCTOBER 24-NOVEMBER 22

Your lucky animal this month is A Huntsman Spider! That spiders name is Axel and he's looking out for you, so don't disappoint him.

### SAGITTARIUS: NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 22

Beware the Ides of March.

### CAPRICORN: DECEMBER 23-JANUARY 19

Now is the perfect time to finally sit down and get caught up on all your shows. Just try not to get too invested in them that you neglect your own responsibilities and problems.

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