



# WOLF PACK NEWS

October 2023

## Students prepare for Homecoming

By Amira Goins

Many students are preparing for Homecoming, and shopping online for their dresses or suits.

This year's theme is celestial dreams. Many students have said they do not plan to participate in dressing according to the theme, but others say they will.

"I'm wearing a fluffy shoulder top with no straps, to represent the clouds and a long, all white dress to fit the theme," Sophomore Carolina Gual said.

Sophomore Laila Gamble is wearing a dress that represents the night sky and stars.

"I'm wearing a dark blue dress with some silver," Gamble said.

Many people are shopping online for their dresses or suits. A popular online shop is Fashion Nova or Shein.

"I'm looking for a dress on Fashion Nova, because it's nice, cheap and cute for the occasion," Gual said.

"I'm looking on Shein because that's where I get all my clothes from, and there's reasonable prices as well," Gamble said.

## Homecoming Spirit Week Excites Students for Grey Wolves October 20 Game

By Nailiz Velez Seda

Homecoming spirit week is a very inclusive week where people can dress up and have fun while showing school spirit.

Spirit week information comes out about a week before the spirit week starts so people have time to plan their outfits and know which days are which according to Freshman Student Council Member Aryanna Castro. This year's Homecoming spirit week is from October 16 – 20. The Student Council is the leading group that organizes Homecoming each year.

"All of StuCo is helping promote the themes throughout the week," Castro said.

Homecoming spirit week is long awaited since the last spirit week the school had. Gender swap was my favorite because I got to make myself a little mustache," Castro said.

Having a Homecoming spirit week is designed to lead up to and get students excited about the

Homecoming football game scheduled for Friday, October 20 at Searles Stadium against Cleburne. Then the Homecoming dance takes place at 7 p.m. on October 21 in the cafeteria.

Spirit weeks take time to make and to come up with.

"We basically did a poll on different themes and whichever one had the most votes were the ones that we chose," Castro said. "It takes like a day or a few to come up with the days but longer to plan and design posters."

Students interested in joining the Student Council are still able to join if they are interested in helping to organize events for the school. The council usually meets every Wednesday after school in room 1202.

"I want to be active in the school community and hopefully bring great things to the school," Castro said about joining Student Council.

# Insight into the lives of foreign exchange students

**By Leanna Borders**

Foreign exchange students come to experience America.

Foreign exchange students, Senior David Bilinec is from the Czech Republic and Junior Hsin-Yun Chang is from Taiwan.

When asked how he felt about coming to America and to a new state Bilinec replied, "sad about leaving my family and friends, confused and lost when I got to the airport, scared as well, but I was very excited about the start of my journey alone."

Chang said, "I think it's amazing that I can come here, because I would like to go here for college, learn English, and to play tennis."

After coming here, Bilinec said he is slowly beginning to adjust to the life of an American student but is still having trouble settling in.

Bilinec said so far that the school seems like a stereotypical American movie.

"The cafeteria and hallways are like what you see in the movies," Bilinec said. "I love the tennis team. Everyone in there is so nice, as well as the students and teachers."

Chang said, "I really like it here, my classmates and teachers are very willing to help."

For foreign exchange students, classes and policies at American schools can be much different from what they are used to in their home country.

"The teachers here give a lot of homework and projects, and I don't like it," Bilinec said. Even if it's not in my native language, classes are easy. You can even use your notes for tests!"

Chang said, "I like the courses here because I can choose the course I want to take, which makes me want



*Photo by: Leanna Borders*

Senior David Bilinec is a foreign exchange student from the Czech Republic and Junior Hsin-Yun Chang is a foreign exchange student from Taiwan.

to study more."

Chang also added that she likes the lunch here. "Everyone can sit together, eat and chat in the cafeteria," she said.

Bilinec said the policy about the dress code is different here also. "We were able to wear whatever we wanted back in my country," he said.

Different types of foods are offered in America that foreign exchange students don't get in their home country.

"I love the chicken fried rice," Bilinec said.

Also, America has other differences foreign exchange students might want to try.

"I'm interested in all kinds of sports you have here, and the courses like Biology or Medical terms" Chang said. "I want to try more of this stuff."

She said she wants to try to become a doctor/nurse or someone who develops maintenance products.

When foreign exchange students

attend school in America, they also notice differences in how classes are set up or what classes are offered.

"In Czechia you are put into the class with 26-30 students, and you have every single period with them except for your second language (Spanish, German)," Bilinec said. "Here you have the same subjects the same time every day, but in Czechia we have 13 different subjects split in a week and you cannot choose when. Also, in Czechia we have high schools for your endorsement, like a whole school dedicated to medical stuff or business stuff."

Chang said, "In Taiwan our class time is longer (8a.m. to 5p.m.). We eat in the classroom at noon, and we don't have to switch every class we always stay in the same classroom and wait for the teacher to come to class."

Chang also added that you can join any club no matter the grade you are in at her old school in Taiwan.



# CREATING STUDENT-LED CLUBS LIKE AVID CLUB

By Savannah Pangelinan

AVID Club, a student-led club, was recently started for any interested students to join.

Senior Reid Sessoms is one of the founding members of the student-led AVID Club.

"What made me interested in starting AVID Club at my school was the sense of wanting each and every student to feel like they have a safe place to go to," Sessoms said. "All while improving their academics, being more involved in volunteering and their social skills."

Senior Ethan Meyers is also a founding member of AVID Club.

"We figured that since we need community service hours as a grade for AVID, we may as well make it a club and earn them together," Meyers said. "And since other people seem to need them too, it works out for everyone."

There are five AVID Club officers with different roles and responsibilities.

"My role as an AVID Club officer is secretary," Sessoms said. "My role overall is keeping our club activities, plans, and meetings organized as well as preparing our agenda for our club and its members."

Meyers said, "I am the social media manager. I advertise AVID Club as well as get in contact with

organizations and communities for possible community service for our members."

Creating a student-led club comes with a process.

"Honestly, it wasn't hard at all," Sessoms said. "Given that we have an awesome admin being Ms. Summerhill and amazing founding members that really wanted this to come to life, it was fairly easy."

Meyers said, "It isn't difficult at all. All we really had to do was find members to join."

Sessoms continued, "The other officers and I were very determined and ultimately made AVID Club official."

Each member and officers join AVID Club for different reasons.

"What I hope to get out of AVID Club is really to just have a family," Sessoms said. "I want everyone to achieve their goals whether it be through the club or with the help of it. I honestly just want all of us to win. Out of AVID Club I also hope to make unforgettable memories and build strong friendships and really just live out our AVID Club acronym: J.F.A.A.T (just friends at a table)."

Meyers said, "I hope to get community service hours out of it." AVID Club caters to anybody interested.



Photo by: Savannah Pangelinan

Senior Reid Sessoms, AVID Club secretary and Senior Ethan Meyers, AVID Club social media manager, create AVID Club posters on September 29 in one of the AVID rooms.

"I would recommend AVID club to all students but mainly the upperclassmen because AVID Club has the ability to help with college related goals, especially graduating seniors," Sessoms said.

Meyers said, "I would recommend AVID Club to anyone who needs community service hours and who wants to prepare for college. The club is open to all grade levels, so everyone's invited."

## Anime Club gives members place to enjoy anime

By Aloysius Malone

Watching and discussing anime are two activities the members of Anime Club do on Tuesdays after school.

"We meet from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in room 2406," according to Ms. Lindsay Hicks, the Anime Club sponsor.

Anime Club is open to new members.

"It just started and there wasn't too

much advertisement, so we had a show up of 17, but we're definitely working on getting those numbers up," Hicks said.

Freshman Rae Spotts said, "I like the fact that there is a wide variety of people in the club."

Students began joining the Anime Club two weeks ago.

"I joined the club because I love watching anime," Spotts said.

The Anime Club plans to include the viewing of "Spy x Family" and the final season of "Attack on Titan" in their future meetings.

"I was excited to watch 'Spy x Family,'" Spotts said.

# EXCEL CLUB FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Kaileigh Fant

Students looking for a way to serve their community might be interested in joining the Excel Club.

The Excel Club is a club that meets every Monday after school in room 2217 with sponsors Mr. Jeter and Mrs. Richardson. Every meeting, even if it's 20 minutes, counts as one hour of community service.

"The Excel Club gives back to the community through acts of community service," Junior Dariah Chestnut, Excel Club secretary said.

Jeter said, "Excel of Exchange Club was first started in support of child abuse and shaken baby syndrome then became a club to service the community." Last year the members made cards for the elderly.

On August 21, the club began the

process of pinning yellow ribbons to give out in remembrance of 9/11.

The students who join Excel Club are given extra scholarship opportunities thanks to Robert M. Shoemaker and his wife who donated to the school and set aside a chunk for Excel Club members.

"I joined Excel Club to make an impact on the community," Chestnut said.

She said her favorite part of being an Excel member is that she can while still being involved with the school. While Jeter said he loves interacting with young minds.

Shoemaker's Excel club was voted the best in the district last year and plan to keep that going this year with

events such as a Veterans' breakfast.

Richardson, the other Excel Club sponsor, is not part of the Shoemaker's administration but since the Excel Club is a national club, there is an adult chapter that meets every Monday at noon, and she encourages members to have their parents think about joining.

Since Excel Club is a national club, there is a \$22 fee that includes your shirts and being able to participate in everything the members do.

The club does a variety of things at the meetings depending on what they are working toward at the time.

The sponsors said they are open to all ideas the students have and try to execute them to the best of their abilities.



Photo by: Bella Ramos Alonzo

Junior Mario Puente and Junior Orlando Novoa are both first year drum majors.

By Bella Ramos Alonzo

Conducting and leading the Band are just some of the responsibilities for the three drum majors.

"For non-Band members, they are seen as the conductor of the Band," Junior Mario Puente said. "But there is more to the job than that. Being a drum major means they make most of the calls, a lot of the responsibilities of the band falls on them."

## Drum majors lead the Band

Being that this is his first year as a drum major, Puente said there have been lots of ups and downs.

"This is all new to me," Puente said. "I'm still learning things to this day. It was never easy, but every day I keep feeling better and better of where I'm at."

Junior Orlando Novoa is experiencing his first year as a drum major also. For Novoa, it is his second year being in the leadership team. Last year, he was a part of a position called section leader.

"The change is completely different," Novoa said. "I went from leading my own section, to leading the whole band. I'd definitely say I have more responsibility now. In a way it's more difficult, but it's great leading such talented people and hearing the ensemble sound."

Wanting to contribute more to the Band is the reason Puente said he tried out for drum major. He said the program has given him so much, and

and all he wants is to return that favor. He said he gained a new hobby, possible career choice, but most importantly, a family.

The Band program overall is the reason why Novoa said he tried out in the first place. He said that he really likes how they are as a family.

Towards the end of every year, auditions are hosted for the start of the next school year. It is around a two-week process where directors and judges all determine who will be in leadership.

"It's not always easy," Puente said. "I remember feeling scared when I did my audition."

Puente said students who plan to try out for drum major in the future should project confidence.

Novoa said that it's better to prepare early and learn all the conducting patterns.

"Show the judges what you are capable of, and it will be okay," Puente said.

# STUDENT OPINIONS ON PEP RALLY IMPROVEMENTS

By Diamond Eddings

Some students believe there should be more interaction with the students in the stands at the pep rallies.

"There could be more crowd involvement like things that will get everyone in a good mood," Freshman SaNiya Christian said.

Freshman Ja'Khia Williams said, "I feel like we should have opportunities to compete against each other because that would be mad fun."

Christian said she thinks they should just open the concessions for kids, but don't let everybody go at the same time because it's going to be a mess but serve what they usually serve because a lot of students like it.

Williams said she thinks they need to add chips, candy, popcorn, pizza (real pizza).

"There should be no reason that candy is \$3, lower those prices," Williams said.

Not all students can fit in the gym for the pep rallies, so those students

who can't pay for a ticket are not able to go.

"I think if we tell Ms. Williams about how some kids can't afford to pay for it sometimes, so that means they'll be missing out on the fun part about our school, and everyone should be able to see how we show our school spirit and be a part of it," Christian said about making some pep rallies free.

Christian continued, "Not everyone has money to pay, and some kids actually want to go for the fun of it. But I think if she does make it free, there has to be some rules like you have to be passing, no referrals, and no probations." Some students believe there needs to be different types of themes for the pep rallies.

"There should be glow in the dark/neon, disco, rodeo, etc. for different types of themes," Christian said.

Williams said, "I don't know, but I have a game if they did that balloon



Photo by: Diamond Eddings

Freshman SaNiya Christian, cheerleader, gives her opinion on improving pep rallies.

game, I'll actually do it."

Pep rallies might be more fun if students dressed up according to Christian.

"Whatever the theme of the pep rally is, but if there isn't one then school colors or spirit," Christian said.

Williams said, "There should be a color coordinated pep rallies like each grade wears something different."

## Career Center offers variety of classes

By Brenda Maldonado

The Career Center offers courses in Cosmetology, Welding, Auto Mechanics, Veterinary Assistance, Architecture, Audio/Video Production and more.

Countless students leave their home campus to go to the Career Center to learn more about their endorsements and careers they have taken interest in.

"My endorsement called CMA is certified medical assistant," said Junior Kellie Maldonado. She is one of the many students who go to the

Career Center every day.

Junior Serena Reyes Alvarado is also a Career Center student who is a part of the CMA program.

"I look forward to being a part of the HOSA Meetings and doing clinicals soon," Reyes Alvarado said. "I think it's interesting and cool how you get to sit at the HOSA meeting and meet the officers. The HOSA meetings are cool because you get to discuss medical material."

Career Center students get to learn new things about the jobs their

courses are preparing them for.

Maldonado said it lets them catch a glimpse of what it's really like to experience it firsthand.

These students get to interact with one another every day.

"I get to make friends and meet new people every day from different schools," Maldonado said.

Career Center students also get to interact with real workers who tell them a little more about their careers.



# Dress code debate among staff, students

By Neishmar Lozada Laboy

The dress code has recently become more heavily enforced. It is a split debate as to whether students and faculty believe the dress code is reasonable or not.

Digital Art/Animation teacher Mr. Saulter said he is compliant with the dress code and believes students should be as well.

"I do think the dress code is fair," Saulter said.

Junior Michael Mendoza said he believes there is an easier way to get every student to follow the school's dress code.

"I think it's easier with a school uniform," Mendoza said.

The debate often circles back to the question of whether the dress code is comfortable for students or not.

"Yes, it's pretty comfortable," Mendoza said.

The dress code is the same for teachers and students. All are expected to have ID's visible and to

dress modestly.

"I think it's appropriate," Saulter said.

One of the most complained about things regarding the dress code is that it diminishes the ability for students—specifically girls, to express themselves.

"It can sometimes take away freedom of expression," Mendoza said.

Saulter said he disagrees with students because school is a place of learning, not home.

"Some of the attire that girls want to wear can be risky," Saulter said.

Students who do not follow the dress code are given a warning and the opportunity to comply, whether it be covering up or calling a parent for a change of clothes. Those who do not comply are usually sent to the AP's office for further discipline.

"I personally follow it," Mendoza said. "So, I won't have any problems." Teachers are encouraged to follow

the dress code equally as much as students are.

"Yes, I do follow the dress code, mostly because I'm a professional and I have to, but also because I want to set an example for students and encourage them to follow it," Saulter said.

Although some teachers enforce the dress code heavily and may not allow students inside their classrooms if they aren't following it, some might not care about it too deeply.

"No, I don't think they care that much, they just do it by the school rules," Mendoza said.

Saulter said he keeps the dress code in mind and is a teacher who encourages students to comply.

"I believe most teachers care about the dress code because they have the same moral compass as the district," Saulter said.

## DEALING WITH BULLYING AT SCHOOL

By Rain Lawrence

Bullying is common in schools and has lasting effects, especially cyberbullying, which has become more of a problem.

Social media plays a large role in teens' lives. It's how students stay connected and socialize.

Senior Sidney Spulick said she thinks cyberbullying is a rising problem in schools.

"I think, yes, it happens so much that it's normalized," Spulick said. "It's everywhere."

Senior Rebecca "Adonis" Hiatt said, "If anything, I feel it makes bullying easier to be more severe online than

in real life because you can be anonymous, which makes people more likely to bully others."

Spulick said she feels there isn't enough done in these situations.

"They do not do anything when bullying happens," Spulick said.

Hiatt said, "Depending on how severe it (the bullying) is, ISS or Gateway is the answer."

And, depending on how long the bullying is happening, according to Hiatt, "police may need to get involved if there are threats towards student."

According to the Killeen ISD Student Code of Conduct, students caught

bullying or cyberbullying can have consequences to include "disciplinary action, in accordance with Board policy".

Spulick said she has personal experience dealing with bullying, saying that it was because of "her weight, being more developed, and personality reasons."

Hiatt also experienced bullying.

"I've personally reported bullying in middle school and was simply told I was being bullied because they liked me," Hiatt said. "And nothing was done to stop the blatant, in your face bullying I was facing."