

The latest news and updates from Preparatory Academy



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RIDING THE WAVE OF THE STANLEY CUP CRAZE

by Isabella Villarreal

In schools around the country, students are getting a taste of a new kind of cool – not just in the classroom but in their lunch breaks too! Stanley drinking tumblers have become the latest trend, turning hydration into a stylish and eco-friendly statement.

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Stanley cups appear in all shapes and sizes and are heavily present at the STPA campus.

Photograph credit by Mrs. A. Salinas



Mrs. Barrientes poses with her students and their Stanley Cups.
Photograph credit by Mrs. A. Salinas

You might be wondering, what's so special about these tumblers? Well, first off, they're not your average water bottles. Stanley tumblers are designed to keep drinks hot or cold for hours, making them perfect for students on the go. Whether it's a refreshing sip of water during class or a warm cup of cocoa at lunch, these tumblers have become the go-to choice for many students.

Recently, there has been a big Stanley craze. All over the US they sell out in minutes. In many areas, such as Target and Starbucks, customers wait in line for hours, some even all night, just to get their hands on the latest release.

Here at STPA, the love of Stanley cups is no different. For example, Mrs. Brown, a 7th grade math teacher says, "I love my Stanleys, I have two cabinets full!" She is one of many teachers on campus staying hydrated during their workday with help of their Stanley cups.

Some people, on the other hand, dislike the oversized beverage containers. Mr. Gill, for example, said, " I think Yeti cups are better because they keep your drinks cold as well but don't spill as much."

One of the biggest downsides of the famous Stanely cup is this instance in particular meaning they're ability to spill everywhere without a secure lid or straw cover. Mrs. Ayala-Gonzalez agrees with this and says, "If their cups spill too much and don't have a straw cover, they must use napkins as a straw cover." Another person who dislikes this is Sophia Martinez, who says, "I love my Stanley cup, but it does spill way too much."

So, while Stanley cups are good and most people like them, there are downsides and some dislike them.

SPRING HAPPENINGS AT STPA

by Ashira Trehou, Anna Galvan, McKenna Santos, Giara Limones, Mariela Huerta, and Arianna Trevino

During February, STPA was hit by Cupid as the school held its first dance of the year with its annual Valentine's Day Dance. This year, the dance was split by grade levels with 6th grade getting to enjoy the music and festivities first and then 7th and 8th grade finishing off the day with the dance.

The dance was put together by the STPA administrators and PSTO. There was a DJ, photo backdrop, and props to use if you wished. According to 6th grade student Imogen Ramirez the only thing that was missing was snacks. "If there were snacks, it would have been way more fun," she said.

For many students at STPA, this was their first school dance ever since most elementary schools don't host school dances. Student Olivia Maldonado said, "I liked the music. The dancing was a lot of fun." Another student, who wished to remain anonymous said, "I don't really like dances because it gets way too loud, but it was still okay to get time to just hang out with my friends."

While the dance typically takes place during the day, many students said it might be a good idea to host the dance in the evening after school. One 7th grade student said, "It would be cool if it was a dance at night and we could get really dressed up for it. The school can use it as a fundraiser and sell tickets for it. That way it could last longer also." While ideas of a time change and snacks are great, the dance overall seemed to be a success.

At the start of March, students counted down the days to Spring Break with the spring-themed days including wearing spring colors, Hawaiian/Beach day, pre-St. Patrick's day, neon day, and cowboy day. Students were also counting down to this year's Spartan Day.

Held on the last day before break, Spartans enjoyed a much-deserved break as they spent the afternoon playing games, relaxing with friends, and enjoying hot dogs and other treats.

Some of the features of this year's Spartan Day were the basketball tournament, cake walk sponsored by NJHS, and Shrek movie marathon held in the Villarreal Building.

Students enjoyed the day of leisure with the friends knowing that STAAR prep would be right around the corner when Spring Break finished.



NEW FACES AT STPA

by Mia Franco, Abdeljalil Oumeddour, Arianna Trevino, Mariela Huerta, and Valentina Diaz

Every school year brings new faces of students joining the STPA family. This year, however, there are more than just new faces among the students. STPA has added many new teachers and staff across the campus. The Oracle newspaper would like to feature each of these new staff members to give students and family a chance to get to know who's who among our newest teachers. In this first issue, we will introduce our new 6th grade teachers and administration.

Mrs. L. Richburg – 6th Grade Assistant Principal

Mrs. Richburg has been in Education for 20 years and joins us from a McAllen elementary school. Her educational career actually started as a Kindergarten teacher, which she absolutely loved. Some fun facts about her are she is from Alabama and her first job was being a babysitter.

Mrs. M. Rodriguez – 6th Grade Counselor

Mrs. Rodriguez has been in Education for 13 years and has been a counselor for 9 years. One of her goals at STPA is to help students meet their own individual goals. She wants to also help all staff make a difference every day in their students' lives.

Mrs. Olvera – 7th Grade Social Studies

Mrs. Olvera joins STPA from Lyford ISD. This is her 9th year of teaching and she actually served as an ELA Teacher for 8 years, so this is her first year teaching Social Studies. At STPA, she is the UIL sponsor for Spelling. She actually attended an Archaeology field school and her degree is in anthropology, but she changed careers due to being allergic to ants. When asked about what she loves most about STPA, she said, "I love the atmosphere, the engagement of the students, and how everyone is always wanting to learn more."

Mrs. Humphries – 7th Grade Science

Mrs. Humphries has worked as a teacher for 6 years. She also is joining our coaching staff at STPA as the Girls Assistant Soccer Coach. She loves the "ag-life" as she has 10 chickens, 3 goats, 2 horses, and 1 dog!

Mrs. Montiel – 7th Grade ELA

Mrs. Montiel joins STPA after teaching high school English in Weslaco ISD. She has been a teacher for 15 years. She enjoys singing and loves the subject that she teaches because she was an English Major in college. An interesting fact about Mrs. Montiel is that she served in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Palomo – 6th Grade Technology Applications

Mr. Palomo has been a teacher for 13 years. At STPA, he is also joining our coaching staff as the MSS Boys Soccer Coach. He enjoys to play games especially video games.



BACK TO STATE

by Caleb Canales, Mercy Casanova, Joaquin Rodriguez, and Sophia Munoz



The girls' basketball team huddles up before the State tournament game for one last pep talk.

Photo courtesy of STPA's social media website.



Coach Barrientes (center) poses with the the STPA Girls' basketball team starting players. (L to R: Brooke Garza, Ily Lopez, Ava Thomas, Raelynn Garcia.

Photo courtesy of STPA's social media website.

The girls' MSP Basketball made it to the State tournament once again. On February 17th, the Spartans journeyed to San Marcos to take on St. Anthony at Texas State. Ultimately, the girls were defeated 44-12, but not before battling through each quarter against their opponents. Point guard and top scorer Ava Thomas said, "I think we could've done better because we were just really nervous. It really affected us. "

Head coach Perla Barrientes said, "I think our girls were really intimidated going in to the game because the other girls were a lot taller and bigger than our team. It got in their heads, but they played with a lot of heart." Small forward Ily Lopez said, "Most of our players were really scared because of the height disadvantage." All in all, the girls should hold their heads up high because of the great season and the journey back to the State Tournament.

The Lady Spartans finished the regular season 8-0 undefeated as Regional Champions and finished in the Final Four at the State Tournament. Great season Lady Spartans!

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The girls' basketball team aren't the only State Qualifiers this school year. The girls and boys tennis teams also traveled to Texas State for the TSCAAL Tennis Tournament on March 1st through 3rd. Qualifying for State were Stella Bowen, Avery Soto, Carolina Flores, Virginia Arciniaga, Isabella Macias, Belen Berrocal, and Elizaveta Milova. On the boys side were Joel Lucio, Mario Gomez, Victor Lozoya, Paul De La Fuente, Brady Lee, Axel Medrano, and Milind Patil. Students have been hard at work preparing for this moment all season. 7th Grade student, Paul De La Fuente said, "I don't just practice with school. I practice everyday outside of school with my training coach. It takes a lot of work hard to be good at tennis and compete at this level."

Placing 1st at State in Boys Doubles and earning the State Champion title were Axel Medrano and Joel Lucio. Meanwhile Mario Gomez and Brady Lee took 2nd place, earning the silver medal. in Boys' Singles, Victor Lozoya placed 3rd earning the bronze medal. On the girl's side, Isabella Macias and Virginia Arciniaga placed 2nd in girls doubles while Carolina Flores placed 4th in girls singles. Amazing job Spartans!



Axel Medrano and Joel Lucio placed 1st and are State Champions.
Photo courtesy of STPA's social media website.



Isabella Macias and Virginia Arciniaga placed 2nd in girls' doubles.
Photo courtesy of STPA's social media website.



The tennis team poses outside of Buc-ees which has become a school State trip tradition.
Photo courtesy of STPA's social media website.

LVIII SUPER BOWL FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

by Nathan Cardona, Janitza Cruz, Valentina Delgado, and Bryanna Najera

The Superbowl. An annual American Football event taken place around February. This year's Superbowl was one crazy event. Two teams, (The Chiefs and the 49ers) both went head-to-head for a chance to win the Vince Lombardi Trophy. Students at STPA had mixed opinions as to who they thought should have won and who should have performed in the Half-time show.

Many contributing factors led to majority of the students rooting for the San Francisco 49ers. One seventh grade student, Ethan Torres, said “I want the 49ers to win since I do not like Taylor Swift, but I would’ve liked to see the Cowboys at least make it to Championship,” which was the common response of a multitude of students.



Patrick Mahomes, quarterback for the Kansas City Chiefs, poses with the Vince Lombardi Super Bowl trophy.
Photo courtesy of AP News website.

Regarding the Halftime Show, many were disappointed with Usher’s performance and would have rather seen other artists like Travis Scott, SZA, and Bad Bunny. Another 7th grade student, Axel Bolanos, said “I at first was excited to see Usher’s performance, but ended up disappointed since he didn’t play some of his most popular, top songs.”

Ultimately, the Kansas City Chiefs were victorious winning their fourth Super Bowl championship. The Chiefs won 25-22 in overtime which was only the second Super Bowl game ever to go into overtime. So, whether fans tuned in to support their favorite time, critique the half-time show, or catch a glimpse of Taylor Swift, one thing is for sure, this year’s Super Bowl was historic to say the least.

BATTLE OF THE MINDS

by Abdeljalil Oumeddour, Patrick Gilkerson, Neriah Oriekwu

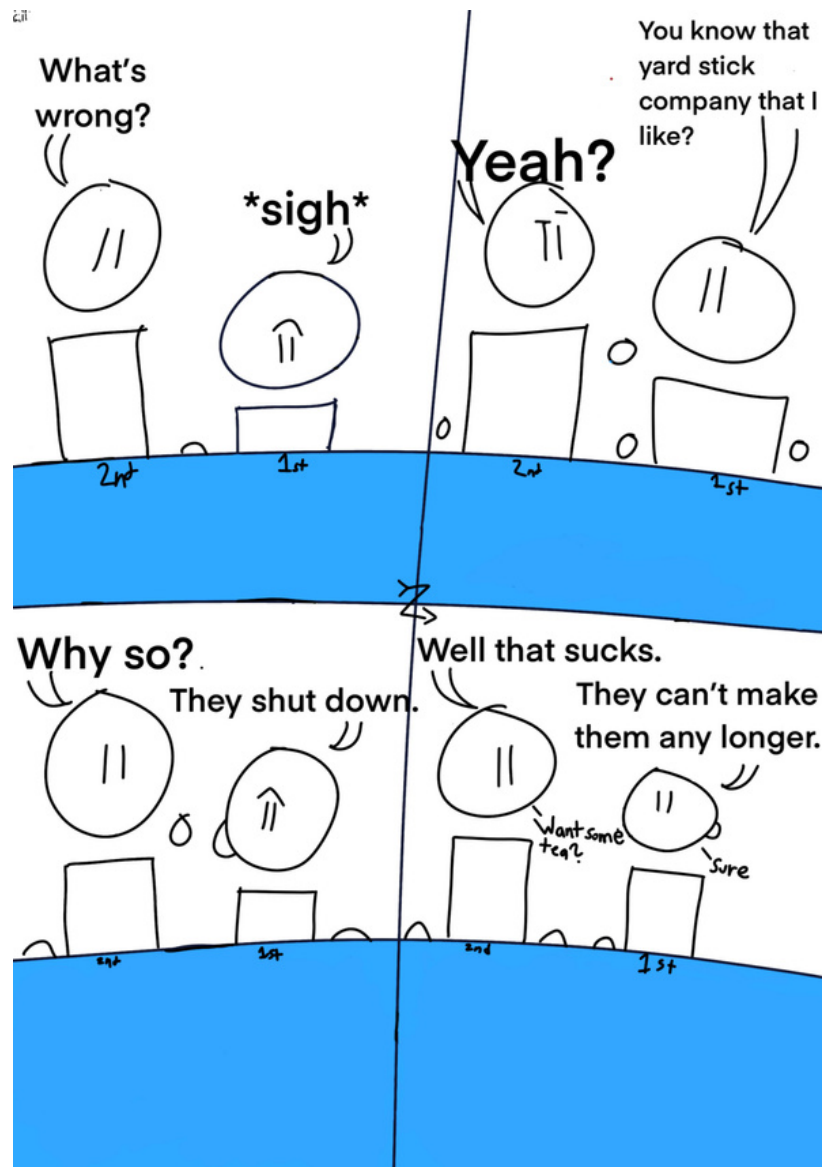
On January 17th, many of STPA's UIL members competed in various events. In Number Sense, Mathematics, Science, and Calculators nine 6th grade students placed in the top 3, as well as six 7th graders and six 8th graders. Sponsor, Mrs. Hinojosa said, "A total of 17 students in my club alone placed and although they did amazing this time, I know that in the upcoming meet, we're going to have even more students place and improve their previous scores." The students that did qualify at the meets will now move on to the TMSCA competition on April 13th at the University of Texas San Antonio.

The qualifying students for Number Sense are Aden Paul, Shresth Yadav, Brianna Wang, Milind Patel, Manaali Lambat, Aryan Mathavan, & Crystal Wang. Qualifying in Mathematics are Cesar Garza, Adel Paul, Milind Patil, Manaali Lambat, Aryan Mathavan, and Crystal Wang. In Science, the students that qualified are Shresth Yadav, Viraj Srivastava, Aden Paul, Manaali Lambat, Milind Patil, & Erin Hou. Qualifying in Calculator Skills are Shresth Yadav & Axel Medrano.

Sixth grade student, Shresth Yadav said, "I enjoy competing in TMSCA because it gives me an opportunity to go more in depth when learning about different subjects and it's also useful; like number sense teaches you mental math. For the competition, I'm excited more than nervous. I don't have anything to lose here. " The students will now face middle school students from across the state of Texas to bring home the trophy in their individual events. Good luck Spartans!

MUSINGS

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