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## Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

BY ELAINA HUMPHREY AND VALERIE ANGUIANO

Every Thanksgiving from 9:00-12:00 PM ET, a giant parade sponsored by the retail chain Macy's is held in Manhattan. This parade is the second-oldest Thanksgiving parade in the US that is still going on, with the first parade taking place in 1924. Parades feature giant balloons of beloved characters, as well as live performances from artists and even high school bands. Artists featured in this year's parade include Gloria Estefan, Fitz & the

Tantrums, Ziggy Marley, Joss Stone, Jordin Sparks, and Betty. Tom Turkey, the parade's unofficial mascot, is the longest-running float that is still featured in the parade. A few of the balloons introduced this year include: a giant minion holding a realistic mechanical banana man from *Despicable Me*, baby shark from the popular music video, a dinosaur, Greg from *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, and Bluey from *Bluey*. Also introduced this year was a Wonder Bread float.



# Welcome Ms. Martinez

BY JUAN RIOS & JASMIN SALAZAR SARAVIA

Here at North Lake ECHS, one of our new staff members is Ms. Martinez. She is a biology teacher who recently graduated. Ms. Martinez is shy at first but once people get to know her she gets out of her shell, she is also curious and adventurous. One of her goals is to go back to school and earn her doctorate degree. The things that inspire Ms. Martinez are the people around her. In school it is her students and coworkers however, in life her friends and family inspire her the most. A fact about Ms. Martinez is that she enjoys listening to k-pop and Bad Bunny. Someone she looks up to is her mom because she was hardworking and she is the reason Ms. Martinez got into school. One of her biggest accomplishments was being the first member of her family to graduate college. In a few years she sees herself going back to school. The reason Ms. Martinez chose to become a teacher is because she used to shadow teachers and she liked the influence they had on the students. She chose to be a teacher at NLECHS because this school has the same values that she has and she would like to help her students get their high school and college degrees. Ms. Martinez finds motivation to continue teaching by watching her students succeed. Also by building a teacher-student relationship including those students who she doesn't teach. Ms. Martinez hopes that her students will earn a liking in science and she also hopes they find a safe place in her classroom. The thing she enjoys the most about teaching is getting to see her students. A skill Ms. Martinez earned from being a teacher is creativity. She learned that everyone learns differently and she found a way to use creativity in order to have different teaching styles. Ms. Martinez says that the most challenging part about teaching is her students having different personalities and watching them interact. In difficult times she surrounds herself with those she loves and thinks things over. Outside of school Ms. Martinez enjoys hiking, going to the dog park, painting, and playing volleyball with friends even though she is not good at it. An advice she would give others is to apply to college. She says to go for it because the worst thing that can happen is someone rejecting you. "Whatever you put your mind to, just do it."



# Jackie in Germany

BY JACKIE CARRANZA & VALERIE ANGUIANO

After spending a little over 100 days in Germany, I think I can say I've learned a lot. Whether it was learning to live with 50 other kids for a month in a monastery in the middle of nowhere, trying to speak German, or figuring out the deutsche bahn system, I think I can say I've accomplished a fair amount of experience here in Germany. While in Deutschland I've gotten the opportunity to meet incredible people in the program and all around Germany, see otherworldly sights, learn a different way of life, and gain a further sense of self. Although it has been an amazing experience and I am forever grateful I have to admit it has also brought me to my lowest moments and taught me a lot about what it is like to be alone in a country where you don't know the language at the ripe age of 16. However, the experience has also given me some of the most memorable moments in my life that make continuing the program all the more worth it, some of my favorite moments are the group trips, going to the Döner place down the street to escape the horrifying kloster food, my 8 hour long train ride to Cologne, befriending my bus driver because I couldn't pronounce the name of my village, visiting my exchange friends, group calls from my language camp friends, going to the Christmas Markets, meeting my second host family and finally feeling like I found a place I belong. Despite all the homesickness, tears of frustration over German sentence structure, and overall just bad days; doing an exchange program is one of the best things I have ever gotten the chance to do.





# Homecoming '22

BY JUAN ARAUJO

North Lake had its first homecoming last month! Thanks to the junior class officers who hosted this event, homecoming was a success. It was an enjoyable time and created memories for everyone to remember. As always, a homecoming court was chosen at the dance. Those gracious girls who were chosen were Nathaly Rodriguez as Queen, Valerie Anguiano as Princess, Valeria Loreda as Dutchess, and Astrid Macias as Countess. The boys who were chosen were Javier Espinoza as King, Juan Araujo as Prince, Roy Washington as Duke, and Arturo Ortega as Count. Congratulations!

For seniors, homecoming marks the beginning of the end of high school. The bittersweet experience was filled with an assembly for homecoming court followed with the traditional dance. At other schools, homecoming does not hold as much sentiment, or does not even occur at all but here at North Lake, we are engendering what it means to have school spirit!



This is a first for North Lake but not the last. We will definitely have Homecomings for the foreseeable future. Not only was the dance a success, but also the week of. We had spirit week, which consisted of Anything but a Backpack Day, Pajama Day, Twin Day, and Class Colors/Mums Day. It was great seeing everyone participate!





# The Power of A Good Luck Charm

BY CLAIRE SPILLMAN

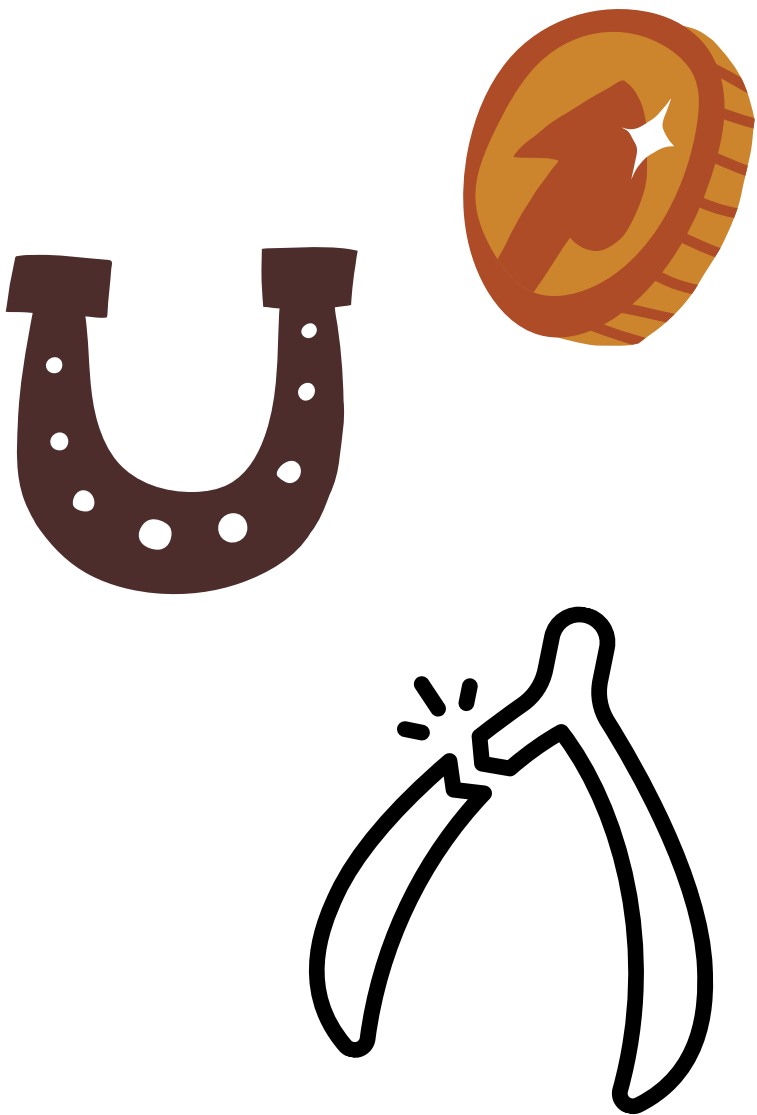


With the semester ending and our finals creeping up, is there something that you believe brings you luck or calms you down in stressful times? I have a keychain of angel wings given to me as a gift by my closest friend I’ve known since kindergarten. It is very special to me and every time something important comes up like a test or a presentation I attach it to my clothes to give me security and a bit of luck. Do you have something like this pair of angel wings that comforts you or reminds you of a loved one? If so, what is it? Where did you receive it and why does it bring you comfort?

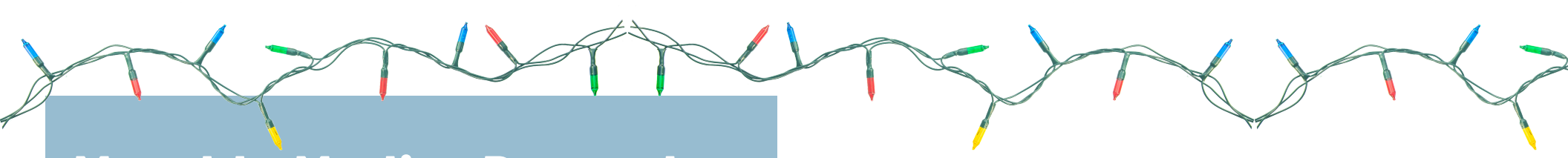
I talked to a senior here at North Lake, Justyce Parham, and she said that one of her good luck charms is a baby blanket. “I know it may seem weird, but it holds a lot of good memories.” Her world could be filled with chaos and stress but amidst these difficulties, she would hold her blanket and feel more at peace. “My good luck charm is my smile if smiling gets hard for me.” Although those who believe in good luck charms may be deemed superstitious, there are mental health benefits that can include a boost in confidence and self-assurance, and allow you to perform at your best. So, what is your good luck charm?



Some traditional lucky charms include, four leaf clovers, the number 7, horseshoes, pennies, and so much more. Some people forgo lucky charms and have other things they consider lucky. Some have a lucky color, lucky number or even a lucky sports jersey.







# Monthly Media: December

BY ELAINA HUMPHREY

Recently in November, Phoebe Bridgers released a compilation of holiday-inspired music. I like this single because it provides a balance between the solemnness of winter and the comfort of the holidays.



01:30

04:03



**So Much Wine**  
Phoebe Bridgers

So Much Wine  
Day After Tomorrow  
If We It Through December  
7 O'Clock News / Silent Night  
Christmas Song  
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

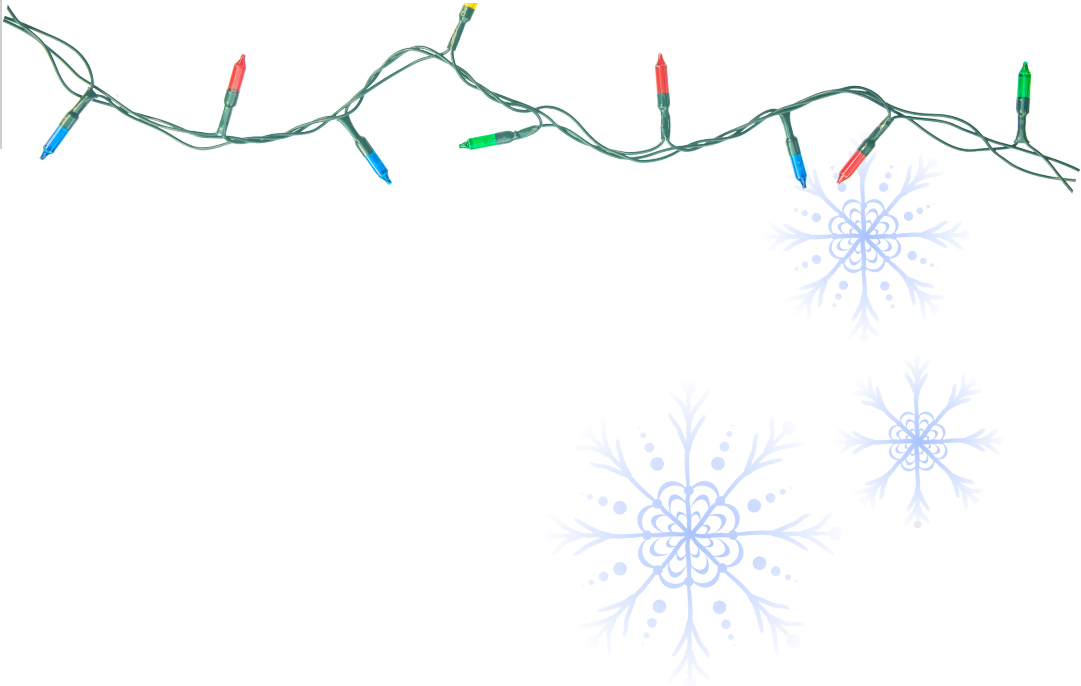
21 min 49 sec  
genres: alternative/indie



Innocence is what he knows. Beauty is what she sees.

## edward SCISSORHANDS

Edward Scissorhands is one of my favorite movies to watch during December. This movie is not necessarily a holiday movie, although it does involve a Christmas party (does this count?). Edward Scissorhands follows the story of Edward, an abandoned creation of a scientist who is discovered by the Avon saleslady and mother of Kim, Helen. Edward is assimilated into Helen's neighborhood and house and falls in love with Kim. The movie illustrates that despite Edward's threatening outward appearance and isolation from Helen's picture perfect neighborhood, Kim is still able to look past his exterior and recognize his inner creativity and innocence.





# Students of the Month

THE STUDENTS BELOW HAVE DISPLAYED EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOR AND ARE BEING RECOGNIZED BY THEIR TEACHERS! CONGRATULATIONS!

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## Sorays Aguilar

9TH GRADE STUDENT

"Sorays is a very dedicated student here at Northlake. No matter the situation you can always count on her to be a dependable, helpful and overall great scholar! She really embodies what it means to be a Northlake Blazer!"

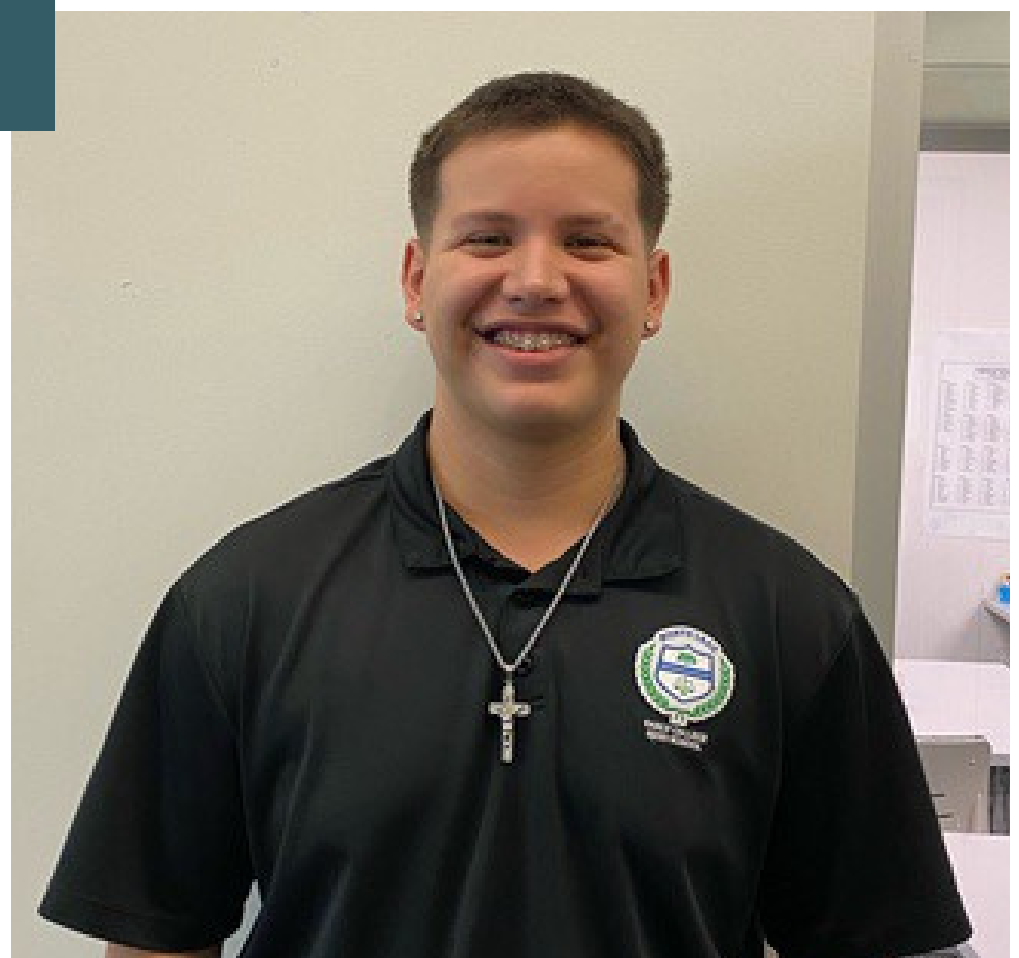
-Mrs. Hoover

## Julian Serrano

10TH GRADE STUDENT

"Julian has a success mentality. At every meeting, he can be found at the head of the pack, sitting in the front, and always attentive. He strives to be the best person that he can be by studying outside of school. His interests are in finance and physical health. He places a high priority on being the best that he can be."

-Mr. Heiple





# Students of the Month

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## Juan Araujo

11TH GRADE STUDENT

"He is a leader in the classroom. He works hard on every assignment. His questions and contributions to class are insightful and contribute meaningful information to the discussions."

-Ms. Krause

## Sofia Galvan

12TH GRADE STUDENT

"Sofia is a hard worker that has been an example of what a North Lake student should be, dedicated and always seeking to be better. Sofia is always present and willing to assist others when help is needed. Sofia is a great example of how North Lake can help student reach their full potential."

-Mr. Hernandez







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# College Spotlight

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BY MIRANDA VEGA

Located in Brazos county, Texas, Texas A&M university enrolls between 72,000 and 74,000 students year-round, making it the Largest public university in the U.S. It is located in College station Texas and offers a range of things to do in the area. It hosts a myriad of majors, ranging from Accounting to Zoology, of which the most popular is Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies . One of the hallmarks of going to Texas A&M is The amount of opportunities offered to every student, and the wide range of majors offered, students are almost guaranteed to find their place. Currently, December 1st is the priority deadline for prospective students to enroll in the fall semester. Texas A&M University's tuition is \$13,178 for in-state and \$40,087 for out-of-state students. Compared with the national average cost of in-state tuition of \$11,286, Texas A&M University is more expensive. If youre looking for somewhere that will give one of the best education opportunities, A&M is the place to go, with the amount of students that attend each year you are guaranteed to find your place and passion.

## Fact Wall

- A&M was founded in 1876
- The school offers more than 130 undergraduate degrees,
- The school has an acceptance rate of about 63.3%
- A&M sits on about 1,900 acres
- The colors are Maroon and white
- The mascot is a dog by the name of Reveille





# Blazing into the Holidays

As December begins, North Lake is planning 21 days of celebration as we lead up to the much anticipated winter break. We hope to see you all participating with fun outfits! Enjoy your winter break.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
28	29	30	1 Kicking off winter break countdown! We are waltzing into a Winter Wonderland! Wear your western boots and hats.	2 Candy Cane Red and White, Twist and Shout, Wear your candy cane colors.
5 Deck your head! Wear you favorite Holiday Headband	6 Flannel and Plaid: Join the fad and throw on your plaid and flannel	7 Babyit's Cold Outside: Bundle up in your favorite holiday scarf or sweater	8 Winter Wonderland: Wear all white	9 Rocking around the Holidays: Dress in Holidays Colors- Red or Green
12 Winter Team Holiday Theme Day. Grade levels, dress as your holiday theme. : 9th grade: Angels/ 10th grade: Reindeers/ 11th grade: Elves/ 12th grade: Christmas Trees	13 Tinsel Tuesday: Wear anything that shines or sparkles.	14 Grinch and Who Day: Wear green grinch clothing or dress as a Who	15 Ugly Holiday Sweater	16 Wear your favorite Holiday shirt
19 Festive Feet: Wear you Holiday Socks or Leggings	20 Wear your Holiday Pajamas as we prepare to head off to Winter Break	21 Christmas Vacation: Wear your Hawaiian shirts or Vacation Gear	22 Winter Break	23 Winter Break





# Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 2022

December 2	TSIA Testing
December 3	STARR & TSI Saturday School
December 6	English I STAAR Testing
December 7	Algebra I STAAR Testing
December 8	English II STAAR Testing
December 9	Biology STAAR Testing
December 15	ACP Testing - 3rd period
December 19	ACP Testing - 5th period
December 20	ACP Testing - 6th period
December 22 - January 9	Winter Break

Buy your yearbook!





# Meet the Staff

2022-2023



JASMIN SALAZAR



ELAINA HUMPHREY



LUIS RADLEY

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JUAN ARAUJO



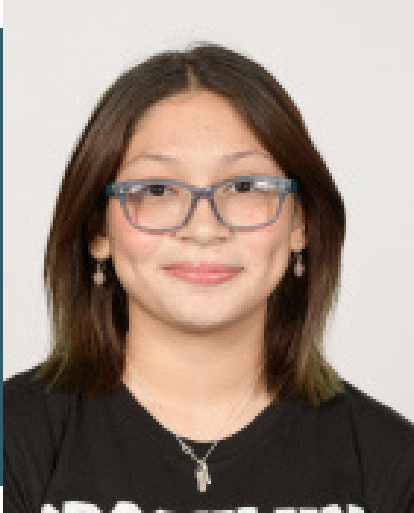
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VALERIE ANGUIANO



JACKIE CARRANZA



CLAIRE SPILLMAN