

# BLAZER NEWS

North Lake Early College High School Monthly News

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## Winter 5K

In December, prior to winter break, Mr. Nguyen organized a fun run and 5K for North Lake ECHS staff and students. Everyone gathered out by the lake to participate in the event. Runners took off from the starting point and followed a trail around the lake and scenic views.

Students participated in other activities such as basketball, volleyball and soccer. The weather was ideal for these activities and this was the perfect way to relax and team build after a stressful week of testing. We are looking forward to finishing the year strong in this second semester.



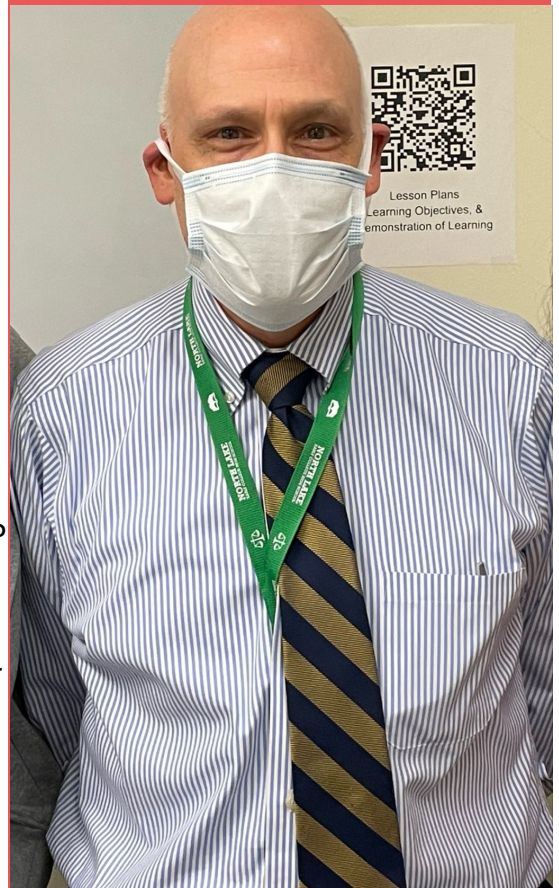
## Staff Spotlight: Mr. Jeff Heiple

**BY KIMBERLY MENDOZA & BRIANNA MIRELES**

Mr. Heiple is from Southern Louisiana and has worked as a teacher and administrator for many years. New to NLECHS this year, Mr. Heiple was drawn to North Lake's mission and vision. Our mission is "Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow." Our vision is to become a nationally recognized, elite early college dedicated to graduating all students as creative thinkers and global leaders of tomorrow." Before coming to work at this school, he met Mr. Lysowski and immediately admired him for his leadership. Mr. Heiple appreciates the support from his co-workers (shout out to Ms. Lewis!) and enjoys working with kids. He acknowledges that every student here faces their own challenges and believes "Having a solid foundation in math gives you the opportunity to succeed in life." He thinks it is incredible how much technology has advanced during COVID but doesn't always prefer to use it in his class. Mr. Heiple emphasizes trust and honesty in his classroom, while encouraging students to challenge themselves. When asked what the toughest aspect of teaching Math is, he said is to meet every students' needs in the classroom. It is difficult to make sure everyone does understand the topics. A fun fact about Mr. Heiple is that he is vegan. Some advice he would give to new vegans is to make sure they find a good source of protein because when you only eat vegetables it is harder to get a good amount of protein but there are a few choices that can be protein for vegans. In five years, he still sees himself teaching math to students. Mr. Heiple's favorite things are his two dogs, music, and of course mathematics!

Did you know?

Mr. Heiple is vegan. He doesn't eat meat or animal products but gets his protein from other sources.







## Student Spotlight: Vanessa Diaz

**BY JUAN ARAUJO & ELAINA HUMPHREY**

Vanessa Diaz, a junior, is a bright and hardworking student involved in many activities here at North Lake ECHS, including being the vice president of Student Council and the treasurer of National Honor Society. Throughout our interview, Vanessa stated that her family is one of the most important things to her and that they motivate her, "My family is a lot of the reasons for why I'm here. What motivates me is how my family and I overcame so many obstacles and struggles and every day I wake up and thank God for my mom, dad, and brother because they help me get through everything, especially my mom. My mom motivates me a lot. Sometimes I get tired and tell myself, 'ugh, I just want to give up', but I have to ask myself, 'why?', and I think about my parents and all that they've done." Vanessa is very ambitious and her dream career is either a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant, specializing in OBGYN, "because I like to learn about women's' health and it interests me. I want to make a change in that industry." Vanessa is also passionate about making a change at Northlake, "My goal in school is to be at the top percent of my class, and also to leave a lasting impact here at North Lake so people will remember me because I think the Legacy Class of 2023 is just a term that people say a lot but to me it means a lot because I actually do want to make an impact here." As a whole, Vanessa is sweet, hardworking, and involved and hopes to live a successful future.

"My goal is to leave a lasting impact here at North Lake."

**VANESSA DIAZ  
11TH GRADE STUDENT**



"You don't fail,  
you just make  
mistakes"

Kaylynn Adams  
9TH GRADE STUDENT



## Student Spotlight: Kaylynn Adams

**BY JASMIN SALAZAR & KIMBERLY MENDOZA**

Have you been interested in finding motivation for sports? Kaylynn Adams is a freshman student here at North Lake ECHS who plays volleyball. She is a reserved person who decided to come to North Lake because she wanted to challenge herself with her work. Her role model is her mother. As mentioned previously, Kaylynn is involved with sports she is mostly interested in volleyball and softball. She also enjoys other hobbies such as drawing because it helps her find peace. She first gained passion from volleyball by watching the Olympics and she thought that it looked fun and she wanted to learn. She mentioned that her favorite volleyball player is Rachel Adams. At first playing volleyball was difficult because she wasn't the best, so had to put in work and practice more to improve. One challenge she faces is with her mindset. Sometimes in order to perform better she needs to find the right mindset to tackle the challenge she is facing. She used to practice volleyball everyday but now that softball season is starting she is preparing for that. Playing volleyball actually helped her gain certain skills like teamwork and time management. She has learned how to balance her outside life with school and she says that she does all her homework during office assistant hours so that she can have more time outside of school for her sports. One of her biggest accomplishments was passing her English STAAR and one of her goals would be to become a criminal lawyer. Now that you learned about Kaylynn Adams, don't be afraid to take a risk, if you want to try something try it out and find out if you like it.





# Black History Month



**BY JUAN ARAUJO & CLAUDIA LEYJA**

February marks the beginning of Black History Month. Black History Month is a month of acknowledgment and recognition for the achievements and struggles African Americans have experienced throughout U.S. history. It all began in Chicago, during the summer of 1915, when Carter G. Woodson, a graduate of the University of Chicago along with many of his friends from town, traveled from Washington, D.C. to a national celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of emancipation sponsored by the state of Illinois. Eventually, it became a month to celebrate in 1976. Although this is just a brief description of how this month came to be, there is still a lot to learn about Black History Month, such as black historical figures, hidden figures, events, and the overall culture. As we celebrate this month, keep in mind the hardships that people of color have gone through, and remember the considerable acts that they have done!



# Winter Spirit Week



In November, North Lake ECHS Hosted a festive spirit week. Everything was winter themed and provided the students the opportunity to dress up. The week included pajama day, themed day (where each grade level had to dress as something different), ugly sweater day and a Christmas head-to-toe day. Yearbook hosted a holiday photobooth for students to take photos with their friends in their festive gear. This was a great opportunity to wind down after finals and STAAR testing and to wrap up the fall semester.





# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

*The students below have displayed exemplary behavior and are being recognized by their teachers! Congratulations!*



## DIOSSELYN PINEDA

*9th grade student*

"Diosselyn is enthusiastic and works hard. She asks questions, participates regularly in class. She is always on point for her work. Takes beautiful notes, motivates and help others to stay on task." - Ms. Katbamna

## LEVI MARTINEZ

*10th grade student*

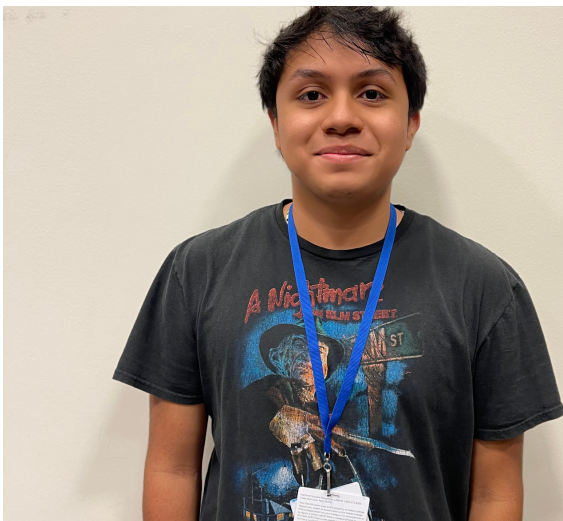
"Levi is hard working, a faithful friend, and diligent in everything in which he pursues. I'm excited to see where his journey takes him in the future and I am grateful that I have been able to be one of his teachers." - Mr. Nguyen



## EMILIO ZAVALA

*11th grade student*

"Emilio embodies what it means to be an active learner. He collaborates with his classmates on various classroom activities, learning from them and teaching them as well. Furthermore, Emilio has worked towards applying for scholarships and investing in his future after graduation." - Ms. Ding



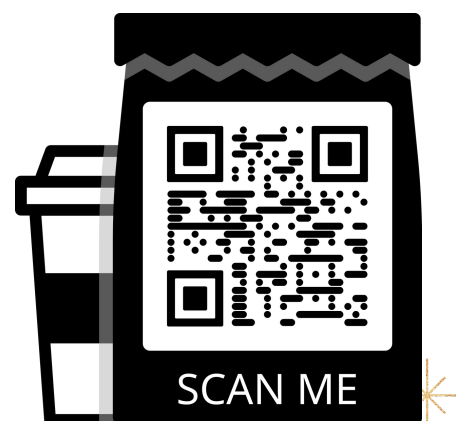
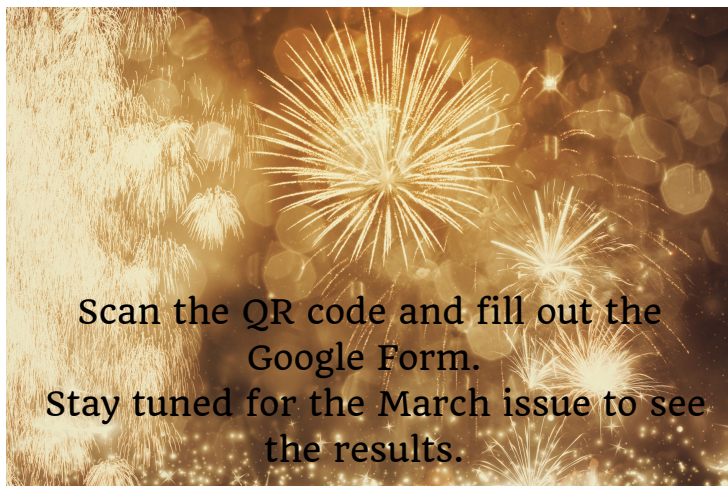
# Voter's Choice: New Year's Resolutions



By Valerie Anguiano and Claudia Leyja

A new year's resolution is a tradition in which a person resolves to continue good practices in honor of the new year. According to our New Year's resolutions survey, results show that most people voted on making money and finishing the school year with good grades. Most people in our school are ambitious and determined people who put forward their upmost effort to do their best in school.

This month, we would like to know what your favorite Valentine's gift would be. Take the poll below to cast your vote and results will appear in next month's newspaper issue.





# Upcoming Events

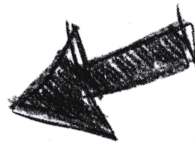
February 2022

Below you can find dates for upcoming events, testing information, no school days and more.

Feb 1 - Chinese New Years  
Feb 1 - Feb 28 -Black History Month  
Feb 1 - Feb 14 - Valentines Fundraiser & Photobooth Ticket Sales  
Feb 2 - Groundhog Day  
Feb 4 - World Cancer Day  
Feb 9 - National Pizza Day  
Feb 10 - College Visit (SMU)  
Feb 13 - Super Bowl 2022  
Feb 14 - Valentine's Day  
Feb 16 - Yearbook photo re-take day  
Feb 17 - Random Acts of Kindness Day  
Feb 20 - National Love Your Pets Day  
Feb 21 - President's Day - **NO SCHOOL**  
Feb 24 - Virtual College Visit (Washington State University)



Purchase your Valentine's gifts here!



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