

BLAZER NEWS

North Lake Early College High School Monthly News

NEWS & FEATURES

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Chess Tournament

BY: CLAUDIA LEYJA & DAISY SILVA

On November 13, Mrs. Hoover and the NLECHS Chess Club participated in their first tournament! The event was held at Conrad High School and hosted schools from across Dallas ISD. Students practiced with each other and with students from different schools when they were not competing.

The chess tournament was a huge success with almost everyone winning at least one of their matches, considering the nearly 800 students that attended! Some students even won all three of their matches. The team remained dedicated, continued practicing throughout the entire day, and supported all of their teammates.

"The way you
play chess
reveals how
you are; your
personality."

Sarallyn Medrano
10TH GRADE STUDENT



Student Spotlight: Chess Club

BY: CLAUDIA LEYJA

We conducted interviews with many of the chess players. Throughout the interviews, we asked a myriad of questions and learned quite a bit of information. To begin with, Sarallyn is not only a fashionista, but she is also a great chess player. When we asked her what got her interested in chess, she referenced to the popular TV show, The Queen's Gambit. She says she was inspired by girl boss, Beth Harmon. She also said how chess involves critical thinking, which she wishes to evolve for her future in computer science. We also have chess members who implement their previous experience, such as Jaycob, who has attended 10 tournaments. Not only does this show Jaycob's dedication, but it also illustrates his passion for the sport, since he began playing chess when he was only 7 years old! Additionally, the members also learn how to incorporate chess into other aspects of their life. Diego has learned to be patient and calm and Alexander has learned how to problem solve and think fast. There is also some friendly rivalry between the members themselves, such as Sarallyn who wishes to beat Alexander, Vincent who thinks Diego is easy to beat, and Jaycob who would like to beat his friends/teammates. This all shows the chess clubs determination and dedication to their club. They are a strong team with the determination to better themselves and their sport.



Student Spotlight: Levi Martinez

BY: CLAIRE SPILLMAN & CRISTINA RANDOLPH

December is the month of many celebrations such as Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and the day after Christmas, known as boxing day. (Giving gifts in boxes to those who've helped you). In our interview with Levi Martinez, we discovered he has an interest in a different form of boxing, one that uses your fists. He is motivated, passionate, and dedicated to the sport of boxing and found this interest through his father, a former boxer.

In boxing, dedication, hard work, training, and mental acuity are all necessary to be successful. Levi stated that he came to North Lake in order to attain an associate degree and transfer to Incarnate Word in San Antonio where he plans to study marketing. He has a keen interest in the stock market following the influence of his father who is an economist. Outside his interest in school and boxing, Levi explored his newfound hobby with nutrition and food and its correlation with the sport of boxing. "Food became important to me, I like everything, but my favorite has to be burgers." For future students at North Lake Levi suggests picking your friends carefully so that you don't wind up getting "knocked out". We can all learn from the disciplined approach that Levi takes from his sport, and we look forward to seeing him in the ring to continue his winning streak of 4-0.

Did you
know?

Levi became
interested in
boxing because his
father was also a
boxer!





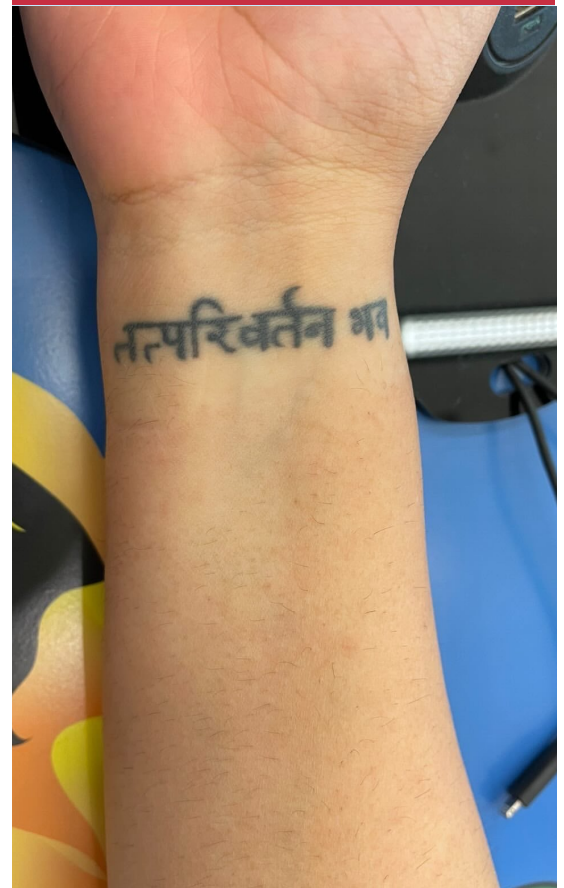
Staff Spotlight: Ms. Katbamna

BY: BRIANNA MIRELES AND KIMBERLY MENDOZA

At North Lake ECHS we like to celebrate diversity. One of the 11th-grade teachers that we would like to introduce is Ms. Katbamna. She taught in India prior to coming to the US and is now the teacher for Contemporary Math. Believe it or not, she didn't like math at first because it was difficult for her to understand. One of her teachers taught her so well that she ended up liking it throughout the rest of her years of school and even got her master's in math! The reason why she decided to become a teacher was that she wanted to inspire people to do their best and she wants to change people's negative perspective of math. She has a passion for motivating, encouraging, and inspiring others. A few rules that Ms. Katbamna has for her classroom are for everyone to be respectful and give their full attention. She enjoys working with her fellow teachers and thinks that everyone at NLECHS is very compassionate and kind. It's important for students to understand what they are being taught and during math lessons, Ms. Katbamna makes sure everyone understands by asking questions through the lesson. Ms. K encourages students to ask for help about things they do not understand, and to not stay quiet and struggle. In 5 years, Ms. Katbamna sees herself still being a teacher, trying new things, and seeing students go through college. Her words for teachers who might have her students next year is "They are lucky and that the students are nice. Make sure they listen to the students and care about them." We are happy to have you at NLECHS Ms. Katbamna!

Did you
know?

Ms.
Katbamna's
wrist tattoo
means "Be the
change"





"Stay positive.
There's a lot
negativity and
you need to find
your happiness."

Staff Spotlight: Ms. Ferguson

BY: VANESSA AVILA & JASMIN SALAZAR-SARAVIA

Teachers at North Lake are passionate and caring individuals that wish to promote learning and compassion in their classrooms. Ms. Ferguson embodies this with her teaching. Ms. Ferguson has 10+ years of education experience and has taught everything from cheer to special education. Her role model is Mr. Lysowski, because he is the heart of everything at our school. He is very positive and puts other people's feelings before his own. Ms. Ferguson admires these qualities and tries to emphasize them in her classroom. She says one of her proudest accomplishments has been coming to North lake and having her students become successful, especially when all her 10th graders passed the STAAR during COVID. Ms. Ferguson is happy knowing that she's making an impact on students, knowing students will graduate with high school diplomas and college degrees. She encourages student leadership at NLECHS through Student Council and is always bringing fun ideas to the school. When she is not at school, Ms. Ferguson enjoys spending time with her family and friends as well as traveling. Ms. Ferguson believes that positivity is the key to happiness. You have to find what makes you happy in life and encourage others to do the same. We are thankful that we have teachers to encourage us to be our best selves.

**MS.FERGUSON
ENGLISH II TEACHER**



Cozy Hot Chocolate

Are you looking for a quick and simple winter treat? Look no further. The best hot chocolate is here! This is the perfect recipe if you are having family over this holiday season or if you are just looking to spend a cozy night at home.



Ingredients:

- ½ cup cocoa powder
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2/3 cup hot water
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 7 cups milk (alternative: almond milk)
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Optional toppings:

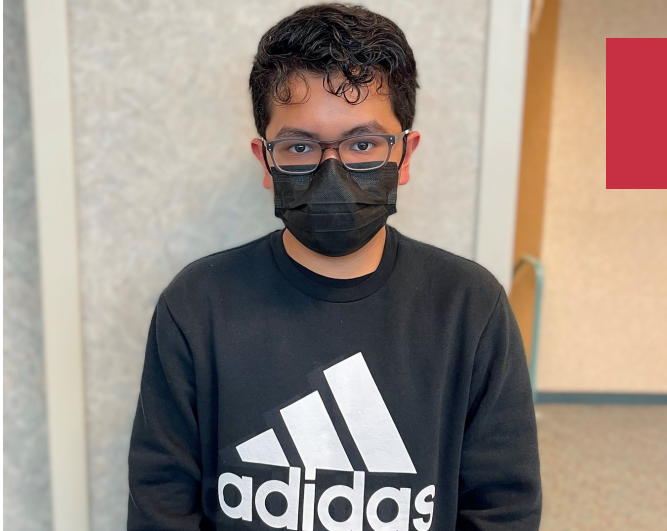
- Marshmallows
- Whipped cream
- Chocolate Chips
- Caramel syrup
- Cinnamon sticks

Instructions:

1. Mix the cocoa powder, sugar, water, and salt in a saucepan. Bring to a boil while stirring until smooth.
2. Add in the milk and continue to stir over medium heat, DO NOT BOIL
3. Once the cocoa has reached the desired temperature, remove from heat, stir in the vanilla and serve.
4. Top with any additional toppings that you would like and enjoy!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

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



DANIEL RODRIGUEZ

9th grade student

"Daniel is a very hardworking student. He is consistently kind and respectful to others. Daniel is responsible and punctual. He puts in 100% on all of his work and is a great example of what a North Lake Blazer should be." - Ms. Seymour

ADRIAN RUIZ

10th grade student

"Adrian has such a big heart! Selfless, caring, and hardworking are just a few ways to describe what a great student he is. He consistently puts the best interest of others ahead his own. He is a friend to all and offers a helping hand to any student or teacher in need. We can always count on Adrian to do the right thing whether we are watching or not." - Ms. Ferguson



LIAM MACWILLIAM

11th grade student

"Liam's brilliance, creativity, and inquisitiveness make him a true scholar. The standards he sets for himself are reflected in those who work with him and the work he produces is truly on another level. I'm very proud to be Liam's teacher." - Mr. Stratman

Voter's Choice: New Years Resolutions



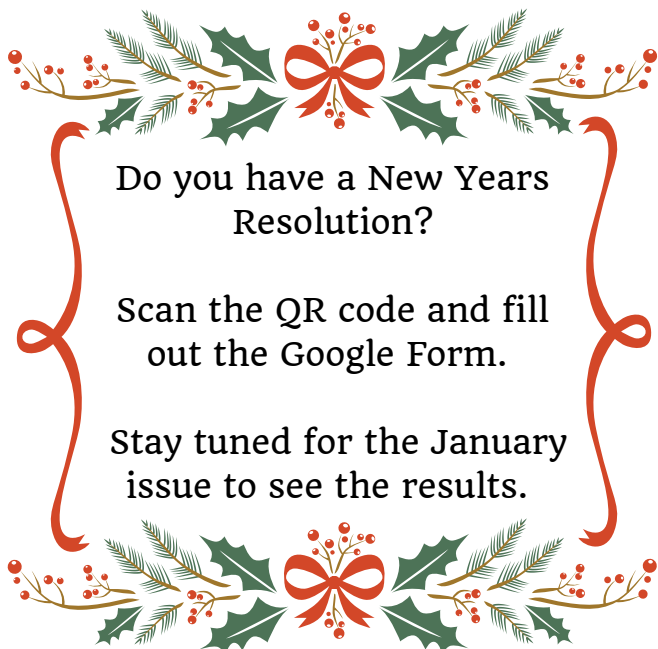
By Valerie Anguiano & Claudia Leyja

Favorite Winter Activity:

According to our results, the holiday light tour was the most popular winter activity. Holiday light tours are a tradition for some families and some people just enjoy taking pictures to share with people.

Favorite Winter Movie:

Our results show that the most favorite movie to watch is The Nightmare Before Christmas. A brief description is that Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King of Halloween Town, decides to spread Christmas joy to the world. But while he is doing this he puts Santa Claus in jeopardy and creates a nightmare for the children. Who will be able to save Christmas?



Upcoming Events

December 2021

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

November 28-December 6: Hanukkah

December 6-10: Spirit Week

December 6: Festive Day - Holiday Colors

December 7: Ugly Sweater Day

December 8: Holiday Sock Day

December 8-10: Holiday Photo Booth

December 9: Winter Character Day (9th - Elf, 10th - Snowmen, 11th - Reindeer)

December 10: Pajama Day

December 7: English I STAAR Test

December 8: Biology STAAR Test

December 9: English II STAAR Test

December 9: JWAC Virtual Travel to Uganda

December 10: US History STAAR Test

December 12: Gingerbread House Day

December 14-17: Early Release @ 12:50

December 14: Period 3 ACP (Chemistry, Algebra 2, Geometry)

December 15: Period 5 ACP (Algebra 2, Geometry)

December 16: Period 6 ACP (Chemistry, Algebra 2)

December 17: Q2 Ends DISD

December 17: National Ugly Sweater Day

December 17: National Maple Syrup Day

December 21: Winter Solstice starts

December 24: Christmas Eve

December 25: Christmas

December 26: Kwanzaa

December 31: New Year's Eve

Dec. 20 - Jan. 4: Winter Break

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Jasmin Salazar-Saravia

Daisy Silva

Claire Spillman

**STAY TUNED FOR OUR NEXT
ISSUE: OUT JANUARY 5TH**

Follow us online!