

# BLAZER NEWS

North Lake Early College High School Monthly News

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## Meet A German!

**BY CLAUDIA LEYJA**

Recently, students in Mr. Macias' class participated in a Meet-a-German day. They met virtually with Jana, a recent high school graduate in Germany. She is taking advantage of the exploration year offered to German high school graduates to do volunteer work at her local zoo. She is enjoying her time there so far and is excited to learn more.

During this event, students learned more about what it is like growing up in Germany, what the college system is like in her country, laws, and some of her favorite hobbies and interests. The classes were able to share similarities and differences between the United States and Germany with Jana.



## Staff Spotlight: Mr. Tristan Lysowski

**BY CRISTINA RANDOLPH & CLAIRE SPILLMAN**

In honor of National Principal's Month, we sat down with our fearless leader, Mr. Tristan Lysowski. Mr. Lysowski has been at North Lake for 2 years now. He has an undergraduate degree from Kent State University in Ohio along with a master's degree from SMU in urban school specialization, which allowed him to acquire his principal certification. Mr. Lysowski is married with three children, two boys and one girl. His favorite food is pizza and he enjoys flag football. He is from northeast Ohio and grew up playing hockey. Although sadly, that means he is also a staunch Cleveland Browns fan. He likes to keep up with current events through reading articles and listening to podcasts. Mr. Lysowski is an excellent, skilled multi-tasker. In his first year at North Lake, Mr. Lysowski was the only administrator, so he took on many roles. Last year he took on new tasks and gained new experiences he had not anticipated. In addition to his organizational skills, he is an exceptional communicator focused on the safety and welfare of our students, staff, and faculty. We are fortunate that Mr. Lysowski is open to new ideas and will implement them through the proper channels when the school would benefit. This shows that he is committed to providing support for the students. Mr. Lysowski believes in the values of accountability in which students and faculty are all responsible for the preparation and execution of their duties. Mr. Lysowski has future plans for NLECHS that include making us elite academic and social leaders in Dallas ISD. We're lucky to have a dedicated leader who is clear-cut and ready to navigate us through the choppy waters of a new school.

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Did you know?

Mr. Lysowski's favorite food is pizza and he enjoys flag football.

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## Staff Spotlight: Mr. Steven Nguyen

**BY CRISTINA RANDOLPH & CLAIRE SPILLMAN**

In honor of Veterans Day, we decided to interview our Physical Education teacher, Mr. Nguyen, who is on reserve duty in the United States Air Force. Mr. Nguyen is a disciplined and educated man with a master's degree in Education from the University of Arkansas. His extensive military background allows him to bring to our school the values of leadership, commitment, and wellness. He actively encourages students to think of military service as an option after high school or as a career. Mr. Nguyen continued to pursue his Physical Education career because it was his dream job to become an instructor and work with high school students. He loves being a part of North Lake because he is able to see the students grow and graduate.

Mr. Nguyen enjoys mentoring and coaching students on wellness in physical education. Physical fitness has been a passion of Mr. Nguyen who played tennis in high school and football in college as a wide receiver. Outside of the classroom Mr. Nguyen enjoys a classic pepperoni pizza and is an avid football fan. He also takes pride in his lawn and hopes that his neighborhood begins a "lawn of the month" competition where he can showcase his landscaping skills. A future goal for Mr. Nguyen would be to take his leadership skills and mentor a JROTC program here at North Lake. We're thankful for his skills, background, and enthusiasm for the physical education of our student body as well as his military service!



## Student Spotlight: Corina Garcia

BY KIMBERLY MENDOZA & BRIANNA MIRELES

Are you interested in playing sports while in school? Here at North Lake ECHS we have Corina Garcia, an 11th-grade student and softball player. She has been playing softball for six years. It is important for players to balance school and their extracurriculars. Corina does this by managing her time, completing work and practicing for games. Even though doing something you love may be difficult, the most important thing is that you are happy and having fun. When it comes to Corina, she is having fun playing softball because it relieves stress. One difficulty she had with playing this sport was that she started a bit later than other players. This meant she had to work extra hard to reach everyone else. Working on a team has taught Corina to overcome conflicts and drama. She doesn't worry much since they all bond with each other. Sometimes playing time isn't always fair or seniors are favorited, but she doesn't let it stop her from working hard to be the best player on her team. In high school, it is pertinent to know what profession or career you want to pursue. Corina wants to be a lawyer or psychiatrist while pursuing softball in college. To conclude, here are some words that Corina would like to share with others: "I think the most important thing is getting good grades. It will be difficult to keep going but by learning how to manage your time, you will be able to balance your time between school and your sport. Don't be afraid to work on achieving something if it truly makes you happy! Also, if you have people who support you then it will make things much easier."

"Don't be afraid to work on achieving something if it truly makes you happy!"

CORINA GARCIA  
11 GRADE STUDENT





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"Life is hard,  
but there's a  
way to get  
through it. You  
just have to be  
patient"

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Valeria and Sarah  
9TH GRADE STUDENTS



## Student Spotlight: Sarah & Valeria

**BY VANESSA AVILA & JASMIN SALAZAR-SARAVIA**

Have you been looking for a new student program to join? A program where you can express your leadership skills? The search is over! NLECHS has great opportunity for you that will not only allow you to be a global leader, but will also look great on your college resume. Junior World Affairs Council (JWAC) is a student organization for people who want to gain leadership skills, problem solving skills, and cultural intelligence. Sarah and Valeria are two members of the JWAC program at North Lake ECHS. On Saturday, September 25, they attended a virtual field trip inside Anne Frank's home where they met Pieter Kohnstam, a neighbor of Anne Frank. This was a virtual tour and it lasted for about an hour. During this tour, they were given information about the journey and many stories about the holocaust. They shared with us some interesting facts and informed us about some great upcoming opportunities the JWAC will be having. One of Valeria's and Sarah's favorite things about the program is that they are able to create many different service project ideas. This means that within the program they can create projects that will help spread awareness about certain social/economic issues and provide solutions for them. This is a program is district-wide and open for all to join. You do not have to be a member of the program to participate in the JWAC events. An interesting thing about this program is that people can also interact with others in the DFW area and around the world. If you would like to learn more about the JWAC you can visit their Instagram page @jwacnlechs. Here you will find more information and details for upcoming events.





# DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

BY BRANDY CRUZ & ALEXIA ESPINOZA

Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a Mexican tradition that has been celebrated for many centuries. Typically celebrated every November 2nd, Dia de los Muertos has its origins in Aztec traditions of honoring the dead. Families gather around to honor the deceased by visiting graves of loved ones and decorating their graves with ofrendas, which means offerings in English. People also put on Dia de los Muertos makeup on and dress up in costumes. Many parades and celebrations are held in cities. Flowers, butterflies and skulls are symbols for Dia de los Muertos. Monarch butterflies are believed to hold the spirits of the deceased. The holiday is not about celebrating death but about believing that death is a part of the journey of life. The movie Coco is



heavily influenced by the traditions of this holiday and a good representation of how

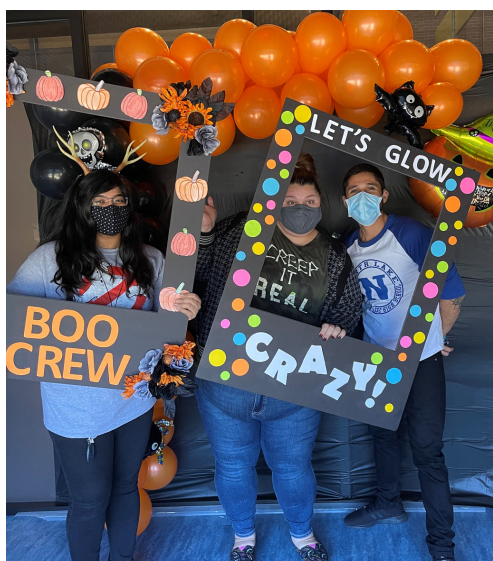
some people celebrate. People often celebrate by eating favorite foods, dressing up, and celebrating with other family and friends. Many times they play the departed's favorite music for them so you can feel close to them once again. Families typically set out pillows and blankets so their loved ones can rest after a long journey. They also set up altars for loved ones surrounded with their favorite foods and sweets for them to enjoy. Not only can you celebrate loved ones on this holiday, but you can also celebrate your deceased pet. By setting up an altar in your home with photos of your pet, their favorite toy, leash, and their favorite treats and food. You can also invite family and friends to come over and remember your pet with their favorite stories.





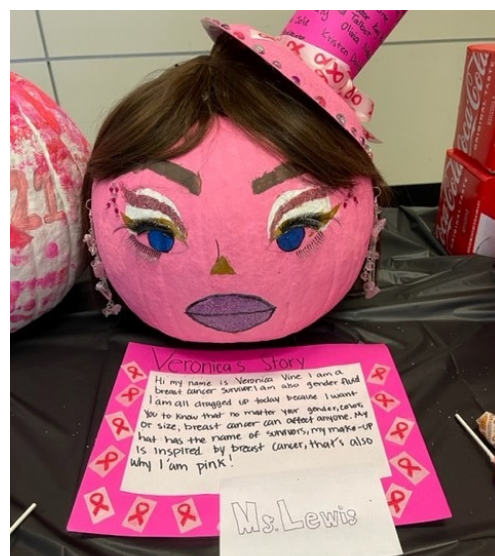
To wrap up the month of October, North Lake ECHS held a fall party. The theme was Ready Set Glow. Students were able to dress up and show off their costumes while spending time with classmates and friends. NLECHS Student Council organized and hosted the event, led by Ms. Ferguson, which consisted of fun costumes, tasty food, good friends and lots of dancing!

October is breast cancer awareness month and North Lake MAPs classes honored this by competing in a pumpkin decorating contest. The theme was breast cancer awareness so many pumpkins were pink or decorated with the signature awareness ribbon. During the fall party, students and staff voted for the best pumpkin. The pumpkin decorated by Ms. Lewis' MAPs class (bottom right) won the contest!



**Left:** Ms. Katbamna, Ms. Lewis and Mr. Macias stopped by the photobooth during the fall party for a quick photo.

**Right:** The winning pumpkin belonged to Ms. Lewis' MAPs class (right). Students added a wig, eyelashes and even homemade earrings to their pumpkin.



# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

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



## NATHAN DIAZ

*9th grade student*

"Along with being driven and hard working, Nathan is serious about his education. He is motivated by his interest to learn more than simply what is presented. He sets high standards for himself and those around him. He is a great model of a successful high school and college freshman." - Ms. Alexander

## PABLO RAMIREZ

*10th grade student*

"Pablo is a kind-hearted gentleman with a giving personality. He is always willing to help his classmates. His attentiveness in class, his strong work ethic, and his kindness help to make Pablo a great student!" - Mr. Heiple



## CORINA GARCIA

*11th grade student*

"Corina is always on task committed to do her best. She actively participates in class, is respectful, enthusiastic learner, kind and helps other students to stay on task." - Ms. Katbamna





# Voter's Choice: Fall Favorites

By Valerie Anguiano and Claudia Leyja

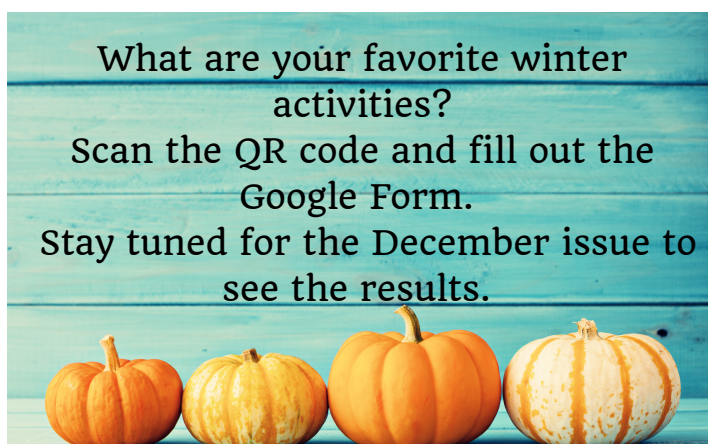
## What is your favorite fall activity?



According to our results, tamales are students' favorite food to eat for Thanksgiving over turkey and ham. Tamales are a traditional dish that originated in Mesoamerica. From there it spread to Mexico, Guatemala, and the rest of Latin America. Tamales are usually made with a meat or vegetable filling wrapped in corn dough. The dough is wrapped in a corn husk and steamed.

Our next results show that Pecan Pie was the most popular dessert to eat for Thanksgiving. While researching we found that the French immigrants settled in New Orleans and soon after the Pecan was found, the Native Americans introduced it to the French. Pecan pie is often made as a mixture of pecans and corn syrup baked in a pie crust.

Thanksgiving is an annual holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings that have happened throughout the year. When we asked our school what they were thankful for, some of the responses were family, friends, pets, and in general life. Thanksgiving is an amazing holiday because it's when most families come together to celebrate, they spend quality family time.



# Upcoming Events

## November 2021

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

- November 2: Dia De Los Muertos
- November 3: National Sandwich Day
- November 6: JWAC Leadership: Human Trafficking
- November 6: National Nachos Day
- November 7: Daylight Savings Time
- November 9: JWAC Discussion: Girls Education
- November 10: English I Mock STAAR
- November 11: English II Mock STAAR
- November 11: Veterans Day
- November 12: Biology Mock STAAR
- November 13: World Kindness Day
- November 13: DISD Chess Tournament
- November 15: Odd Socks Day
- November 15-19: International Education Week
- November 16: NLECHS Open House
- November 19: US History Mock STAAR
- November 22-26: Fall Break - NO SCHOOL
- November 25: Thanksgiving
- November 26: Black Friday
- November 28: Hanukkah Begins
- November 29: Cyber Monday



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# Newspaper staff:

Valerie Anguiano

Vanessa Avila

Brandy Cruz

Alexia Espinoza

Claudia Leyja

Kimberly Mendoza

Brianna Mireles

Luis Radley

Cristina Randolph

Jasmin Salazar-Saravia

Claire Spillman