



**Candy Bar
Blondie Recipe,
Pg. 2**



**Brad Sheehy
Feature, Pg. 3**



**Too Old for
Costumes? Pg. 4**



Taking a stand against drugs during Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week was celebrated here at school Oct. 27-31. Students and staff showed support for saying “no” to drugs by participating in themed dress-up days throughout the week.

“I think Red Ribbon Week encourages students to say no to drugs by reminding us how dangerous

drugs can be,” freshman Chloe Sanchez said. “I’ll definitely be participating in the dress-up days because I think it’s a fun way to show school spirit and support a good cause.”

Red Ribbon Week and the actions of others during this time can inspire students to make positive choices and seek help when needed.

“Seeing everyone wearing red and participating during the week really motivates students to stay drug-free and support each other in making healthy decisions,” junior An Nguyen said. “You never know when someone is going through their own personal struggles, so supporting something like saying no to drugs can be encouraging someone to get the support they deserve.”

Parents also shared their thoughts on the importance of Red Ribbon Week and how drug use impacts students.

“As a parent, it’s honestly heartbreaking to know that drug use has become so common amongst young people who don’t realize how dangerous it can be—not just for their health, but for their future,” parent Nicole Williams said. “I’m glad schools are doing things like Red Ribbon Week to remind students that they have a choice and support if they need it.”

Although some people may struggle with drug use and feel trapped in their habits, there are many resources like hotlines and programs and, of course, people around who care and are more than willing to help.

“Remember, the strongest person in the room is the one who walks away,” Williams said.

Story by: Katelynn Lopez

The sound of Resilience: The true meaning of a band performance

After months of exhausting rehearsals in the cruel sun, the marching band had a moment to shine at the Katy Marching Festival, placing 10th in finals. The band was also able to qualify for the UIL area competition, receiving straight 1’s from all judges at the UIL region competition. The UIL area competition took place on Monday, Oct. 27. The band placed 12th.

“Marching band takes and communicates music,” Band director Dr. Ryan Williams said. “It takes the visual idea, puts a soundtrack to it and finds a way to tell that story musically and visually. It engages with the audience and it gets the audience to have a reaction and takes them on a journey.”

The Katy Marching Festival had 28 schools competing for the title of first place but only the best 14 schools would make it to finals. Each member puts time and dedication into the final performance, all having their own contributions.

“I feel like I’m more of an enforcer for some. I’m kinda the one who’s shouting and getting mad at them for not being 100% in it,” trumpet section leader Isaac Estrada said. “If we ever get distracted or are playing around someone has to tell them ‘this is not the time.’”

Behind every note they play, they are trying to evoke emotions and bring people together. Williams said that the music they create is more than just a sound, it’s a universal language.

“There’s something about music that everybody has a different way they can relate to. You might hear a song on the radio and to you it might just be a song on the radio, but for another person it might describe an exact situation they are going through,” Williams said. “With our show, we have sort of this idea that time is this abstract thing and we perceive time differently. There’s times in our show where the music goes by really fast or slow to really represent how fast or slow time might be going for a person.”



Photo by: Daniel Arizpe

The music they play not only entertains but also creates a deep sense of emotions. Estrada said that each note really conveys a message to the audience and hits deep into their hearts.

“It’s not just music, you’re giving a heartfelt moment,” Estrada said.

Story by: Allison Sosa



Photo by: Camila Cuellar

Perspectives about FFA



FFA (Future Farmers of America) is recognized for animals but it's also known for coachability, leadership, and teamwork. This club gives students the chance to have fun experiences while learning the responsibilities of life.

Many students believe that FFA is an organization that's all about animals, but there's so much more. It gives students opportunities to enhance their mindsets and learn skills that can help them in the future, one of them being patience.

"Patience is a big key with animals because when you first get them they won't behave how you want them to," junior member of FFA Sanaya Jones said. "It takes time and you cannot rush that process."

A main skill other than patience is trainability. It shows how you work with animals, but also along with other students.

"Students want to get it right from the start but it won't always be the case," Agriculture teacher Hailey Richardson said. "They won't always look how they're meant to until the show and that's just how it rolls."

Along with skills, FFA can be beneficial for the future in different aspects. For example, junior member of FFA Mia Moreno-Urenda hopes to become a veterinarian in the future.

"I wanted to see what my future would look like, especially because I want to be a vet," Moreno said.

While students get to see a glimpse of potential future career paths it also gives them an advantage for job resumes.

"It can help because certain LDEs (Leadership Development Events) can give you the ability to give you a job or just give you the responsibility," sophomore FFA reporter Jacob Knippers said.

FFA has many benefits and helps in several ways—it has experiences, skills and friendships.

"There's nothing I've enjoyed more than getting up early in the morning and staying after school for FFA," Richardson said.

Story by: Angelica Chavez

**HARRIS COUNTY FAIR
3RD OVERALL
FINE ARTS**

JACOB KNIPPERS

**HARRIS COUNTY FAIR
GRAND CHAMPION SENIOR
DESIGNER CRAFTSMAN**

RAM VELAZQUEZ

Texas Buffet

Craving a variety of tasty Asian dishes near you? Try Texas Buffet at 16308 FM 529 Rd, Houston, TX 77095 for the best service and freshly cooked plates all day long! Perfect for special events, celebrations, birthdays, and much more.

Review by: Isabella Acevedo



CANDY BAR BLONDIES



Ingredients

- 1 to 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 to 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup to 1 1/4 cups packed light or dark brown sugar
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup melted unsalted butter
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 to 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 to 2 cups chopped assorted candy bars

Instructions

- 1.) Preheat and prep: Preheat your oven to 350 F(177 C). Line an 8x8 or 9x9 inch square baking pan with parchment paper, leaving an overhang on the sides, and lightly grease it.
- 2.) Mix dry ingredients: In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.
- 3.) Mix wet ingredients: In a separate large bowl, whisk together the melted butter, brown sugar, and vanilla extract until smooth. Add the egg and whisk until well combined.
- 4.) Combine: Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and stir until just combined. Do not overmix.
- 5.) Fold in candy: Gently fold in the chopped candy bars. The batter will be thick.
- 6.) Bake: Spread the batter evenly into the prepared pan. Bake for 25-35 minutes, or until the edges are golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out with a few moist crumbs.
- 7.) Cool: Let the blondies cool completely in the pan before slicing and serving.





High Notes & Low Tones: Region Superstars

This year's upcoming choir region auditions have been filled with effort, focus, and meaning along with a side of hard work.

"What truly inspired me to challenge myself in this big event is me being in choir for most of my life and all the work I have put in all these years of me singing," sophomore Ashlynn Perkins said.

"For me, hard work and dedication is all it takes to prepare myself for something of this level like this year's auditions."

Getting ready for something like region auditions requires a level of patience and preparation to become successful and be a member of the top level in the choral pyramid.

"Putting in a lot of practice and strength in myself and hoping

everything goes well is my key on what I think it takes for me to get ready for what is coming ahead," sophomore Adrianna Irwin said.

Irwin also reveals that her motivation to audition this year has a sentimental value to her.

"My mom inspired me to try out because she is also a singer and I want to make her proud by proving to her that I can do the impossible and reach to the highest tier." Irwin said."

Not only the students feel ready for what's coming next, one of the directors is proud of not only guiding these students and others to show off their skills in the highest choral stage in the district, but also confident that a lot will reach that accomplishment.

"When I see their hard work pay off, I enjoy seeing their success," choir director Travis Carie said. "And yes, I do think a lot of students will make it this year because of all the weeks of work not only I as a director put in, but seeing their confidence makes me think a lot of them will be members of this year's regional choir."

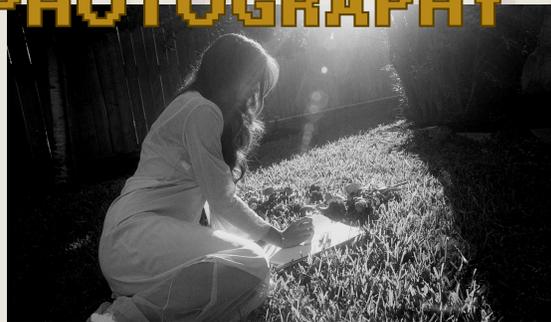
These auditions not only are a way for students to show off their voices on stage and make the step forward to something big, but also a way for directors to feel pride that they have helped make these students be future stars.

Story by: Emely Garcia

SPOTLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY



Joseph Nguyen, 12th grade, Photography AP



Adrian Hernandez, 11th grade, Photography 2



Araya Bailey Kemp, 10th grade, Photography 1



Maria Luna, 11th grade, Photography 2

STAR PLAYER BRAD SHEEHY

Senior football player Brad Sheehy is a good example of students who have benefitted from organized sports.

"I think he's a cool guy. He's straightforward. When it comes to football he's very hardworking and motivational to me. He's a team leader for sure," senior football player Nathan Reyes said.

Many people agree that he is a hardworking team player. He strives to guide the team as best as he can and listens to his teammates while maintaining an optimistic attitude.

"I try to be a leader and lead the team," Sheehy said. "I try to enforce a positive impact on the team, even when things don't go our way."

The game is not just about scoring touchdowns, but also about developing lifelong skills like resilience and optimism.

"I learned to keep a positive mindset, that things don't always go your way, and to stay persistent and work hard," Sheehy said.

Sheehy credits football with helping him meet people and

make friendships that he might not have made otherwise.

"I definitely have made friendships in the school I wouldn't have been able to make. I've met people through football and in sports I wouldn't have probably met," Sheehy said.

Brad Sheehy is an excellent example of how organized sports can teach students leadership and teamwork skills and staying consistent.

Story by: Victoria Moreno



Photo by: Dat Pham



BOO!



Too Old for Costumes? Students and Teachers Decide

As Halloween approaches, students and teachers decide whether they will dress up for the holiday or if they have outgrown it.

“I still dress up for Halloween,” freshman Madeleine Figueroa said. “My favorite part is definitely getting ready with my friends before the event—it’s a lot of fun to just hang out and get ready.”

For many, the excitement of Halloween comes from the creativity and participation required to dress up.

“As a society, I feel like, yes, there is pressure to stop dressing up because it’s seen as childlike behavior,” teacher Kelsey Lynch said. “But then, on the other hand, people appreciate it when you participate and go all out.”

Not all students have the same appreciation for the holiday. Some choose not to celebrate for personal or religious reasons.

“No, I don’t dress up for Halloween because I’m a Jehovah’s Witness,” sophomore Raychelle Fantroy said. “I think it doesn’t really matter if other people dress up or not. I mean, it’s their choice, and sometimes their costumes look really cute.”

Others believe that as they get older, Halloween costumes become less fun and more like something meant for children.

“I stopped dressing up a few years ago because I think it’s something more for little kids,” sophomore Nicholas Kerman said. “It’s not really all that fun anymore. I’d rather hang out with friends or just stay home instead.”

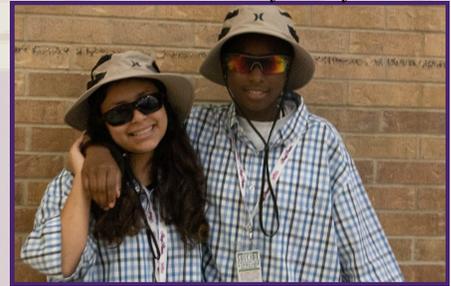
Some don’t dress up regardless of dress code policies, while others don’t because of them.

“You should be able to express yourself in whatever clothing you want as long as it’s in dress code,” Lynch said.

Story by: *Kadien Stewart*



Photos by: *Hailey Mendoza*



TRICK-OR-TREATING

Halloween is a holiday celebrated annually on Oct. 31; it is known for its various traditions like dressing up in costumes, trick-or-treating, and decorating. On Halloween, since many are hidden by costumes, this can ultimately affect the safety of trick-or-treaters.

To get a student’s perspective on Halloween safety, senior Sarai Archaga De Leon shared her opinion. She believes that the anonymity of Halloween can put trick-or-treaters at risk since they would be hard to identify.

“I don’t think it’s that safe. Since people are in costumes, you never really know what could happen,” Archaga De Leon said.

To Archaga De Leon, trick-or-treating is not a terribly dangerous tradition, but it doesn’t mean that nothing could go wrong. She encourages the idea that trick-or-treating would be a safer tradition with parent supervision.

“I’ve seen kids walk from house to house alone before. It’s not that dangerous, but I don’t like that;

Parents should accompany their kids to protect them if they need to,” Archaga De Leon said.

Senior Danilynn Calzada believes that trick-or-treaters should not only be aware of their surroundings, but should check their candy as well.

“I believe that people should keep their phones on them and check their candy so they can make it back home safe and sound,” Calzada said. “There are dangers to children; they could be followed.” Calzada stresses that by staying cautious, anyone can enjoy Halloween without risks.

Trick-or-treaters can stay safe by sticking together, checking their candy, and staying aware.

As Halloween approaches, students like Archaga De Leon and Calzada remind everyone that the holiday is for fun, but safety should always come first.

Story by: *Jamie Villanueva*

Benefits of STUCO



The student council works to benefit the school and community by volunteering and planning events all throughout the school year.

So far the members of student council have dedicated their time to set up the dance for Homecoming and have been given the opportunity to volunteer at the St. Max Fall Festival. Later this month, student council members are able to volunteer at the City of Jersey Village’s Fall Frolic and later an event at Emmott Elementary.

Being in student council benefits both students who are a member of the club and students who are not a part of the club. The members are the ones who speak for the student body and what they think the best decisions are for the school as a whole.

“The students here need advocates,” School Registrar and parent Tana Nickerson said. “Student council members advocate for what the students want.”

While the student council benefits the school, it also benefits the community and people who are involved in the community.

“I think student council benefits the community because we do a lot of community work,” student council co-president Emma Lock said. “We do a lot of community events that contribute and provide volunteers.”

Not only does it keep students informed, it also helps parents have a better understanding of what is happening in the school.

“It’s great because I’m more in the know,” Nickerson said. “Like I know what is happening with the school.”

Student council helps the students’ high school career as well as helps them in their future.

“You can benefit by being in student council just by knowing you’re contributing to the community and it’s a great opportunity to get service hours,” Lock said. “It looks great on college applications and it shows you really care about the school.”

Story by: *Kira Kaisinger*

