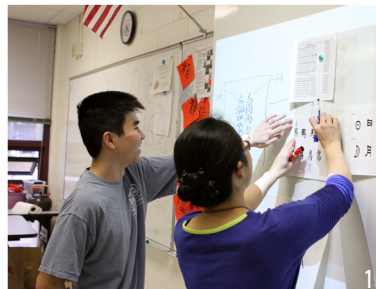


**FOREIGN MEMORIES**

1 At a Chinese Club meeting on Nov. 20, a guest speaker teaches senior Peter Wang and the rest of the members calligraphy. "I enjoy Chinese Club because of the complexity of the Chinese culture," Wang said. "China is over 5,000 years old, and with the age comes rich traditions, cultures and history. Chinese Club gives me an opportunity to explore the Chinese culture." 2 During the American Sign Language Halloween celebration, juniors Haley Arnette and Laurel McFarland interact with students from Texas School for the Deaf. "It was really cool to interact with the kids and give them a Halloween where we played games and set up a haunted house that they wouldn't have experienced otherwise," Arnette said. 3 Chinese teacher Lichy Chang and senior Ryan Prince perfect their Chinese waffles, also known as eggettes, with maple syrup at a club meeting on Nov. 20. 4 On Oct. 17, sophomores Olivia Osborne, Nathan Blue, Rohan Pillay, Kase Abbe and Jose Corea talk at the Latin kickoff party. It helped welcome freshmen and unite Latin students.



1. brayden clark 2. morgan saucier 3. brayden clark 4. lily painter

# THAT ONE TIME IN SPAIN

Language immersion and more knowledge of culture make for a summer full of lasting memories

by Katie Kimery

My mouth gaped widely, my eyes glazed over in confusion. My mind slowly processed the conversation that was happening. I glanced nervously at my new roommates, their faces a reflection of mine.

"What do you like to eat? Will you be eating out? We eat a lot of fish here because we live on the coast," our host family rapidly spoke to us in Spanish. All three of us replied 'yes' in Spanish, unknowingly creating a miscommunication between us and our host family.

This past summer I got the opportunity to study abroad in Spain, and not even the five years of Spanish I had under my belt could have prepared me for the playing field I was about to enter. I never had considered myself a novice at Spanish or even in life, but going to Spain taught me that I still had much to learn.

On our first night with our host family, they asked if we would be going out for meals. But not being used to the rapid Spanish, none of us understood what they had said. We had unknowingly told them that they didn't need to feed us. The next day, we assumed we'd be eating with them but didn't eat. It wasn't until dinner time that we realized we would have

to go out and get our own food. This continued for the next four days, until I realized how much money I had eaten away. On the fourth night, I went up to our host mom and told her in broken Spanish that we wanted to eat with them for lunch and dinner. She was more than willing to please.

I came to Spain on my own, without any close friends to ease the transition to a foreign country. Going to Spain, I didn't have a phone, and I never had been away from home before. I was afraid my roommates and I wouldn't get along and I would miss home, but I was wrong. I don't think I would've had nearly as good of an experience as I had if I had gone with people with whom I was close. They became my Spain sisters, bickering but caring in every way. It was similar to being in an actual family.

At our Spanish school, people from all over the world were in my classes. There were people from Russia, Ireland, Sweden, Norway and Kenya. Oddly, English wasn't the common language: Spanish was. Even though Spanish was not a native language to anyone, it was the only language we were all familiar with. Struggling to learn the Spanish language and culture, we made unique memories and friendships.



morgan saucier



courtesy of scott garner

**PIG OUT**

On Dec. 5, German students junior Ray Hannawell, senior Tommy Higgins, juniors J.C Engel and Gabriel Blankemeyer, freshman Cullen Claghorn and junior Robert Johnson participate in the annual holiday progressive dinner. They toured three homes and ate one course at each house while singing German Christmas carols.

**PROJECT TIME**

During Spanish class on Feb. 13, sophomores Marcus Sweeney, Bryce Graham, Grayson Siedel and Turner Hamlin work on their Valentine's Day arts and crafts. The students then wrote love poems and presented them in class the next day.

## THE IMPACT ON MY FUTURE



morgan saucier

"Learning a foreign language has not only expanded my mind but also given me a reality check on how the rest of the world works."

Alex Denton, 12



brayden clark

"Learning a language opened a billion doors for me. I moved to a whole new country, made friends and went to school. It also gave me many opportunities."

Mauro Montemayor, 10



brayden clark

"The Chinese culture will benefit me because I will be more mindful of others."

Savannah South, 12



megan rizzi

"I think being able to communicate with as many people as possible is very important and will serve me well in whatever career I choose to pursue."

Sarah Almgren, 12