

OH NO SHE DIDN'T! As Peggy Sawyer, played by junior Katlyn White, rushes on stage crashing into people in "42nd Street" Jan. 31, Maggie Jones and Bert Barry, played by seniors Darrion Jensen and Shane Smith, stand frozen in shock. "I was sick for like six weeks and couldn't sing, so I had to learn my music and figure out my character whose life is singing and acting without being able to sing, exert myself too much or talk loudly," Jensen said. "I had back to back flus, which was way fun, but I had to just deal with it and knew everything in my heart and head. When that clicked, the whole show was magical." Photo by Hayley Bridges



We moved up to 6A with our 2,552 students.
We knew it would be tough. It was.
We did not win a single football game,
but that didn't mean we weren't there to cheer.
We did.

Students awaiting the Richland rivalry game danced the
"Wobble" with Ms. Campbell at the first tailgate festival.
Mr. Simmons provided spirited students transportation.
It was the largest student section in school history.
We killed it.

Getting to school was still a nightmare.
Just when we were adapting to the never-ending
construction on Haltom Road, the parking lot route
changed. It was inconvenient.
We grumbled.

The maintenance crew finally removed the awkward,
maroon lockers that blocked the upstairs areas.
Our secret, hangout spots were gone,
but it sure was easier to get to class.
We relaxed.

Candles illuminated the night at the flagpole Oct. 26.
Junior Lorenzo Mendoza passed away hours prior.
We wore white in honor and paid our respects.
Losing a piece of Buff Nation was unexpected.
We cried.

The last bell rang along with the fire alarm Nov. 19.
A minor fire started in the auditorium. Smoke engulfed the
fine arts hall, and the dance performance was postponed.
Helicopters circled the campus, but heroes emerged.
We sighed.

We are not the "Meg" of the district
as others would contend.
We are Haltom.
We bleed orange.

We do not stress about what could have been.
Because in the end,

IT IS WHAT IT IS.



SUMMER

It is waking up at five in the morning. Running across fields behind the school. Making sure that all is given in summer workouts. The exhaustion.

It is stressing over the "Ender's Game" reading project. Every page turned is progress. Every Netflix episode watched distracts from completing the book. The procrastination.

It is going somewhere new. Hours spent on a plane to Germany and the rush of being in a foreign place. The adventure.

It is a break from school. For others, it is spent in the parking lot and the dance room. Assuring all the notes and choreography are on point. The demand.

It is spending everyday working at QuikTrip or Chipotle. Summer break comes to a quick end, but it never really started. The grind.

It is returning for registration to find the maroon lockers have vanished. The space.

It is experiencing the spirit on campus despite defeat. It is what you make it.

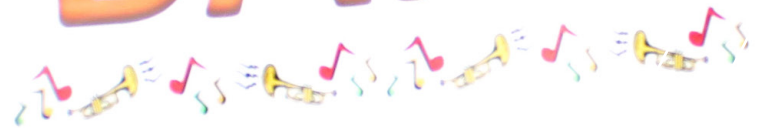
LET IT SLIDE / Feet slipping out from underneath him, junior Bounsana Souvanna slides down the inflatable obstacle course at the 'Beat Richland' tailgate party Sept. 26. "I was stumbling my way throughout the whole course," Souvanna said. "When they said go, I just went without stopping to look back. The games were fun, but the cool thing was that the school held the tailgate to begin with. It made me even more hyped for the Richland game since our school tries new things to involve the student body." Photo by Dana McCurdy



Halton High School



GO BAND



THE
AUTUMN

It is the pep rally that transforms the sea of orange into pink for a cause.
 The passion.
 It is the countless nights spent studying for the \$100 waiting for them at the end of advanced placement the road.
 The persistence.
 It is the excitement of homecoming. It is the reaction of hearing Mary Nguyen's name called out for homecoming queen.
 The celebration.
 It is the sadness that swept through the school. The loss of Lorenzo Mendoza. The coming together in his honor.
 The heartache.
 It is the student body lining up along Halton Road to cheer on the band as they departed for the state competition.
 The harmony.
 It is the sound of fire trucks. Helicopters circling above the auditorium.
 The publicity.
 It is the fear of college. Applying with the motivation of pie. Adding another obligation to the already crazy schedule.
 The anxiety.
 It is what it is, so just go with it.

SIGNS UP / Signs in hand, sophomore Brayan Rios, freshman Adrian Garvin, junior Vincente Ocura, sophomore Ryan Hernandez, senior Edgar Armendariz and sophomore Holly Larson head to the front of the school during fourth period Nov. 3 to support the marching band. The student body lined both sides of Halton Road to send off the busses as the band headed for the UIL state competition in San Antonio. "I felt so happy for our school during all of this," Armendariz said. "It really shows that Halton has pride and talent." Photo by Giovanna Villalpando



WINTER

It is taking a break from the outdoors. From diving into the pool, balancing on the beam, dancing or cheering in competitions.

The skill.

It is finally getting to school on time after years of detours and traffic on Haltom Road. Being able to stop at Starbucks or sleep five extra minutes.

The convenience.

It is taking electives that offer hands-on experience for real-world skills.

The future.

It is the warmth of a letter jackets. Crowding the sleeves with achievements and personalized patches.

The pride.

It is joining together in support of Sammy. Making posters and participating in vigils with his family at Cook Children's Hospital.

The empathy.

It is the extra hours dedicated to make it to state in fine arts, athletics and academic competitions.

The drive.

It is the entire fine arts department joining forces to produce the musical and taking center stage in "42nd Street."

The spotlight.

It is what it is, and there is more to it.

WE'RE IN THE MONEY / Voices raising up in unison, the cast of "42nd Street" finishes the song, "We're in the Money." Julian Marsh, played by senior Logan Westbrooks, lost his lead girl, Dorothy, played by junior Marissa Suazo. He soon discovered his play, "Pretty Lady," could continue with Peggy Sawyer, played by junior Katy White. "It was an amazing experience to have a part in the show," Westbrooks said. "It took a lot of time to grasp the acting portion, but learning the music was a lot easier." *Photo by Ammysadday Hernandez*



SPRING

It is the season of love, but Valentine's Day fell on a Saturday and saved student services from the burden of bears and balloons.

The relief.

It is taking advantage of life lessons and learning the basics, like how to write a check and change oil in a car.

The urgency.

It is believing the watercolor painting is not the best, but entering it into V.A.S.E and receiving a four for creativity.

The expression.

It is fashion evolving. Students bringing back trends that seemed long gone, making them their own.

The individualism.

It is the time to make decisions. Taking the training that ROTC offered, joining the army and dedicating lives to serving others.

The sacrifice.

It is racing to the finish line or hitting it out of the ballpark despite the weather canceling meets and games.

The teamwork.

It is preparing for prom, graduation, the future.

It is what it is, and this is how we do it.

WE GOT THIS / Facing the pressure from L.D. Bell March 24, sophomore Jaden Jensen, #7, motivates pitcher sophomore Tori Tucker, #5, with two outs and one ball. The varsity team won the close game 10-9. "We were all pumped at that moment," Jensen said, "The feeling of the game was so intense, and pulling a win made us feel really accomplished." Photo by Dana McCurdy

It is what it is.
After all is said and done.

It is evident that we had our struggles.
We had no way of predicting it.
No way of changing it.
Only option was to accept it.

But we also had our triumphs.

It was inspiring when the community gathered at
Cooks Children's after Samuel Ramon-Hunter's
open-heart surgery.

It was victory for Melissa Watkins when she made it to
state in powerlifting.

It was impressive when Aliayh Starnes qualified for BPA
Nationals in Business Meeting Management Concepts
after only her second year of the competition.

It was redemption when the boys soccer team
advanced to playoffs.

It was an achievement to be recognized as a national
AVID demonstration school and for 100% of AVID
students to gain acceptance to colleges.

It was unforgettable to dance under the dome at AT&T
Stadium for prom.

It was a relief to walk the Fort Worth Convention
Center stage May 24.

Here we are now.
We got through the year.
In one piece.
As one Buff Nation.
We are Haltom, after all.

That's just how it was.

OR WAS IT?



A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW / Fans stand for the national anthem at the Fine Arts Athletic Complex Sep. 26 before the rivalry game against Richland. Students packed the visitors' side after riding buses to the game making Haltom seem like the home team. "Seeing all of the orange around me and other visitors made me feel happy to be a part of Buff Nation," sophomore Paola Barajas said. "It was such a nice feeling seeing everyone come out because we were all supporting the Buffs." Photo by Paola Barajas