



"The week of the Pearland game, I was super pumped; everyone was. I thought we would win. I honestly wasn't even thinking about what would happen if we lost. When we did, I blamed the loss on the referees. I didn't want to accept it. But we kept going. That's what Eagle Addicts do. We keep the fans going so they can cheer on the football team and keep the morale up. The fans are the drive for the football players.

-Brian Paul

Photo by K. Sanderson

## The Aerie

2014-2015 Volume 8

Commemorating Ascension to Division 6A

2050 Cullen Boulevard

Pearland, Texas 77581

(281)-412-8800

Pearland ISD

District 22-6A 2,290 Students

Principal: Mr. David Moody (Fall)

Ms. Kelly Holt (Spring)

Superintendent: Dr. John Kelly



# SMALL TOGETHER



"My adrenaline was going crazy because of how many people were there. I kept thinking to myself, 'This is what high school football is supposed to be.' Looking back, the loss is disappointing. But we used that loss as fuel for every other game we played. It was still a great game and a great way to start off the tradition. I feel honored to have had the chance to play in the first ever Pearland Bowl."

- Austin Bush

Photo by J. Smith

**It was never supposed to be like this.**

We were supposed to always stay 4A. We were supposed to keep our opponents, the ones we knew and had grown to hate: Friendswood, Texas City, Nederland.

**Turner was supposed to save us.**

We were supposed to be top dogs. We were supposed to keep our confidence.

**But things change.**

Now, we are supposed to be scared: of a new rival just down the road, of an old rival's return, of falling flat on our faces. And we should be.

**We will fail sometimes.**

We will be uncomfortable. We will have to change our outlook. We can't assume we're making playoffs. We can't wait until Regional competitions to buckle down.

**We can't even fit within our walls anymore,**

because a switch to 6A doesn't just mean an increase in competition.

It means an increase in population. It means our book room is in a storage closet. It means some teachers won't have a "home." It means we might not all have real desks.

**6A is big.**

But we are

**BIGGER.**



Get  
Ready  
To

# CRUMBLE

To show our new competitors we are a force to be reckoned with.

To grow out of our complacent habits.

To face Pearland High School in football for the first time ever.

To practice harder, longer, louder.

To reclaim our courage and confidence.

To once again be the small fish in the big pond.

(But maybe more sharklike.)

To be the underdog.

To cause upsets in the sports and arts worlds.

To rebel against what we fear is our destiny.

To prove everyone, including ourselves, wrong.

To push back.

We can do that.



Stop That

**OIL SPILL!** At the Yell Night pep rally, **Ciara Gauntt** and her stunt group perform the stunt for the cheer, Oil Spill, to get the crowd pumped. In the stunt, **Ciara** is lifted and thrown to the side as if she is falling. Photo by K. Truitt



007

**Loosen Up.** The marching band prepares for an award winning season by stretching before practice in the fine arts parking lot in August. The band went on to place 15th at the State competition, beating Pearland High School. Photo by H. Voigt



009

**Sticking Together.** Cinderella (**Renee Shohet**) makes an effort to comfort Red Riding Hood (**Anh-Mai Kearney**) after the death of Red Riding Hood's mother and grandmother in the song "No One is Alone" during a performance of *Into the Woods* on August 27. Photo by K. Sanderson



012

"6A was a new place for Dawson to be. It was definitely nerve-racking for us so as a student council, we realized we needed to come together to create a sense of community. We realized we need to mesh. So to generate school spirit, we figured we could all come up to the school one weekend and decorate it, deck out Dawson. We tried to motivate everyone to be a part of the team."

- Kimberly Branan

Photo by H. Truong



# 6A

Perspective is everything. We all see everything differently. We all see fear differently. So moving to the 6A division brought several unique viewpoints to consider.

For some, the switch was exciting, an opportunity for harder competition. For others, the change was nerve-racking, as fear invaded attitudes about the upcoming year.

Fear was the word in everyone's mouths as sports and organizations began preparing for the new school year. Along with the anxiety, though, came determination to fight through it.

Despite the variety of emotions they felt, students from all corners of the school geared up for what was bound to be a year to remember.

It was time to face the fear.



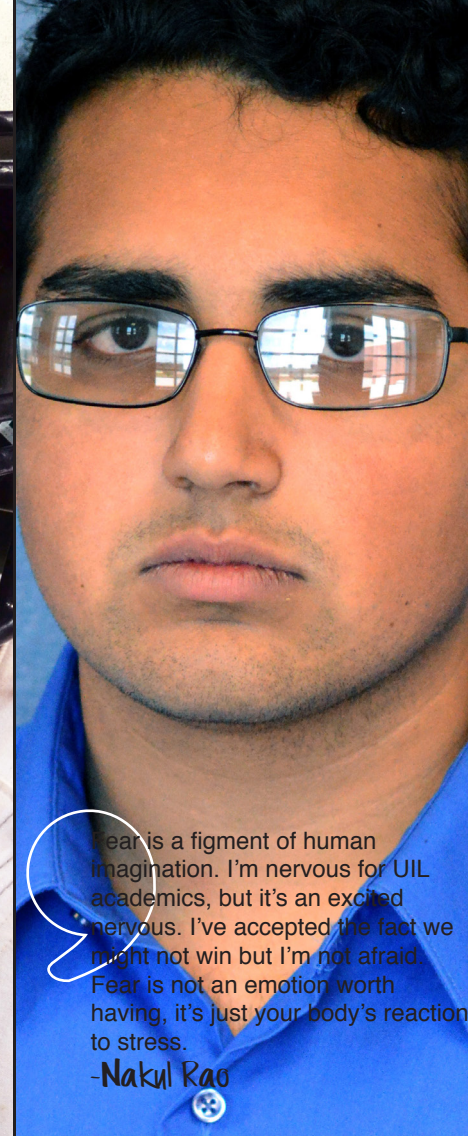
I'm excited to see how far the team goes this softball season. There's going to be a lot of competition in the new district. It's a step up from last year and I think we are going to need to work on unity. Last year we were like sisters. We all knew each others' strengths and weaknesses. We have to fight to get back this year. We have four freshmen on the team this year, but I think their level of talent could really help us. In all, I don't think being 6A will change our success, but I think it will change how we look at Dawson softball. We will not be that 4A team that can't hang. We are going to be the underdog who has the heart to play with the bigger teams. We are just as talented as any other team.

-Heaven Penavidez



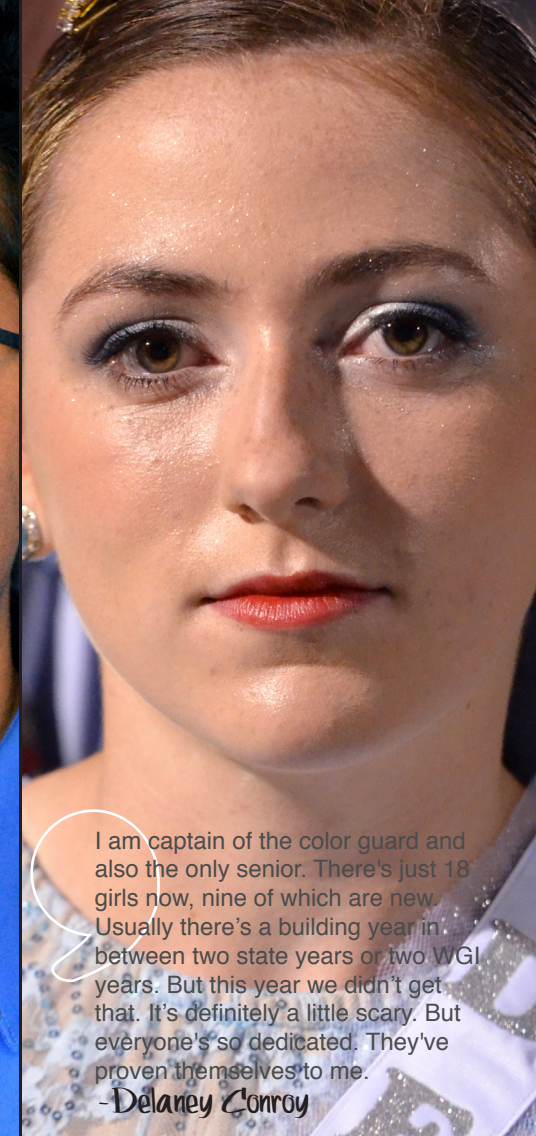
We aren't afraid of anything. There's just a heightened level of responsibility and talent. We have to work on off season work ethic so that when the time for playoffs comes, we will be prepared. We're here and we are going to be here for a while so we have to face it.

-James Rhodes



Fear is a figment of human imagination. I'm nervous for UIL academics, but it's an excited nervous. I've accepted the fact we might not win but I'm not afraid. Fear is not an emotion worth having, it's just your body's reaction to stress.

-Nakul Rao



I am captain of the color guard and also the only senior. There's just 18 girls now, nine of which are new. Usually there's a building year in between two state years or two WGI years. But this year we didn't get that. It's definitely a little scary. But everyone's so dedicated. They've proven themselves to me.

-Delaney Conroy

## What Does 6A Mean For You?



"For swim, I would say that on a district level, it's a little easier because we aren't going against Friendswood. But at region level, we have a lot more competition with bigger schools and bigger teams. But I think I'm excited for the new competition."

-Catherine Wu

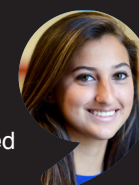


"In volleyball, we are now with the best of the best so there's a lot to prove. The toughest challenge will probably be learning to play as a team instead of individually. The only thing I'm afraid of is not doing well for my team."

-Diana Rambo

"For tennis, the district is a lot easier. Last year, our district prevented us from going to Regionals. It gets harder when we get out of our district but I'm excited for better competition."

-Mia Floyd



"We have to make sure we don't get ahead of ourselves, that we play game to game and stay in the moment because 6A means we are in a tougher district for baseball. It'll be harder to get to playoffs."

-Chase Ostrom



"The group we have for theater is capable of pulling off a State win and adding another Ovation plaque on the legacy wall so moving up to 6A doesn't phase me at all."

-Logan Butcher



"Being 6A in basketball, we know there's going to be a lot more competition with bigger schools. But even though our competition is going to be better, we have to do the same things to succeed."

-Jordan Lewis



# All we Do Is WINCE

We reclaim our spirit and optimism.

We put new twists on old plays.

We apply to the schools we've always dreamed of, even when the odds may not be ever in our favor.

We conquer Manvel in volleyball.

(Okay, maybe we only won the first time.)

We survive our biggest challenges.

And find elation in our smallest victories.

We bid farewell to the man that made this school what it is.

And we face the cold, hard facts.

Maybe we can't always beat them.

But we can join 'em.



Photo by T. Oliphant

"Coming into the second half of the first playoff game against La Porte, I was thinking about how God could keep us strong and help us finish the second half. We were up by 14 points and pretty confident we would blow them out. After the game ended, we figured out we would play Friendswood next. The atmosphere leading up to that game was amazing just knowing we were going to face Friendswood one last time. But after Friendswood came Katy. We knew it would be a tough round, but when we lost, it felt like a piece of me was gone forever. My time with Dawson football was over, but I stayed close to my teammates. They were my brothers even after the season ended."

-Jamarcus Mattox-Williams

### Prepped and Ready.

Knowing it might be her last dance, **Jordon Williams** strikes a pose with her baton during the halftime performance at the

Friendswood playoff football game. The pose sets up for a kick combination during the showcase for Diamond officers.

Photo by T. Oliphant



041

### It's Not Goodbye, It's See You Later.

**Morgan Campbell, Alex Hebert, and Keana Madrinan** accompany principal **Mr. David Moody** through the blow up Eagle during his going away parade on December 17. The entire school turned out to say goodbye.

Photo by J. Smith



042

**Game Face.** Before competing at the Brazoria County Fair, **Hannah Zapalac** feeds her pig, Pennie, a treat. Hannah won second place at the fair for Pennie. Pennie was also sold for \$2,300 dollars. "I have learned so much," **Hanna** said. "I love that I am able to raise my own animal."

Photo by K. Huerta



030

Stop That



# OVERCROWDED

## Students, Staff Remain Optimistic About Overpopulation

The clock read 10:45 as he began to cram all of fourth period's worksheets into his round backpack. Placing the backpack on his lap, he tapped his foot with anticipation as the seconds ticked away. Since the first day of school, he carefully constructed a game plan to safely dodge past circles of giggling girls, avoid running into a few freshmen, and slide past a line of sluggish walkers to finally maneuver into the cafeteria's lunch line. Despite his strategies, 20 students were already in line, and several more flooded the stairs.

"I think the overcrowding is insane! It takes a long amount of time to even get from place to place," **Mackenzie Mac** said.

Many of the upperclassmen have witnessed the growth over the past few years not only in the hallways, but also in the number of students in classrooms, sports, and clubs.

"I'm in Anatomy and there are too many students in there, but I think it's more of an organization or student-class distribution issue," **Cynthia Thai** said. "I've also heard that Swim, Soccer, ROTC, and one English class are taking classes outside because

there aren't enough rooms."

The overcrowding has caused many of the teachers to switch classrooms they've taught in for years or adapt to the larger numbers of students in their rooms. World geography teacher **Coach Matthew Winton** said he didn't mind the transition to a portable outside due to the lack of classrooms available.

"Right now we're looking at more ways to fully utilize the limited number of classrooms we have," Assistant Principal **Ms. Sheridan Henley** said.

**Coach Winton** isn't the only one who saw the growth positively.

"I did have to hire teachers in October to try to keep that 22/1 ratio," **Ms. Henley** said. "The growth in AP enrollment has been tremendous. I don't think it has affected the learning though, because our teachers know what they're doing, and our students are highly-motivated. Anytime you bring in more students, opportunities for the students increase. The students are bettering themselves from the number of [other] students and the variety of values they are exposed to."

## The Great Outdoors

Before the school year began, **Coach Matthew Winton** and **Coach Jamie Hutchison** moved their classrooms into portables. Instead of looking at the negative aspects, both coaches viewed this as a positive transition. "I love being out here because I have windows; not only windows but windows that open," **Coach Winton** said. "Because for the last five years I was on the inside of the school -- it could be snowing and I wouldn't know -- and now I get to be outside. And I get my own air conditioner. And I can keep my room at 65 degrees all year long, and open the windows when it's 40 degrees outside." *Photo by T. Jordan*



**One Chair.** Due to the lack of computers, **Chelsea Venters** and **Lauren Breaux** share a tight space in AV Production. *Photo by J. Smith*

**No Time.** **Allison Maxey** pauses to display her lunch for the day. "I can't wait in the lines," **Allison** said. "I'll never end up getting my food because there are just too many people, and it takes the whole lunch to get through." *Photo by J. Smith*



**Take a Seat.** **Abel Peña** concentrates on his notes under a spare table in the back of **Coach Daniel Stuckey's** sixth period AP macroeconomics class. There were a total of 34 students, but only 30 desks. Students periodically volunteered to take turns sitting in the back of the room. *Photo by S. Song*

**The Cart Lady.** Before heading to another classroom, Spanish teacher **Ms. Dinora Cruz** poses by the cart she rolls around the school every day. "At least all my stuff is in a central location, instead of being spread all around a classroom," **Ms. Cruz** said. *Photo by J. Smith*

**All Booked Up.** Retrieving a few extra textbooks for a senior English class, **Ms. Connie Rodriguez** displays her book collection in a new storage spot. Because of the crowding, she was moved to a storage room and her books to unused lockers, while her book room was reallocated to classroom instruction. "I thought that the overcrowding would be a huge inconvenience," **Ms. Rodriguez** said. "But the students and staff have been the biggest help." *Photo by J. Smith*

"I can't follow through with the plans I make." -**Abigail Moore**





**Winning in the Water.** After receiving a pep talk from **Coach Matthew Winton, Kaylee Champion** and **Nyanuer Chol** declare their excitement for their water polo match against Clear Brook. *Photo by K. Huerta*



070

**Get Your Head in the Game.** At the varsity basketball playoff game against La Porte on February 23, **Braxton Lovings** handles the ball and heads toward Dawson's basket, hoping to earn the team some points. "I played like it was my last game," **Braxton** said. "I did what I was supposed to do for my team." *Photo by K. Huerta*



064

**Knife To Meet You.** For a performance of *Beauty and the Beast* on January 27, **Baylee Vallot** dances in the number for *Be Our Guest*, a song in which the objects of the castle welcome Belle to her new home.



"I loved that the *Be Our Guest* number was like a nonstop party," **Baylee** said. *Photo by T. Oliphant*

074

Stop That



Let's  
Just

**FORGET IT**

Let's stop worrying about the things we cannot change.

Let's focus on what we can achieve:

Meeting basketball records, beating senioritis, and scoring good Rodeo seats.

Let's spend days arguing over the color of #thedress.

Let's ask the girls and boys of our dreams to prom.

(1 million retweets and Ariana Grande could be your date.)

Let's cheer on basketball as they take dead aim at the District title.

Or talk about how fifty shades of done we are with bad winter movies.

Let's get serious about our schoolwork,

And not become victims of the mid-year slump.

Though the winter may seem endless,

**We can survive.**

"I took the SAT preparation class to help me improve my scores. The last full SAT I took was in the seventh grade and I made a 1900. But I'd like to beat that score. The class helps me because though I write pretty well, I have trouble getting started. So the writing strategies help a lot. One big thing I've had to overcome to study for the SAT is my ADD. If I don't take my pill, I can't focus. I'll do one thing and then another thing and another thing, but never for very long--30 minutes tops. Caffeine helps a lot with that. I also learned I do very well under deadlines. I scare myself into doing things. With a deadline, I can focus and get things done."

-Devon Armer



"Nobody really expects to get into Harvard. I applied for early action and I got the decision in December. When you get an acceptance, the letter starts off saying 'Congratulations!' but when you get a rejection, it says 'We regret to inform you...'. When I opened my email and I read those five words from Harvard, my heart just sunk. Even though I kind of knew it was coming, it was still extremely disappointing. But now, I might actually go to its rival, Yale. I got in in the spring and it's my first choice, but it's difficult still because it's so expensive. I will definitely have to take out a lot of student loans. But I'm prepared to do that to go to Yale. I think Yale opens a lot of opportunities outside of school. They have a great alumni system that will make it easier for me to find a job. Nobody really expects to go to Yale either, and I'm lucky to be going there in the fall."

-Sharon Li

**Can't Hit This.** Winding up a pitch at a junior varsity baseball scrimmage on February 9, **John Sebok** focuses on his target. Scrimmages were a great way for players to hone their skills before actual games. *Photo by K. Huerta*



042

**Eyes on the Prize.** As she dodges a senior powder puff player, **Hope Schoeneman** looks for an open teammate to pass to. Thanks to key players like Hope, the juniors took home their first ever powder puff victory. *Photo by K. Huerta*



041

**Livin' It Up.** At the annual senior picnic held in the field behind Dawson, **Coulson Anthony** shows off his moves while standing in a dance circle. The picnic had water slides, music, food, and fun for seniors as one of the last events for the class to interact before graduation and going their separate ways. *Photo by T. Oliphant*



030

Stop That

# It's Time To Get REALIGNED

It's time to realize high school itself is not that big of a deal.

It's time to celebrate baseball's unexpected win against Pearland.

To take a breather after the stress of the blackout during STAAR.

It's time to think about how much that subtweet from your best friend really matters.

(Things will be back to normal in a week and you know it.)

It's time to enjoy the little things like solos at Pop Show,

And the first ever junior victory in Powder Puff. #NotRigged

Are these the best four years of our lives? Maybe so far.

But the great unknown waits for us.

Adventures lie ahead: first cars, romances, college roommates.

It's time to face whatever's next,

And we can take it.



# In the End, We Are GONE

In the end, we had to say goodbye.

In the end, we had to grow up.

We wiped the tears from our faces for photos at graduation,

And bid adieu to memories we so cherished.

(Even the embarrassing ones where we fell down the stairs.)

All year long, we stuck to social lines and stigmas that defined us.

But in the end, a strange sense of togetherness washed over us.

We pulled together for team photos.

We took crazy selfies and hugged our best friends.

We made last minute bonds at senior picnics.

And in the end, when we thought we couldn't stand to leave everything behind,

We realized,

We can move on.



Photo by T. Oliphant

“Senior picnic was an amazing experience. I had so much fun with all my friends, like my best friend Lauryn Olvera (left). We have been best friends since freshman year. Our friendship is crazy, fun, awkward, and weird. I have a great relationship with her. I'm going away for college this year so there's a good chance we will be separated. It makes me sad that we won't be together and I'm going to miss her so much but I know we are going to stay in contact and keep in touch. She's my best friend and we had an unforgettable senior year together.”

-Orriana Matos

## Stop That

### A New Stage in Life.

Happy to be moving on from kindergarten, a young **Daniel Walters** poses for a graduation picture to commemorate the time he spent in his first year of his schooling. His parents kept this picture for years until they had the opportunity to

use it in his senior ad when he graduated high school with the class of 2015.

Photo courtesy of the Walter family



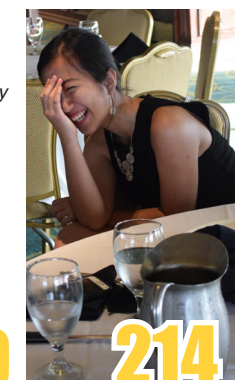
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**There is Magic in the Music.** Practicing for an upcoming piano competition, **Sunny Chen** tries to focus on the music and give it feeling. **Sunny** competed at the HMTA Houston Piano Competition in 2015 and won. “Music has always cleared my mind,” Sunny said. Photo courtesy of S. Chen



152

**Secret Sass.** As she listens to the description of an award at yearbook banquet, **Sophia Song** breaks down laughing as she realizes the 'Secret Sass' award is for her. **Sophia** was given the award because of her innocent appearance but funny, blunt, and spunky personality. Photo by L. Sanderson



214





Ja'Curtis Miller  
 Alan Millsbaugh  
 Connor Mitchell  
 Joel Mitchell  
 Osby Mitchell  
 Jasmin Montiel  
 Jules Moor  
 Sydnee' Moore  
 Devin Morgan  
 Dylan Morgan  
 Nickolas Morin  
 Taylor Morris  
 Alyssa Morton  
 Bradley Moses  
 Victoria Mousa  
 Tomas Muniz  
 Tramane Munks  
 Tracy Munoz-Nieves  
 Mariam Nasr  
 Laura Natchev  
 Stephen Ndubueze  
 Taylor Nelson  
 Johnell Nemons  
 Daniel Newcomb  
 Christopher Nguyen  
 Kim Nguyen  
 Lauren Nguyen  
 Phillip Nguyen  
 Victor Tien Nguyen  
 Joir Don Nicholas  
 Camryn Nobis  
 Alice Nong  
 Jessie Norris  
 Kyla Odum  
 Chizitara Okwuchi  
 Luke Olson  
 Roberto Orozco Aranda  
 Andrew Padilla  
 Samantha Page  
 Jessie Pan  
 Justin Parker  
 Adi Pasic  
 Dhra Patel  
 Kinal Patel  
 Tamera Patrick  
 Breana Patterson  
 Robert Patterson  
 Harrison Patton  
 Tatum Pearson  
 Cecilia Penalosa  
 Madison Pentecost  
 Herminia Perez  
 Dana Perkins  
 Omunique Perkins  
 Braden Petru  
 Kadya Pfeifer-Jordan  
 Yvonne Pham  
 Srihari Pillai  
 Megan Pirnik  
 Hannah Placek  
 Tyler Pleasant-Malbroux  
 Katherine Plummer  
 Vincent Pompa



Raagan Poole-Smith  
 Alexa Potts  
 Logan Powell  
 Phillip Prater  
 Brandon Prather  
 Ar'Breanna Price  
 Alec Prince  
 Taylor Pyeatt  
 Ciara Quevedo  
 Steven Radilla  
 Boris Radojkovic  
 Anushka Ramdeo  
 Amanda Ramirez  
 Christina Ramirez  
 Zachary Ramirez  
 Arun Rao  
 Benjamin Rasband  
 Tiffany Reliford Crawford  
 Arturo Reyes  
 Stephanie Reyes  
 Kortni Reynolds  
 Briley Riggins  
 Vanessa Rios  
 Justin Rivera  
 Gabriella Roach  
 Cortlyn Robinson  
 Anthony Rodriguez  
 Israel Rodriguez  
 Jaquan Rodriguez  
 Jada Rogers  
 Alexis Ross  
 Devante Ross  
 Stephanie Rubio  
 Eric Ruiz  
 Victoria Salazar  
 Mykel Samson  
 Sofia Samuelson  
 Sergio Sanchez Padron  
 Melissa Sanchez  
 Sohan Sarkar  
 Moses Sathuluri  
 Paul Sathuluri  
 Madison Scaffidi  
 Anthony Schepis  
 Nathan Schlus  
 Joshua Schurtz  
 Vernice Seriale  
 Lance Setliff  
 Austin Sever  
 Shadmun Shahed  
 Arooj Sheikh  
 Paris Sherrill  
 Christina Shibu  
 Renee Shohet  
 Alexander Shotts  
 Kristen Shotts  
 Anshall Siddique  
 Mia Simmons  
 Rashad Simmons  
 Ryan Simmons  
 Jacob Simon  
 Ada Sison  
 Carrington Small

# WHAT'S THE WORD

What have you conquered this year?

"I didn't have an emotional breakdown this year."  
 -Andrew Caddell



"By being in cheer, I got more involved in school and went to more events."  
 -Rachel Clark

"I found out how to use the third hallway. I used to get lost, but now I don't!"  
 -Ashley Hoang



"I have reached my academic goals and participated in theater which has brought me new viewpoints on high school life."  
 -Matthew Do



## Dalina Tran: Run like the wind

"I ran 7 miles in about an hour and 10 minutes and it felt so great."  
 When Dalina Tran completed the Rhythm and Blues Marathon, she knew her hard work had paid off. "I trained with my neighbor who was racing with me," Dalina said. "We would try to run every chance we got and increase out distance each time."  
 Preparing for her first marathon was no easy task. Dalina tried to run as much as she could during weekends and vacation days. "I would also make sure I was eating healthy and nourishing my body so I wouldn't feel fatigued during the race," Dalina said.

Staying healthy was the least of her worries. Having never run a full 7 miles before the day of the race, Dalina didn't know what to expect. "I started getting tired by the 5th mile," Dalina said. "I was telling myself I should take a break... but I decided to just go for it. I ran full force and finished the race without stopping once."  
 What comes next? Dalina plans to continue improving her running time by participating in more marathons. "I want to run a half marathon with my mom," Dalina said. "She's truly an inspiration and I can't wait to run with her next year!"



"I can play basketball." Elijah Pfeifer



**Yearbook** Like any story, a yearbook lives and breathes when its authors document the rising and falling action of the year. Since the theme is developed before the year begins, the staff always has to make predictions about the year.

During the summer of 2014, the brainstorming sessions at camp were decidedly depressing. What did we know for sure about the upcoming year?

-We were moving to Division 6A.

-We were one of the smaller schools in our new division, and could compete with schools more than twice our size.

-We knew little about our new District and our new competition.

-Our building was officially over capacity, and the yearbook staff was giving up almost half of our space.

-We were ambivalent, if not pessimistic, about the changes.

We didn't feel like we could ignore the struggle. That would likely be the story of the year. But we didn't want the theme's tone to reflect our mood during those brainstorm sessions. Our mentor at camp, Judi Coolidge, reminded us that bigger wasn't always better. She said there had to be some silver linings, and it would be our job to find them.

A few hours later, the adviser had digressed into a tirade about students saying "I can't write." She was planning a lesson to prove them wrong. As she spoke, the editor, Kylie Sanderson,

**Goes**

**Positively**

**Negative**

began to bounce enthusiastically in her chair.

By the next day, the staff went to Judi with a new theme: "We Can't." The book would document the school's efforts to meet the challenges, hopefully moving from conflict to resolution. It would highlight school successes, no matter how small, of those who tackled adversity with enthusiasm. It would not ignore the tough spot we were in. In fact, the theme would completely embrace that dynamic. Knowing the character of our school, we believed each little victory would increase confidence.

From a visual design point of view, we wanted bright colors that would convey high energy and determination. We chose a bold headline font,

impact, to emphasize our in-your-face theme presentation.

Helvetica was our go-to font for readable copy and captions. For accent, we wanted a do-it-yourself look, with letters that appeared to be scrawled by someone pressing too hard with the pencil. It should convey the tension we felt. We probably tried 100 fonts before settling on Rolina.

We decided to kill the apostrophe in "can't," moving it progressively across each divider page until the word "can" appeared in the closing. The bold apostrophe also became a design element throughout.

The theme idea hinged on using word play to explore the thin line between fear and fierce. We followed the positive word trapped in a negative word example of "can" in "can't". We started out with rumble: crumble and win: wince.

The editors chose to organize the book chronologically, as organizing by time would provide a great tool for documenting the changing mood as the student body met each obstacle. Editor-in-Chief Kylie Sanderson designed the cover, endsheets and divider pages, with much input from Balfour professionals Judi Coolidge, Ryan Almon and Milani Arguelles, and the help from Assistant Editor Kailey Walton, Adviser Leslie Sanderson and the yearbook staff.

The book was printed on 100-pound enamel in full-color. The cover is a four-color design with varnish accents. The book was produced using InDesign and Photoshop in the Mac lab installed in September 2014. It sold for \$75 in the fall, \$85 in the spring and \$90 in the summer. Balfour printed 700 copies.

As always, the yearbook staff is grateful for the help of administrators, teachers, staff, parents and students at Dawson. Without their patience with our interruptions, and their candor about their hopes and fears for this year, this book could never have fully documented the chaotic 2014-15 school year.

# The Aerie Staff

(We learned to do new stuff this year, too.)

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Bethany Theriot  
Baylee Vallot

"I didn't know how to drive, and in my opinion, I am kinda okay at it now."  
"I didn't know how to put up with Madi, and I still don't."

**"I can't even."**

"I couldn't walk up four flights of stairs, but now I can... barely."

"I couldn't make an omelet, but now I can."

"I couldn't turn on a camera, because I legit didn't know how, and then Kailey taught me, and now I can."

"I can finally use a Mac."  
"I couldn't work the clock for basketball games, but now I can."



"I can soar forever, and never get tired." - Dalbert



# THE LEGEND



“Graduating high school let me know that I’m one step closer to making my dreams come true. When people see someone graduate, they only see that young man walk across the stage and receive a diploma. They don’t know what I went through to get to that day. A lot of kids in our generation don’t get that chance in life to walk across the stage and I just wanted to give honor to the man up above, God, for not letting me quit and to my wonderful family for believing in me.”

-Gary Scott

## **It was meant to be like this.**

We were meant to move up to 6A.  
We were meant to lose our opponents,  
and trade them for new rivals to conquer:  
Pearland, Katy, Manvel.

## **Turner didn't save us.**

But we were meant to be the underdogs anyway.  
We figured out how to regain our confidence.

## **Things changed.**

And we were more than scared, we were terrified:  
of a new rival just down the road,  
of an old rival’s return,  
of falling flat on our faces.  
But we didn't have to be.

## **We failed sometimes.**

We were uncomfortable.  
And we were forced to change our outlook.  
So we fought hard to make playoffs.  
We buckled down for competitions from the first  
day of school.

## **We found ways to fit within our walls,**

because we weren't afraid to adjust to an  
increase in competition.

Or an increase in population.

Ms. Rodriguez found herself a new home.

Teachers cleaned up their clutter.

And we didn't mind taking a seat on the floor.

## **6A was big.**

But we were

# **BIGGER.**









"I think next year is going to be pretty exciting. The whole school is going to be more confident going into this year. As for football, we are going to be more confident as well, especially with the returning starters. But I think the atmosphere on the team is going to be hostile because we are going to be ruthless on the field. But I think the exciting, yet hostile, environment will also bring the school together with team

-Jordan Rodriguez