



WHERE'S QUESO?

At the Southlake Carroll football game on Aug. 26, Queso (mascot senior Lane Lear) plays peekaboo with a fan. "I think about how I'm the representation of Westlake to this generation of kids," Lear said. "This blue bird is what they think of when they remember the football games they went to as a kid." photo by Morgan Saucier

WESTLAKE

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vol.46

YELL IT LOUD

At Burger Stadium, the varsity cheerleaders stand on the Westlake banner in a huddle around junior Madison Palmer as she yells “who’s going to bring that blood and pain?” before the start of the Akins game on Oct. 7. “Westlake cheer helps spread school spirit and helps students become more aware and excited about school events,” Palmer said. “Cheer has given me a good family.”



UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY WAS the DIFFERENCE.

Whether we were one of 123 first-division UIL band soloists or a President’s Volunteer Service Award winner, we distinguished ourselves as diverse and outstanding individuals. With a student body of more than 2,500, it could be hard to find a niche, but that’s what made Westlake different. We prided ourselves on our students’ wide range of interests and the fact that despite our magnitude, there was still a place for everybody. “We may be in Texas where football is king, but one of the best things about Westlake is that it really has something for everyone — from anime to technical theater, from app development to mountain biking, from sign language to the language of international politics,” English 4 Seminar teacher Melissa Dupre said. “It’s great to see kids connect over common interests that truly excite them.”

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BAND OF BROTHERS

After breaking the huddle before the annual Red vs. Blue game on April 23, 2014, the varsity football team takes the field. “It was pretty exciting being the first team of the Dodge era,” senior Andrew Benavides said. “We knew we had to start it with a bang in the spring game.”



ICE ICE BABY

Pouring ice water over each other's heads, varsity football players, principal Dr. John Carter and head coach Todd Dodge participate in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge on Aug. 23. "Coach had some friends that suffered from ALS so he felt inclined to participate," senior Gabe Duran said. "It created an immense impact on the community because it showed his loyalty and devotion to his friends and people that suffer from it."



DETERMINATION WAS the DIFFERENCE.

At Westlake, we didn't settle for just OK. Our goal was to be the very best. We claimed our third consecutive UCA National Cheer Championship and racked up 323 points on the way to a first-place finish as a team in the UIL State Swim Meet. With its record of 48-0 over the past four years, the varsity girls soccer team continued to dominate in district play. We were home to two Presidential Scholar nominees, 18 National Merit Finalists and 13 All-State musicians. Amassing 970 points over 30 separate contests, 136 Latin Club members claimed the Academic Sweepstakes at the Area F Competition in February. We consistently exceeded the standard and refused to accept mediocrity. "What makes Westlake different is that it's more of a tight-knit community than a school," sophomore Lana Picone said. "They push the students to excel in what they do whether it's their classes or their extracurricular activities."

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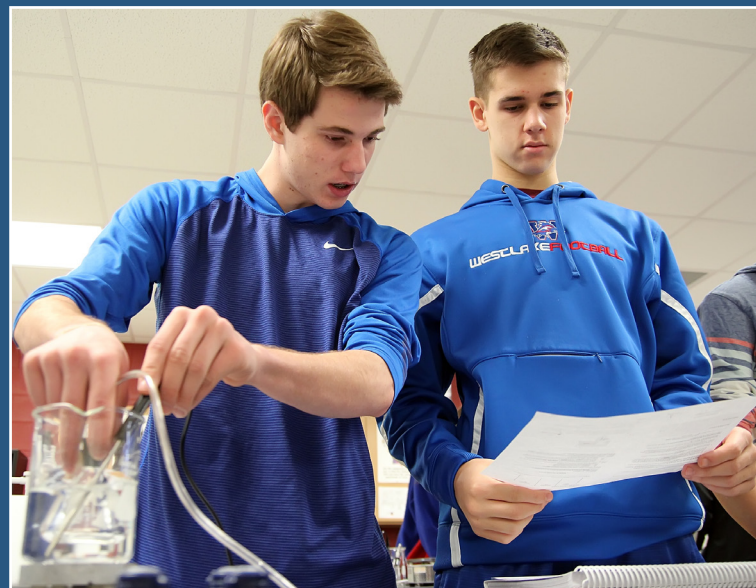
THINGS ARE LOOKING UP

Singing *What's Up Duloc?* during the Feb. 2 performance of *Shrek the Musical*, junior Alex Unflat steps out from the other Duloc dancers. "Choir is a place where you have the ability to make friends that you usually don't get to meet," Unflat said. "It really is a family organization, and through choir I have made friends for life."



NEW SOLUTIONS

Waiting for the thermometer to register, sophomores Zach Childs and Evan Smith review instructions in the relationship in gases lab in Jenna Nelson's PreAP Chemistry 1 class. "Chemistry is interesting because we learn about all the different kinds of reactions and what happens in them," Childs said. "It has made me enjoy science a lot more and have an interest in it."



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FORWARD THINKING WAS the DIFFERENCE.

Outside of the classroom, we were given valuable opportunities for enrichment. From training side-by-side with working professionals to pitching business start-up ideas at SXSWedu, we made the world our classroom. These ventures led us to claim patents for robots and travel around the globe to study abroad. "What makes Westlake different is all of the opportunities the school and the district provide," junior Emma McCornack said. "Nobody else offers courses that will help us prepare for jobs and form relationships in the world ahead of us. It's opportunities like these that help Westlake kids achieve success and thrive in the environments much like the ones we will find ourselves in in the future."

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FREESTYLE

At the Rollingwood pool against Austin High School on Oct. 17, senior Hayden Southworth wears a pink cap in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month. "I think Coach Casey's cancer gave us something else to work hard for," Southworth said. "On top of just working hard because we were a team and want to do well, her fighting cancer made us work harder to try and make her proud." photo by Morgan Saucier

GOLDEN HOUR

In their beginning positions, sophomores Fernanda Deleze and Hannah Roberts and freshmen Ambar Ancira and Brooke Shaffer perform at the annual Spotlight dance performance. "Dance has made a difference in my life because I can express myself creatively," Shaffer said. "I have learned perseverance and how to set goals and achieve them through hard work." photo by Morgan Saucier



ON GUARD

During the halftime show at the varsity football game against Bowie on Oct. 3, senior Ashley Wilson twirls her swing flags in the air. "Before I joined color guard, I was extremely shy and not comfortable with being in front of large crowds," Wilson said. "After participating and having to perform in front of thousands of people, it made me a more confident person."



COMMITMENT WAS the DIFFERENCE.

The Texas Education Agency said we were exemplary — we said that was the norm. We committed ourselves to academic excellence but also extended our dedication into the surrounding community. Student Council and boys lacrosse partnered with Mobile Loaves and Fishes to help build a homeless village in Austin. We weren't just inspired to give back — we were driven to. "Westlake is different than so many other high schools because the students have such great work ethics," senior Craig Kemper said. "This creates a competitive atmosphere that pushes everyone to be their best in academics, athletics and other extracurriculars. The community is also very unique in that it encourages students to devote some of their time to service. All of these characteristics help students become multidimensional people who understand what it means to serve."

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RUFFIN IT UP

At the spring pep rally on Feb. 27, chemistry teacher Hunter Ruffin rolls principal Dr. John Carter during the sumo wrestling fundraiser. Students contributed money to staff members they hoped to see wrestle, and Carter and Ruffin were the finalists in the tournament. The fundraiser was an effort to support the Community First Village! being built by Mobile Loaves and Fishes. "Westlake has become a huge part of my life," Ruffin said. "This community has shown me how great things can be accomplished with high expectations and a positive attitude." photo by Morgan Saucier

A PLACE TO BELONG WAS the DIFFERENCE.

At the beginning of the year, the N.E.W. Club welcomed students to WHS by helping them adjust to campus, and the Teen Teachers led freshman advisory to ease the transition into high school. As the year progressed, we took advantage of opportunities to stand out in the classroom and on the field, court and stage while also seizing opportunities to contribute to the community. We recognized the value of being called Chaparrals. "Westlake differentiates itself from other schools by really welcoming new students so that we quickly feel like a part of the whole," freshman Lucas Revering said. "The first day of school was not frightening but rather comforting. As small as my friends and I are in the scheme of things, we feel welcome at Westlake. We are now strong and prideful Chaps who look to give back to the school what it has given to us — respect."

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