



morgan saucier

superintendent Dr. Tom Leonard

# HE'S THE MAN

**Adventurous new superintendent hopes for more student interaction**

by Jesse Olguin

So close, but not close enough — in his opinion.

Just footsteps away, superintendent Dr. Tom Leonard sits in his office at the top of the hill dreaming of one day getting lost in the halls of Westlake High School.

“I hope [that the students] would not find me unapproachable,” Leonard said. “If they see me and come up and want to have a conversation, I would welcome that.”

Since joining the district on July 1, Leonard’s responsibilities had kept him busy. Hidden in his central administration office, few had the opportunity to meet Leonard the man versus Leonard the superintendent.

“Dr. Leonard the man is very positive in life,” Leonard said. “In terms of hobbies, I trail ride with my horse that’s back in Illinois, I play the piano, saxophone, guitar and enjoy traveling — particularly to France — but otherwise I really enjoy the work that I do here at Westlake.”

Leonard’s love for the outdoors and travel had taken him all over the world.

“I travel whenever I can,” Leonard said. “I’ve been to all 50 states in the United States, and not a lot of people have done that. I have done a lot of backpacking and mountain climbing. I’ve hiked Rainier, Challenger and Baker in Washington State. I am also a certified scuba diver and have dived all around the world.”

Although traveling was one of Leonard’s favorite hobbies, moving to Austin (from the Chicago area) had exposed him to a whole new culture that couldn’t be experienced on a short vacation.

“I love the fact that there are so many restaurants that you can eat outside almost year-round. I also have developed a great appreciation for barbecue and the subtleties between the different types of barbecue that I never knew existed,” Leonard said. “You guys [in Austin] do that very well.”

Despite his love for music, travel and messy foods, Leonard’s primary focus remained on the students and staff in Eanes.

“I look forward to getting to know more about what’s going on in the school district,” Leonard said. “I haven’t had time to spend it with the individual schools, but I see that coming in the next few months.”