

**DOT TO DOT /** During an all brass rehearsal Sept. 3, freshman Austin Galloway learns new drills for the marching show, "Dragon Ritual." Although the brass section practiced drills throughout summer, multiple changes occurred well into marching season. "Practices were long, but I know the outcome will be worth our efforts during competition season," Galloway said. *Photo by Danielle Robinson*



# MORE ABOUT THAT BASS

IT IS A FULL SCHEDULE FOR FRESHMAN TAKING ON MARCHING BAND AND CHEER

**A**s the sun went down on a Thursday, the stadium lights came on. Freshman Austin Galloway counted five, six, seven, eight as he back-spotted his stunt group. After he yelled chants to the crowd to support the freshmen football team, he gasped for breath.

Friday night, he plopped down into the bus seat following the varsity football game. Overwhelmed with the fumes of sweaty low-brass players, he thought about the lengthy halftime performance.

The next Monday before school, he laced up his cheer shoes for tumbling, and after school he drug his tuba across the band field and fell in at attention.

"The early morning practices at cheer and the hot afternoon practices at band are something that comes with being involved in both activities at the same time," Galloway said.

Galloway plans to continue both band and cheerleading all four years in high school. After high school he wants to only continue cheerleading.

"I really enjoy being in cheerleading," Galloway said. "The team aspect of cheer

along with the family environment of band has inspired me to be a better team member and leader."

Galloway hopes to follow in the steps of 2014 graduate, Jerry Vongphakdy, who was also in varsity marching band and varsity cheer.

"Jerry inspired me to make the most of my high school career," Galloway said. "I'm going to pursue in the activities I want to do, no matter how hard it is."

Additionally, Galloway learned to deal with the struggle of having an instrument that weighed 28 pounds.

"In concert season it's easy to rest the tuba on your lap," Galloway said. "But in marching band, all the weight is on your shoulders and back."

Galloway's parents thought the commitments would cause too much stress, but he proved that he could handle both with his time management and help from friends.

"At first I was stressed about having no free time," Galloway said. "But with how both the cheer squad and the band welcomed me, I knew I could make it through." *Story by Ammysadday Hernandez*



**HANDS DOWN /** Standing aside the tumbling coach James Rogers gives Austin Galloway tips as he demonstrates a round off. The coach came to school every Thursday to help the squad. "I really struggle with my round off," Galloway said. "JR really helps." *Photo by Danielle Robinson*



**FLEXIBLE CURVE /** After the varsity and freshman squads arrive for tumbling practice at 6:30 a.m., Austin Galloway warms up by doing a bridge and walking across the mat. "This is one of the different ways we get ready for practice," Galloway said. "It helps stretch out my back." *Photo by Danielle Robinson*



# FURRY FRENZY

## JOINING THE REBELLION

**1 / FEEL THE HYPE /** The band plays the fight song as senior Bailey Skinner, senior Danielle Jacobs, junior Sara Praytor, senior Melissa Gomez, sophomore Haley Kimbrough and senior Kianna Kelly's arms start to cross and chants fill the air at the Richland game on Oct. 26. Senior Melissa Gomez and sophomore Leah Singleton joined the rest of the Herders in a dance to energize the crowd. "I had so much fun with all the Herders," Gomez said. "It was bittersweet because it was my senior year and it was my first year as a Herder." *Photo by Hayley Bridges*

**2 / ALMA MATER /** Hands in the air and pinkies locked, varsity football players join together as they sing the alma mater during the first pep rally on Aug. 28. "The last-first pep rally made me sad because I know football season will be over in a snap," senior Matthew Garcia said. "The pep rally did make me pumped up for the first game of the season." *Photo by Cindara Souvanna*

**3 / SHOWER OF SPIRIT /** Baby powder and streamers filled the air as soon as the varsity football players made a touchdown at the Richland game. The game ended with Richland taking the win with a score of 46-35. "The game made me so happy, seeing all the support we got despite the outcome of the game," senior Baylee Long said. "The spirit this year is amazing." *Photo by Giovanna Villalpando*

Shirt off and lying across the salon bed of Delux Nails and Spa, football captain and senior Tristan Walker watched in fear as the esthetician rubbed wax on his chest. She smeared hot wax with a popsicle stick, took out a strip of paper and placed it in the middle of his chest, then ripped.

Tristan winced in pain as the stylist, senior Jaylan Cruz and junior Chris Meyer doubled over laughing. The action, repeated about 20 times, made Tristan's chest red and smooth. The only trace of hair left was a patch shaped into a buffalo.

Pressured by the cheers of student body, Tristan revealed his masterpiece at the Richland rivalry pep rally Sept. 26. Despite a rough start to the football season, he showed the symbol without a trace of embarrassment.

"At first at the pep rally I was just standing there in the middle, and everyone on the football team was yelling at me to show

it," Tristan said. "So I looked at the APs, then I looked at the coaches, and I was just like, 'Okay, might as well.'"

In fact, a majority vote by the football team in the locker room his sophomore year pre-determined the waxing tribute because Tristan's chest bared the most hair of all the other team members, even then.

"Everyone on the team talked about it for two years," Tristan said. "I told them I would do it my senior year because I wanted to go all out for my final season."

As the season progressed, the buffalo on his chest started to grow out and itch; however, Tristan refused to shave it.

"I finally shaved off the buffalo after the last game," Tristan said. "It was the end of the season, and the buffalo was for the football team, so it just had to end with the season." *Story by Marissa Valdez Photo by Cindara Souvanna*



# MARY NGUYENS WON IT ALL

**T**he new homecoming queen earned a place in everyone's heart the night she was crowned. The crowd erupted in roars as the new queen, senior Mary Nguyen, walked her way up the field to claim her crown. Mary's reaction was an infectious one and drew tears from the audience. Students could not help but smile as Mary's face shone.

"When I won, I wasn't expecting it," Mary said. "I was smiling really big, and it started to hurt."

Nguyen ran alongside senior Ivan Aguilar who was crowned homecoming king Oct. 24 during halftime at the football game against L.D. Bell.

Before the game, students resorted to Twitter and Instagram to campaign for Nguyen after she told senior Nadia Ahamed her dream of winning.

"If you're wondering about who to nominate,

nominate Mary Nguyen for homecoming queen!" Ivan tweeted, even though students were told not to use social media to campaign.

Mary was just as excited for her friend Ivan winning king as she was for herself winning queen.

"It was a big surprise," Nguyen said. "I love all my friends that helped me and Ivan. It made me feel special that I won queen, and I was happy for Ivan because he won king."

After the crowning, Mary and Ivan walked across the field together and around the FAAC arm in arm to take pictures and thank the student body.

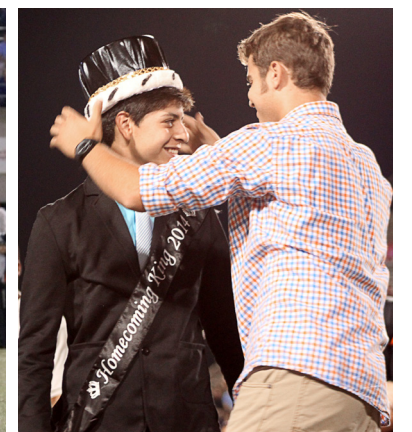
"It was simply overwhelming to win king along with Mary winning queen," senior Aguilar said. "It really was an honor to win alongside someone who really deserved it." *Story by Cemal Qureshi*



**STAMPEDE** / Back onto the field for the beginning of the second half, senior wide receiver Tanner Wreay, #86, prepares to face the Raiders again. In the end, the varsity team came up short, losing to L.D. Bell 39-22. "Even though we lost, it was a good game," Wreay said. "There is nothing like playing in the homecoming game under the lights with the guys and the crowd at night." *Photo by Hayley Bridges*



**QUICK CHANGE** / Crossing the field, junior Ana Maria Brown, sophomore Samantha Chavez and freshman Brandi Chatman are recognized for being elected class princesses. Chavez had to rush to change from her color guard uniform to her dress for halftime so she could walk down the field. "It wasn't easy changing from one outfit to another," Chavez said. "I was really nervous that I wouldn't make it in time, but in the end I did." *Photo by Hayley Bridges*



**KING FOR A DAY** / Walking up to the front of the field, senior Ivan Aguilar is crowned homecoming king by Davis Fletcher (class of 2013). "The emotion that passed over me was both overwhelming and surreal," Aguilar said. "To think that as a student class, we were able to create something so magical and take Mary's senior year from unforgettable to unbelievable was incredible." *Photo by Luis Cintron*

**CRUSHING ON THE KING** / Seniors Mary Nguyen and Ivan Aguilar are announced homecoming king and queen Oct. 24. However, Nguyen's crush on Aguilar started her freshman year. "I love Ivan. He's my friend," Nguyen said. "He's my first crush." *Photo by Hayley Bridges*



# OVERCOMING BARRIERS

END IN SIGHT FOR HALTOM ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Sweat ran down faces and layers of clothing were pulled on just to keep warm. The bipolar weather made it difficult to guess if there was going to be freezing wind, humid rainstorms or dry heat for the students who walked home or to school.

Haltom Road opening up made dramatic changes for students and teachers commuting to school on time and caused less stress in the mornings. Not having to worry about any traffic or construction on the way made it easier to get to school.

"I drove to school and usually left early since it would take me 20 to 30 minutes," freshman Glynn Montelongo said. "Now that construction is over I can leave around 7 a.m. and not worry about the long drive that we used to take."

Construction ended in the beginning of 2015, opened up Haltom Road to four lanes and added a new street, High Point Road, adjacent to it. As well as a new street, new traffic lights were installed since the old two-way road turned into an intersection.

Students such as senior Randall Moose who rode their bikes and walked to school everyday through the construction encountered

difficulties getting to school such as hazards and weather.

"Having to walk through construction on Haltom Road was annoying," Moose said. "I had to be super adaptable going around the construction vehicles and not fall in holes. When it was freezing, I also had to wear a waterproof jacket, ski mask, waterproof pants and a cover-over jacket."

The time taken to get to school for students like Moose who rode bikes or walked slowly dropped as the construction cones lessened and the roads widened.

"It used to take me about an hour to get to school," Moose said. "Now it takes me about 30 to 45 minutes."

Even though the road was fixed and made it easier to drive, riders and walkers still had trails they had to use instead of sidewalks next to Haltom Road.

"I was almost hit by cars three times, and I also had to worry about hitting rocks," Moose said. "Even though everything is fixed, when it's muddy I still have to ride on the road, but it beats riding through construction." *Story by Laura Perez*



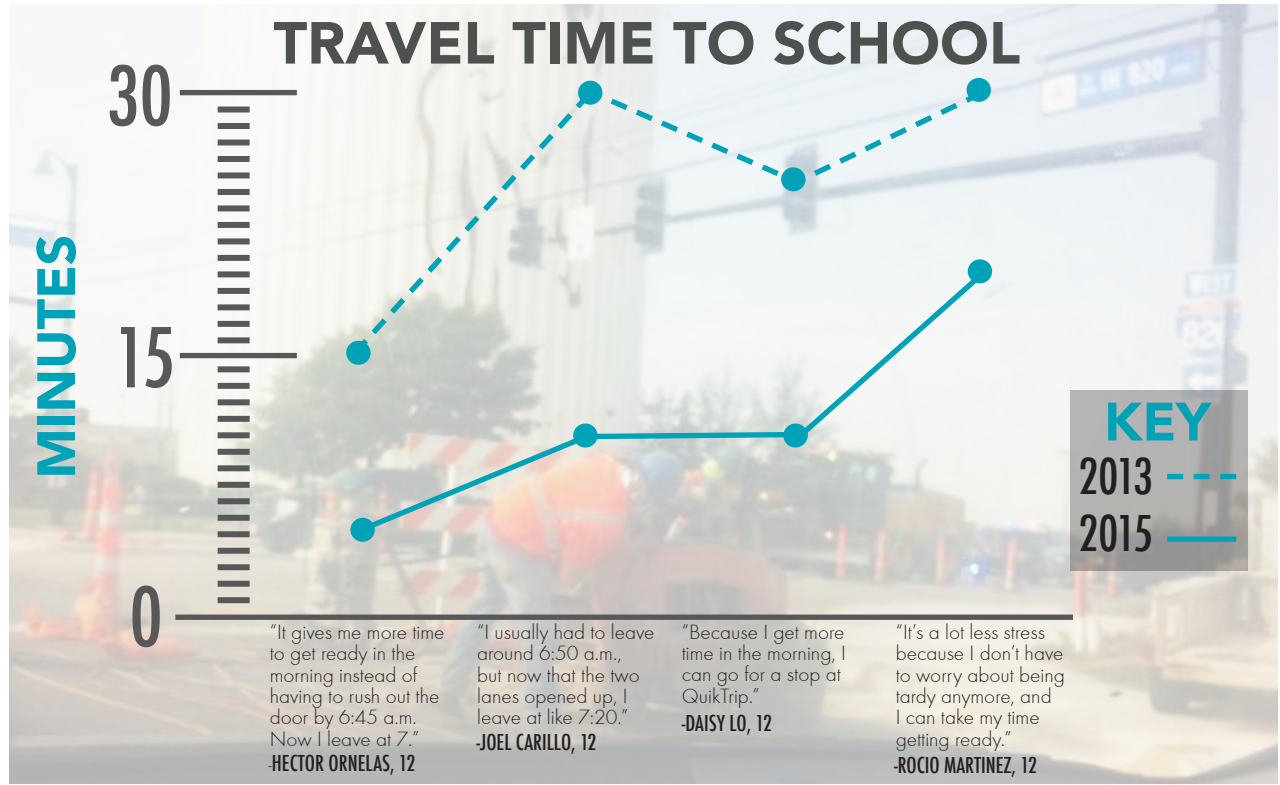
**1 / LEAVE TO RIDE /** Before starting his ride home, senior Randall Moose looks both ways as he exits the teacher parking lot. "I leave right after seventh to beat the traffic that usually comes as the parents are picking up their kids," Moose said. *Photo by Geneva Gonzalez*

**2 / EARLY BIRD /** Leaving the house early is routine for freshman Armando Gonzalez who had to make sure to catch the bus. "I usually leave around six in the morning to make sure I get there on time," Gonzalez said. "Once I'm on the bus, it takes us 30 minutes to get to school." *Photo by Daisy Lo*

**3 / HOME BOUND /** After the seventh period dismissal bell, sophomore Thomas Garrett and freshman Glynn Montelongo take their new route home. "I always had to take detours due to construction, but now that it is done it is easier for me to walk," Garrett said. *Photo by Daisy Lo*

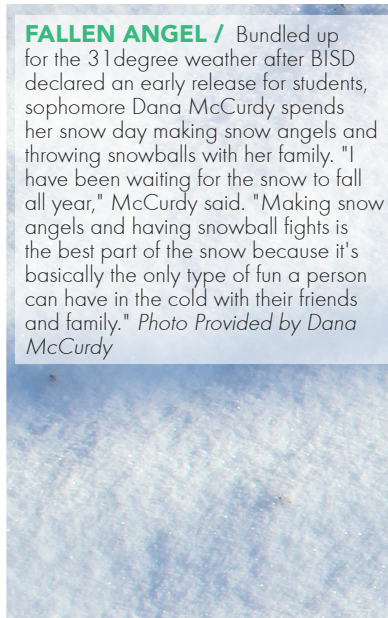


**RISE AND SHINE /** The next rush of students crosses the street to start their seven hour school day. At only 6:45 a.m., the parking lot and cafeteria start to fill. "I get here so early so I have enough time to eat breakfast, talk with friends and finish last night's homework," sophomore Alissa Jacobs said. *Photo by Giovanna Villalpando*





**HOMEBOUND /** After the sudden announcement releasing students early March 5, sophomore Sierra Morrison leaves the school with her mother. "I really enjoyed being able to go home early," Morrison said. "I got to spend more time with family and friends in the snow instead of doing school work." Photo by Hayley Bridges



**FALLEN ANGEL /** Bundled up for the 31 degree weather after BISD declared an early release for students, sophomore Dana McCurdy spends her snow day making snow angels and throwing snowballs with her family. "I have been waiting for the snow to fall all year," McCurdy said. "Making snow angels and having snowball fights is the best part of the snow because it's basically the only type of fun a person can have in the cold with their friends and family." Photo Provided by Dana McCurdy

**M**arch 5 started off as a chilly and rainy day. Students hoped for the school day to be cancelled before they woke up like the previous week where school was cancelled for three days. However, they showed up in big jackets and several layers of clothing, prepared to take on the cold day ahead of them and the much anticipated snow.

"It was so cold! I had to layer up! I wore leggings and jeans under my sweatpants, two shirts and two pairs of socks with boots! I was freezing," senior Carmelita Armenta said.

At about 11:20 a.m. principal Mr. Clarence Simmons' voice came over the intercom to announce that only students that drove and had a vehicle on campus could leave early at 1 p.m., which upset many students who either walked home, rode the bus or had a parent or guardian at work who could not come and get them early. Others did not mind the decision.

"Honestly, I thought it was completely fair that students who drove got to leave first," sophomore Bailey Javarone said. "Parents have more experience in driving the snow, so it's safer for kids who drive to leave earlier because they aren't as experienced."

After the district re-evaluated the worsening conditions, Simmons came back onto the loudspeaker about 30 minutes later to announce that all other students had permission to leave at 1 p.m. Soon after the announcement, the lobby piled up with parents trying to get their children out of school. Students who were 18 years and older could sign themselves out, but still had to wait in line to do so.

"I felt very frustrated trying to sign out," senior JoAnna Ortega said. "It was supposed to be an early dismissal, but the line took too long, so it really wasn't even an early dismissal."

After the extended waiting time, students and parents fled from the school to get safely back to their homes. After school plans varied from staying in at home and watching Netflix to playing out in the cold.

"I spent my time both inside and out," sophomore Sierra Morrison said. "When my friends and I went outside, we went sledding and had snowball fights. Inside, we just sat together, watched movies and kept warm." Story by Hayley Bridges

**BUNDLE UP /** Holding hands to avoid slipping on ice, seniors Zia Cannon and Chase Miller walk to the parking lot after the early dismissal. "I hate how cold my hands get in the snow, I just want to put socks on top of them," Cannon said. "My nose gets all red too. I end up looking like Rudolf." Photo by Hayley Bridges



# SNOW DAZE

WINTER WEATHER TAKES OVER