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better Together

*The Eagle*  
2016

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Division 9-6A  
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[chase karacostas]



Jason Fernandez, 10 [gaby fernandez]



Makaila Mitchell, 11 [chase karacostas]



# better Together

Sitting down in front of the artwork “Kind of Blue” by Jenny Holzer in the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, seniors Hannah Barclay and Brooke Wilson take a photo together.

In the fall, the Art Magnet and AP Art History classes took a field trip to Fort Worth where they visited both the Modern Art Museum and the Kimbell Art Museum.

“Overall the field trip was really good because I’ve never been to an art museum after taking an art class,” Wilson said. “So after understanding some of the core concepts of looking at art, going was a really unique experience.”

In AP Art History, students learn about artworks going back to 10,000 years B.C.E. and how form and content affects the meaning of the work, but this was the first time the students had been able to see the art in person.

“It was really cool to actually see some of the artworks that we’d been learning about in person and kind of like get out of the classroom and see

real life things,” Barclay said.

The work “Kind of Blue” was an interactive piece where viewers could walk around the work and see the various truisms written by Jenny Holzer, including seeing them reflected onto the water through nearby windows.

“That artwork was lights and colors, and it had a message in a different way, so I thought that was a really cool thing to see in person and get the full effect,” Barclay said. “It was definitely very immersive like you were in the artwork basically, that’s how it felt.”

Wilson appreciated how the work demonstrated that not all artworks are simply paintings and getting to see that some pieces go beyond a canvas.

“The mirrored effect was very interesting because you wouldn’t expect that they would use their environment like that,” Wilson said. “It was just kind of a shock to see it like that because it’s kind of playing with your vision, and playing with how you perceive things.”



Ciara Lee, 9 [elise garcia]



Alexa Díaz De La Vega, 10/Alyssa Bell, 10 [hewra almusawi]



[chase karacostas]

During the second half of the annual Powder Puff Football game, sophomore Jack Macy, senior Jesus Casiamano and junior Nathan Abraham fly above the rest of the cheer squad as they cheer on the juniors and senior girls playing on the field.

Macy enjoyed getting to cheer for the team along with getting to wear a skirt as a part of the cheer uniform, but he wished that it covered more.

"There were some guys that were being really funny because they didn't wear anything except the cheer uniform, and then there would be me who is wearing pants and an undershirt, and I was still freezing," Macy said. "It was funny just seeing them running around shivering whenever we were just standing around staying warm."

For three days before the game, the Powder Puff cheer squad was coached by senior cheerleaders Allison Barber and Ally Cagle. They taught various cheers and skills for the game, including how to safely perform stunts.

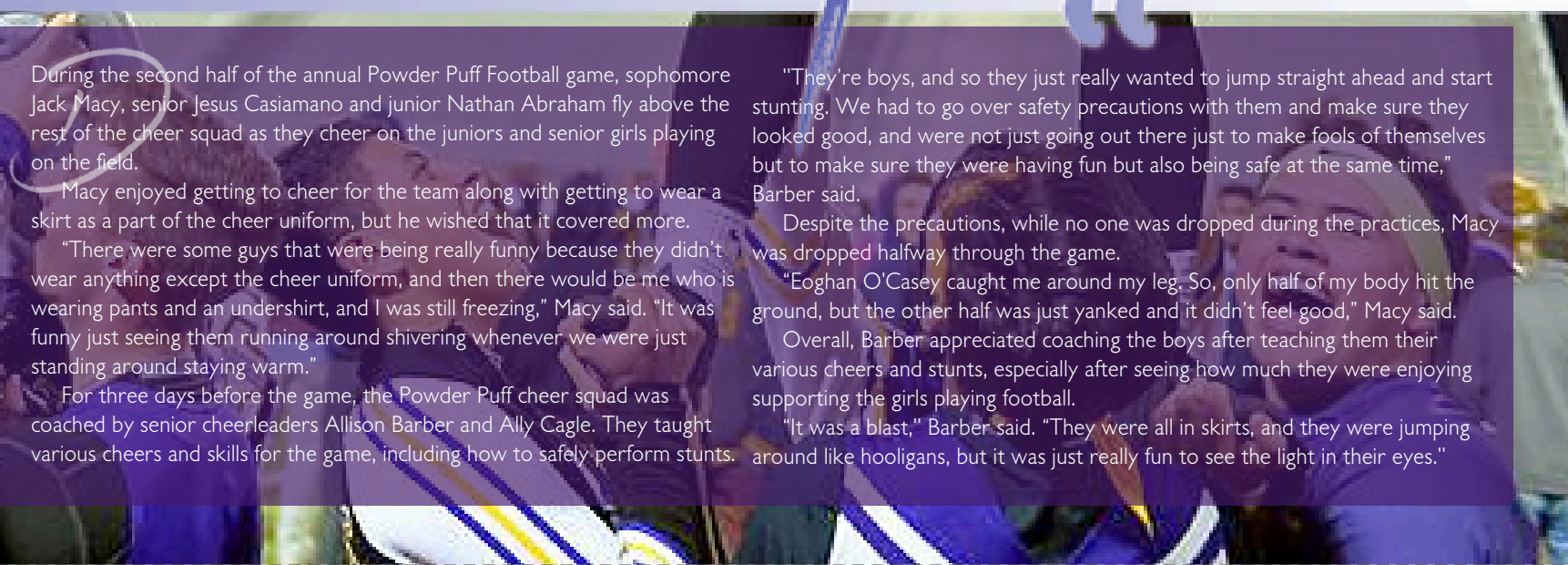
"They're boys, and so they just really wanted to jump straight ahead and start stunting. We had to go over safety precautions with them and make sure they looked good, and were not just going out there just to make fools of themselves but to make sure they were having fun but also being safe at the same time," Barber said.

Despite the precautions, while no one was dropped during the practices, Macy was dropped halfway through the game.

"Eoghan O'Casey caught me around my leg. So, only half of my body hit the ground, but the other half was just yanked and it didn't feel good," Macy said.

Overall, Barber appreciated coaching the boys after teaching them their various cheers and stunts, especially after seeing how much they were enjoying supporting the girls playing football.

"It was a blast," Barber said. "They were all in skirts, and they were jumping around like hooligans, but it was just really fun to see the light in their eyes."







Mark Mercer, 11 [chase karacostas]



Gia Le, 12 [daphne lynd]





**RAISING THEIR** arms in the air, seniors Grayson Sentell, Sara Rodriguez, Anna Moorman, and Ashton Bryson finish off the final pep rally of the year where each of the senior Eagle Guard members did something on their high school bucket list. Paul Pruski performed as an Eaglette, and Sentell and Moorman both did Step Team dances. "That was the one Griffon Rubin fell in – that was hilarious, I loved it so much," Sentell said. "I have that video on my phone, and I watch it all the time, it's so funny. I have it like zoomed in on him."

# Spring

Raising their arms in the air, seniors Grayson Sentell, Sara Rodriguez, Anna Moorman, and Ashton Bryson finish off the final pep rally of the year where each of the senior Eagle Guard members checked off an item on their high school bucket list.

On Sentell's bucket list was performing a Step Team dance.

"This year it was exciting because we had really great pep rallies, but we were sad that it was over," Sentell said. "So, I guess I just felt sad, but happy, it was bittersweet. I was a little bit nervous for my dance, and I was worried I wasn't going to dab at the right time, but it worked out, so I was happy about that."

Looking back, Sentell appreciated the first pep rally the most because it was the first chance for the new team to show off for the entire school.

"I think my favorite skit from the year was the dating game because that was like the first one as a group with our new people and everything," Sentell said.

After creating skits for four pep rallies, Eagle Guard ran into issues at first

when planning the final one.

"So, our ideas were kind of bled dry, so it was basically like three days of absolutely no progress, and then we finally came up with something," Moorman said. "So, this one was kind of a last-minute pep rally because we had no more ideas, but it came together well, and it was just a difficult one to plan."

Moorman also enjoyed spending the year becoming a tight-knit family with the new members after letting go of last year's seniors.

"Once we all decided to give the new kids a chance, we all came together really well," Moorman said. "It's a really good place to make friends that have your back because they're a part of your team."

Before every skit, the team would huddle up for a group hug to get pumped for the pep rally.

"I'll miss [the group hug] the most," Rodriguez said. "As excited as I am to move on to the next chapter of my life, being done with RHS pep rallies will leave a big gaping hole in my heart."

At the end of the first girls basketball playoff game, freshman Dijanae Lampkins and sophomores Sydni Marsh, Michelle Kevin-Aligah, Kelsey Fletcher and Jia Anderson laugh as they take a selfie together. This game was the first of the three varsity girls basketball playoff games. "It was very fun," Fletcher said. "I love seeing our varsity girls work hard so they can succeed and be where they are now, and see all of the things they did and accomplished." [zee vaughn]



[zemanah vaughn]



Catherine Milam, 12 [anne garsea]



Diana Ruiz, 12 [elise garcia]



# People

At the end of the first girls basketball playoff game, freshman Dijanae Lampkins and sophomores Sydni Marsh, Michelle Kevin-Aligah, Kelsey Fletcher and Jia Anderson laugh as they take a selfie together. This game was the first of the three varsity girls basketball playoff games.

Since jv and varsity girls basketball travel together, the jv team always gets the chance to watch and observe what it will be like on varsity the following year.

"It was very fun," Fletcher said. "I love seeing our varsity girls work hard so they can succeed and be where they are now and see all of the things they did and accomplished."

The varsity girls basketball team won this game and would move onto two more before taking suffering a loss in the third round.

"It was very fun, and it was very exciting," Fletcher said. "We were ready for the next game, thinking about the next game and see what they're going to do and what new surprises they're going to bring."

After another year of only making it to the third round of the playoffs, many of the girls were disappointed but also saw the losses as a way to grow together as a team.

"There were a lot of tough games during the playoffs," Kevin-Aligah said. "And you know the varsity girls, they were put through a lot of stuff, a lot of obstacles, but honestly going through the playoffs, they've gotten better as a team, and even though they did lose, they've shown that they can go through anything."

Marsh enjoyed attending the varsity games, but was also saddened to know that many of the seniors that she grew close to this year would graduate in June.

It was really hype, and it was a good time," Marsh said. "This year I got really close to some of the seniors, and now they're not going to be here. There are not many juniors – mostly sophomores and a couple of freshmen – so it's going to be really different not having too many seniors on varsity."





Allison Sharp, 12 [henry carpenter]



Jessica Howard, 12 [victoria shirley]





Arm in arm at the end of the Mesquite High football game, seniors Caroline Anderson, Andrea Grimaldo, Marina Grady, Emilee McAdams and Jenna Keeling scream "Seniors 2016." At the game the Eaglettes performed a kick routine, which was one of the final halftime routines of the year. [chase karacostas]

# Seniors Ads

Arm in arm at the end of the Mesquite High football game, seniors Caroline Anderson, Andrea Grimaldo, Marina Grady, Emilee McAdams and Jenna Keeling scream "Seniors 2016." At the game the Eaglettes performed a kick routine, which was one of the final halftime routines of the year.

The senior yell at the end of each football game has been a tradition for many years, and the seniors from band and cheer will join in to celebrate their last year on the field.

"That's just something really cool that we get to do at the end of every game before we back up and leave, and it's like 'we made it,' McAdams said. "That was really fun because everybody was doing it, and you kind of realize that it's your last year."

For Anderson, the yell on Senior Night was particularly after serving three years on the team and two years as a captain.

"Football season is my favorite part of drill team, so that was the last time I'd

ever dance on the fifty," she said. "I liked getting to dance with a new set of girls this year and watching them progress throughout the year."

Throughout the year, the Eaglettes work together on all dances regardless of grade level, so the senior yell is one of the only reminders that the girls have anything separating them.

"You kind of realize that working next to them on the team, there isn't much division between seniors and sophomores, like everybody is a teammate, but then that's the first time they define the ages and why people are different," McAdams said.

Grady has been attending games since fourth grade because her older brother was in band and has watched the yell every year since.

"Seeing them do that since then – that's been kind of crazy and then being able to do it myself," Grady said. "So, it just feels kind of special being able to do something that they've done for so long."

# 2015 VARSITY BASKETBALL



Vianna Moody, 10 [sarah allen]



Armando Washington, 12 [chase karacostas]

**LEANING FORWARD** as they dance to the tuba call during the magnet pep rally, sophomore Sydney Ogaga, junior Emma Kilgore and seniors Joseline Hernandez and Ambar Sanchez smile at each other. Band performs both the tuba call and the Alma Mater to end every football game and pep rally. "Tuba call is one of the band's favorite songs just because everyone is able to have fun and dance to it," Ogaga said. "So, it's really exciting, and it's kind of hectic especially whenever we play at football games because sometimes people fall off of the bleachers and stuff, but I definitely really love it." [elise garcia]



# Index

Leaning forward as they dance to the tuba call during the magnet pep rally, sophomore Sydney Ogaga, junior Emma Kilgore and seniors Joseline Hernandez and Ambar Sanchez smile at each other.

The band performs the tuba call to end every pep rally.

"We just kind of dance and go crazy," Kilgore said. "It's definitely the most fun song of band because we don't have to play, we just get to dance, and when we're in the stands we stand up on the bleachers, and it's really fun."

Band performs the tuba call at the end of football games too, usually halfway through the fourth quarter.

"At one of our football games where we were linking up about to run across the bleachers I guess this kid didn't see where his foot was going so he fell, and then he caused this other kid in front of him to fall so it was just kind of like this ripple effect of everybody falling," Ogaga said. "But the best part about it was they got up and everybody was laughing and all smiles about it."

During pep rallies, the band will stand on the gym floor giving them a nice view of everything that's going on. Sanchez appreciated this and the view the

school had of them.

"You're only one within the whole band, but your part matter matters just as much as everyone else's in playing the song, and the entire school is listening," Sanchez said.

Ogaga liked all of the energy that came with the last pep rally, but realized it was bittersweet since the seniors she knew would be graduating in June.

"I kind of like a lot of seniors in band since their good mentors and really nice to a lot of the lower classmen, and they kind of like make everything a lot easier and just kind of make us all one big family and help us gel together," Ogaga said.

This tuba call was special for Sanchez as it represented the culmination of her four years in band.

"It's just like the last time I'm going to do this with these people who have been my second family for the past three years," Sanchez said. "So, it's kind of like, it felt nice. Just the whole emotion from the pep rally itself and just knowing it's graduation year made it more special."



Waving to the crowd, freshmen volleyball players Hannah Heindl, Payton Cerny and Chelsea Cohen laugh as their Homecoming float passes the school. The theme of the 50th Anniversary of the Homecoming Parade was "Welcome to the Circus," so the volleyball team wore masks featuring various zoo animals. "I thought it was pretty great to see the kids – they were really happy to see us, and it was fun to see them all wave at us," Heindl said. [chase karacostas]



Jesus Casiamano, 12/Jose Padilla, 12 [daphne lynd]



Phoenix Everett, 9 [daphne lynd]





# better Together

Waving to the crowd, freshmen volleyball players Hannah Heindl, Payton Cerny and Chelsea Cohen laugh as their Homecoming float passes by the school. The theme of the 50th Anniversary of the Homecoming Parade was "Welcome to the Circus," so the volleyball team wore masks featuring various zoo animals.

This was Heindl's first year in the parade with the volleyball team. "I thought it was really fun, and I thought it was just a really great experience to hang out with everyone I knew and just kind of bond with just everybody," Heindl said. "It was really nice to see all the smiles on pretty much everyone's faces."

Volleyball coach Krissy Baker didn't walk in the parade, but instead stayed in the truck that pulled the float and waved to the crowd from the passenger seat. "I think it's cool because all of the kids, when they're walking, they're not just walking, they've got a lot of energy and they're enthusiastic about it," Baker said. "They say hi to all of the little kids over to the side and they're doing all of their cheers and everything else."

The team met up with their coaches at the float before the parade to

prepare heading out to Belt Line.

"We were all just hanging out, getting prepared, getting pumped up for it, making sure everyone was in the right place, making sure no one was lost and just already having fun," Heindl said.

After the parade, the girls began preparations for the game that night against Mesquite High.

"We were all laughing and talking about [the parade] and saying how much fun it was, and how we liked it," Heindl said. "We played our best, and we were all just there for each other and there with each other. We were all just really excited, really pumped up and really motivated."

Baker appreciated the team's involvement in the parade because it showed both how much spirit they have, and it helped promote the volleyball team.

"They didn't just show up, they try to dress up, they try to match all of the themes, and they just have general school spirit throughout the day during Homecoming week," Baker said. "So, I think it's a good way for them to increase school spirit."

# better Together Colophon



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## Editor's Note:

Last summer Elise Garcia and I developed a theme that truly fit RHS. The theme of the 2015 book "We Can Handle It" is probably the most representative phrase for RHS.

When working on a new theme my first thought was all of the obstacles we've faced as a school during my four years here. Some of you will remember Lookadoo, our near and dear "motivational" speaker and the plague that infected a third of the school as we were trying to put on "Shrek" the Musical. Those were some of our only thoughts when developing a theme.

Based on those events, the original idea was "There's Always Something," but that has more of a negative tone than a positive one. I know you guys want to look back on the year with hope, not thinking about the disasters that happened. That statement is true though. There is always something different at RHS. We're the only school that puts on a Homecoming Parade, we have over half a dozen magnets so that everyone can find their niche, and we're the only school in the RISD that experiences the struggle of being located on Belt Line.

Looking for a more positive mood for the book, we realized we do not handle the obstacles we face individually, we truly fight them together. We went through hardships in various areas this year from sports to academics, but every time we banded together.

We realized this while working with an adviser at the Gloria Shields All-American Publications Workshop. For the longest time all we could think about was all of the issues we faced as a school and how we could represent those with a theme, but in our case, it's not the problems we face that affect us, it's how we deal with them that show who we truly are. As a school, nothing is more true than the fact that we are better together.

That simple idea is what we became determined to show through the book. In this book you'll find how many individuals shined on their own, but you will also see the way we support one another. You'll see how we go out of our way to be unified as a school.

The pages of this yearbook were created using two main fonts. Aileron and an accent font, Imogen Agnes. These fonts are used in all headlines, the cover and dividers

We used Adobe InDesign CS6, the online yearbook tool by Jostens called Yearbook Avenue and Adobe Photoshop to design the book. All

of the editorial photos in this book were shot by students, then imported and edited through our staff's Adobe Photoshop work flow. Lifetouch was responsible for taking all of the underclassmen and staff portraits, and Prestige Portraits by Lifetouch took all of the senior portraits.

When working on an idea for the cover, I wanted a way to show the school at the moment when it is the closest. Singing the Alma Mater is always something that brought the entire school together, holding our Talons up as one.

The cover is a process color cover with a white cutout cloth grain, super matte lamination on the text and a UV application on the lower section.

Thank you to the people who stood on a bridge while I spent an hour waiting for the perfect light to take the photo. I'm sure most of you were incredibly hungry and contemplating how long it would be until you could go to Cane's.

I would also like to thank my adviser, Wade Kennedy, for dealing with me for the past four years. It's been an amazing time, and I'm so glad that he helped me realize that my true path in life lies in journalism.

Lastly I would like to thank my two staffs for helping put this book together. This year we had our largest staff ever, and the book looks amazing. Thank you for all of the time you spent outside of class covering events so that we could tell the story of what happened this year – a yearbook is nothing without photos.

The 2016 Eagle was published by Jostens Publishing Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The book was printed at the Jostens Printing Plant in Clarksville, Tennessee. Tread Sheffield and Rod Evans are our Jostens sales representatives. 850 copies of this book were printed, sold and distributed.

I would say "until next time," but this is my last yearbook. I hope you guys enjoy it.

*Chase Karacostas*



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