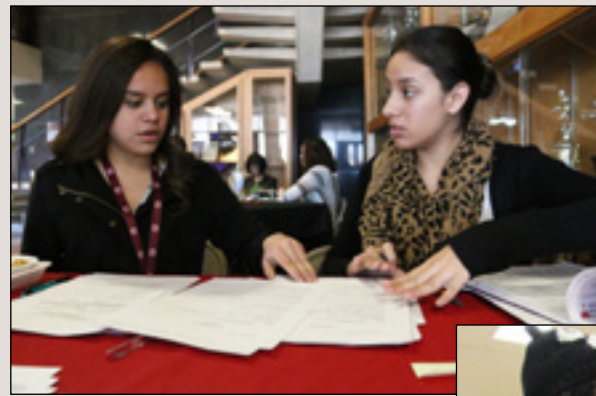


**PAPER CHASE**  
Papers scattered all over the table, seniors Destanie Realivazquez and Luisa Herrera check the list of students coming from class who signed up for the annual blood drive. "Before we started, we organized a game plan," Realivazquez said. "The blood drive was very demanding because we had to go around school to pull the kids out of the classes they requested." The community project brought more than 38 units of blood.



genesis barraza

**HE ROCKS**  
Carefully placing his hands on the rocks, senior Daniel Madrid reaches halfway to the top of the wall at the District IX winter conference in Ruidoso, New Mexico. "After our group activities were finished, we were allowed to try all the things they had to offer there," Madrid said. "The rock climbing was harder than I expected. The straps were uncomfortable and the rocks started to get harder to grab. I was one of the three to reach the very top and ring the bell." Zip-lining and miniature golf were also available.



jasmine tabler

**BREAK THE ICE**  
Bleachers filled with eighth graders from Ross and MacArthur watch as senior Jasmine Flores and other student council members in the line entertain the audience. "The eighth graders were a little shy and awkward when they came into the gym," Flores said. "We started an ice breaker called 'Baby Shark,' but no one wanted to join in. Some joined us toward the end of it." Flores served as historian in the first semester.



genesis barraza

**we did this**

Student council met for two weeks in the summer to plan out every event for the entire school year.



**FOLLOW THE LEADER**

Full of enthusiasm, senior Darius Rosales-Streeter and fellow members join in with all of District IX schools during a convention activity. "It began with ice-breakers to get everyone hyped," Rosales-Streeter said. "We did the 'roller coaster,' where the leader shouts out left or right and everyone leans in that direction. After that, we got to go around to talk to the other schools." Rosales-Streeter served as senior class president. (photo by mikey provenghi)

"I was a 'go with a flow' kind of person, but student council brought out my leadership skills. Now I talk to more people and I am able to speak my mind." -**evangelina fregoso-10**

experiences  
create ideas

by ilana johnston

She was 440 miles away from home. She looked around as students from all over Texas poured out of buses and into the parking lot. New faces surrounded her as she stepped onto the San Angelo University campus. There, councils gathered and talked about their future plans. As the historian and a first-time member, senior Mykayla Jones joined in to learn all she could.

"I went to the camp with a shy personality," Jones said. "I kept to myself and didn't really talk to others. Once the camp started, we got into groups, and I started to open up and talk to others. Once the school year began, I started the council scrapbook. It was different for me because I have never been the person in charge of others. I started to worry about how big of a responsibility it was, and that's when I remembered the leadership skills I learned at the camp. I applied it to the scrapbook, and in the end, it helped because I won the 'excellence' award."

While Jones took the advice from others at a camp, senior Larisa Valles got hers from a local student council convention. She was shocked by the number of students coming from different schools. When the program began,

Valles was separated into a group with other council members she didn't know.

"Everyone in the group began to share what student council meant to them," Valles said. "One girl talked about how she was in a bad place, but after she joined, she started to turn her life around. Her story showed me that this isn't just a club; it's also a safe place where you can feel welcome and get involved in your school."

Valles and her council peers knew their agenda would be full. In addition to planning pep rallies, they were in charge of blood drives, Teacher Appreciation week, Veterans Day appreciation, running the electives fair, etc. The list was endless.

Trenton Honeycutt, vice president of the freshman class, discovered getting his peers involved wasn't easy.

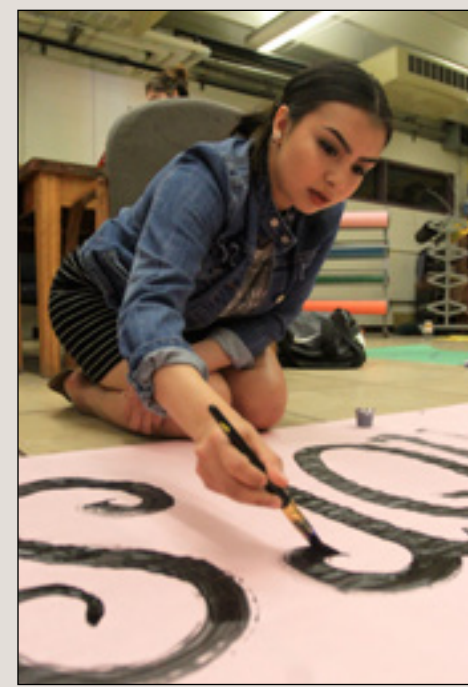
"We're the last ones that the upperclassmen go to for opinions," he said. "However, that didn't stop me from trying to accomplish the goals I set for my class, which was to help them through the transition from middle school to high school. I tried to get them more active by encouraging them to attend our monthly meetings, so we could get their input and try to accommodate them. At the end of the day, it's all about the students."



yoselin negrete-12



andrea gandarrilla-9



genesis barraza



genesis barraza

**PAINTING SPIRIT**

First thing in the morning, senior Emily Cuellar decorates a poster for the girls' soccer senior night. "We always hang posters all around campus to promote school spirit and get the word out about what's going on," she said. "We have to try to make the meaning stand out from the others and just get creative with it so people look at them."

**SWEET HONOR**

In celebration of Veteran's Day, sophomore Alexis Garcia hands a box of candy to veteran Joe Nowak. "I was honored to give the veterans treats," Garcia said, "because I got to thank them for serving." There are five veterans that work on campus, including Nowak who served in the Army for three years and the National Guard for 11.