

fact check

School opening year confirmed after shirts printed with wrong date

People poured into the crowded gym, excited for the first pep rally of the year. Teachers and students wore pride shirts, all saying something along the lines of “the Original McKinney High School” or “Home of the Lions.” Yet, in the midst of all of this unity, one thing stood out—the date our school first opened.

Certain shirts said “est. 1877” while others said “1889.” A few even said “1916.” However, journalism teacher and school historian Lori Oglesbee confirmed the correct date is none of these. Instead, McKinney High School opened its doors in 1886.

“Our first class graduated in 1889,” she said, “so some shirts say ‘established 1889.’ I assume they subtracted 12 from that to get 1877. But back then they didn’t have 12 grades.”

At first, she believed the correct opening date to be 1883. However, looking farther back, she found a more accurate source.

“I found an article from a 1923 newspaper that specifically talked all about when the school opened,” she said. “I also contacted Arthur McNeil, who confirmed 1886 was the correct date. This shows how important journalism is. Without that article, the beginning of this school’s legacy would’ve been lost.”

She hopes this information will become known enough to where at next year’s first pep rally, shirts will have the correct date.

“From this day forward,” she said, “let it be known that McKinney High School’s official opening date was September 1886. All T-shirts, all references to that ought to be right from here on out.”

by Neelam Bohra

cheer on

At the start of the year, juniors Huntley McSwain, Jack Moraglia, Kristen Monk and Allison Tinglov cheer for the spirit stick. Despite their efforts, the seniors were awarded the spirit stick. “It was fun to dress with my friends in Hawaiian shirts,” Allison said. “I think we were all excited to start another year at McKinney High School, whether it be our first or last.”



beat of the drum

As part of the drum line, juniors James Zywicki and Travis Jeter play cadences along with the band. Travis’s favorite cadence to play at pep rallies was “Rock Steady.” “I get to do what I love, play with some of my closest friends, and bring excitement and energy to the whole school,” Travis said. “Being on drum line takes a lot of hard work and dedication but it’s definitely worth it.”



Ulises Velez



Ulises Velez

linked lions

With his fellow Headhunters, senior Patrick Oliver locks pinksies and sings the alma mater. The first pep rally’s theme was Hawaiian. “I’ll remember being a Headhunter for the rest of my life,” Patrick said. “Being so close to the game, it was just so thrilling.”

Ulises Velez

meet the teacher:

OPEN HOUSE

After band practice, junior Shuva Gautam introduces her parents to her physics teacher, Mrs. Christina Gregorian, for the first time. Shuva and her family welcomed Mrs. Gregorian, who grew up in Romania, to her first year at McKinney High. “Growing up in Nepal, my parents were raised to respect teachers as much as their own parents,” Shuva said. “My family takes advantage of open house to show our respect to all the hard-working teachers.”



photos by Ulises Velez

learn the ropes

At open house, freshman Madelyn Martinez and junior Kenzie Martinez introduce their mom to Mrs. Jennifer Dixon, Madelyn’s biology teacher. Mrs. Dixon explained the concepts they would be learning over the course of the year, such as cell theory and evolution. “My parents loved to meet my teachers because they got to see what we actually do in class,” Kenzie said. “It made them feel more involved.”



Emily Polk

finish on a high note

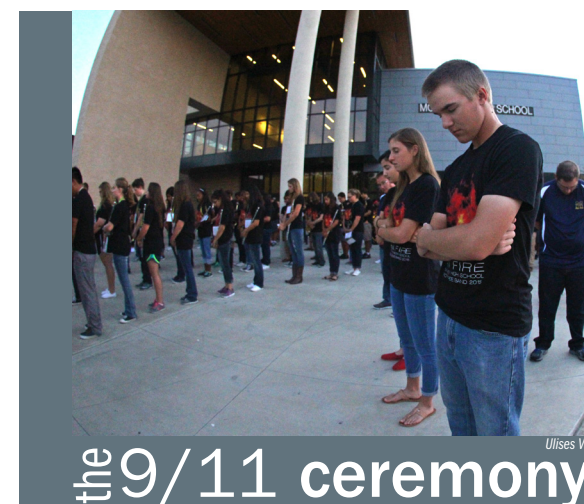
For their first pep rally performance, sophomore Lilybet Orellana, senior Raeshelle Segovia, senior Monica Mata and junior Alena Horvath strike their final pose to end the show. The Marquettes performed a pop dance to “7/11” by Beyoncé. “I love how close we are to the students during pep rallies,” Alena said. “It makes me really happy when the student body gets into the song with us and as a result we have more energy.”

victory yell

At the end of the pep rally, seniors Zach Rupe, Collin Hammack and Caleb Stricklin cheer on the crowd. The football team played against Liberty later that night, which ended up being their first win of the season. “As football captain, it was cool,” Zach said. “I enjoyed representing the team.”



David Funes



Ulises Velez

the 9/11 ceremony

At the traditional 9/11 ceremony, drum majors senior Brittany Garza and juniors Mia Hayes and Trey Jeter observe a moment of silence. The band and choir played “The Star-Spangled Banner” as the American flag was raised on the ladder of a fire truck. “It is always a time to remember what happened,” Trey said. “I was there to pay my respect to the victims and to honor their lives and the lives of their families.”



David Funes

in remembrance

On the 14th anniversary of 9/11, Tim Mock, the assistant fire chief, gives a speech to honor those who lost their lives. The ceremony was sponsored by student council and featured a prayer led by Club 24:12 sponsor Mr. Joshua Helms.

“I felt good singing at the ceremony because I was respecting the lives lost through the 9/11 attack.”

-Ethan Shrodder, 10