

# ALL THAT JAZZ

A guest instructor improves with the orchestra

Orchestra is challenging. The arrangements and melodies are much more complex than it may seem. It takes an enormous commitment just to learn how to play an instrument, let alone master a song. Orchestra was not just another elective, or a class to goof off in, but a family of dedicated and talented musicians.

In an effort to have students better their skills, the directors brought in guest instructor, Christian Howes. Mr. Howes is a performer and composer who was named among the top three jazz violinists by JazzTimes.

This inspiration clearly had its benefits. At the annual UIL competition, our orchestra stood out with strong scores. "We got all ones, the highest rating," said Sophia Olivares (7) who was excited by what she and her friends could achieve when they put their individual instruments together.

Story by Ava Motes



Photo by Sean Hall

The musical act, the Jordan Sisters entertain students with some bluegrass fiddle. The mentor sessions were reserved for students in one of the advanced orchestras as well as Rockestra, a class that turns popular songs into orchestral arrangements.



Howes improves on his violin while students watch. "It was optional to go see him perform, but a lot of kids ended up going because it was an amazing opportunity to see someone that makes a living doing what he loves," said Luke Lozano (7).



Kaya Fagerstrom (8) and others pay close attention to the presentation. "This was super fun because it's something we don't normally get a chance to do, it was refreshing," says Kaya.



Bassists Max Dobbs(7), Schuyler Colfax(8), Sachin Allums(7), and Jake Miller(7) listen to Howes's presentation. "I was blown away by how he could improvise. He was thinking of stuff of the top of his head that would take me weeks to learn how to play," said Max Dobbs.



Spring / Around School 054

## The Conscientious Gardener



All around Austin, there are people in need of help, but most people will drive past them or turn their head, avoiding lending them a hand.

One student, Ian McKenna (7) was one of the few individuals who could not stand by while others suffered. He began to grow food in gardens and donated it to the Capitol Area Food Bank. McKenna had been recognized on the local news station and had received positive feedback for what he did for the community. "I never did this for attention, so I was shocked to see that so many people cared and were eager to help me," said McKenna. "This all started with my family bringing presents and food to a girl whose family couldn't afford them at Christmas time. It felt really good to help this one girl, and I wanted to keep doing things like this, so my project grew quickly," said McKenna.

It's easy to help out just like McKenna did, by starting your own garden. No matter how old you are, you can always contribute your community. Story by Ava Motes Photo by Adelynn Lemoine



Shadow Mr. Barton and Hannah Cherukuri(8) student host.

Shadow Ms. Morledge and Kalen Bhakta (8) student host.

Shadow Ms. Martin and Laurel Schultz (8) student host.



Shadow Mr. Natenburg and Israel Reyes-Garcia (6) student host.

Shadow Mr. Vigil and Ashna Bhansali (8) student host.

Shadow Ms. Tasneem and Memphis Lamont (8) student host.

Photos by Peyton Dashiell and Miriam Ballard

## A DAY IN THE LIFE

One teacher's experience as a student's shadow

When left for the bus stop before dawn, I felt keenly aware that something was off. It wasn't the obvious, that today I would be a student, not a teacher. No, it was my backpack--entirely too light, perhaps ten pounds too light. I snapped a quick selfie in front of the sunrise and texted my sister: "Remember our bus stop?"

I met up with Emmi at Ridgetop, our neighborhood school. As we waited for the bus, she previewed the day ahead. I tried to listen, but I kept thinking about how I hadn't waited for a school bus since eighth grade. At my stop it was just me and one other rider: Danny Amos, who every morning raced up the street as the bus crept near.



My first class of the day was PE. Before I'd even finished my coffee I'd hit the field running Ultimate Frisbee drills with guest instructor, Patrick Christmas. By second period I'd hit 6000 steps and burned 430 calories. I wanted a nap, but instead found myself heading off to German where I got indoctrinated into the Friday dance ritual, enjoyed some German cartoons and got to see a stempeln-meister in action.

Science involved some lab work and information about the brain, nerves and senses. The hands on activities were punctuated by videos and lecture, The

extensive test review would certainly be the most challenging of my homework assignments--taking me nearly an hour just on the first five questions. Luckily I'd rocked my lab quiz.

Last stop was Inkblot, definitely a treat to end the day with an elective. It made me realize just how important our elective classes are. My brain hurt from the physical and mental strain. By the time I taken the bus and returned home, I collapsed onto my couch, finally able to drift off into that nap I'd wanted back in first period. I dreamt of a world without homework.

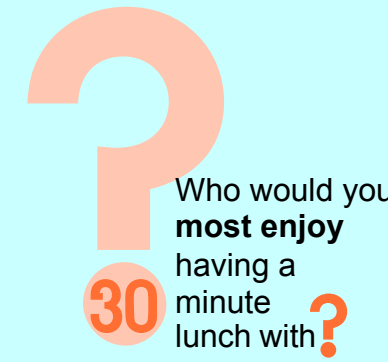
Story by Kristen Scott



### A Busy Day

1. As the bus arrives. Adrian Haley (7) and Gabriel Haley (6) prepare to board at Ridgetop Elementary. 2. Josephine Wilson (7), Emma Arce (7), and Emmi Lucksinger (7), run frisbee drills in PE. 3. Racing against Cade Dulaney (7), and Jessie Buchanan (7) wait to Frau Jaworski to give out another word challenge. 4. Enjoying a bit of downtime, Emmi Lucksinger watch Elena Baldrige (7) and Morgan Simmons (7) thumb wrestle. Photos by Kristen Scott

55 Page design by Catherine Beckett



(living/dead/or fictional)

- Tim Howard / Will Kelly (8)
- Melissa McCarthy / Emma Cartwright (8)
- Kaneki Ken / Emma Cross (8)
- Peyton Manning / William Jachimiak (6)
- Josh Hutcherson / Erica Estep (6)
- Barack Obama / Erica Moomaw (7)
- Hermione Granger / Eshita Sangani (8)
- Mickey / Esmeralda Bueno-Vanegas (7)
- Frodo / Evan Scariano (7)
- Kenny McCormick / Fallon Bryan (8)
- Clint Eastwood / Gabe Brandt (8)
- JK Rowling / Genevieve MacAlpine (6)
- Marilyn Monroe / Greta Quill (8)
- Exo / Hawraa Alabudea (8)
- Adam Savage / Hayden Tomazin (7)
- Michael Jackson / Henry Rodgers (7)
- Giant / Ikey Kohler (7)
- Sherlock Holmes / Iris Renteria (8)
- Taylor Swift / Isabel Kilday (8)
- Genie from Aladdin / Isabelle Saquing(7)
- Walt Disney / Isobel Buffum-Robbins (7)
- Shrek / Ivan DeHaas (8)
- Steve from Minecraft / Jacob Atchison (6)
- Groot / Jade Modica (6)
- Nikola Tesla / Jake Matz (6)
- Not with anyone / James Soliz (8)
- Jesus! / Jay Mathias (7)
- Person Who Has Food / Jessie Buchanan (7)
- Tyler Oakley / Jimena Perez (6)
- Myself / Jon Glasco (7)