

# POLYGLOT

Freshman Ethan Dintzner explores an interest in the languages of the world by studying Latin and German at school while teaching himself Greek and Hebrew at home. "I enjoy Latin and like to study it to learn more about how it works and how it influences so many other languages," Dintzner said. "I always feel like I can do more."

it's my  
**THING**



lacey shoemaker



1. scott gardner 2. olivia hamilton 3. ali mashburn 4. kamea leach

## culture shock

1 At Wurstfest on Nov. 11, freshman Ben Kelder and sophomore Jacob Stoebner purchase German sausage. "Wurstfest was fun," Kelder said, "and I got to try a lot of food." 2 Junior Hannah Young talks to her friends at the French holiday party on Dec. 9. "I've loved languages since I was a little girl," Young said, "so being in French gives me the opportunity to learn a third language." 3 Decorating the top of her Valentine's Day card, freshman Myles Kovalik participates in the Spanish Club meeting on Feb. 9. The valentines the Spanish Club decorated were sent to a school in North Austin whose primary language was Spanish. 4 While exploring a Chinese supermarket on a Feb. 9 field trip, junior Sheila Keating investigates a new type of Kit Kat from Japan. "My favorite thing about the trip was being able to go around with my friends at one time and place I wouldn't usually see them," Keating said. "Being able to skip class and make my other friends jealous was an added bonus."



1-2. brayden clark 3. kendall bobbit 4. scott gardner

## worldwide communication

1 Reaching for the chicken strips, freshmen Ryan Dittoe and Emma Streun prepare their plates for the English 1 Pre-AP *To Kill A Mockingbird* feast on Dec. 4. The feast was a celebration of finishing the study of the book. 2 At the freshman transition night on Jan. 16, sophomores Grace Carpenter and Jordan Cimino talk to an eighth-grader about taking American Sign Language. "I really liked telling the incoming freshmen how awesome our teacher is and telling them about some deaf culture they would learn in their freshman year," Cimino said. 3 In the commons on Jan. 27, freshmen Wally Denby and Cloe Scull prepare a booth with ASL teacher Gary Stein for Valentine's Day flower sales. ASL delivered the flowers to students on Feb. 12. 4 While holding on tight, sophomores Bailey Smith, Claire Boatman, Adele Corder and Alex Goodell enjoy the ride at Wurstfest on Nov. 11. "Wurstfest was really fun," Goodell said. "The rides were great, but the food was the best part."



# a global FAMILY

## Household welcomes exchange students

The average U.S. person has two siblings. Junior Freddie Paulson had seven, five of whom were from Norway, Germany and Brazil. Although they were exchange students who lived with Paulson only a short time, she considered herself related to them as much as she did to her own two brothers.

"I'm the oldest in my family," Paulson said, "so I always wished I had an older brother or sister to look up to, and now I have five."

Every other year since she was 7, Paulson's family had allowed exchange students to stay at their house for the extent of a school year while they attended Westlake. All of the exchange students stayed in their home, ate dinner with her family and did homework together — just like any regular family member.

The Paulsons' most recent exchange student, junior Ida Sevlund-Haugeberg, was from Norway. When presented with the opportunity to come to Texas and become a part of an American family, Sevlund-Haugeberg jumped at the chance.

"All the love they have for each other and all the small adventures they go on all the time has made me experience more here than I ever thought I would," Sevlund-Haugeberg said.

Housing so many exchange students made Paulson more aware of the different cultures around her. Her new siblings taught her words from their native languages and things that were different in their cultures compared to American ones. Paulson even went to Germany to visit two previous exchange students, Sophie Authried and Jan Stein.

"It has all made me want to experience different cultures and lifestyles of other countries," Paulson said. "I've studied Spanish for four years, and I hope to study it in college and someday study abroad in Spain."

Her family's openness in helping those who needed it was exhibited once again when they adopted a 9-year-old named Cooper from Austin.

"This experience has made me and my family more accepting and welcoming," Paulson said. "It gave us the opportunity to love on people we barely know."