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### buddy up

With her "buddy" at Valley View Elementary on Jan. 27, junior Mariana Casas plays with third-grader Cooper Paulson during lunch. Along with other Teen Teachers, Casas traveled to the school on Wednesdays. "The small things we do with our buddies make a positive impact on their lives," Casas said. "We get to be positive role models for them."

### set in motion

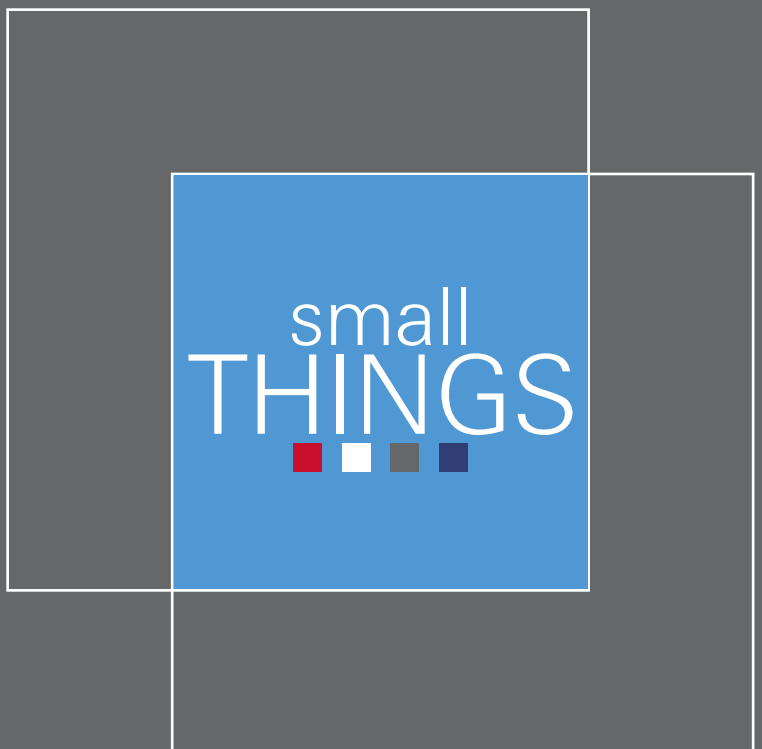
In the courtyard on Oct. 15, senior Jules Shelby and sophomore Victoria Benavides set up toy dinosaurs for a stop-motion film project. The film students used an iPad app that helped them create stop-motion animations. "My favorite thing about film class is getting the opportunity to be creative both individually and as a team," Shelby said.

### charged court

Senior Emily Thurston drives to the basket guarded by Anderson sophomore Mia Spennato on Jan. 12. "I will miss the pre-game dances in the weight room. Before every home game, we'd go through a playlist of songs," Thurston said. "Everyone was laughing and dancing around, loosening up any nerves they had before we started the warmup."

### signing out

Surrounded by his brother freshman Michael Granson, mom Heather Granson, sisters Elizabeth and Eva Skonning and dad and track coach David Granson, senior Kylan Granson signs a National Letter of Intent on Feb. 3, officially committing to play football at Rice University. Granson was one of five players who signed to play college football.



small  
STARTS  
lead to  
BIG  
FINISHES

From sports to academics to everyday life, we found fresh beginnings and new ways to create a place where every **small thing** mattered. Whether it was during early-morning football workouts, kick-routine practices or cross-country runs or last-second pins in wrestling matches, dramatic saves in soccer or net-grazing backhands in mixed doubles, a single moment could be all it took to change the momentum. A balanced approach equaled strength and success in powerlifting, and a quick breath taken between strokes propelled swimmers forward. Even seemingly inconsequential gestures like wearing all white at the Lake Travis playoff basketball game or doing fun handshakes in girls basketball inevitably effected positive outcomes.

**a grand entrance**

As linebacker junior Glynn Beebe bursts through the banner, the rest of the varsity football team prepares to storm the field at the Region 2 Championship game on Dec. 5 at Berry Center in Cypress. Westlake defeated Humble Atascocita 49-28 to advance to the State Semifinals the next week against Allen. "Football has brought me so much closer to the people I play with and has made me learn a lot about myself," Beebe said. "I'll forever remember being a part of a team that went to the State Championship and had the chance to play for a ring."



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small  
BEATS  
lead to  
BIG  
PERFORMANCES

All it took was one instant of inspiration, one click — and everything became more meaningful. Hitting the right notes at the right time during solos at auditions made expectations become realities. One catchy tune transformed into a small reminder of all the lessons learned with peers and teachers. Small pitch changes and facial expressions paved the way to reinforced, compelling arguments that wowed audiences. Casting actors in the perfect light turned the night into something memorable. Attention to the **small things** often led to significant and sometimes surprising results.

**tune in**

During halftime at the game against Bowie on Oct. 4, senior Joseph Williams plays the xylophone. "The best part was being a leader in the percussion section," Williams said. "It was cool to watch the incoming freshmen grow not only as musicians but also as people."

### having a ball

During the *Cinderella* musical dress rehearsal on Feb. 3, seniors Maddie Noteboom, Catherine Kent and Hannah Mosing sing *Stepsisters' Lament*. "My favorite part about *Cinderella* would definitely be getting to bond with so many people," Mosing said. "I will remember all of the emotional ups and downs and how they brought us together as an organization. I will also remember how hard everyone worked to make the show possible and how people reacted to our performances."



Fun, Clubs, Classes

# LIFE

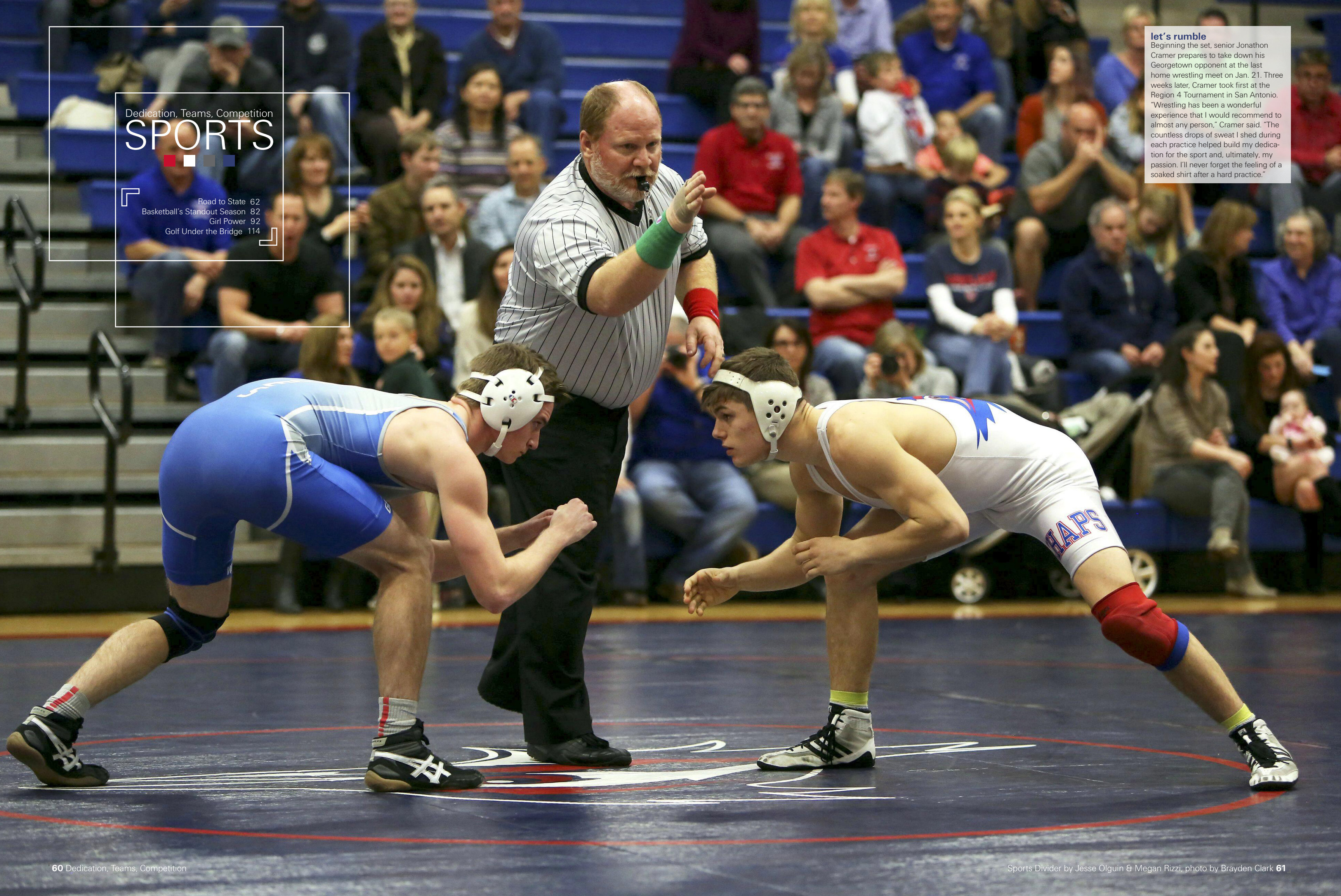


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**let's rumble**  
Beginning the set, senior Jonathon Cramer prepares to take down his Georgetown opponent at the last home wrestling meet on Jan. 21. Three weeks later, Cramer took first at the Region 4 Tournament in San Antonio. "Wrestling has been a wonderful experience that I would recommend to almost any person," Cramer said. "The countless drops of sweat I shed during each practice helped build my dedication for the sport and, ultimately, my passion. I'll never forget the feeling of a soaked shirt after a hard practice."

Dedication, Teams, Competition  
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Faculty, Underclassmen, Seniors

# PEOPLE



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## hat's off

In the middle of the field surrounded by the rest of the senior class and varsity football team, senior Brycen Foreman ends the homecoming pep rally with the traditional throw of the hat on Sept. 16. "My favorite part about the hat dance was being able to go down with all the other seniors and cheer on the football team," senior Tori Ziaja said.

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**TRIBUTES**

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**a night to remember**  
Before the home game against Anderson on Feb. 12, senior guard Jacob Fleschman honors his parents, Sanford Fleschman and Maria Fleschman. Westlake won the game 61-48. "Senior Night was very special, and it meant a lot having my parents there," Fleschman said. "They've been supportive of me my entire basketball career."





brayden clark

small  
STEPS  
lead to  
BIG  
ACHIEVEMENTS



After hundreds of hours in the gym, a sophomore traveled to Salo, Finland, and claimed a gold medal at the Powerlifting World Championship on June 8. With the first touchdown against Southlake Carroll on Aug. 28, the varsity football team began a record-breaking season that would end in Houston's NRG Stadium at the State Championship game on Dec. 19. The varsity boys basketball players fought their way to the Regional Finals for only the second time in school history. In March, Westlake took the lead in the UIL Lone Star Cup standings after a third-straight State Championship in girls swimming and fourth-place overall at the Wrestling State Meet — the team's second-best finish ever. Clearly, focusing on the **small things** paid off with big results on the court, the field and the stage and in the pool and the classroom.

**fresh kicks**

After defeating Allen and advancing to the 6A Division 1 State Championship game, the varsity football team is surprised with a gift from Nike. Nike representatives delivered the one-of-a-kind cleats in a helicopter, Range Rover and a McLaren. Days before the game, the team chose to donate the cleats to a less fortunate team. "Our team felt blessed to receive the [golden cleats]," sophomore Keaton Jones said. "When Nike came to Westlake, we all knew that when we put in the hard work, it pays off."



small  
ACTIONS  
play a  
BIG  
ROLE

In the end, the small things were the beginnings of everything that really mattered. The small gestures were the ones we'd remember forever, sparks that would lead to something that might change the world. Choir and TEC collaborated on getting the glass slipper to fit in the *Cinderella* musical. A French horn player made the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps in Illinois, and 19 students took home Gold Certificates after enduring the National German exam. Three debaters qualified for the National Speech and Debate Association's tournament in Salt Lake City, and *The Featherduster* newsmagazine and *El Paisano* yearbook brought home CSPA Gold Crowns from New York City. At Westlake, we prided ourselves on community service and a sense of unity, whether we were at a sold-out musical or the 22nd annual Battle of the Bands. Starting with and focusing on the **small things** allowed us to grow into something big.

**happily ever after**

Nearing the end of the musical, seniors Taylor Thomas as Cinderella and Patrick Gilligan as Prince Topher climb to the wedding platform as the choir sings a reprise of *There's Music In You*. "Being in a musical like *Cinderella* was something I've never done before, so I'll remember the whole experience, especially the moments I shared with all of my friends," Gilligan said. "It was all kind of new for me."



racic fernandez



jesse olguin

### jump for joy

With defensive lineman senior Thomas Talbert, offensive lineman junior Joe Heironimus, defensive back senior Aidan Lee-Wen and quarterback senior Philip Taaffe, quarterback junior Sam Ehlinger celebrates a comeback victory against Temple on Sept. 4 as photographer Paul Brick shoots post-game. "The most memorable moment of the season was after beating Allen in the semifinal game being able to look around at a bunch of guys that had been working out together for multiple years and know that all our hard work had paid off," Ehlinger said.

small  
THINGS  
are  
BIG  
THINGS

