

# After Hours

Students share their lives after the final bell rings.



photo by Elaine Roberson

Many students recognize junior Jacob Wiley as the tall blonde kid from the Improv shows.

However, joining Improv was kind of coincidental. He was not even aware of auditions until 5 minutes before they were starting.

But, he decided to still try out, not knowing anything about acting or Improv. In a surprising turn of events, he made the cut.

From there on Wiley's school life became quite different. He was already in band, as a member of the drum line, and now he is involved in yet another organization that has mandatory after school practices and two performances a month.

Throw in club meetings and practices on top of hours of homework, and Wiley is left with barely any time for himself.

"I like making people

laugh, so it is worth the busy schedule." Wiley said.

Improv forced him to interact with people that are out of his normal friend group, and even though the members of Improv are all so different they are very close, which is something Wiley is thankful for.

Improv also started his interest in acting. He later joined theater class because he loved being on stage so much.

He participates in band UIL and other small productions put on for the school, such as the murder mystery play performed earlier this year.

"I like performing and embracing other people's personas," Wiley said. "I can be as extreme as I want and it is okay, because I am in charge of the character so I get to make the decisions. I feel comfortable on stage and I am thinking about considering choosing acting as my major in college."

BY Aly Cram

Students at Academy learn relevant, real world skills

# CTE Crew

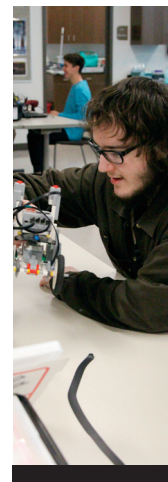


photo by Julia Runne

Since the opening of the Gene A. Buinger Career and Technical Education Academy, or Tech Center, students have had the ability to take classes geared towards future career options. A variety of class options were offered to teach skills beyond the classroom.

"I enjoyed it because I got to take interesting classes like Animation," Arjan Acharya, 11 said. Allowing students to pursue knowledge in actual careers made the classes popular with students.

Even if it was only for an hour a day, students enjoyed being able to take classes tailored to their interests.

"I liked that my Anatomy class was at the Academy. It broke up the day to leave campus," Emmanuel Abrego, 11 said. The center also allowed for students to find new interests.

"I took Engineering Design and Presentation. It was a great chance to see what a career in engineering would be like," John Tompkins, 12 said. At the Academy, students were presented with a diverse array of training.

"My favorite part of being at the Tech Center was not staying confined to one spot, Rennell Bunda, 11 said. "Being able to try new things was valuable."

**DAVID BOWIE** was one of the most influential musicians of the 20th and 21st century. He was active in the music industry for a little over five decades. He was born January 8, 1947 in London, England. He grew up loving music, but his parents did not approve. He developed several stage personas, the most famous being Ziggy Stardust. Some of his most popular songs including

**ALAN RICKMAN** was a famous actor known for his role of Severus Snape in Harry Potter. He was born February 21, 1946. Rickman's interest in art began when he was young. He was in several school plays and attended Chelsea College of Art and Design. While he was most famous for his role in the Harry Potter movies as Severus Snape, Rickman appeared in many other movies during his career including *Love Actually*,

# Stars die out

2015-2016 has seen the death of celebrities

*Space Oddity, Let's Dance, Starman, Under Pressure and Heroes.* He shaped the music of bands including Arcade Fire, U2 and Arctic Monkeys. Many consider him to be the most influential artist ever, right before The Beatles. He died January 10 of liver cancer. He left behind a wife, two children and a musical career that influenced and shaped the world.

*Die Hard, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, and Alice in Wonderland.* Outside of acting, he was involved in charity work to help struggling actors and artists. Rickman passed away from pancreatic cancer January 14, 2016. He died surrounded by his loved ones and left behind a legacy.

# COURT CHARISMA

## Trojans cite teamwork as ticket to success

The Basketball team was exciting to follow. With returning players and some fresh new faces, the team looked sharp throughout the year. The success of the team was due in no small part to the three-year varsity point guard, Jhivvan Jackson, 11. Jackson's leadership and experience helped the team rally around him throughout the season.

"The team looked up to me. They expected me to push them and get the best out of them. That translated to quality play on the court," Jackson said.

Although the team enjoyed success there was adversity along the way. Trying to get younger players adjusted and tough scheduling were obstacles the team overcame. Being in District 7-6A meant they played tough opponents like Richland, Coppel and their rival L.D. Bell. The team weathered the storm and found ways to win despite the obstacles.

"Being 11 points away from first place in District was awful, but being able to play with my brothers and make the playoff was something we wanted all year," Edgar Castillo, 12 said.

Being on a team can be tough but rewarding. Finding chemistry and balance on both sides of the ball is a challenge all teams faced. When each member truly understood the aspects of team play, the unit as a whole succeeded. When everyone finally got on the same page, it became something special.

"Something I took away from the season the putting the team, my family, above myself in everything," Mathis Riley, 10 said.

In the end the team was able to achieve something great. Although not all of the team goals were achieved, they still fought hard to have a good season. As a unit the team was able to overcome their final obstacle, L.D. Bell to earn a playoff birth. This was a bold season to behold.

"There were a lot of up and downs but we overcame adversity and had fun doing it along the way," Brice Mpoi, 12 said. "That is all that mattered in the end."

# HIGH HAIR BOWS

## commitment expands with competitive cheer

With their heads held high and their hair bows higher, Bethany Brackebusch, 10, and Nicole Gonzales, 12 both participate in competitive cheer. These girls have shown their commitment to being on both cheer leading teams by making time in their tight schedules to attend practice and travel for competitions.

"Participating in cheer has taught me discipline, hard work and especially time management since I worked, took AP classes and I had to go to school and competitive cheer practices," Gonzales said.

The similarity between school and competitive cheer was team bonding. However, the difference was that competitive cheer demanding more dedication and skill. Practice was usually four times a week and everyone

was there to show off his or her talent at competitions to win.

"The difference between both cheer teams was the skill level and the desire to want to do it," Brackebusch said.

Being a part of competitive cheer required a great amount of money and talent. Brackebusch and Gonzales cheered for the competitive team called Spirit of Texas, an team that preformed among the best of the best.

"The stunts we did were a lot more dangerous compared to school cheer and being on the teams was pretty costly but it was worth it for college scholarships," Gonzales said.

These girls planned on continuing their cheer careers throughout college. High school and competitive cheer prepared them for their later cheer journeys.