

NEW SPIRIT, OLD RIVALRY



PEP RALLY

FOOTBALL ESD, SEPT. 4

BIG BLUE LUAU In the first pep rally of the year, seniors (far left) prepare for their class cheer, and team captains (center) announce upcoming sports events. Junior Christian McClain (left) attempts to catch students in a game of sharks and minnows.

walking in their shoes

Parents run through their son's school schedule, meet his teachers and experience a taste of campus life Sept. 2.



SNEAK PEEK Eugene McDermott Headmaster David Dini (top) addresses Middle School parents during Middle School Mini School. Fifth grade science teacher Karan Windham (above) introduces parents to the curriculum and style of the course. More than 800 parents attended the evening.

face to face

Students face the nerve-wracking process of writing conferences.

He reached for his water bottle... again.

He repeated the sentence twice. Victor F. White Master Teaching Chair David Brown was in the infamous writing conference with junior Teddy Koudelka.

It might not have been Koudelka's first writing conference with Brown, but this one was as intimidating as any.

Too many thoughts filled Koudelka's mind. He was nervous. Worried. And, anxious.

He already pulled out his paper from his folder. Looked over the Rules for Avoiding Common Mistakes

(RACM) sheet. But he was still nervous.

"My hands get sweaty during the conferences, even though I normally don't have sweaty hands," he said.

After Brown reads through the paper, Koudelka and all other students face a choice.

"He [Brown] writes the grade at the end, and hands back the paper. Some people look at it in the room, but I normally step out and check," Koudelka said.

Koudelka packs up, twists the doorknob, and shuts the door behind him. He then turns the page and hopes for the best.



SHAKING IN HIS BOOTS Paper in hand, junior Teddy Koudelka nervously waits for Victor F. White Master Teaching Chair David Brown to correct his paper. Famous for his 'Rules for Avoiding Common Mistakes List' (RACM), Brown holds writing conferences with each of his students after each one of their papers.

40
CONFERENCES
MAX NUMBER OF WRITING CONFERENCES BROWN HAS PER WEEK



UNITY After school hours, the entire school community gathered for catered burgers, ice cream pops and live music before the Lions football team faced-off against ESD Sept. 4.

A whole new tradition of an all-school celebration led to a huge crowd at kickoff against ESD

As the football team prepared for the ESD game Sept. 4, there was a completely different, yet related, set of preparations around campus.

The first Lion Pride All-School Celebration, sponsored by the Parent's Association, featured music, In and Out burgers and many other activities to get the Lions pumped for the game later that night.

"We were trying to do something fun," Parents' Association President Kathy Mallick said, "something all-community, just to build happiness and just a better, stronger com-

munity base that included all of the St. Mark's community."

Based on a similar event in Greenhill and ESD, Lion Pride is a kickoff event to the school year for the entire community.

"I think it's a great idea for the community to come together," sophomore Walker Mullen said. "This is a really big game, and I think this is the perfect time to have it."

In conjunction with the pep rally, many students agree this new event is perfect for the game.

"I think that about 50 percent of the

Lower School," Mullen said. "Maybe more, and 70 to 80 percent for Middle School and 85 to 95 percent of the Upper School."

As the fans ramp up for the ESD game, high expectations were also laying upon the team.

"It's at home," Mullen said. "It's ESD. And we all know the rivalry between ESD and St. Mark's and it's also just going to be a great time."

And Mallick agrees.

"It really is just to get the community together to start the school year," she said.