



“I think the most important part of academic success is the hours you spend outside of the classroom, whether in clubs, on the field, or with friends, it’s important to be a well-rounded student.” **Page 4**

upcoming THINGS TO DO IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

today

► Blue and Gold Day starts today at 1 p.m. Students will be playing various sports — basketball, kickball, handball and volleyball — on the penultimate day of school.

► The annual faculty-senior softball game will be played at 3:15 p.m. on Ruff Field.

< **Seniors from the class of 2012 hear their names called at last year’s Commencement ceremony The class of 2013’s Commencement will be May 24 at 8 p.m.**



weekend

► The *Marksmen* Ball is tomorrow at 7 p.m. Seniors and their dates will go to Belo Mansion along with their parents to dance the night away. See **page 5** for a look into the Marksmen Ball.

► The last homework assignments of the year will be assigned this weekend as students begin preparing for final exams.

next week

► Monday is the last day of classes for grades nine through 11. Students will then take final exams over the next two weeks before and after Final Assembly May 24.

► Baccalaureate will be held Tuesday. Seniors and immediate family members will gather for the ceremony. The main speakers are senior Will Altabef and Victor White Master Teaching Chair David Brown.

THE newsfeed A QUICK LOOK AT NEWS AROUND CAMPUS

The annual senior and first grade buddy zoo trip will occur Monday, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Senior **Will Altabef’s** mother serves on the Dallas Zoo board and will make special arrangement for the seniors and their buddies. Any senior is able to go, regardless of whether they have a first grade buddy or not.



Dallas Zoo logo

Freshman **Jake Galant** won the 2013 Chinese Bridge Efficiency competition April 6 at the University of Texas at Dallas. Galant read a speech he wrote in Chinese, answered culture-related questions and even told a joke.

Student Council class officers have been elected for the 2013-14 school year in grades nine through 11.

Next year’s Senior Class offi-

cers are president **Harrison Perkins**, representative **Kellam Hall**, vice president **Dean Addy** and secretary **Kellam Hall**.

Junior Class officers are president **William Sydney**, representative **Jack Gordon**, vice president **Walter Johnson** and secretary **Corson Purnell**.

Sophomore Class officers are president **J.T. Graess**, representative **Brent Weisberg**, vice president **William Caldwell** and secretary **Eugene Song**.

Freshman Class officers will be president **Corday Cruz**, representative **Andrew Lin**, vice president **Shailen Parmar** and secretary **Vikrant Reddy**.

The National Spanish Honor Society inducted 28 new members May 1 in a ceremony held after school. Students who are in at least tenth grade, enrolled in advanced Spanish A-H or higher and have showed a respect and enthusiasm for Spanish meet the requirements for the society.

The new members of the society include juniors **Nick Brodsky**, **Connor Gregory**, **Charlie Marshall**, **Ryan O’Meara**, **Max Wolens** and **Vincent Xia**.

Sophomore inductees are **Matthew Conley**, **Forest Cummings-Taylor**, **Kunal Dixit**, **Cyrus Ganji**, **Burke Garza**, **Raymond Guo**, **Nick Jelsma**, **Will Jelsma**, **Rishi Kshatriya**, **Carrington Kyle**, **Shourya Kumar**, **Stuart Montgomery**, **Nathan Ondracek**, **Aakash Pattabi**, **Vikram Pattabi**, **Corson Purnell**, **Eric Rawot**, **Mason Smith**, **William Su**, **William Sydney**, **Ben Wilner** and **Michael Windlinger**.

This year 9,250 lbs. of donated clothing were collected during the Lower School’s annual **Goodwill Drive**, which took place the week before spring break. The weight of donations is a substantial increase from last year’s total of 6,270 lbs. The students celebrated the large total with an out-of-uniform day and popsicles during recess on May 10.



Lower schoolers who worked on the Goodwill Drive

small talk COMMENTS MADE BY FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS AROUND CAMPUS

► ‘Seriously, Mrs. Marmion, call Kenny Loggins because we’re in the danger zone.’

— Senior **Will Moor** during a fire drill

► ‘Don’t worry, coach, I’ll play like the little princess I am.’

— Sophomore **Carrington Kyle** before a baseball game against ESD

► ‘Remember when I talked about those leprechauns behind the board? Yeah, they’re the ones who tell me what to do.’

— Doc Nelson Master Teacher **Jon Valasek** to his sophomore chemistry class

► ‘This coffee mug could have won the election against Hubert Humphrey in 1968.’

— History instructor **Bill Marmion** to his AP U.S. history class

startingout | OPINION



Lessons learned on Mother’s Day

Mother’s Day was last Sunday, and I truly hope that is not new news to you.

If it is and you forgot Mother’s Day, go buy some chocolate and write a card for your mom thanking her for not guilting you about missing the most important day of the year.

You’ll still be missing out though, because Mother’s Day isn’t about buying chocolate, cards and a nice dinner for your mom. (That doesn’t mean you don’t have to do all three. You should, really!)

It’s about family, appreciation — and time well spent. The day I learned that was May 11, 2003 — the day Rafael Palmeiro hit his 500th homerun.

My parents have been divorced since I was two. I’m lucky in that they have a great relationship and are great parents. It’s how things have always been, and quite frankly, it’s nice to have multiple households to celebrate holidays in.

Still, I realize I have missed out on traditional family outings, and perhaps that is why I view this one so dearly.

On that hot Sunday morning when I was seven, I was playing catch with my dad. Before he walked me down the street to my mom’s house, he asked me what I was planning for Mother’s Day.

“Um... I’ll draw her a card!”

He reminded me that Rafael Palmeiro— one of the Texas Rangers’s great players at the time— had 499 career homeruns. The Rangers were playing a bad Indians team at 2 that afternoon. We could see history. I had to go.

As it was Mother’s Day, I had to go with my mom. But, my dad and I were the ones who loved baseball. I had to go with my dad.

Turns out I went with both that Mother’s Day. It was history.

We all got into a car to drive to Arlington, and I can honestly say in my 17 years of life I have no other memory of us all in the same car. But it was Mother’s Day.

We sat like families sit at baseball games. Dad, son, mom. Three in a row. Because it was Mother’s Day.

When Palmeiro didn’t hit his 500th homer in his first at bat, it was okay. When he didn’t hit it on his second, I found it silly that my mom kept on saying, “He’s going to get it today. I can feel it.” But, it was Mother’s Day— maybe there was something to it.

When Palmeiro came up to bat in the seventh inning, the stadium was filled with electricity. Everyone got to his feet. We were all waiting.

Then, without a word as to why, my mom ran up the aisle and towards the souvenir shop.

That’s when it happened.

Palmeiro took a pitch and promptly sent it soaring 350 feet over the right field fence.

Everyone went wild. Music was blaring. I jumped for joy into my dad’s arms as the token Rangers fireworks shot a mile into the sky above us.

Then my mom came back with a small box.

I opened it carefully to see a nondescript baseball. The excitement was lost on me. She had missed the big moment for this?

Then I saw the blue ink. There it was. Rafael Palmeiro’s signature graced the rough, taut leather in my hands. The man seemed like a god to me at the time, and here I was holding his signature after witnessing the high point in his career.

On a day about my mom, she had put me first. She missed his record-breaking home run for me. On Mother’s Day. She chose to give father and son that special bonding time that afternoon.

Yes, she *had* known.

And, without saying a word, she gave that seven-year-old boy a wonderful gift.

Many of us can probably run faster than our moms. Maybe we can do more math, know more physics or can recite Shakespearean sonnets to them.

But with Mother’s Day in our rearview mirror, we shouldn’t forget one overused, stale and true cliché. It’s something I learned when my mom put me first on her day.

I remember it every time I look at that autographed baseball that I keep by my bed.

Moms *really* do know best.