

Abi Andrez, Staff Reporter

Assumptions on Ethnicity

EDITORIAL

Ever since I can remember, people have always assumed that I was Mexican-American when in reality I am Guatemalan-American. There has always been this assumption that if you speak Spanish or look Hispanic, your background has to do with Mexico. Without a doubt, Mexican culture is the dominant Hispanic culture in the United States. People make other assumptions too, like thinking that every Asian person is Chinese. Assuming one's ethnicity can be harmful because it isolates one group's identity rather than recognizing the different cultures involved. These assumptions can make our heritage feel completely unacknowledged in communities, among peers, and in schools. While Guatemalan culture is somewhat similar to Mexican culture, our language is different. In Guatemala, we speak in a way that causes people to think we don't speak "normal" Spanish. Using Guatemalan words can be met with confusion or teasing. We use words like patojo instead of using chico (boy) or pisto instead of dinero (money). In my case, being Guatemalan-American means trying to blend in to avoid being teased, excluded, or being labeled as an outsider. I have heard my peers talking in Mexican slang just to try and fit in, using words like güey (dude), chido (cool), or no mames (no way). The way I see it is just them being afraid of being excluded or unseen in their friend groups. I have also heard other Non-Mexicans change their natural accents that we inherit from our families. I strongly believe that all these assumptions in our Latino community can be harmful to Non-Mexicans. When we act like every Latino is the same, we ignore the unique cultures of other countries. We need to respect everyone's background to be united as one.



Junior Abi Andrez, Staff Reporter

Photo credit: Bryan Valtierra, Staff Photographer



Photo credit: Madelynn Smith, Chronoscope Photographer

Story by Angel Diaz, Staff Reporter

Despite loss HoCo 2026 was a hit

On Friday, September 25, T.F. North's football team played Shepard High school. Before the game started, Mr. Rucinski, the principal of T.F. North, hosted a tailgate cookout near the tennis courts. The cookout included hot dogs and burgers, and many students showed up who filled out the form that was sent to students' emails. "It was really fun, and it brought school spirit up and we should do it more," said senior Ariyanna Mckissack. After the tailgate at 4:30 pm, the junior varsity team began their game. Sophomores Orion Bloomfield, Darius Jackson, and Amari Gibbson all scored touchdowns. JV finished the game with a 21-0 victory over Shepard. The varsity's game started at 6:10 pm. Senior kicker Max Montesinos made a 26-yard field goal during the first quarter of the game for the Meteors' only points of the first half. During the game, T.F. North fought hard but was down 14-3 after two quarters. At halftime, students watched a performance featuring the marching band, cheer team, and dance team. This performance brought the Meteors' spirits up and encouraged the players to keep

trying their hardest and to stay strong and not give up on each other. "The football team played well and had a fantastic game against Shepard, and the band team did a good job playing at tonight's halftime performance," said freshman marching band member Leonardo Agustin. The marching band and color guard both performed a medley of Michael Jackson's songs at the halftime show. Shortly after the band performed, the dance team performed to "Tempo" by Chris Brown, "Body" by Summer Walker, and "Time 2 Go" by Snappyjit. The cheerleaders performed not only at the halftime show, but all throughout the game to encourage the players to do their very best, even when the odds didn't seem in their favor. Unfortunately the varsity team lost 31-6. Despite the varsity loss, the night brought students together through the tailgate, the JV victory, and halftime performances. "I really enjoyed the tailgate. I believe it was a good way to bring students together and energize everyone for tonight's game," said senior Kiana Washington the assistant Editor-in-Chief of the yearbook.

USHLI Impacts Many

Learn more about the President of the USHLI's visit to TFN.

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New Faculty Members

Find out more about the new teachers at T.F. North.

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Game Changers

Check out the Game Changers mentor program for TFN athletes.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor can be sent to our social media handles or thorntonian@tfd215.org.

I really like the newspaper because it has so many topics about actual interesting things about the school so you can be updated. I specifically enjoy the Guest Playlist because everyone can collectively listen to the music that makes this heritage so unique and special.
Delilah Burns

I honestly love how the newspaper includes a Guest Playlist and adds the suggestions of students and teachers as well. It honestly inspires me to listen to the songs that are being suggested because they sound interesting or I have already listed to them and have forgotten about them which makes me want to go back and listen to the songs. The songs that were suggested for the Hispanic Heritage Month Playlist are really good songs that I have already listened to, so I think that the people that suggested them have really good music taste, and I will for sure be listening to every single song on there to get into the Hispanic Heritage Month spirit.
Evelyn Gomez

I really enjoyed the Senior Stresses since it helped me see the stress seniors have to go through to be ready for the new chapter of life. Honestly it also can make me prepared for what I have to do when I'm a senior. But in the end this changed the perspective that many students have, like all senior year is free and fun and you don't have to work as hard since you're about to graduate. In the end this part of the school newspaper can really inform others about what they're gonna have to do when they become a senior. Also thanks for putting me in the paper.
Julian Hernandez

I liked the Guatemalan caldo de quelite recipe by Abi Andrez. I liked this part of the school newspaper because it can help educate non-Hispanics on what the normal cuisine is like for a Hispanic [person]. Another reason why I liked this part of the newspaper is because I like to cook when I can, and this recipe helps by providing simple instructions and ingredients.
Alexander Valdez

Important Dates

- 10/1 FASFA
- 10/6 SHS Applications Due
- 10/12 Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 10/13 End of Quarter 1
- 10/21 Boo Night
- 10/31 Halloween



Congratulations
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HoCo '26 Royal Court



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Established in 1925, the Thorntonian is produced by the Advanced Journalism students of T.F. North High School. It seeks to provide an open forum for all members of the District 215 community. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of District 215 unless otherwise noted.

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**See Mr. Stephan in room 142
for more information.**

Story and photo by
Brianna Santa Cruz, Staff Reporter

USHLI Makes an Impact

For many students, graduating high school can feel like the finish line. For Dr. Juan Andrade, Jr., however, education represents something much bigger: opportunity, perseverance and the ability to build a future beyond the circumstances you were born into. Growing up in a poor family, Dr. Juan Andrade learned how much a person’s circumstances can affect the choices they have in life. During a recent visit to Thornton Fractional North High School, Andrade used his experiences to encourage young people to stay in school, pursue their education and create opportunities for themselves. Andrade, the president of the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute in Chicago, recently spoke to students at Thornton Fractional North during 4th period on Monday, September 21st. Along with Ms. Medina, students gathered in the auditorium to hear him speak about education, leadership and finding their purpose. His visit focused on encouraging students to stay in school, recognize their talents and take control of their futures. His organization works with young people and communities across the country and has reached approximately 1.2 million young people, according to Andrade. Andrade said his motivation began during his childhood, when he would listen to his parents, aunts and uncles talk about their struggles. His family worked as farm workers, and he recalled that when he graduated from high school, he and his mother had a combined income of about \$2,000. Those experiences shaped his belief that people should have control over their futures. “People need a choice in life,” Andrade said. “They need to be able to control their circumstances.” During his presentation, Andrade encouraged students to stay in school and work toward their goals. He emphasized that education can provide opportunities and urged students to recognize their talents and use them to help others. “Don’t let life choose what you are or who you are,” Andrade said. “You decide that.” For Andrade, his message comes from personal experience. After spending years developing his own leadership skills, he has dedicated decades to helping young people become leaders in their communities. His message to students was simple: stay in school, discover your purpose and take control of your future.



Story by Naleny Rosales, Staff Reporter

Hispanic Hertitage Month Art Showcase

T.F. North is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with an art showcase that highlights the creativity and talent of its student artists. Ms. Matlock explained that the main goal is to celebrate Hispanic heritage while giving students an opportunity to share their art with the school community. This year’s theme is “Unidos somos más,” meaning “Together We Are More.” Students can

follow this theme or create artwork inspired by Hispanic heritage, including personal stories or historical events. Ms. Weber is also helping organize the showcase. Artwork will be displayed at the Hispanic Heritage Month Assembly and on TVs throughout the school. Entries are due October 2nd and should be submitted to Matlock in room 171 or Weber in room 175B.

Story by Camilia Winburn, Staff Reporter

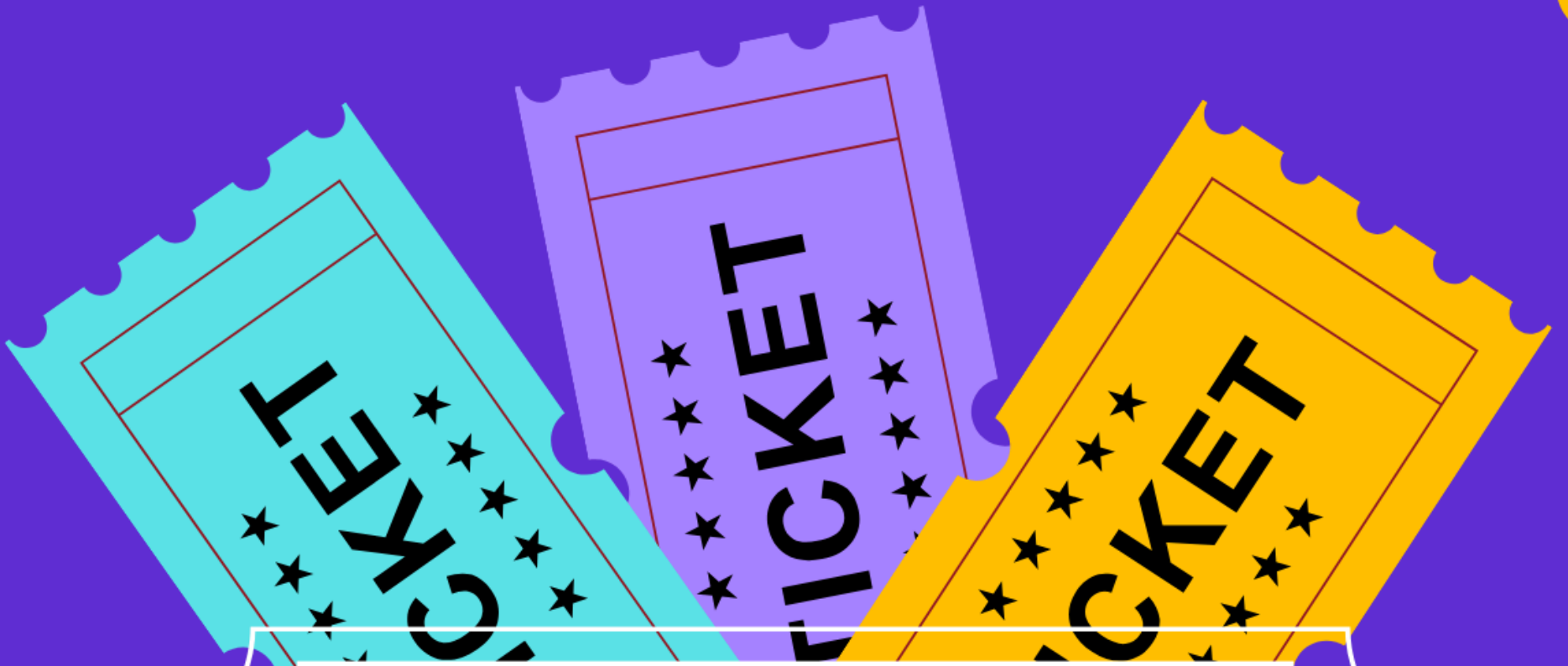
Meteors don’t sleep on PJ Day

Pajama Day is usually a popular and fun day at T.F. North when students wear their pajamas all day. This is usually done during the spirit week of Homecoming. This year, it was celebrated on September 22, 2026. Some students love pajama day because it makes them feel more comfortable and relaxed compared to their normal clothes. “I love Pajama Day because when I sleep in class, I feel more comfortable doing it in my PJs compared to my normal clothes. I participated because I feel like the school needed my energy and my aura,” said junior Jonah Law. Other students also agree with Law, liking Pajama Day for similar reasons. “I find school very stressful, and I’m a very relaxed person. So today is the only day where I can do my school work while feeling

relaxed. I wanted to support the Student Council and show my school spirit!” said junior Rachael Iyodo. Along with this, junior Peace Agwu also explained why she loved Pajama Day. “I love Pajama Day because it allows me to wear comfortable clothes without feeling like the odd one out.” While some students wanted to participate due to comfort, others participated because they wanted something easy and simple to put together. When Agwu was asked why she participated in the annual spirit day, she said, “I feel like it is an easy outfit to put together...plus it’s fun!” Junior Giovanni Dominiguez gave a similar response as to why he liked Pajama Day. “It gives me an excuse not to change. I [only] participated because my friends told me to.”



TF NORTH HWC PRESENTS



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WANT TO WIN SNACKS?

1. ATTEND HOMEWORK CENTER AND SIGN IN
2. YOUR ATTENDANCE=ENTRY INTO A RAFFLE
3. LISTEN TO THE FRIDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS TO SEE IF YOU'RE A WINNER 😊

Story by
Bryan Valtierra, Staff Reporter

TFN’s newest faculty members

T.F. North continues to welcome new teachers to the school community. Among the professionals joining us are Ms. Sotelo, Ms. Olive, and Ms. Yucuis, who bring their own experiences, interests, and perspectives to the classroom.

Ms. Sotelo is a Spanish teacher and a former T.F. North student. This is her third year teaching. Her own teachers growing up inspired her to become an educator. She is looking forward to getting to know her students and helping them learn a new language. Outside of school, Ms. Sotelo enjoys baking and lived in Mexico for four years.

Ms. Olive is in her sixth year of teaching and her second year at North. She teaches Biology and Economics and is also in her fourth year as an assistant coach for the girls basketball team. Before becoming a teacher, she worked as a paraprofessional for seven years. That experience inspired her to become a teacher and advocate for students. She also played Division I basketball and later played professionally overseas.

Ms. Yucuis teaches Painting and Sculpture at T.F. North and Art Fundamentals at T.F. South. She has a background and degree in public policy and became interested in helping students explore important issues through art. She wants students to understand how art can bring awareness to issues that affect people and their communities. She is looking forward to building connections with students. Outside of school, Ms. Yucuis enjoys indoor rock climbing and watching anime. Her advice to students is to communicate with their teachers when they need help, extra time, or support.



Story By Sherar Casimiro, Staff Reporter

A Hallway out of a fairytale

Walking in the hallway you may have noticed the extravagant decorations put up by the Royal Courts for Homecoming. There were four Royal courts this year and all the decorations were so creative. The four courts for this year's homecoming were Duel Royale, The Enchanted 4, JJam and The Three D's. You could find their decorations in the purple gym hallway, the dark hallway and the history hallway all downstairs. It's important to appreciate the time and care that was put into making the hallways in our school pop. It's a breath of fresh air to see how the different courts decorated their hallway showcasing personalities and creativity. It was also very nice to see the dedication and pride put into making the hallways look nice and organized. Hopefully these enchanted hallways convinced many people to vote, and helped everyone have a wonderful time at Homecoming.



Story by
Dakota Combs, Staff Reporter

Is homework Important?

Homework? Why is it important? What value does it have from the perspective of students and teachers? Recently, many students from around the school have stated that having homework takes away time from outside activities such as jobs, sports, and any kind of fun outside of those categories. Even though it's the start of the year, the students believe that they're being overworked, especially students who are in extracurricular activities. Think about excelling in all classes, then going to practice from either 3-6 pm or 6-9 pm, and afterward being extremely tired, just to realize 3 assignments are due that night by 12 am. It becomes exhausting to have something to do after school all the time. Some students believe homework is important because it gives them much-needed practice after 45 minutes of class, while others believe it is too much. However, teachers in the school reckon that homework is certainly important because it reinforces the lessons taught in class. Homework gives the teacher an idea of who understands what, prepares students for future quizzes and tests, and aids students in mastering important skills such as time management, responsibility, and problem solving. Another important point is meaningful conversations: when teachers assign homework that involves reading an article or text, when a student reads it, it gives the teacher a chance to explain or talk about the details in the story to elaborate on what it means to the whole class. Even writing drafts for an essay triggers creativity and self reflection, which is a skill that is necessary for anyone's future. Most high school teachers believe in homework because it coincides with classwork to work independently at home and collaboratively in class. Think about it with a few quotes from some of our favorite teachers: "We really try not to overwhelm you with work that is not meaningful at home," said Mrs. Isberg. "The purpose of homework is practice, to solidify whatever skills or content that we discuss in class," said Mr. Martin. "When you play basketball, you have to practice it to increase your skills. The first time you go to the free throw line, you miss, but you practice to increase the muscle memory so you can make every free throw. With homework, we're doing the same thing; you have to practice it to attain that skill," said Ms. McCraw

Story by
Karen Erandeny Gutiérrez, Jefa de redacción

Who is your Cami?



Photo credit: Karen Erandeny Gutiérrez, Jefa de redaccion

Now that Hispanic Heritage Month has begun, I cannot help but think about the people who are far away from us but who will always remain close to our hearts. There are some people we can go months or even years without seeing, but when we finally talk or see each other again, it feels as if no time has passed at all. They are the people who make hours feel like minutes and make us wish we had more time together. Even when life takes us to different places, the memories we share with those people stay with us wherever we go. For me, that person is my best friend, Camila Nataly. She is in Aguascalientes, Mexico, the place where I grew up and where many of my most important memories began. Camila was there for me throughout my middle school years. She was the person who supported me when things were not easy, the person who celebrated with me during the happy moments, and the person who stayed by my side during the difficult ones. We shared so many memories together, from laughing over the smallest things to getting into trouble and doing things we probably should not have done. We shared secrets, problems, jokes, and countless crazy moments that I will never forget. At the time

I never imagined that one day I would be more than a thousand miles away from her. Being so far away from someone you love is not always easy. Sometimes I wish I could go back to those days when seeing her was normal and we could spend time together without thinking about how far apart we would eventually be. I miss the simple moments, the conversations, the laughter, and even the little things that I did not realize I would miss so much. Distance can make you appreciate someone in a completely different way because it reminds you how special their presence was in your everyday life. However, I have also learned that being far away from someone does not mean that you stop loving them or forget them. Some friendships remain strong even when the distance grows and the years pass. I know that when Camila and I see each other again, it will feel like we were never apart. This Hispanic Heritage Month, I want to remember not only where I come from, but also the people who helped make that place feel like home. So I ask you: Do you have someone who is far away, but when you see them again, it will feel like you were never separated? Who is your "Cami"?

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2026-2027 Theme
"What a Veteran Taught Me About America"

Student Entry Deadline: Oct. 31, 2026
Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

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See Mr. Weber for more information.



Mini Meteors Preschool



Ages:
3-5 years old



Cost:
\$75



Date:
November 10, 2026 -
May 6, 2027



Time:
Tuesday & Thursday:
10:40 AM - 12:15PM
Wednesday: 10:05AM- 11:15AM



Only 10 spots available
(first come, first serve)



Thornton Fractional
North High School

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information:**



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GUEST PLAYLISTS

Curated by
Karen Gutiérrez

Hispanic Heritage Month is here, so let’s celebrate the music, culture, and traditions that make our community unique.

Do you have a song you would like to add to our next Hispanic Heritage Month playlist? Email your suggestions for our next playlist to thorntonian@tfd215.org. Be sure to use your school email address and include your first and last names and your grade. Only school-appropriate suggestions will be accepted. Please limit your suggestions to 5 songs per playlist. The deadline for submissions is 3:30 pm on October 9th.

Mr. Perez’s Pick:

“Y Las Mariposas”
by Joan Sebastian

Ms. Alba’s Pick:

“I Wish You Roses ”
by Kail Uschis

00:00

04:10

Alycya Morrow’s Picks:

“Esta Danada ”
by Ivan Cornejo

“Geovera”
by Peso Pluma

“Crazyz”
by Fuerza Regida

00:00

04:10

Paula Jacome’s Picks:

“ Tiroteo ”
by Rauw Alejandro

“Zion y Lennox”
by “Zion y Lennox”

“Soñe”
by Zoe

00:00

04:10

Rogelio Munoz Picks:

“K”
by Eslabon Armado

“Sube Al Carro”
by Eslabon Armado

“La Mejor de Todas”
by Eslabon Armado

00:00

04:10

Kamren Jarrett picks:

“Risk It All”
by Bruno Mars

“1004km”
by Junior H

“Y Lloro”
by Junior H

00:00

04:10

Historia de
Karen Gutiérrez, Jefa de redacción

¿Quién es tu Cami?

Ahora que ha comenzado el mes de la Herencia Hispana, no puedo evitar pensar en esas personas que están lejos, pero que, a pesar de la distancia, siempre llevamos cerca del corazón. Hay personas con las que pueden pasar meses o incluso años sin verse, pero cuando finalmente vuelven a hablar o se encuentran, parece que el tiempo nunca pasó. Son esas personas con las que las horas se sienten como minutos y con las que nunca parece ser suficiente el tiempo que compartimos. Para mí, esa persona es mi mejor amiga, Camila Nataly. Ella está en Aguascalientes, México, el lugar donde crecí y donde guardo muchos de mis recuerdos más importantes. Camila estuvo conmigo durante mis años de secundaria. Fue la persona que me apoyó cuando las cosas no eran fáciles, la que estuvo presente en mis momentos felices y también en los momentos difíciles. Con ella hice muchas de mis travesuras, compartí risas, secretos, problemas y muchísimas locuras. En esos momentos nunca pensé que algún día estaría tan lejos de ella. Ahora estamos a más de mil millas de distancia, y aunque me gustaría poder verla cada día como antes, solo puedo aferrarme a todos los recuerdos bonitos que construimos juntas. A veces la distancia duele porque uno quisiera poder regresar a esos días en los que verla era algo normal. Sin embargo, también he aprendido que estar lejos de alguien no significa dejar de quererlo ni olvidarlo. Hay amistades que permanecen fuertes aunque cambien los lugares y pasen los años. Por eso, durante este mes de la Herencia Hispana, también quiero recordar a las personas que dejamos atrás cuando nuestras familias y nuestras vidas cambian de lugar. Ahora les pregunto a ustedes: ¿tienen a alguien que esté lejos, pero que cuando lo vuelvan a ver será como si nunca se hubieran separado? ¿Quién es su "Cami"?



Exposición de arte del Mes de la Herencia Hispana

T.F. North celebra el Mes de la Herencia Hispana con una exposición de arte que destaca la creatividad y el talento de sus estudiantes artistas. La Sra. Matlock explicó que el objetivo principal es celebrar la herencia hispana y, al mismo tiempo, brindar a los estudiantes la oportunidad de compartir sus obras con la comunidad escolar. El lema de este año es "Unidos somos más". Los estudiantes pueden seguir este tema o crear obras inspiradas en la

Historia de
Abi Andrez, Staff Reporter

Suposiciones sobre el origen étnico

Editorial

Desde que tengo uso de razón, la gente siempre ha asumido que soy Mexicana-Estadounidense, cuando en realidad soy Guatemalteca-Estadounidense. Siempre ha existido la suposición de que, si hablas español o tienes rasgos hispanos, tus raíces están ligadas a México. Sin duda, la cultura mexicana es la cultura hispana predominante en los Estados Unidos. La gente también hace otras suposiciones, como pensar que toda persona Asiática es de China. Asumir la etnia de alguien puede ser perjudicial, ya que aísla la identidad de un grupo en lugar de reconocer las diversas culturas que existen. Estas suposiciones pueden hacer que sintamos que nuestra herencia no es reconocida en nuestras comunidades, entre nuestros compañeros, o en las escuelas. Aunque la cultura guatemalteca guarda cierta similitud con la mexicana, nuestro idioma es diferente. En Guatemala hablamos de una manera que lleva a la gente a pensar que no hablamos un español "normal". El uso de palabras guatemaltecas puede provocar confusión o burlas; por ejemplo, usamos términos como patojo en lugar de chico o pisto en vez de dinero. En mi caso, ser guatemalteco-estadounidense implica tratar de encajar para evitar burlas, la exclusión o ser etiquetado como un extraño. He escuchado a mis compañeros usar el modismo mexicano solo para encajar, empleando palabras como güey, chido o no mames. A mi parecer, esto se debe simplemente al miedo a ser excluidos o a pasar desapercibidos dentro de sus grupos de amigos. También he visto a otras personas no mexicanas modificar el acento natural que heredamos de nuestras familias. Estoy firmemente convencido de que todas estas suposiciones dentro de nuestra comunidad latina pueden resultar perjudiciales para quienes no son mexicanos. Cuando actuamos como si todos los latinos fuéramos iguales, ignoramos las culturas únicas de otros países. Debemos respetar los orígenes de cada persona para permanecer unidos.



herencia hispana, incluyendo historias personales o acontecimientos históricos. La Sra. Weber también colabora en la organización y el apoyo de la exposición. Las obras se exhibirán durante la asamblea del Mes de la Herencia Hispana y en las pantallas de televisión distribuidas por toda la escuela. La fecha límite para la entrega de los trabajos es el 2 de octubre; deben entregarse a la Sra. Matlock en el aula 171 o a la Sra. Weber en el aula 175B.

Historia de
Brianna Santa Cruz, reportera

USHLI Genera un impacto

Para muchos estudiantes, graduarse de la escuela secundaria puede parecer la meta final. Sin embargo, para el Dr. Juan Andrade, Jr., la educación representa algo mucho mayor: oportunidades, perseverancia y la capacidad de construir un futuro más allá de las circunstancias en las que uno nació. Al crecer en una familia de escasos recursos, el Dr. Juan Andrade aprendió cuánto pueden influir las circunstancias de una persona en las decisiones que toma en la vida. Durante una visita reciente a la escuela secundaria Thornton Fractional North, Andrade compartió sus experiencias para animar a los jóvenes a continuar sus estudios, formarse académicamente y crear sus propias oportunidades. Andrade, presidente del Instituto de Liderazgo Hispano de los Estados Unidos (United States Hispanic Leadership Institute) con sede en Chicago, habló ante los estudiantes de Thornton Fractional North el lunes 21 de septiembre, durante el cuarto periodo de clases. Acompañados por la Sra. Medina, los alumnos se reunieron en el auditorio para escucharle hablar sobre educación, liderazgo y la búsqueda de un propósito vital. Su visita se centró en motivar a los estudiantes a seguir estudiando, reconocer sus talentos y tomar las riendas de su futuro. Su organización trabaja con jóvenes y comunidades de todo el país y ha llegado a aproximadamente 1,2 millones de jóvenes, según indicó Andrade. Andrade comentó que su motivación surgió en la infancia, al escuchar a sus padres y tíos hablar sobre las dificultades que enfrentaban. Su familia trabajaba en el campo, y él recordaba que, cuando se graduó de la secundaria, los ingresos conjuntos de su madre y los suyos apenas sumaban unos 2.000 dólares. Esas experiencias forjaron su convicción de que las personas deben tener control sobre su propio futuro. "La gente necesita tener opciones en la vida", afirmó Andrade. "Necesitan poder controlar sus circunstancias". Durante su presentación, Andrade animó a los estudiantes a seguir estudiando y a trabajar para alcanzar sus metas. Destacó que la educación puede brindar oportunidades e instó a los alumnos a reconocer sus talentos y utilizarlos para ayudar a los demás. "No dejes que la vida elija qué eres o quién eres", dijo Andrade. "Eso lo decides tú". Para Andrade, este mensaje nace de su propia experiencia. Tras años desarrollando sus propias habilidades de liderazgo, ha dedicado décadas a ayudar a los jóvenes a convertirse en líderes dentro de sus comunidades. Su mensaje para los estudiantes fue sencillo: sigan estudiando, descubran su propósito y tomen el control de su futuro.





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Story by Idris Adewale
and Kordae Crawford, Staff Reporters

Meteor Mentor Program

Game Changers is a mentoring program that helps build stronger connections between staff members and student-athletes. Ms. Gillespie started the program last year with the football team to create a stronger sense of community. After Gillespie moved to a dean position at T.F. South, the program continued at T.F. North with Ms. Kaufman, Ms. Iceberg, Ms. Rising, and her former co-teacher, Mr. Russo. Currently, about 45 staff members mentor around 50 varsity football players. Mentors meet with their athletes about once a week to check in, talk, and build a positive relationship. Moving forward, Game Changers plans to expand beyond football to include more sports and activities. The coordinators will meet with coaches and sponsors after football season to discuss the expansion. Mr. Evancho also suggested group events, such as a halftime event, to bring mentors and athletes together and increase awareness of the program. “I feel like that’s a good program for us to keep going on the field. Mr. Rucinski treated me good. I feel good. We have good conversations. He gives me certain items, and it gives me motivation to play. I look forward to doing Game Changers. It’s making me better day by day,” said senior Tremarion Conway. Senior Maurice Walker, when asked what he thought about the program, gave his input. “My mentor is Ms. Green. I think the program is amazing and really gives a great opportunity for students and teachers to connect, myself I really like having Ms Green as my current mentor. I think the only ‘improvement’ I could ask for is that this expands for more than just football, for example Basketball is a huge pride for T.F. North as well, wrestling is starting to grow popularity, Track has definitely been growing,” said Walker.

Story by Na’Yanna Green, Assistant Editor-in-Chief & Alexa Baker, Editor-in-Chief

Seniors Sweep Juniors

T.F. North’s annual Powderpuff game took place on Wednesday, September 23 during 7th hour. There were two referees for the game: Mr. Twietmeyer and Mr. Faron. The coaches for the senior team were Kordae Crawford, Jermaine Henley, Osvaldo Roa, and Lavincent Smith. The coaches for the junior team were Jason Sharp, Isaiah Baker, Aidan Willingham, and Royal McClinton. The game started with a turnover on downs by the senior team, and junior Alexandra Saenz throwing the ball to junior Kamariyah McClinton, who caught it for 25 yards and scored a touchdown on the following possession. “When she caught the ball and we scored, it was one of the best moments of my life,” said McClinton. The score was 7-0. It was the only lead the juniors had. On the next possession, senior Alysya Morrow caught a 7-yard touchdown pass from senior Antanise Williams. The score was 7-7. When the juniors got the ball back, they turned it over on downs. Then, when the seniors got the ball back, they scored on a 15-yard touchdown pass from Williams to Taniah Sanders to take the lead 14-7. “They were all separated, saying they were gonna

win, and [they] had no chemistry. I made sure everyone was communicating and knew their place. You have to talk to each other on the field,” said Sanders. On the next play, Jaraya O’Quinn scored a 25-yard sweep with 8 minutes left to play. The score was then tied 14-14. On their last possession of the game, Williams scored a 25-yard quarterback keeper for the seniors to win the game. “It felt amazing to beat the juniors, especially because most people were doubting the seniors. I played as quarterback, throwing a passing touchdown and even made a touchdown myself. I think we won because we never gave up, and didn’t get frustrated with each other. We worked together as a team and had some fun,” said Williams. Despite losing the game, the junior team’s quarterback had a positive attitude. “It was really fun and energetic. No matter if we won or lost, it was still a really good time. My favorite part about the game was getting touchdowns and passing to my teammates then celebrating, it was overall a lot of fun because I got to do it with all my best friends,” said Saenz.

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Oct. 16th



Kordae Crawford and Ms. Matlock