

Ruby Garcia, Editor-in-Chief

## How do you celebrate Hispanic heritage?

Editorial

Hispanic Heritage Month is between September 15 and October 15. It is a time when we celebrate the culture, history, and achievements of Hispanic people. At TFN we celebrate in many ways. Have you ever wondered how other people celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month? Some people celebrate it by going to parades, festivals or with food! "The Sunday before Hispanic Heritage Month starts my family usually gets together and we each bring a type of food and have a cookout. We do that because it's like a tradition," said Jonathan Garcia. "We usually go to this parade in a little village...My family has been going there for a while now...afterward we usually go to the nearest restaurant and eat as a family," said Melissa Gallardo. "I often go to the celebrations hosted for Hispanic Heritage Month. I also like to express this month by the way of my outfits," said Jasmine Reyes. "I like to celebrate it by listening to music and also dancing to it, too," added Kimberly Hernandez. "Usually at my job we do celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. We bring different types of music to the restaurant that I work at," said Yareli Barcenas. "I don't really do much for Hispanic Heritage Month outside of school but in school I participate in my Spanish class with Ms. Ramos like going to the museum where we learn about culture," said Yulissa Villarreal.



Senior Ruby Garcia is the Editor-in-Chief of the Thorntonian and the Art Director of the Chronoscope. Photo credit: Chiante' Ridley, Chronoscope Staff



Sophomores Valeria Meraz and Evelin Ulloa take a break from calling cards. Photo credit: Mia Romo

Mia Romo

## Loteria night was a success

### Ms. DeSoto sponsors new Hispanic Heritage Month event

The Ms. DeSoto of the TFN Learning Resource Center hosted a brand-new event on October 2, 2023 to properly kick off the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month: Loteria Por Libros or in a translated sense, Bingo for Books. Although similar to Bingo, the game involves a student calling out the names of card images in Spanish while players mark them off on their playing cards. The goal of the game is to be the first person or group of people to get four in a row on their card to win. The winner of the game got to pick a book of their choice from the options available to keep. Many different people won throughout the night. Sophomore Roxanna Araujo Robles came in strong with an overall win of five games resulting in five books that night. She said, "It was pretty fun" and was worth it to win.

The callers of cards were student leaders Valeria Meraz and Evelin Ulloa who were responsible for controlling the pace of the game that night. Ulloa said, "It felt like it was Christmas Eve." Meraz added, "It feels so nostalgic! Like with your family waiting for it to be twelve and at the end, the chips are like opening your presents." The night ended with DeSoto inviting all students regardless of winning or losing to celebrate with potato chips and cupcakes. The night was considered a success with almost all the books finding new homes outside the library. Desoto ended the night by saying, "Our first Loteria Por Libros was a fun, competitive way to get books in students' hands and was also a fun learning experience for those who are learning Spanish and for those who are heritage speakers."

### Day of the Dead Sugar skulls workshop

Jaela Westbrook & Cormora Williams

Ms. Krusza (with help from Ms. VanRoosendaal) provided students a hands-on opportunity to learn about Latin cultures.

Page 2

### HHM Contest Results Art Club announces winners

Ruby Garcia

Many students submitted their masterpieces, and the TFN Art Club narrowed them down to their top three choices.

Pages 7-9

### T.F. United Wins Body Armor Tournament

Jasmine Pastrana

Assistant Coach Lagunas shares his perspective about the soccer team's recent success and their first tournament victory in over a decade.

Page 12

Jaela Westbrook & Cormora Williams

## Students learn to make sugar skulls

Ms. Krusza and Ms. VanRoosendaal promote cultural awareness

The annual sugar skull event was sponsored by Ms. Krusza for Hispanic Heritage Month. French teacher Ms. VanRoosendaal helped her set up and assist the students. The event took place on October 3rd and October 10th after school in room 214. In Hispanic cultures, Día de muertos (Day of the Dead) is a holiday to celebrate a family’s deceased loved ones.” Día de muertos is November 2nd. People make calaveras de azúcar (sugar skulls) as gifts for children and family members. The purpose of sugar skulls is to make it and give it to someone as a gift. It is sort of a gift that says, ‘I will remember you when you are gone,’” said junior Francine Scott. The students made the sugar skulls with white sugar, meringue powder, and water.

Making sugar skulls can be very fun, but also challenging. “Even though decorating was difficult, it was also one of my favorite parts because my friends were there,” said sophomore Jacquelin Bracamontas. “My favorite part about making sugar skulls was making the molds of the sugar skulls. I like that part because it was easy and fun,” added Scott. People had their own reasons why they wanted to go to the event. Senior Masturah Raheemson went to learn about another culture. “I went to the sugar skull event because it seemed very interesting to me,” said Bracamontas. “I chose to go to the sugar skulls event because I did it the prior year and thought it was fun. I also wanted to earn more points for my Spanish project,” said Scott.



Students were taught by Ms. Krusza how to make sugar skulls for the Mexican holiday Día de muertos, or Day of the Dead.  
Photo credit Mia Romo



Letters to the Editor can be sent to our social media handles or [thorntonian@tfd215.org](mailto:thorntonian@tfd215.org).

## Letters to the Editor

I enjoyed the layout of the newspaper. It's easy to read. I really like the picture of Ed Sheeran and thought it was so cool of him to come to TFN. I can only imagine how amazing it was to see him in person. I also wanted to highlight the amazing job the TFN Football has been doing and winning which shows that Mr. Pignatiello has been doing a great job. – senior Yulissa Villarreal

Congratulations on the 2nd issue of the newspaper! Homecoming Spirit Week was so fun, so I really enjoyed reading about the Homecoming dance and what other students had to say about it. I also want to congratulate Sammie King for being named Reigning Royal, she looked absolutely stunning! – junior Yesenia Reyes

2023-2024

### Thorntonian Staff

**Staff Reporters:**

- Diamond Adams
- Tianna Bowen
- Miranda Cuanetl
- Ximena Gutierrez
- Jasmine Pastrana
- Taliah Robinson
- Emily Sanchez
- Jaela Westbrook
- Cormora Williams

**Editorial Board:**

- Mia Romo
- Rogelio Romero
- Aidan Jordan

**Editor-in-Chief:**

Ruby Garcia

**Faculty Advisor:**

Mr. Joseph Stephan

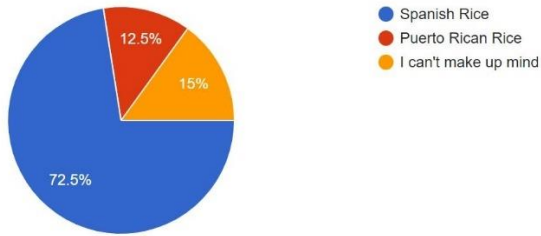
The Thorntonian is produced by the Advanced Journalism students of T.F. North High School. It seeks to provide an open forum for all members of the D. 215 community. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of District 215 unless otherwise noted.



Taliah Robinson & Tianna Bowen

## What's your favorite?

### Spanish vs. Puerto Rican Rice



80 TFN Meteors were asked to think about their favorite type of rice. Spanish rice was the clear favorite. Here are some recommendations from our respondents.

Ms. Ana Navarrete (staff) Puerto Rican rice from Jibarito in Humbolt Park

Brianna Astoraga Maya (junior) Spanish rice from La Cecina

Erika Diaz (senior) Spanish rice from Mercadito

Stephanie Beltran (sophomore) Spanish rice from La Hacienda Azteca

Miguel Gonzales (senior) Spanish rice from Cocula or El Canelo

Celeste Escobar (senior) Spanish rice from El Mariachi

Betzaida Morales (senior) Spanish rice from El Pollo Feliz

Anthony Lara (senior) Spanish rice from Taquerias Atotonilco

Yulissa Villarreal (senior) Spanish rice from El Tio Loco

Ximena Gutierrez

## Cheese & sour cream don't belong on tacos

### OPINION

Personally, I believe that sour cream and cheese DO NOT BELONG ON TACOS, especially steak tacos! How could you be one of those people who ruin a perfectly made taco by adding that on it? If that applies to you, I'm going to assume that you also eat hardshell tacos. Please seek help and try the traditional way using a tortilla instead and adding chopped up onions, cilantro, and lime to your taco. Also, replace the sour cream with a green or red homemade salsa. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.



Change her mind! Junior Ximena Gutierrez will be sharing her opinions in upcoming issues of the Thorntonian.



Ximena Gutierrez

## Carlota de Limon recipe

Are you a teenager looking for an easy, affordable dessert to make? Carlota de Limon, also known as Postre de Limon is a Mexican traditional dessert. This recipe was passed down from mom to mom in my family. Many families serve it at parties mostly in the spring or summer because it is refreshing. It is perfect for those who don't like very sweet things since it is made up of layers of lime-flavored cream and Maria cookies.

Ingredients:

- 1 package of Galletas Maria
- 1 can of sweetened condensed milk (La Lechera)
- 1 can of evaporated milk (Carnation)
- 1 can of table cream (Nestle)
- Up to 6 limes.

1. Blend your condensed milk, evaporated milk, and table cream very well.
2. Add 1 lime at a time, blend, and taste to your liking before adding another until satisfied.
3. Add a bit of the mixture to your squared dish and place the cookies spread out.
4. Apply another layer of the mixture on top, add cookies evenly all around.
5. Repeat the process as many times as you'd like (if you do a lot of thin layers, you might be getting more bites of the cookies than the cream).
6. Crush up cookies and add on the final layer (optional).
7. Once done, put in the fridge for 3-5 hours or freeze until you get an ice cream consistency.
8. Enjoy!

## What is your favorite Latin restaurant?

### Alexa Camerena 10th grade

“Ruben's Mexican Grill in Dyer, Indiana. The carne asada there is very tender and flavorful, and the rest of the food also has a lot of flavor. My favorite food to order is the torta with carnitas that comes with avocado, beans, lettuce, tomato, and sour cream because I love how the different add-ins taste together. The queso, elote, and chips & salsa for appetizers are also super delicious. There are many things to try there, so I strongly recommend this restaurant for picky people like me.”

### Kevin Sandoval 10th grade

“El Tapatio. This Latin restaurant is my favorite place to eat because you have a small house inside the restaurant with real Latin decorations. It gives you chill vibes when you enter this restaurant, and when you enter you can smell the hot spicy food. I recommend everyone to try some food from this restaurant. My favorite dish is "Gordita." It's a delicious torta filled with beef and cream with cheese. I definitely recommend trying this meal.”

### Kimberly Hernandez 11th grade

“Mariscos La Sirena in Crestwood, IL. My favorite thing to order is empanadas de camarón.”

### Diana Delgado 11th grade

“Taqueria Los Paisanos in Joliet, IL. This is my favorite restaurant because it is right next to La Herradura so I can go there after shows. My favorite thing to order is a birria torta with beans and cheese and a glass of horchata. I just love anything birria but when I tried it on a torta at Tacos Los Paisanos I instantly fell in love.”

### Alejandro Lazaro 11th grade

“La Hacienda Azteca in Hammond, IN. It's a place where me and my dad used to go after I had finished going to Saturday church school and I'd always get a sandwich which was called La Santa Fe. It was just good. It had a mixture of chicken, bacon, ham, tomatoes, avocado, etc. It just gave me memories of when I hung out with my dad.”

### Malaika Obute 9th grade

“Lienzo Charro Mexican Grill in Calumet City. The tacos always come fresh, and you can get tamales on the side for cheap. It tastes like authentic Mexican tacos, and I love the rice they give you on the side. They also have an ice cream box for hot days, and you can get one for cheap.”

### Jamareon Mann 11th grade

“The Original Tamale Joint in Houston, Texas. It's my favorite because the times I went there it was always really good and the owner is a very genuine person and is good friends with my dad. I like to order the tamales with chicken in them.”

### Genesis Robles 11th grade

“La Hacienda Azteca Mexican Restaurant in Hammond. The food is good, and the wait is usually not that long. My favorite food to order is fajitas. They taste really good, and they serve it with rice and beans that taste really good.”

### Karen Zapeda 11th grade

“El Veneno in West Lawn, Chicago. I love the food, music, and vibe. [I like the] patas de cangrejo estilo nayarit y salmón a la parrilla.”

### Reyna Guardiola Villalobos 11th grade

“Nuevo Leon Restaurant in Chicago is my favorite restaurant because of the amazing food they have there. For starters, they give you a little appetizer first while you can look for what you want to eat on the menu. For the appetizer I got a flauta with pico de gallo on top of it, and it was just so delicious. I am a big fan when it comes to carne asada. Each time I go to a Mexican restaurant I always get a carne asada, so I'm a professional at it, so I know when it tastes good and bad. But overall, the food and service in this restaurant is just amazing so I recommend trying all of the foods in Nuevo Leon, because it won't disappoint!”

### Vanessa Perez 10th grade

“El Gran Taco in East Chicago because I grew up eating Mexican food and also because Mexican food is my FIRST favorite food. My favorite food to order in that restaurant is steak tacos or torta de asada. Both are my favorite because I just enjoy eating tacos and I've been eating them for a very long time. My favorite toppings on it are cilantro and onions, and also I enjoy tortas because they have better taste than regular sandwiches and because it has more flavors in the tortas.”

### Makiyah White 11th grade

“El Canelo in Calumet City. It is close to the school so I can go grab food and come back to school and wait for my practice to start. [I get] 2-4 steak tacos, corn shell, cheese, lettuce, with mild sauce, a churro, and a drink.”

### Karina Rodriguez 12th grade

“Mi Tierra in Chicago. What makes it my favorite restaurant is that the staff attends everyone well, and the food is always hot and fresh. My favorite food to order is the camarones a la plancha because they have a wonderful flavor and are soft instead of feeling hard and overcooked.”

### Isaias Hernandez 12th grade

“La Cecina in Calumet City. This place brings so many memories of my childhood. It reminds me of simpler times spending time with my family as a child. It was always the start of a great day, because after eating usually on a weekend we would go out and do activities. I don't specifically have a favorite dish, all of them are quite enjoyable, but I remember out of all the options available, as a child I got tacos. The simple vibe it gives when you walk into the store is unreal. It has a warm feeling as if you were at home. Friends or family, it's always the best place to eat. It allows you to express your

emotions when talking to others. Everyone there is always friendly and treats you as one of their own.”

### Natalie Gonzalez 11th grade

“Coculas in Calumet City. My favorite things are the music, food, and how nice the people are. My favorites are their tacos, rice, and beans. I'm not a picky eater so I'll eat anything from there. Another thing I love their chilaquiles with cheese. I get both red and green chilaquiles.”

### Stephanie Selgado 11th grade

“Raymond's Tacos in Chicago. Their steak burritos are amazing, and everything from there is delicious!”

### Euliyah Howard 9th grade

“Tania's Latin American Restaurant in East Chicago. I like it because they have really good tacos. My favorite thing to order is tacos because I just love how they make them.”

### Sebastian Munoz 10th grade

“Coculas in Calumet City. The reason why this is my favorite Latin American restaurant is because I have been going there for years whenever we want any Mexican food. My favorite is the steak torta. I say this because their sour cream with the other ingredients are all very good, and it can definitely make you full, even when you haven't finished it yet.”

### Anahi Martinez 10th grade

“Cantón Regio in Chicago. It is my favorite restaurant because the food is delicious, and their service is great! My favorite thing to order would be their lemonade.”

### Florah Dismuke 10th grade

“La Michocana in Chicago. The food makes it my favorite restaurant because it's so good and flavorful. My favorite food to order is their tortas because it's so delicious and good. I also like their mango ice cream with Chamoy and Tajin in it. I love how it's so sweet and mouthwatering.”

### Monica Aceves 10th grade

“Cilantro in Homewood. This restaurant has foods like tacos, burritos, tortas, and flavored water that Hispanics are known for making. They have the best tacos. I usually get carne asada tacos (beef tacos) with cilantro and cebolla (cilantro and onion) with a side drink called Jamaica. As for the sauce, I use green salsa and of course lime squeezed over the tacos. This is one of my favorite orders in any taco place in general, but Cilantro does it best.”

### Nakayla Hollie 11th grade

“Lienzo Charro Mexican Grill Food Truck in Calumet City. What makes it my favorite is how good the food is. I like to order a steak taco dinner with double rice.”

### Aden Pastrana 11th grade

“Tacos & Burritos Rancho Grande in Lansing. I like their breakfast meals like Buenos Dias Torta, and I love myself a torta because my mom would make it for breakfast every Sunday morning.”

Compiled by Rogelio Romero, Tianna Bowen & Taliah Robinson



Mia Romo

**Dreamers T-Shirt**

The story behind the look



Sophomore Valeria Meraz designed the 2023 HHM shirt.

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, the TFN Dreamers released this year's Hispanic Heritage Month shirt. Students had the opportunity this month to purchase the shirt for \$10. The theme was "Power, Prosperity, and Progress."

The shirt features an outline of a bull with the theme written within the bull. This year, co-vice president Valeria Meraz was asked to create the design. "At first I didn't really get the theme, but now I realize it is meant to symbolize the empowerment as a Hispanic, growing as a Hispanic, and progressing in life as a Hispanic," said Meraz. When initially creating the design Meraz went through many different versions to find the best look for this year. "At first, the design was too Mexican, and we wanted the shirt to represent all Spanish-speaking countries," said Meraz. "The club also wanted to emphasize the word power. The idea for a bull came from my teacher, Ms. Ramos and we really liked it," Meraz added. Now that the shirts have been released, students have been wearing them to school, repping their heritage with pride. Meraz said, "It felt weird at first walking around seeing my design everywhere, but being known for my graphic design is a really good feeling."

Diamond Adams

**Oscar Chavez**

Mexican icon

You might know other Latin American artists such as Selena, Shakira, Jennifer Lopez, or Bad Bunny, but do you know Oscar Chavez? Chavez was a Mexican singer and songwriter in the 1960s-1970s who was popular for his song, Macondo. Chavez's music was characterized by its use of Mexican folklore, culture, and traditions. Chavez also starred in movies such as *Los Caifanes*, *Mary My Dearest*, and *Break of Dawn*. He distinguished himself as a champion of Mexican folklore, but his music isn't only about traditional stories but also protests. He was also known as the people's folk historian. Sadly, on April 30, 2023, Oscar Chavez passed away from complications of COVID-19.



Thank you to the students in the social studies, English, and Spanish classes who completed our survey.

Compiled by Mia Romo, Rogelio Romero, Taliah Robinson, & Tianna Bowen

**Overlooked Hispanic heroes**

## Student Survey

The Thorntonian Staff asked the student body who is someone they wish received more attention during Hispanic Heritage Month? Why should they be celebrated? And what do they wish more people knew about their figure?

"Sylvia Mendez was the child who paved the way for desegregation of schools in the U.S. In third grade she was the first Mexican American who went to an all-white school in California. Her parents had sued in the landmark case of "Mendez vs. Westminster" in 1947. They won the case and successfully desegregated all public schools in California. I have never heard her name during this celebration," said freshman Leslie Augilar.

"Juan Escutia se arrojó del castillo de Chapultepec con la bandera de México envuelto en ella para evitar que el ejército de Estados Unidos la mancillara," said junior Miguel Diaz.

"Lin-Manuel Miranda grew up poor then he decided to make something for himself and his family," said junior Giovanni Rivas.

"Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. When she was 29, she got elected to congress. Her win was a monumental victory for women and women of color," said freshman Abigail Moran.

"Dolores Huerta is a union organizer and an activist. I wish more people knew about her," said sophomore Daniel Morales Ortiz.





Senior Celeste Escobar is one of the many Latin American students who make up the diverse student body at TFN. Photo credits: Ruby Garcia

## Hispanic Heritage Month Q & A



Marisol Nicasio

Many of the Latin American students at TFN are Mexican American. Some have multiple ethnicities. Some are not Mexican at all. Seniors Celeste Escobar and Vianka Guerra are both Guatemalan. Juniors Jeremy Riordan, Marisol Nicasio, Angel Valle are bi-racial with Mexican roots. Junior Genesis Robles is Honduran. We talked with them and asked a series of questions about Hispanic Heritage Month and here are their answers.

### What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?

Celeste Escobar: "Hispanic Heritage Month means being seen and also recognizing Hispanic figures that have done so much for getting our community to where it is right now."

Angel Valle: "Hispanic Heritage Month means tradition."

### How do you celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month?

Celeste Escobar: "I celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by being proud and letting everyone know about it...Sometimes my tía comes over and makes tamales guatemaltecos."

Marisol Nicasio: "My family usually comes together and celebrates in downtown."

Jeremy Riordan: "My family makes Hispanic foods."

### What do you like the most about your culture?

Celeste Escobar: "The food and the work ethic we have."

Genesis Robles: "The food and sometimes the music."

### Do you think your culture is represented enough?

Celeste Escobar: "I think my culture is not really seen. I've had so many people ask me 'What part of Mexico is Guatemala from?' which is kind of an awkward question."

Angel Valle: "I feel like my culture is represented enough."

Vianka Guerra: "I feel like people overlook other Hispanic cultures and just talk about Mexicans."

---

**"I celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by being proud and letting everyone know about it."**

- Celeste Escobar

---

### How do you feel about one side of your culture being more represented than the other?

Celeste Escobar: "It kind of just feels like an imbalance because of the lack of representation of my Guatemalan side. I tend to just be more open and stick to the cultural side of being Mexican instead of my Guatemalan side."

Story by Aidan Jordan, Miranda Cuanetl, and Rogelio Romero

Photo credits: Ruby Garcia





Visual Arts Club Hispanic Heritage Month Art Contest Second Place Winner junior Emily Sanchez



T.F. NORTH HIGH SCHOOL  
**2024 YEARBOOK SALE**



THE EASIEST WAY TO ORDER A YEARBOOK IS ONLINE

Visit <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/index.cfm/job/12143> OR use the above QR code

TO ORDER THROUGH YOUR SCHOOL

Complete this form (one per order) and return to Mr. Stephan with a cash or a check made out to TF NORTH HIGH SCHOOL.

YEARBOOK PRICES		PURCHASER INFORMATION	
YEARBOOK	QTY ___ x \$30.00 = \$ _____	FIRST NAME	_____
NAME IMPRINT	QTY ___ x \$ 5.00 = \$ _____	LAST NAME	_____
TOTAL DUE: \$	_____	GRADE	_____
		PHONE	_____
		EMAIL	_____

Name Imprint 30 Characters Max. (Optional)

HERFF JONES  BY YOUR SIDE.

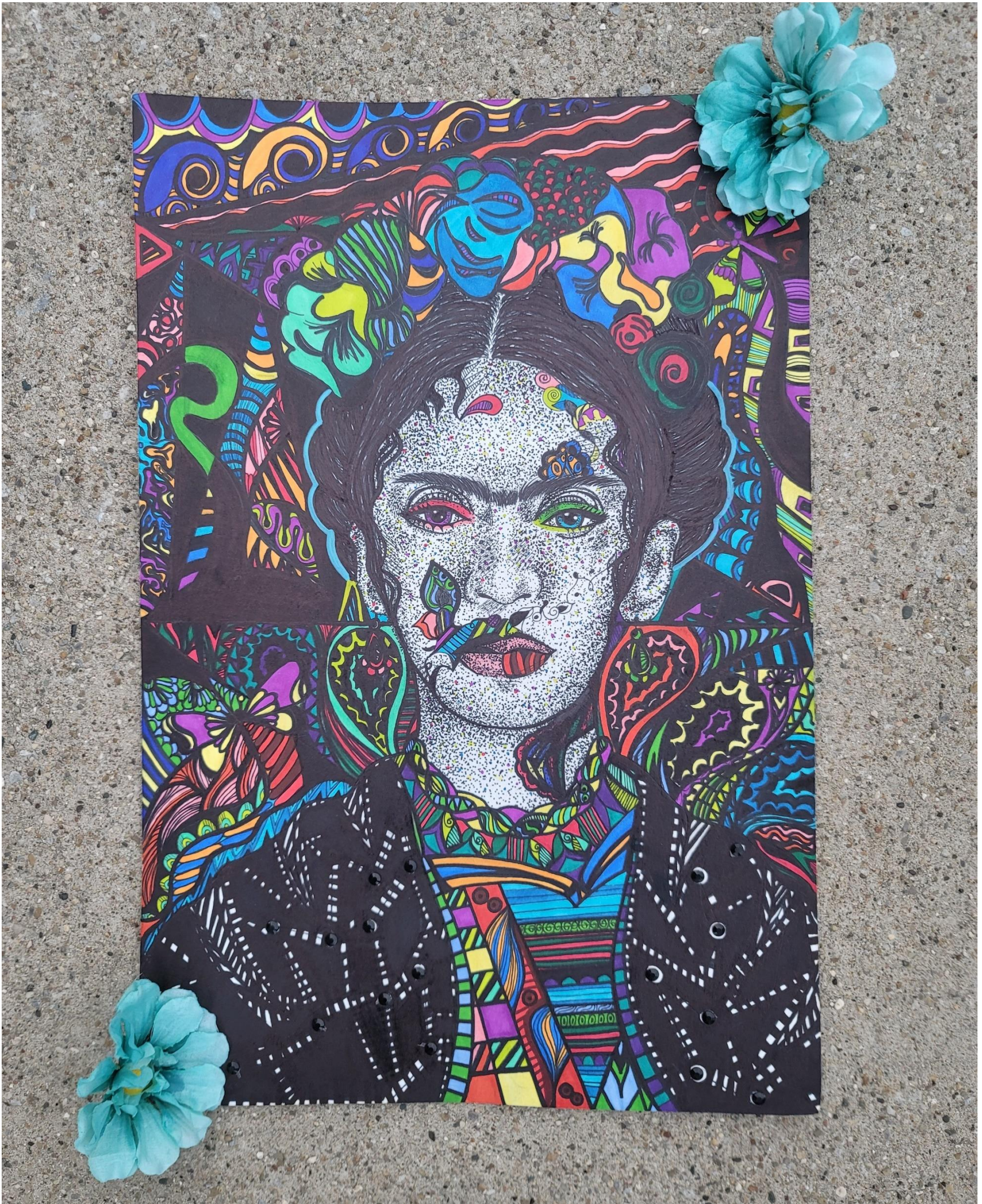




*Visual Arts Club Hispanic Heritage Month Art Contest Honorable Mention senior Serenity Howard*

**Issue no. 4 drops next week just in time for Halloween.**





*Visual Arts Club Hispanic Heritage Month Art Contest First Place Winner senior Samiya Smith*

**Follow us on Instagram  
@tfn\_thorntonian**

**Follow us on X (formerly Twitter)  
@tfn\_thorntonian**





Junior Said Rodriguez and senior Sammie King participated in Superhero Day during Spirit Week by wearing Spider-Man shirts.



Culinary Arts students Ashley Romero and Jasmine Gomez Beto prepare food for Student Council's Diversity Luncheon.

**Follow us on Instagram**  
**@tfn\_thorntonian**

**Follow us on X (formerly Twitter)**  
**@tfn\_thorntonian**



# DREAMERS DRIVE *mk*

**DREAMERS CLUB WILL BE COLLECTING CLOTHING, TOYS, AND PERISHABLE\HYGIENE GOODS!**

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE DELIVERED TO REFUGEE SHELTERS IN CHICAGO

STUDENTS WILL BRING THEIR DONATIONS TO THEIR SELECTED CLASS PERIOD, AND THE WINNING CLASS WILL WIN A PIZZA/BREAKFAST PARTY!

*Start Date:*

**Monday,  
Oct. 16th**

*Deadline:*

**Friday,  
Nov. 3rd**

Follow us on Instagram  
[@tfn\\_thorntonian](#)

Follow us on X (formerly Twitter)  
[@tfn\\_thorntonian](#)





The boys of T.F. United celebrate after winning the 2023 Body Armor Tournament after beating Plainfield 2-1.

## **Assistant Coach Lagunas talks recent success**

Interview by Jasmine Pastrana

On September 24, 2023 the T.F. United boys soccer team won the 2023 Body Armor Tournament. Assistant Coach Lagunas discussed the team's success.

**When was the last time you won a tournament?**

It could easily be over 10 years. I don't think I was coaching at T.F. North yet.

**What does winning this tournament mean to you?**

It just means that we came together as a team. We have a really good team, but it is not always indicated in the results. At this time, it just kind of worked where we felt like we had a strong team, and the results showed that we really had a good team.

**Who was the star T.F. North player?**

Angel Saenz was one of the most outstanding players in the tournament. Definitely there was a collected group of kids that was part of the win and the victory, but I think when it was all said and done, Angel was probably the most outstanding one.

**Where was this tournament located when you won?**

This tournament was located at Lyons Soccer Complex in LaGrange, IL.

**Why were you successful in this tournament?**

A lot of the kids on the team played big games. They played in big moments, and they were ready for the moment. They've been working very hard toward our goals and their season goals. I think that we kind of came together, and we were ready for this moment at this time.

**Do you have any other things you want to add?**

It was a very challenging tournament. It was very difficult to play. Our conference schedule is very difficult. There were no easy games. There were no easy days. That just goes to show how tough of a group we have with the program this year.