



The Eagle

October 2021
Texas Early College High School



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Photo by Josh Johnston

Mission Statement

Our goal of The Eagle is simple. Our job is to bring you and everyone you know the best news you can ever get from any school. All thanks to Chief Editor Josh Johnston and the rest of The Eagle crew. We are looking forward to future editions of the Eagle.

September:

- Cesar Labra-Gonzales - September 3rd
- Kannen Haller - September 5th
- Garrett Slade - September 8th
- Shelby Battershell - September 9th
- De'Asia Floyd - September 10th
- Baylee Wehmeyer - September 17th
- C.J. Davis - September 20th
- Mrs. T - September 21st
- Ihandra Arias - September 23rd
- Sagan Jameson-Hatch - September 28th
- Crystal Brown - September 29th
- Jayden Keeler - September 29th
- Harley Baxter - September 29th

Happy Birthday To The Following Students Of September And October!

By Kaydence Smith & Jaleigh Littrell



October:

- Mr. Grace - October 2nd
- Genevieve Bergen - October 3rd
- Yasmine Else - October 6th
- Joana Vences - October 10th
- Raeleigh Wilburn - October 14th
- Jaleigh Littrell - October 15th
- Madison Sallee - October 15th
- Donovan Ponce - October 15th
- Roman Graves - October 15th
- Tucker Hasler - October 16th
- Mrs. Reavis - October 18th
- Alexandria Hays - October 18th
- Adrian Lee-Ulrich - October 21st
- Mrs. Nicole - October 22nd

Bigger And Better

By Aliza Wayman

There always seems to be something new every year at our school. This year, it is the school itself that has changed. While most of us were enjoying summer vacation, builder, Schumacher Homes, worked from May thru August to complete the expansion of our facilities. At a cost of \$211,000, changes were made to make the classrooms bigger, and the cafeteria and "big room" a little smaller. "The main reason was to help the kids," explained Principal Bob Garcia. With a former capacity of around 20 students per class, classrooms have expanded to hold a capacity of up to 30 students. "The goal is to be able to accommodate 130 to 150 students in total at the school," said Mr. Garcia. Current student enrollment at the school is 118. The expansion of the classrooms gives us room to grow.

Although more space in the classroom was a plus, not all students were on-board with the smaller gymnasium. "We used to have more room to play during breaks and lunch," said Bruce Luviano, a freshman at TECHS. "But it does look a lot better," he acknowledged. Because our focus is on academics, the extra space for physical activities was deemed unnecessary. The extra space in the classrooms, however, was appreciated by the teachers. "I like that my students aren't cramped, working elbow-to-elbow," said freshman teacher Mr. Grace. According to Mr. Garcia, other planned improvements include updating our furniture, revamping the snackbar, and bringing back some of the activities that were limited last year due to the Coronavirus. Such changes will be another welcomed addition to our school.

Before



After



Photos by Kaydence Smith & Jaleigh Littrell

"What a change... They made the big room into the small room!"
-Josh Johnston

T.E.C.H.S. Business Info

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Aliza Wayman

New Staff- Mrs. Reavis

By Baylee Wehmeyer & Aiden Davis

With the retirement of Coach Turner at TECHS, we introduce a new teacher, Cheri Reavis. Mrs. Reavis teaches 10th grade. She has been teaching for 28 years. She taught at Marshall Junior High, Trinity in Marshall, Texas, and Tatum Middle School. She also did 11 years of banking at People State Banking.

Mrs. Reavis received her degree at East Texas Baptist University. She got a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting, with a minor in mathematics. Mrs. Reavis' favorite subject is math, and she serves as our school's math resource teacher, helping students to pass the Algebra STAAR as well as the TSI college entrance exam.

Mrs. Reavis retired from Tatum schools and hoped to spend more time with her family. She is married with two children, both boys. With less students to teach and lesson plans already written in Edgenuity, she hoped our school would give her more time with her family. "Our school offered me more family time," she explained. Although she was the first in her family to earn a teaching degree, she now has family members who also teach: her cousin and two sister-in laws. We welcome her to our family, and we bless her with our kindness, loyalness, and eagerness to learn.



Aliza Wayman- New Student Interview

By Sagan Jameson-Hatch

I asked Aliza, who is a 9th grader, 10 questions and answers. Let's see what her answers to my questions are. I asked her first what do you like about this school, and what are your interests? Her interests are music and art, and she likes that you can work at your own pace. Then I asked what college you want to go to and why? She said that she wanted to go to Texas A&M, and the reason was that it was very good for her future and her career. The next question was if there were

only three things you are going to live with for the rest of your life, what would they be and why? She said that technology, art supplies, and hoodies are three things she can't live without. The fifth question I asked is if you got a free vacation anywhere where would you go and why? Aliza said the UK and why not? The next question was what is better at this school than the last one, to which she answered that they're not a bunch of students. Cats are her favorite animal because they are comfy and calm. And if she had only one wish, she would wish for infinite wishes "...because you can wish for anything without any limits." I asked her next what was her favorite thing, and she said it was music because it calms her down. Last question I asked her was what was her favorite TV show, and she said Blue Period because it is about art and expression. We welcome Aliza Wayman to Texas Early College High School.



CORNER OF FUN!

Jokes

By Kaydence Smith, Jaleigh Littrell, & Caiden Lawson

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Which monster is red, round, and comes out in fall?
Answer: Frankenapple. | 6. What did the oak tree say when fall came around?
Answer: Leaf me alone! |
| 2. What did one autumn leaf say to the other?
Answer: I'm falling for you. | 7. Why is Dracula so easy to fool?
Answer: Because he's a sucker. |
| 3. What is scarecrows' favorite fruit?
Answer: Straw-berries. | 8. What is the best thing to put into an apple pie?
Answer: Your teeth. |
| 4. Why are trees so care free?
Answer: Because every autumn they let loose. | 9. Why was Cinderella not good at softball?
Answer: Her coach was a pumpkin. |
| 5. Why did the granny apple cry?
Answer: Its peelings were hurt. | 10. Who lives in the scary hundred Acre wood?
Answer: Winnie the BOO! |

History of Kevin The Kangaroo

By Josh Johnston

G'day, everyone. I am Josh Johnston, the main editor of this year's newspaper, The Eagle. I am here to tell you about a new character that you may not have heard of. He has emerged around the time of May of this year, and I am the creator of this new character. His name is Kevin the Kangaroo. For anyone who's interested in his backstory, let me tell you.

On January 1st, 2020, his home burned to the ground, so he had to escape by getting on a boat from Australia all the way to the other side of the world, the United States of America. Now he's living in his new home in the state of California, wondering what he's going to do next. He hops in the streets of California, coming across multiple situations here and there. You will catch a glimpse of many of his adventures and misadventures in this newspaper. This is one of them. In The Eagle's very first comic series, here is the introduction of first comic of Kevin the Kangaroo. Enjoy.

Kevin the Kangaroo

IN
"HOW TO CRUSH DREAMS"



"Maybe it's not best to say anything at all, and that includes writing."

This comic strip and the characters within it are not allowed to be used by anyone without the creator's permission.

Why Wear Masks?

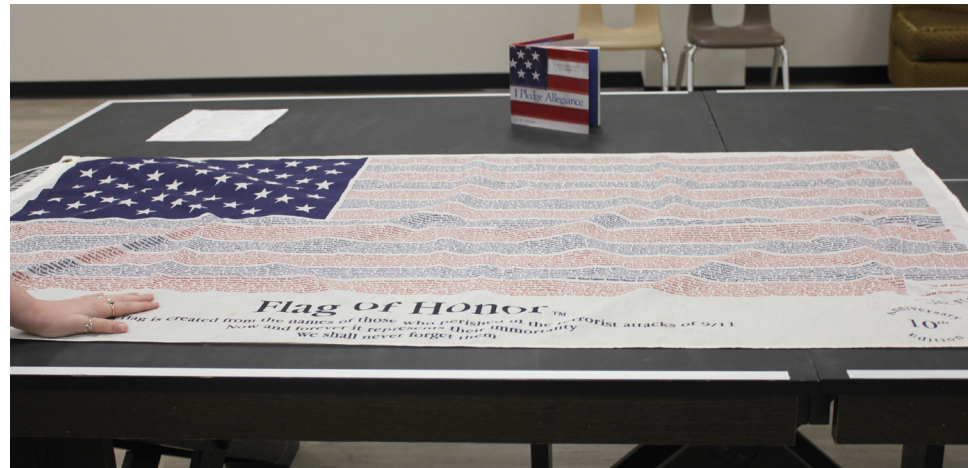
By Sagan Jameson-Hatch

9 / 11

Twenty Years Later

by Josh Johnston

On September 11, 2001, disaster struck across America. The worst attack in American history happened that day. The World Trade Center was destroyed by two hijacked airplanes. Thousands of innocent lives were lost. Twenty years later, Texas Early College High School remembers the ones who perished that day. It's more than two towers crashing. We recognize this historic event with our respect for all.



A flag displaying the names of those killed in the 9/11 attack
Photo by Kaydence Smith & Jaleigh Littrell



Mrs. Tijerina reads the story of the tragedy of 9/11
Photo by Kaydence Smith & Jaleigh Littrell

To wear a mask is to do many things, like keeping you and your community safe from Covid. Wearing masks would have stopped or slowed down this pandemic a long time ago and probably would have saved many lives in the process.

Why don't we wear masks?

Well, the first reason they say is because it is hot and uncomfortable. To be honest that is unavoidable. But is it worth it to protect yourself and others around you? Also another reason is misinformation around masks, like you can't breathe in masks and other ridiculous claims. One of those ridiculous claims is that putting your child in a mask is <blank>. A lot can fill that blank. Another reason may be that our last president spread misinformation about the Covid-19, the vaccine, masks, the origin of the vaccine, and many other things. However, that reason is more political than medical. We all probably want to go out to a restaurant or a store and not have to wear a mask, but until infection rates get low enough to do so, we need to wear them, Mask mandates may seem new to the U.S. and it was, but we could have followed the example of Japan of wearing masks whenever you are sick anyways. There is a picture of a group of kindergarteners wearing masks without complaining because they understand that lives can be saved by that. If a group of kindergarteners in multiple countries can understand that, I think everyone can understand that.

Why wear a mask and how could it help others?

The CDC and even some Republican leaders are asking too, including Mitt Romney, along with Democratic leaders, including President Biden. It has been claimed that wearing a mask actually will get the economy back to normal... faster than standing in front of a closed store because large groups without a mask spread Covid. If we had stopped complaining, it wouldn't have been so bad in the USA in the first place.

You can save lives by putting a piece of cloth on your face. It's one of the easiest things to do, but people are still arguing about it. So just wear a mask, and it may cost you and your family less in medical bills. Wearing a mask can do so much good and has negatives that are nothing compared to all of the good it can do. If people stop complaining and put on a mask, it can have a real impact. With a mask you are saving lives, can look good, and decrease your medical bills at the same time. I hope that everyone wears a mask and has an amazing day.

Want to know how to help slow down the spread for you
and your community?

Mask up.
Save lives.
You got this.

How Corporations Have Been Saving the Planet

By Mr. Grace

We are losing thousands of acres of Amazon forests each year. Fossil fuels are polluting our air. The climate is changing. On the flip-side, human population has exploded, living standards are continuing to increase, abject poverty and hunger are at the lowest rates in the history of human development. Our Earth is supporting more human life than ever before, with amenities once reserved for kings, queens, and the politically empowered. And yet to hear some speak, humanity is on the brink of an environmental armageddon. I believe that there is more to those issues than the environment.

This is not to say that the environment shouldn't be a factor when we create government policy: that we owe it to future generations to conserve resources and protect the environment, so that they too may enjoy or exploit, however you wish to term it, the environment. That is a given. And since the passage of the US Environmental Protection Act in 1970, corporations have complied with government rules against pollution. They have complied with the thousands of pages of new rules and regulations since then. They have paid billions into government programs to protect the environment. They have helped to fund environment groups, and research to address environmental issues. That corporations are an evil force, diabolically planning to destroy the Earth in pursuit of the almighty dollar is more than subjective. It is intentional.

There is little denying the impact capitalism has made in the global economy. Allowing individuals to buy shares of a business, and thus a portion of productive power, has made millions of investors very wealthy. It has also financed the building of infrastructure -- roads, bridges, telecommunication lines, satellites, and the like. It has created millions of jobs. It has financed research and development, which has created some of the greatest breakthroughs in human history. And it has fed, sheltered, clothed, and entertained an expansion of population never before seen in anthropology. It seems that if any entity is to blame for the destruction of Earth's environment, it would be the extra humans living within it. So when people claim that corporations are the bane of humanity, I wonder if they aren't the 'extra' people it helped to foster. Would they be willing to sacrifice themselves to the good of the environment?

I don't believe so. Rather than the concern for a better... yet undefined... environment, I believe their prime objective is CONTROL of the economy. With trillions of dollars involved in providing the necessities of human life, who wouldn't want a piece of the action? Being the 'Sayer' of what is produced, how much is produced, where it is produced, how it is produced, and how much is made in producing it, would guarantee that anyone trying to bring a product into the global market, would first have to pay homage to the Sayer. I often wonder if people understand that when you give the government the power to make such decisions, every government after that point will have that same power. And it may not be a government that "cares" about the environment, like they do.

How Corporations And Companies Have Been Damaging the Planet

By Sagan Jameson-Hatch

I am not saying that all companies and corporations are damaging the planet but just giving you the info on the companies and corporations that do. Many of these companies and corporations I am going to mention are ones that are actively damaging the environment and indigenous lands. These companies and corporations are dumping waste into water streams, aggravating wildfires, polluting the air and waters of many nations and greenwashing their campaigns with "Oh, we are doing this or that to save the planet." In reality, they are doing the complete opposite and damaging the environment further.

The US-based company, Cargill, has a long history of destruction and was named by the environmental group Mighty Earth as "the worst company in the world." In Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia, Cargill is involved in the destruction of the Amazon, Grand Chaco, and Cerrado ecosystems in South America. In Africa, Cargill buys cocoa that has been grown in protected areas and national parks and reserves. Lastly, in Indonesia and Malaysia, Cargill buys palm oil from companies that clear rainforests. Environmentalists argue that Cargill exploits farmers that desperately need to sell products, by incentivizing the destruction of precious natural resources. Cargill's customers include McDonald's, Burger King, Walmart, Sysco, Unilever, and many more corporations and companies. Another company named Black-Rock has been funding fossil fuel companies and people that deforested land in the Amazon rainforest and in Indonesia. It is an investment firm that has helped to fund the deforestation of over 500 hectares of land. These corporations are only a few of the companies and corporations that damage the environment or support people that do.

Another two corporations that do it are Ahold Delhaize and Starbucks. Starbucks products and packaging expose the company to various "forest risk commodities" (products that are harvested from forest lands such as palm oil, soy, beef, and paper). On the Forest 500 index, an environmentalist measurement, it performs very poorly for palm oil, soy, and pulp and paper, but especially soy, where its commitment strength, reporting and monitoring, and social consideration scores very poorly. With only a 25% overall on the index, it is one of the companies that has caused deforestation in the Amazon. Starbucks says that 99% of its coffee is now ethically sourced, but it has yet to adapt it into their practices. It is alleged that Starbucks also has many climate change and human rights violations. A Wall Street Journal investigation found human rights abuses on plantations that are owned by Starbucks. The supermarket chain Ahold Delhaize, which forms an umbrella over companies like Stop & Shop, Food Lion, Giant, Hannaford, and other brands, has said they aim to achieve zero deforestation and conversion by 2025. However, in 2018, they launched a \$100 million joint venture with Cargill to operate a new meat packaging plant supplying Ahold Delhaize's stores in the US, as well as continue to source meat from another deforesting company, JBS. The fact that the zero deforestation goal currently only applies to the company itself and not to the entire corporate group is also telling of its lack of commitment to deforestation.