

10.8.10

SPORTS.....2  
 A&E.....3  
 OPINIONS.....4  
 FEATURES.....4



# The COMMONS

Published biweekly by and for the Upper School students of Riverfield Country Day School in Tulsa, OK

VOLUME V NO. 3

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Truth is shorter than fiction.  
 — Irving Cohen



Volleyball season comes to an end . . . . . 2



Ex-KISS drummer raises funds to fight cancer . . . . 3

The COMMONS is published biweekly during the school year by the Upper School Newspaper class at Riverfield Country Day School, 2433 W. 61st Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74132. No issues are published the weeks of Fall Campout, Winter Break and Spring Break.

The COMMONS reserves the right to edit any article or letter submitted for publication. Send all submissions to the Editor-in-Chief at [mfaeth@riverfield.org](mailto:mfaeth@riverfield.org). All opinions expressed are those of the individual writers and do not reflect positions of the newspaper staff, advisers, or school administration.

FALL 2010 STAFF

- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Matt Faeth
- NEWS EDITOR  
Sam Laney
- SPORTS EDITOR  
Ryan Peake
- A&E EDITORS  
Meghan Kelkar  
Max Harkness
- OPINIONS EDITOR  
Bryce Rossler
- FEATURES EDITOR  
Malachi Keeter
- PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Ramsey Talladivedula
- DESIGN EDITORS  
Chris Dickey, captain  
Ryan Peake  
Claire White
- NEWSPAPER ADVISERS  
Mr. Daniel Hodges  
Mrs. Patricia Dickey

weekend weather

SAT 89

SUN 88

INFORMATION FROM WEATHER.COM, 10/8/10, 9:30 A.M.

## Homecoming tonight!



The team gathers around Coach Wes Rowell as he explains his defensive strategy.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

By Matt Faeth  
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tonight's Homecoming football game will be played against Boulevard Christian, a team that Riverfield played last year and beat. Last year's Homecoming game was great, but this year's is sure to be even better.

The football field has been revamped and improved since last year. Construction on a drainage system has been completed, the grass has grown in, a tall flagpole has been added, and a new swing set has been installed nearby for younger fans that come to games. With Riverfield enrollment growing dramatically and hopefully many alumni

on hand, the bleachers will most likely be full for kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

The Riverfield football program is still in its infancy, but new traditions that create a festive atmosphere on Fridays have increased this year.

Pep rallies with Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, cheerleaders, and Drumline performances create school spirit that inspires loyalty to Riverfield among the students and staff. This helps to create fans that yell their support along with the cheerleaders at games. Spirit Week, Pizza Days, and decorations have also added to the fun.

So tonight, get your Riverfield gear ready and be prepared for some great activities, great food, and GREAT Riverfield Raven football!

## FDA considers approval for fish

By Sam Laney  
 NEWS EDITOR

AquaBounty Technologies recently applied for permission from the U. S. Food and Drug Administration to market their genetically modified fish as food.

This issue has been strongly fought for and against. Many crops are already genetically modified and have been for many years. But if approved, the fish would be the first genetically modified animal to be allowed for consumption by the FDA.

The genetic modification process involves implanting the growth gene from a Pacific Chinook salmon and genetic material from the ocean pout into a fertilized Atlantic salmon egg. The gene from the Chinook promotes fast growth, while the pout gene allows the salmon to grow during the winter as well as the summer. The salmon grow to full size in half the time a

wild salmon requires.

AquaBounty has reported that the resulting fish are reproductively sterile, but the FDA has indicated that up to 5% may not be sterile. The fish were designed to be sterile to prevent

unforeseen problems.

Those who oppose the FDA approval claim the genetic modification could result in new allergies among consumers and could decimate the wild salmon population.



Could some of the fish in the pet store be genetically altered?

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

breeding with other native species as well as to protect AquaBounty's intellectual property rights. There is a potential risk that the newly modified fish could breed with native fish in inland waterways and create

However, the company stands by its claim that the fish are safe for consumption and the environment. After two days of hearings in September, the FDA has remained unable to make a decision.

## Study says \$75K/yr. = happiness

By Sam Laney  
 NEWS EDITOR

As children, many people are told that money cannot buy happiness. But a recent Princeton study has found that \$75,000 a year does equate to greater day-to-day enjoyment as well as greater overall feelings of well-being.

The study, published last month in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, surveyed 450,000 Americans in 2008 and 2009.

Results show that the day-to-day happiness and overall well-being of individuals increases as their incomes increase up to \$75K/year. Past that, day-to-day happiness does not increase, but overall well-being does continue to increase.

... Money does not buy happiness, but having less money does result in emotional pain ...

Angus Deaton, an economist at Princeton University's Center for Health and Wellbeing and one of the head researchers for the study, reported, "Giving people more income beyond \$75K is not going to do much for their daily mood."

Earning less than \$75K per year makes it more difficult for individuals to have free time and enjoy social activities, which correlates to lower day-to-day happiness. Conversely, the study found that higher incomes make it easier to participate in social and free time activities.

The study states that money does not buy happiness, but having less money does result in emotional pain.

The authors of the study conclude, "Perhaps \$75,000 is a threshold beyond which further increases in income no longer improve individuals' ability to do what matters most to their emotional well-being, such as spending time with people they like, avoiding pain and disease, and enjoying leisure."

So, while money may not buy happiness, overall well-being and day-to-day happiness have now been proven to increase with a larger salary. \$75,000 has been found to be the "magic number" linked with the highest day-to-day happiness, while overall well-being continues to increase as income increases.

# 2 Sports

DON'T MISS THE HOMECOMING PEP RALLY at 2:55 p.m. today ... Cookout starts at 6 p.m., and Kickoff is at 7:30 ... GO RAVENS! BEAT BOULEVARD CHRISTIAN!!!

## Ravens battle two tough foes

By Ryan Peake  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Riverfield Ravens ended a three-game road trip with their first home game against Oklahoma City's Life Christian on September 24.

With the opening of the first home game, there was also the beginning of a new tradition for Raven football players which involves touching or kissing the giant boulder at the field entrance. A plaque will be mounted on the boulder in the near future.

This new pre-game tradition is similar to Notre Dame's pre-game tradition where they slap a sign that reads "Play Like a Champion."

Unfortunately, the Ravens didn't come out with too much power against Life Christian, struggling to score and eventually falling 44-8.

The following week, the Ravens endured some of the hardest practice sessions of the entire season in order to prepare for their next opponent.



Riverfield prepares to play Waukomis on October 1.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOOSTER CLUB

Last Friday, October 1, the Ravens played host to Waukomis, a school near Enid. The Ravens came out slow at first and were down 24-0 at one point, but they slowly battled back. With about two minutes left in the game, #28 Kevin Daroga ripped the ball out of the hands of the Waukomis tailback and ran back a 70-yard touchdown to pull Riverfield within 10 points. However, the Ravens couldn't pull off the comeback completely and lost with a final score of 46-36.

Even though they lost the game, the Ravens showed more heart than ever before and never gave up. It seemed that Riverfield had only half its team left by the end of the Waukomis game. Injured players included Logan Brown, Garrett Johnson, Luke Johnson, Ryan Peake, Garrett Pugh, Justin Scott, and Tim Scott.

It will be interesting to see if the team as a whole can regroup and battle back for its final three games, and most importantly, for Homecoming tonight.

## NHL preseason now underway

By Matt Faeth  
STAFF WRITER

The 2010-2011 hockey season is just starting to take off. The preseason is now underway, and each team still seems to have hope.

No team yet feels as if they are going to be on the bottom half of the proverbial pile. Last season's reality has been overcome by the off-season's potential.

My projected top five teams this year are: 1. Washington Capitals, led by the physical yet skillful play of superstar Alexander Ovech-

kin; 2. New Jersey Devils, which have an anchor at goalie in Martin Brodeur who, despite his age, is still the best goalie in all of hockey; 3. Chicago Blackhawks, which were full of potential last year and now, after winning the Stanley Cup, are both experienced and still have room for growth; 4. San Jose Sharks, which have a legitimate chance to win the Cup if they can find a way around choking in the playoffs a second go 'round; and 5. Vancouver Canucks, which have the reigning Hart Trophy (MVP) winner, so there is no reason why, after a good off-season, they shouldn't

have a legitimate chance of being a contender.

My "watch out" team this season comes from the absolute bottom of last year's pack — the Edmonton Oilers. The Oilers are very well coached, they have great goaltending, they have no player over the age of 27 on their team (meaning improvements are on the way), and they just drafted #1 overall future hockey legend Taylor Hall. Watch for the Edmonton Oilers in the coming season.

So let's drop the puck and watch another great season of hockey get underway!

## VOLLEYBALL SEASON ENDS



Riverfield's volleyball season ended last night with the Lady Raven's final game against NOAH. According to Coach Christi Martin: "The girls have improved drastically since the start of the season. They've had positive attitudes and a great work ethic. We are all looking forward to next year!" Varsity players included Madeline Berry, Kylar Carrington, Shelby Hellen, Shelby Massey, Kyndall Shrum, Ramsey Talladivedula, Lauriana Williams, and Erin Worley.

PHOTO BY PATRICIA DICKEY

## NEWS BRIEFS

### International

TORONTO — The first airplane that flies by flapping its wings made its first successful flight on August 2 in Tottenham, north of Toronto. Called an "ornithopter," the human-powered aircraft was first conceptualized by Leonardo da Vinci in 1485. The airplane, named the "Snowbird," has a wingspan of 105 feet but weighs only 94 pounds. "Although I don't see a particular application," said Todd Reichert, the Snowbird's lead developer and pilot, "it inspires people to think twice about what's possible." (*csmonitor.com*)

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan's government cut off a vital supply route for U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan on September 30 in retaliation for a coalition helicopter strike that killed three Pakistani soldiers. The Pakistani government had threatened NATO previously that if coalition attacks on Pakistani soldiers continued, a supply blockade would ensue. As long as helicopter and missile strikes continue, NATO supply forces will not be allowed in. Coalition forces denied that they ever entered Pakistani air space. (*npr.com*)

### National

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Pastor Terry Jones of the Dove World Outreach Center, a 50-member church, made threats before the anniversary of September 11 to burn the Qur'an, a Muslim holy book, in response to hearing of plans to build a mosque at Ground Zero in New York City. After receiving major media attention, Jones termed it a "warning" geared toward "radical Islam." A banner hanging on his church building proclaiming "Burn a Quran Day" was taken down after questioning. (*abcnews.com*)

GREENFIELD, Calif. — A tractor trailer carrying 15,000 pounds of squid rolled over into a field of broccoli. The one vehicle accident occurred at 2:49 a.m. on September 14, according to the California Highway Patrol. Crews were clearing squid from the field for hours. No injuries were reported, but it is unknown where the truck was coming from or where it was headed. Furthermore, it is unknown why it was carrying 15,000 pounds of squid. (*ksbw.com*)

REDMOND, Wash. — Microsoft's search engine "Bing" recently surpassed Yahoo! in popularity. While Google remains the top search engine, Bing is currently responsible for 13.9% of web searching in the United States. Bing's popularity increase is due to a recent agreement between Yahoo! and Microsoft. Microsoft is now offering Bing on Yahoo! websites. The agreement also included Microsoft's agreement to hire a minimum of 400 Yahoo! employees. The move is an attempt to compete with Google. (*informationweek.com*)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — In November, the state of California will vote on legalizing marijuana. Oddly enough, the largest opposition comes from marijuana distributors, who fear that legal availability will drive their business down. The California Board of Equalization is projecting a profit of \$1.4 billion in tax revenue if the drug is legalized. (*cnn.com*)

WASHINGTON — The United States Justice Department expects that it may sue British Petroleum over the oil spill fiasco in the Gulf of Mexico earlier this year. The Clean Water Act allows the U.S. to assign civil penalties for spilled oil. The Justice Department has been itching to do this for quite a while and has been conducting both civil and criminal investigations of BP, which told CNN they have "no comment." (*cnn.com*)

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has authored a book that will be released in November. Rather than his usual style of writing, this one is a children's book, dedicated to 13 very important American figures. Titled "Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters," 500,000 copies of the book will be published in its first run and will sell for \$18 each. This is the last of Obama's \$1.9 million book deal made with Random House in 2004. He finished writing this book in 2008. (*cbsnews.com*)

### State & Local

STILLWATER — The Oklahoma State University campus is crowded this fall with a new freshman record of more than 3,500 students, a 13% increase. Total enrollment for all OSU campuses this year is more than 35,000 students. OSU's 2010 freshman class is the strongest ever academically with an average ACT score of 25.1, while more than a third of incoming freshmen have a score of 27 or higher. OSU president Burns Hargis says this is a result of recruitment efforts around the world. (*newsom6.com*)

TULSA — This weekend is your last chance to catch the 2010 Tulsa State Fair. Gate admission is \$10, and hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday. Featured this year is the Comet II Rollercoaster, making only its second appearance at a fair this year, and a new food item in the Krispy Kreme donut hamburger. The PRC A rodeo is also being staged Friday and Saturday in the Pavilion building at Expo Square, with special post-rodeo concerts by Clay Walker and the Eli Young Band. (*tulsastatefair.com*)

### Riverfield

CROSS COUNTRY — This year's Cross Country team has competed in several meets and has been running strong. The Riverfield Cross Country Challenge was held on our campus on August 28, followed by the Sapulpa meet on September 4. Our Varsity Boys placed 7<sup>th</sup> at Sapulpa! On September 18 our teams competed at the Bishop Kelley meet at Mohawk Park, and on October 2 they ran in the Holland Hall meet. Join our runners as they prepare for the Tulsa Run on October 30. Register online.

FIRST QUARTER — It's hard to believe, but one fourth of the school year is almost over. Students are working hard to keep up their grades as the first quarter ends next week. But no worries — there will soon be a break from all this hard work. Fall Break begins on Thursday, October 21, with early dismissal at 12:30 p.m. There will be no school on Friday, October 22.



### OKLAHOMA DRIVING SCHOOL

5970 E. 31st Street, Suite U  
Inside Mall 31

www.oklahomadrivingschool.com  
(918) 622-6500

Driver Education Classes for ages 15 & Up  
10 Hours in Classroom - Weekend & Evening Sessions  
4 - 5 Sessions per month - 6 Hours Behind-the-Wheel  
One-on-One Instruction - 7 Days per Week  
Pick-up & Drop-off in the Tulsa Metro Area  
Licensed by the State of Oklahoma

## 3 A&amp;E

COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: Haunted houses, college football playoffs, Ethiopian food, credit cards vs. debit cards, the Tea Party, mystics (are they real?) . . . and more!

## Art classes designing new mural

By Claire White  
STAFF WRITER

The two Art classes always have projects going on, both big and small. Many of you already know the Art and Drama classes are collaborating in order to produce two Dr. Seuss plays, "One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish" and "The Lorax." The plays will be performed on Visiting Day, November 19.

The Art classes are also working on another project — a mural.

This mural will be showcased somewhere on the Riverfield

campus (location yet to be determined.) It will incorporate stencils as well as traditional media and will feature the dynamic shapes and bold colors used in propaganda art. Each Art student has created two stencils that will be incorporated into the final piece, which will be a massive collaboration of artists.

Riverfield's theme this year, "Sowing Seeds for Real World Success," will be given an artistic treatment. Flowers, fauna and various botanical elements will make up large parts of the

mural's overall design.

One of the things that makes Riverfield unique is that we always have student-made projects displayed around the school. Some of these, like the Street Art wall and "100s Day" in the K-1 wing, have become traditions in the RCDS community. Projects like the collaboration on the two plays and the coming mural have the potential to join these traditions.

As the mural comes closer to completion, be sure to keep an eye out for this new Riverfield-inspired piece.



Riverfield art students are hard at work on a new mural for the Riverfield campus.  
PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## Former KISS drummer raises \$\$

By Max Harkness  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

KISS is a legendary band. They have toured around the world, wiggling their tongues in every place you can think of. The latest wiggling that comes from KISS is from the wallet of Peter Criss, the

band's original drummer during the height of their reign over rock 'n' roll, and he is giving his money to the cause of breast cancer. So far, Peter Criss, co-writer of "Beth," has raised more than \$100,000 for breast cancer awareness by participating in a walkathon.

Now, at first glance this may

seem like nothing more than a celebrity ploy to get more publicity for himself, but there is more to it than that. Ninety-nine percent of people who get breast cancer are women, but Peter Criss falls into that rare one percent of men who have had breast cancer. Now at the age of 64, he is not at all embarrassed to say he has had it. The man is proud to have fought it and won, and he wants everyone to understand that when something feels wrong, the best thing to do is simply to ask a doctor.

Criss' cause is to make men aware that breast cancer can happen to them, no matter how rare it may be. The American Cancer Society walkathon will be held near his home on the Jersey shore on October 17, rain or shine.

Peter Criss hopes his efforts will make both men and women more aware of what can be done to beat the awful disease we know as breast cancer.



Peter Criss has raised more than \$100,000 for breast cancer awareness through a walkathon.  
PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## Owners want to rebuild Admiral Twin

By Meghan Kelkar  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

On September 3, Tulsa's much-loved Admiral Twin Drive-In theater burned down. The fire began around 2 p.m., and the 9-story painted plywood screens burned to the ground in 30 minutes. It broke many hearts that the iconic theater, Tulsa's first drive-in built in 1951, was totally destroyed. It was a sad day in Tulsa.

Fortunately, the owners are attempting to raise funds to rebuild the theater. Approximately \$200,000 will be needed according to the website that has been set up for donations ([www.savetheadmiralwindrivein.com](http://www.savetheadmiralwindrivein.com)).

Benefit concerts will be held on October 10 at The Rose Bowl and on October 16 at the Admiral Twin site.

In addition, all proceeds from ticket sales for a movie shown all day at the Riverwalk on September 18 were donated to the rebuilding effort. The movie shown was the very one that made the

Admiral Twin famous in the first place, "The Outsiders."

Do people at Riverfield prefer drive-in movies or regular movie theaters? Do they think the owners should try to rebuild the Admiral Twin?

"They shouldn't bother rebuilding it, because the temperature outside in the summer is unbearable compared to a movie theater," stated junior Ryan Peake.

Other students begged to differ. "I think it would be a good idea to rebuild the Admiral Twin, because it may attract more people," said senior Connor Schmigle. Junior Bryce Rossler agreed, saying, "It would be cool to see them rebuild the Admiral Twin."

The historic drive-in seems to have a special place in our hearts, so let's hope the fundraising is a success!



With the loss of the historic Admiral Twin Drive-In, Tulsa moviegoers have no choice but regular theaters.  
PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## Review: Lil Wayne's 'I Am Not a Human Being'

By Bryce Rossler  
STAFF WRITER

Riddle me this: What do the game of Battleship and Lil Wayne's newest album have in common?

The answer: They're both hit and miss.

From his chaotic mixtape binge in '06 to the varying quality of his studio releases, the artist known as "Weezy" has never been able to achieve consistency in his discography. Even on a song-by-song basis, he's all over the place.

True to form, his newest album, *I Am Not a Human Being*, is a roller coaster ride. Lil Wayne hops from ripping double-time to conversational flow, from lyrical gem to lyrical dud, from looping, buzzing Martian instrumental to soaring synth R&B cut.

So is it worth listening to? Barely. This album succeeds for

the same reason it fails: it's like *Tha Carter III* all over again.

It's a vast improvement over the auditory genocide that was *Rebirth*, yet it's not *Tha Carter II*. The album's high points show the potential that his coming album, *Tha Carter IV*, has.

Lil Wayne has always been fairly good at R&B tracks, and that ability shines through on the album's best track, "Popular." You may find the beat to be vaguely reminiscent of something else, and if you do, you're on the right track.

However, the album also has its pitfalls. "That Ain't Me" features Jay Sean singing a hook that just screams out 'N Sync, and "Bill Gates" is a closer that ends on a sour note.

With *I Am Not a Human Being*, Lil Wayne will have you in awe one moment, then saying "aww" in disappointment the next. Such is the way of the post-III era, it seems.

### Music to the Max

## Katy Perry's 'Dream'

By Max Harkness  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Call me a dreamer, but I've always thought that Katy Perry, maker of such hits as "I Kissed A Girl" and "California Gurls," had the potential for more than nonsensical, workmanlike pop music. Lyrically, she entices with ridiculous details, and in interviews, she sounds like a pop music scholar, talking of making tons of references with her music.

The first four songs on her latest album, *Teenage Dream*, partially realize this potential. "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)," shows her ability to mix blonde-y text humor and enough details to picture the scene, a party girl messed over by circumstances. We've all heard "California Gurls" and "Teenage Dream," and both are extremely catchy singles,

but with her lyrics, they're actually a bit more than that. Last but not least, "Firework" has an extremely mobile instrumental, mixing synths and violins.

However, after these first four songs, the album devolves quickly into garbage. "Peacock" is probably the worst pop song since . . . well, a long time. The rest is just mindless, formulaic pop. What's worse, throughout the second half, Katy accomplishes what a pop star never should: she's boring. Her voice isn't versatile in range, it's pedestrian. But unlike in most of her notable songs, she doesn't apply it towards quirky details or anything with wit. Ultimately, this is why *Teenage Dream* fails.

Most of all, it just doesn't show the strength of a pop artist who could be what Lady Gaga is now.

# 4 Opinions/Features

FIRST QUARTER  
ENDS OCT. 15

## RCDS' hardest grade

By Ramsey Talladivedula  
STAFF WRITER

I remember years ago when someone told me high school is when it all happens. These are the years when everyone changes and learns what they really want in life. Are you going to be the person flipping burgers at a McDonald's with some greasy, beer-bellied boss, or will you be sitting in a cubicle working 9 to 5 and coming home to live in your quiet, suburban home?

Before you get to either place in life, you must go through high school. Most students who transfer to Riverfield say they like it so much better than their previous schools. Notice they never say it's easy, though.

The "nicest" grade here would have to be 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Your teachers are "nice," your homework is "nice," and most of the people are "nice." You are younger and less experienced than upperclassmen, and

teachers tend to take it easier on you.

Senior year is the time when a lot of people tend to take "easier" classes or drop unnecessary classes altogether.

So the hardest grade must be either the sophomore or junior year.

Connor Schmigle, Kylar Carrington, J. P. Lamb, Ashley Morton, Skyler Dodd, Brandon Miller, Max Harkness, and Meghan Kelkar all agree that our sophomore year is the hardest. Some think that is when everyone gets the most stressed out and hates each other by the end of the year. The majority also agree that sophomore Chemistry is one of the hardest classes to get through here.

However, Moose Alred and Ryan Peake both think our junior year is the hardest.

But as soon as you are finished with high school, it's all going to be worth it. You are going to look back and be grateful you finished these four years at Riverfield.

## Spanish Club plans trip to Spain

By Meghan Kelkar  
STAFF WRITER

According to Riverfield students, the Costa Rica trip last summer was a big success. So Spanish Club is now planning yet another prodigious trip for the summer of 2011.

This time, students will have the opportunity to travel to Madrid, Toledo, Granada, and Seville in Spain. The dates for this trip have not been confirmed, but the group plans to leave around May 23 for ten days.

The cost for students is \$2,868, which includes an enrollment fee, a student program fee, and departure fees. If the student would like to bring their parents with them, the cost per adult is \$3,233. Fees for both adults and students include round trip airfare, all transportation, eight overnight hotel stays, breakfasts and dinners, and a full-time tour director.

"Traveling abroad is not

only an eye opening experience, but it can also enhance college applications as well as career prospects!" said Senora Sacra, who is planning and leading the tour.

Junior Omar Rana, who participated in last year's trip, said, "Costa Rica was amazing because we got to learn about a

new agriculture outside of the United States, and I am excited to do the same with Spain."

If students are interested in the trip, they should contact Senora Sacra as soon as possible. The longer they wait to enroll, the higher the price becomes, so it would be wise to decide soon.



Students can improve their Spanish language skills by traveling to Spain next summer.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## Paris Hilton is rejected by Japan

By Malachi Keeter  
FEATURES EDITOR

One of the most uniquely American things about our culture is the ability of people to come out of nowhere and become famous, even if nobody is actually sure why. Possibly the best example of this phenomenon is Paris Hilton, heiress to the Hilton hotel fortune. She has been all over magazines for years, and quite frankly, nobody's sure why.

Such random celebrity lends itself to amusing moments, however. After a recent

drug bust, she tried to fly to Japan to promote her clothing line. The thing was, though, Japan didn't want her. On September 22, she was detained for six hours at a Japanese airport according to MTV News. It takes a lot to get turned back at the gates of a country that sells undergarments from vending machines, but Paris accomplished it.

Playing it safe, she told reporters, "I'm going back home, and I look forward to coming back to Japan in the future," according to *yahoo.com*.

In the words of senior Skyler

Dodd, "If I were Japan, I wouldn't want her either."

This is not the first time celebrities have been turned back by Japan. Paul McCartney was deported from the country after being arrested for marijuana possession. However, in my opinion there is quite a difference between McCartney and Hilton.

This raises a question, though: Why doesn't the U.S. do things like this? If we turned back loudmouthed socialites at the border, our country might be a much more sensible place.



Junior Meghan Kelkar and sophomore Shelby Hellen agree that 10<sup>th</sup> grade here is the hardest year.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## What grinds my gears

By Bryce Rossler  
OPINIONS EDITOR

So first things first. You know what really grinds my gears? People who incessantly reference overrated blockbuster comedies more than a year after the movie ceased to be popular ... and they act like it's an inside joke. Yeah, we've all seen that movie over 9,000 times and it probably wasn't funny the second time around.

But you know what's even worse? People who reference internet memes in real life. To those people, I say, "Cool story, bro. You're only making it apparent to everyone that you spend half your waking life surfing /b/." Even then, the people who speak as if they were Uncle Dolan or Foul Bachelor Frog in person probably aren't accepted on internet forums and such.

Another thing that grinds my gears is when people punish or jibe you for something you did a long time ago, especially when they paid no mind to it at the time it happened. Such as, when an ex-friend makes fun of you for something that they totally disregarded when you shared a friendship with them. That's just the worst.

Finally, a real pet peeve of mine is people who complain a lot. I mean, sure, we all have our little quips and disappointments here and there, maybe even frequently, but just learn to deal with it, *puh-leeze*. If the rest of the populace can handle things that bother them with patience and maturity, then you can, too. No need to make a big, publicized deal about it.

*Sheesh.*

And that's what really grinds my gears.

## Fall Campout creates memories

By Daniel Hodges  
NEWSPAPER ADVISER

What do river rafting, cookouts, campfires, games, and a tent city have in common? The answer is the Upper School's Fall Campout, which has come and gone for another school year.

A few weeks ago, Upper School students and faculty traveled in style via charter buses to War Eagle campgrounds in Tahlequah to continue this unique Riverfield tradition.

Students and faculty alike participated in team building activities by color groups such as karaoke, skits, sports, and a glow-in-the-dark version of capture the flag. There was also free time for students to hang out with friends, play board games, solve puzzles, and entertain others with music. Of course there was also the traditional floating of the Illinois

River, which has become a hallmark event of the Campout experience.

When asked about this year's Campout, several students and faculty shared their favorite moment, experience, or impression.

Senior Hayden Skoog said Campout was "one giant bottle

of awesomeness." Junior Ryan Peake and freshman Hunter Hoffman each had favorite moments from the trip. "I liked the river rafting and just chilling with friends," said Peake. "Playing instruments and writing songs with friends was way cool," commented Hoffman about his first Upper School campout.

Faculty, too, enjoyed the trip and spending time with students. Asked about his favorite moment, Mr. Wright said, "It's always the River!"

Dr. Tomshany had several thoughts. "Talking with fellow faculty in a relaxed setting is always enjoyable to me because I get to know my colleagues better," he said. "There is also the chance to visit with students which is, for me, a rewarding experience."

Mr. Breig summed up his Campout trip this year by saying, "My bus was the first one home!"



Campers Paula Grice and Jayden Mathews enjoyed rafting.

PHOTO COURTESY OF YEARBOOK STAFF