

# Voice of the Highlander

November 2019 – No. 4

## Thanksgiving Edition

The student newspaper of Robert T. Hill Middle School in Dallas, TX.

### What are you thankful for?

By Jocelyn Shoumbert



Thanksgiving is coming up soon and we all have something to be thankful for. Thanksgiving is the time to be fat and spend time with family and friends. We can always be thankful for little things too.

We are going to be with family and appreciate the things we have today.

"I am thankful for food," said 8th grader Emma Hughes.

"I am thankful for basketball because it gives me something to do," said 8<sup>th</sup> grader Jude Pasion.

"I'm thankful for all my friends and a roof over my head," said 8<sup>th</sup> grader Rey, "Also having food in my stomach."

We all have something to be thankful for and need to show our appreciation. We hope you all have a blessed thanksgiving!

### Paychecks

By Kaylon Edwards



Recently, Robert T Hill has installed a new a new system called student paychecks. It is a system used to track the behavior of students and based on a certain number of "tally's" or "marks" a student could be rewarded or punished. The system is only an experiment.

We wanted to know how some students feel about this system, so we spoke with 8<sup>th</sup> grader Cody Fulenwider.

"I think the paychecks are a good idea, but I feel like they were poorly executed," said Fulenwider.

We also interviewed 8th Ian Marchand.

"I think they're useless," said Marchand. "This system should've never been put into place."

Students so far have had mixed reactions to the paychecks. Maybe the system will improve, but it could still possibly get worse and make students confused.

Robert T. Hill Middle School administration should take what students say about this and try improving the paychecks.

## Three course holiday



By Cody Fulenwider

Thanksgiving is a time where friends and families tend to get together, practice giving thanks, or sometimes even just go on vacation to escape reality.

Although this sounds like a great holiday already, it gets better. People get together and have huge feasts. If you're a picky eater, or cooking is just not your thing, no problem because most people bring their favorite dishes to share with everyone.

With so many great food options and a plate that could never be big enough, this leaves us at the question what are your favorite Thanksgiving foods that will find a place on your plate? Most of us will probably say the traditional turkey, or pumpkin pie, but some of us have other things in mind such as stuffing or your grandma's famous green bean casserole.

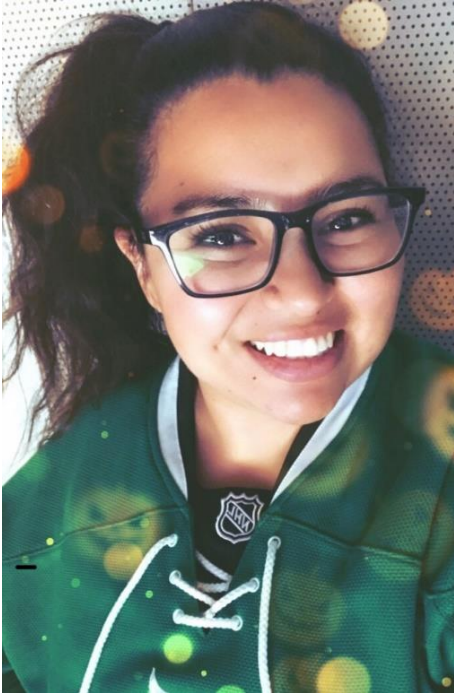
We asked 8th grader Ian Marchand and he said, "I've got to go with turkey because you can never go wrong with an oven baked turkey smothered in gravy."

Others may go for the more traditional feast mixed with some of their favorite cultural dishes such as tamales or elote.

No matter what foods you choose to enjoy it is important to remember what Thanksgiving is about, being with the people you love and giving thanks.

# Math teacher celebrates six years at Hill

By Moo Paw



Ms. Garcia is a 7th grade math teacher here at Robert T. Hill Middle School. She has been teaching at Hill for several years.

“This is my 6th year,” said Garcia.

Garcia also said, “I like that I created a family here with my co-worker.”

She likes teaching math because she said there is always a different way to get one answer.

During her spare time, she is busy. “I spend time with my son Benji,” said Garcia

Ms. Garcia is an awesome and wonderful teacher. If you want to go and say hi go to room 217.

# What is Thanksgiving?

By Julissa Gomez



On Thursday, November 28, it is Thanksgiving. We wanted to find out what is Thanksgiving, and why is this day even celebrated?

Thanksgiving is a national holiday in the United States of America. This holiday been celebrated since 1789.

This is a holiday for being grateful for who or what is in your life.

President Abraham Lincoln started Thanksgiving. It was created in the middle of the American Civil War.

Most people think it’s a nice holiday since you give thanks.

# Just say no

By Demarion Wreh

Kids of all ages get curious of all sorts of things, but in this case, it is drugs.

Most kids feel they must join in to fit in.

Most kids just do it because they are conditioned or taught.

Parents, teachers, and even kids today know all too well how unsafe drug abuse can be.

“Drugs honesty are bad and could put you and your future in jeopardy,” said 8<sup>th</sup> grader Kaylon Edwards, “You’re not even in high school yet.”

“If we teach our peers to just sit back and watch instead of speaking up when they know something is wrong, they may as well be watching their friends die,” said 8th grader Savannah David.

There are groups such as the YADA (Youth Against Drug Abuse) Club that offer support for students. If that support meant having someone on your side and believing what you are doing is the right thing, then they might be willing to turn to that group for advice.

YADA Club meets the first Wednesday of every month.

## Thanksgiving Break

By Angela Tapia

Thanksgiving break starts November 25 until the 29. Many people will go visit family or go somewhere for vacation.

“I am going to Mississippi,” said 8<sup>th</sup> grader Corlynda Malvern, “I will stay there with my family all week.”

“Me and my family will celebrate Thanksgiving by popping fireworks,” said 8th grader Evaristo Hernandez.

8th grader Andrew Sivess also said he was going to his grandmother’s house on San Diego Dr.

That all sounds like lots of fun, and we can't wait to hear how it went.

What will you be doing on Thanksgiving break?

## Soccer has started

By Ceferino Martinez



**Soccer has already started, and we are working hard to win the next few games.**

**We need to work hard and don't give up, so we can pull out a win.**

**This Saturday our coach is going to put Anthony Ramirez as forward because last Saturday he put Bryan Anayah in it did not work out, so coach made some changes**

**The goal for this year is to win all the games and get to the finals because last year we were close to the finals.**

**Good luck to the soccer teams this Saturday. Go Hill!**

## **Dear Highlander: Your Questions Answered**

**Dear Highlander,**

**I don't want to give specifics, but someone in one of my classes is pressuring me to do something I do not want to do. I know it is wrong, but it is hard to say no. Please help!**

**Sincerely,  
Pressured Pam**

**Dear Pam,**

**My advice would be to tell someone you trust about the situation. A parent, counselor, or teacher would be the best person to confide in. We know you can be confident in yourself, so don't let anyone talk you into doing something you know is wrong.**

**Sincerely,  
Corlynda Malvern**

**Dear Highlander,**

**I am being bullied at school. I am really scared and feel if I tell someone I will be hurt worse. What can I do?**

**Sincerely,  
Scared Steve**

**Dear Steve,**

**The first thing to do is to tell a trusted adult what is happening to you. Do not let the bully have an advantage on you and you should never be scared at school. If you see someone being bullied or seeing someone trying to bully be an upstander and do what is right.**

**Sincerely,  
Corlynda Malvern**

## **Top 5 Thanksgiving Foods**



By Katie Dotson

### Mashed Potatoes

8 people picked Mashed Potatoes. Some of them are



Ms. Garcia, Alex, and others. They say that they like them because of the texture and the way it tastes.

### Turkey

6 people picked Turkey. Turkey goes back to the Pilgrims and Native Americans. People like Turkey because of the consistency and taste. It is one of the most picked meats during Thanksgiving.

### Stuffing

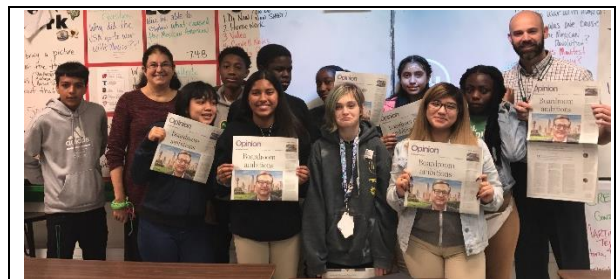
5 people picked stuffing. People like it because of its taste. Stuffing/ filling, because is an edible mixture, normally consisting primarily of small cut-up pieces of bread or a similar starch and served as a side dish.

### Ham

4 people picked Ham as their favorite Thanksgiving food. They like it because of the taste. It an alternative to turkey.

### Sweet Potatoes

3 people picked this as their Thanksgiving food. They like it because of the taste.



**Debbie Fleck, with the Dallas Morning News, came and spoke to the journalism students on November 7, 2019. She was the one responsible for publishing their letters in the DMN recently.**

## **Fall Dance**

**By Breanna Bailey**

Robert T Hill Middle School is having a fall dance on November 15. This is a school-wide thing and everyone one is invited. Posters are all around

the school reminding you to come and dress as your favorite meme.

Of course, there has been a lot of excitement because it's the first dance of 2019 here at Hill. We questioned multiple students about the dance. So far, the students were happy and excited.

6th grade Skyla Bailey said, "I can't wait for the dance. I'm so excited".

Hopefully this dance goes well and is fun, so we can have more dances throughout the year. We hope you enjoy and have a wonderful time at the dance.

## Thanksgiving recipe

By Andrew Sivess



This is a recipe for cornbread.

The ingredients you'll need are: 1/2 cup butter, 2/3 cup white sugar, 2 eggs, 1 cup buttermilk, 1/2 teaspoon baking soda, 1 cup cornmeal, 1 cup all-purpose flour, and 1/2 teaspoon salt.

First, preheat oven to 375 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease an 8-inch square pan. Then, melt butter

in large skillet. Remove from heat and stir in sugar. Quickly add eggs and beat until well blended.

Combine buttermilk with baking soda and stir into mixture in pan. Stir in cornmeal, flour, and salt until well blended and few lumps remain.

Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake in preheated oven for 30 to 40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

With this recipe, you will have delicious cornbread.

## The Unsung Music of RTH

By Jaime Batista



As a student of the orchestra class, myself personally, feels this class doesn't get enough recognition of its accomplishments.

Each one of these students are working at their best effort and have always done what they could do and what they thought they couldn't do.

We spoke with one of the many other students in orchestra and here was his opinion.

“It could be better,” said 8<sup>th</sup> grader Ian Marchand, “It needs to be more organized by the school.”

This is one of the issues that the orchestra class deals with daily since the school’s teacher, Mr. Ludford, is only here part time and has limited supplies.

This is not only a story for this class, but a story for the whole school to recognize orchestra as career-based talent for anyone to master.

If you’re interested in orchestra, contact your counselor for a schedule change.

## Double qualified

By Ian Marchand



Last Saturday the 8th grade robotics team competed here at Hill.

Throughout the whole competition 8th grade placed top 10 with finishing in second place. 8th won at home winning the Excellence Award (the highest possible award).

“We had some bad alliances especially in the

finals, but we made it work” said main builder 8<sup>th</sup> grader Cody Fulenwider.

“We won at home which was good for us,” said main diver 8<sup>th</sup> grader Eduardo Lopez.

I am also on the robotics team and am happy for my team.

The 8th grade team has already doubled qualified for the national championship in Iowa with the Excellence Award and the Design Award.

## Thankful 7th graders

By Victoria Kenny



I’m Victoria Kenny and I’m an 8th grader at RTH. We went around asking some 7th graders what they are thankful for, since Thanksgiving is right around the corner.

Most of them said the same thing, but it’s good to be thankful and grateful for what you have and we all need to be thankful for something. If you’re not then that is ok too, I guess.

So, let’s get into it. We interviewed Ty’liyah Smith, Moo Paw, Hillary Martinez, Corlynda Malvern, and Azalia. Taliyah, Azalia, and Hillary both said they are thankful for their friends.



"I'm thankful for my family," said 7<sup>th</sup> grader Moo Paw.

Corlynda said "I'm thankful for the opportunities I've been able to get."

I'm also thankful for my friends that have always been there for me.

What are you thankful for? Anyway, that's all and Happy Thanksgiving!

## Dribble, pass, shoot

By Ty'Liyah Smith



Basketball season is coming up for boys and girls here at Hill Middle School. Both basketball teams have already started playing. Girls from the team range from seventh to eighth grade.

The coach had many great things to say about this year's girls team.

"This has been the most dynamic season of basketball that we have had in recent years," coach Ms. Pineda, who is also a 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELAR teacher.

Girls on the team, and everyone who watches the games, are in for a good time.

## My favorite things about Thanksgiving

By Hillary Martinez



My favorite things about Thanksgiving is being around my friends and family, the food, and Black Friday.

I like being around my family because their fun and make me happy.

I like the food because I'm always hungry and I love the food my family makes.

I love Black Friday because I love shopping.

## Teacher Spotlight:

### Ms. Perry

By Yuridia Rojas

Ms. Perry is one of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELAR teachers here at Robert T. Hill Middle School. Besides being

an ELAR teacher, Ms. Perry is also a speech teacher.

Some things about Ms. Perry are her favorite color is emerald green and she has been to Mexico and Jamaica.

“If I had the option to visit any place right now, I would go to Italy,” said Ms. Perry, “In my free time I like to write because I get to express myself. I also enjoy styling my hair.”

Ms. Perry says she enjoys her job as a teacher here at Hill.

## Student Profile:

### Omaha Tabor

By Frank Cochran

Omaha Tabor, an 8th grade student at Hill Middle School. He is in the news club, so if you watch “Up on The Hill”, you probably recognize him.

We decided that he is an interesting person, so we decided to interview him for this week's Voice of The Highlander.

Tabor loves dogs, to be specific, anything in the canine and vulpine family.

He also likes all his classes at Hill.

Thanks for reading this article about a random kid that you probably already know.

We'll see you next time on Voice of the Highlander. And hey, maybe it'll be less cringy. Who knows?

## We are on top

By Savannah David



Our girls' soccer team started with a strong start. Our first game was versus Medrano Middle School and we beat them 3 to 0.

We wanted to see what our fellow athletes had to say about this win.

8<sup>th</sup> grader Alexis On said, “I am so excited we started with a great start.”

“I can't wait to beat Gaston,” said 7<sup>th</sup> grader Alexa Hernandez.

The goal for this year's girls' soccer team is to make it to districts and win at the end. We all hope to win all our games this season.

Please come out and support the team!

## Ms. Madrid's Life

By Emely Rodriguez

You probably have heard of Ms. Madrid. She is an 8th grade

literary genesis. We found her interesting to interview, so we did.

“I enjoy going to concerts, and hanging out with my dog,” said Ms. Madrid, “This is my third year at Hill.”

Ms. Madrid is very interesting and an amazing teacher. If you want to talk to her you should try dropping by her class. It is in the 8th grade hall room 231.

Newspaper Staff:

Emely Rodriguez – Senior Reporter  
Savannah David  
Frank Cochran  
Corlynda Malvern  
Angela Tapia  
Hillary Martinez  
Yuridia Rojas  
Ty'Liyah Smith  
Victoria Kenny  
Ian Marchand  
Andrew Sivess – Senior Reporter  
Jaimie Batista  
Breanna Bailey  
Katie Dotson  
Ceferino Martinez  
Moo Paw  
Julissa Gomez  
Demarion Wreh-President  
Cody Fulenwider  
Kaylon Edwards  
Jocelyn Shoumbert  
Mr. Ault – Advisor  
Mrs. Martinez - Editor

**2019-2020**

# **Yearbooks**

**ARE NOW ON SALE**



**WINTER SALE**

**ONLY \$20**

**The price will increase to \$25 after January 1!**

**Please bring CASH or CHECK to room 209.**

