

# RANGER RECORD

Sponsored By: Ms. Madelyn Lopez and Mrs. Audrey McMahan-Johnson



## RUDDER TENNIS AND TRACK

By: Emily Toscano and Haley Reyes

This year, we have witnessed an electrifying performance from our girls in track and tennis, setting the bar high for excellence. In the realm of track, our 7th-grade team, led by the indomitable Autumn Scott, soared to victory at the Meet of Champs. Scott's meteoric rise saw her shattering the district record in the 100m dash with a blistering time of 12.26, while Nyla secured a commendable second place in the same event.

Meanwhile, over on the tennis courts, our girls Liz and Kaitlyn showcased their finesse and passion for the game. Under the expert guidance of Coach Guajardo, they swung their way to victory not only on the court but also in our hearts. As they bid farewell to their 8th-grade year, they reflected on the camaraderie and triumphs they shared, cherishing every moment of this unforgettable season. Their stellar performances testify to their dedication and talent, igniting a fervent hope for many more victorious seasons.

We are incredibly proud of all the accomplishments our Rudder tennis and track teams earned this year. To many many more memories and successes, we cannot wait to see what next year has in store!



# Rudder Soccer

By: Ayuk Ayamba, Layla Barela, Micaylah Trevino, and Sabla Salih

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The 8th grade Boys' Rangers started their soccer season strong, winning 7-0 over Rayburn and 0-3 against the Pease Bulldogs. Despite a winning start to their season, Rudder knew that it would be a difficult matchup against first-place Sul Ross Middle School. It was a very tense match with a lot of athleticism and speed from the Ross Rebels, with the only goal of the game coming in in the last 15 minutes of the game giving the Rudder Rangers a 1-0 win and climbing to first place in Zone C. Our Rangers traveled to Hobby Middle School to face the Hawks that ended with Rudder's goalkeeper kicking a penalty to leave the game at 0-0.

The Rudder Rangers then played their last regular season home game against the team that knocked out Rudder in last season's edition: The Connally Coyotes. This match was intense with many tackles and members of both teams getting injured. Despite this, the Rangers won by a goal to nil bringing them to one last regular season game against Neff. This will be a decisive game because a win will decide if the Rudder Rangers 8th grade are zone champions for the second consecutive time.

On the other hand, the 8th-grade girls are currently undefeated and are in the gold bracket in 1st place in our zone. In the last game, Jimena Jimenez made the goal for 8th grade, bringing the score to a whopping 1-1. The 7th-grade girls won three games and sadly lost two to our fellow schools, Sul Ross and Hobby Middle School. On May 9th, they faced Connally. Connally made the goal in the first half, but goalie Miranda Orihuela came up for a goal kick and made the final score of the game 1-1. Both 7th and 8th-grade girls tied in the ending.

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# Band and Orchestra

By: Sidra Tareq, Zay Johnson, Maya Davis, and Layla Antu

As we near the end of this academic year, let's take a moment to appreciate the unique challenges and triumphs of our school orchestra and band. From mastering the art of perseverance to pushing the boundaries of our musical repertoire, our talented musicians have truly left their mark.

- What is the most difficult skill to master?
  - Orchestra: The most difficult skill to master is perseverance.
  - Band: The most difficult skills to master are articulation and volume control.
- What plans are being made for next year?
  - The plans for orchestra are to be made for next year is to expand the program to elementary and high schools. Some plans being made in the band are to have a movie party and celebrate the returning students.
- What are students excelling at?
  - In orchestra, the students are excelling at and playing music they usually don't play. On the other hand, in the band, students excel at playing confidently.
- How did students perform at UIL this year?
  - The students in the orchestra that performed were really good and praised for their musicality and perseverance. In band, the symphonic band reward for UIL and got all superior ratings got the sweepstakes trophy wind ensemble and got excellent ratings.

Here we conclude another chapter in the musical journey of our school orchestra. Let us applaud the dedication and passion of our talented musicians. With each note played and every hurdle overcome, they continue to inspire us all.

# Ruby Dancers

By: Haidyn Glover, Audry Corrovbuis, and Lilly Ramirez

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In this final newspaper, we will be highlighting our wonderful dance program! We will be covering their upcoming performances, highlighting students, and highlights from throughout the year!

Our Student we will be highlighting is Mei Garcia, she is a 8th grader and is currently in dance one this year. We asked her how she feels about dance ending so soon and she said, "I'm so sad and wish I would have started dance way sooner because my high school doesn't offer dance. Dance gave me an opportunity to learn new things, make new friends, and have a new home where I feel like I belong."

On March 23rd, our dancers from Dance 1-3 performed in our 25th annual Los Leonas festival! This is an art festival hosted at Marshall High School for any K-12 students in Northside! Our dancers did wonderful presenting their different pieces. On April 30th a few of our Ruby Dancers and our Rudder Athletes went to Thorton to cheer on students for their Math STAAR test. On May 10th, our very own Ruby Dancers Dance Company performed their dance *RED* at the Marshall High School Spring recital. This is an upbeat jazz piece with lots of energy. They did so amazing! Our final performance of the year was on May 22nd. This was our Rudder dance recital and it was filled with amazing dances, newfound friendships, and lots of tears from our 8th graders.

Now we would like to look back on some of the best memories from each marking period. In the first marking period, we would have to say the October 20th *Pink Out* was amazing for our Ruby Dancers. In our 2nd marking period the October 24th *Thrill a Mill*, was just amazing. These dancers got to perform with other schools and show off their skills. In our third making period, we would have to say *The Diversity Day* was the most memorable. We had never before seen and done performances from our very own "Afghani" boys!

We would like to congratulate everyone on such a great and successful dance year. There were so many amazing memories, friendships, and firsts for these dancers. From new skills to our first-ever dance company, and lots of memories to cherish forever. Our 8th grade Rudder Dancers wish the upcoming dance students much luck and fun! We look forward to next year Rangers!



# Current Events

By. Emaan Minhas, Sam Lopez, and Arianna Benavides

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Is social media all bad? It's undeniably a significant part of our lives, providing communication and entertainment that often brings joy. Many people are deeply engaged with social media, to the point where its absence would leave them at a loss. It's important to recognize that social media's impact is not universally negative but varies depending on individual experiences.

While there are a ton of upsides to social media, there are definitely some negatives. Things such as false news, cyberbullying, and way darker things that can't be mentioned are some aspects to watch out for. We asked some students and teachers here at Rudder questions related to social media, and we got some interesting answers. Let's start with the effect social media has on people's self-esteem.

Now, here, everyone's opinion is different. Some people don't let social media get to them, but others can't help it. Rudder's own star student, Hailey Mendoza, revealed that social media has, in fact, affected her self-esteem. However, on the other hand, our Athlete, Raul Herrera, isn't affected by social media. We decided to ask our two favorite 8th grade History teachers to truly get expert opinions on the cause. Coach Holguin said, "It has a negative impact because children nowadays need to focus on their own lives and not everyone else's." Ms. Shelton disagreed, saying, "It makes the world smaller, and it helps us get closer to one another." Ms. Shelton also added that "Coach Holguin has no life." Our science teacher, Ms. Mair, is actually on the same page as Coach Holguin. She said, "It's negative because everyone is connected, and no one has any real skills." We can't necessarily determine if social media has a negative or positive effect because everyone thinks differently, but we can say it's good to take a break here and there.

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## Student Highlight

By: Sophie Marsh, Sahara Greer, and Joaquin Villarreal



For student grade level highlights, we picked 8th grader Ian Blanchard. He is a very hard worker, is always on top of his grades, and in our opinion, the school's most athletic person. We asked Ian what keeps him motivated in regards to his grades and sports. He said, "Sports keep me motivated." We also asked him how he is so socially active. He said, "Keep a positive attitude even if you don't like someone." We asked him what he does outside of school he said, "Skateboarding and basketball." Lastly, we asked him what were his long-term goals, and he replied, "... to squat 400 lbs. by Sophomore year."

Fun fact: Ian is the school mascot.

# Clubs and Organizations

By: Barbara Rand, Lilliana Brammer, and Logan Armstrong

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At Earl Rudder, we have a diverse array of clubs, each with its own unique charm. From the Pit Masters club, where students and teachers share their fiery passion for barbecuing. The Robotics club, a hub for our tech-savvy students. Not forgetting our beloved Gardening Club, a haven for our green-thumbed students. This month, we're shining a spotlight on the Gardening Club, diving into their activities and achievements. Our first interviewee is Marcha Dakhan, a dedicated member of the Gardening Club. We sat down with Marcha to learn more about her experiences and the club's current projects. Here's a glimpse into our conversation:

Question: "What made you so enticed to join the gardening club?"

Marcha's Answer: "I really like plants, and I get to work with plants in this club, so that's really cool. We also get to grow edible stuff as well as seen with our tomatoes and squashes. And I'm just thrilled to put in the work and then see the literal fruits of my labor and then get to eat them at the end of the year, hopefully."

Question: "That's interesting; what are you currently growing in the gardens?"

Marcha's Answer: "We're currently growing like tomatoes. They are one of our biggest things right now. We're also growing squashes in our beds, and we're growing basil. We're currently working on a showcase thing, too."

With our interest piqued, we decided to ask Mrs. Orrostieta, the club's sponsor who joined because she wanted to encourage fellow gardeners about a garden's well-being and what plants they're cultivating at the moment. She responded, "We're cultivating a mix of vegetables like tomatoes, squash, and melons, along with various herbs like basil. Additionally, we're nurturing some beautiful flowering plants like in our pollinator gardens like milkweed and zinnias." With such positive news, we decided to see it for ourselves. Despite our high expectations, the garden's quality had surpassed them completely, with baby tomatoes adorning its plants and the color of flowers blooming in itself. The club's progress simply demonstrates proof of its thriving nature, perhaps even more than their own plants.

Signing off, for the final time, Rudder's Journalism!