

the REMARKER

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Igoe accepts Vermont head of school post

by Zack Goforth

Head of Upper School Colin Igoe announced last month he has accepted the position of head of school for the Long Trail School in Dorset, VT.

The Long Trail School is an independent co-ed school that hosts grades six-12. Igoe, who grew up in Massachusetts and came to Texas in the summer of 2019 as head of Upper School, has had a relationship with the Long Trail School ever since he was a child.

"My dad actually worked in Vermont in the winter at a ski mountain right near the school," Igoe said. "For my entire childhood, my family took the couple-hour drive to Vermont every weekend. I grew up skiing in that area as a kid, and when I was working in Massachusetts, my wife and I bought a home near the school, so I knew the school and had a lot of connections there."

The decision to pursue the job opportunity was sudden and not premeditated, according to Igoe.

"[The Long Trail School's] head of school left unexpectedly this January, and someone I know on the board reached out to me about the opening," Igoe said. "You just can't predict the timing of these things."

The decision comes in part as an effort to be closer to family, according to Igoe.

"I believe this is an alignment of a really wonderful professional opportunity," Igoe said, "with also some of the more personal matters when it comes to family and being closer to them, especially as my father's health is not great."

Igoe cherishes his time here and hopes he has contributed to the school's development in his three years on the job.

"I'm incredibly grateful for everything that's happened here," Igoe said, "and I'm proud of the work that we've all done together. St. Mark's is an amazing place that will always have a special place in my heart, and I hope that, looking back, I've left the school a little bit better than when I found it."

COMMUNITY SERVICE | A new beginning



HELPING IS NOT GOING TO BE FOR EVERYONE, AND WE ARE AWARE OF THAT. BUT HELP IS NEEDED. STUDENTS SHOULD FEEL AN OBLIGATION TO SERVE THEIR OWN COMMUNITY.

— JORGE CORREA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICE



COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

In light of a recent surge in students missing the community service hour requirements, we take a deeper look into the purpose of the program and what the future will hold.

See coverage, pages 14, 15.

STORY Shreyan Daulat, Arjun Khatti, Morgan Chow GRAPHIC Morgan Chow

INSIDE

news & issues	2
discovery & stem	8
life & 10600	10
indepth	14
arts & culture	17
ratings & reviews	20
editorials & opinion	21
health & sports	23

04 **antisemitism**
Hate crimes and the legacy of the Holocaust and its impact 80 years later.

11 **final goodbyes**
Six leaving faculty and staff members share their parting words.

26 **NBA draft prospect**
The journey of Harrison Ingram '21 as he looks to further his career.



WEIGHT OF THE WORLD

PANDEMIC PARENTING

WHEN THE WALLS
CLOSE IN

FRUSTRATIONS The time spent at home due to the pandemic has taken a toll on both students and parents.

Two years ago, teachers taught two classes everyday from their homes. Students woke up, threw on a white shirt (or just a hoodie) over their pajamas and displayed their tousled hair over Zoom. A new school year began, first online, then in-person with a new normal. Throughout, teachers and parents endured isolation, weathered uncertainty and bore the brunt of pandemic-driven changes. We sat down with members of the community to discuss trials and small joys of parenting during the pandemic.

ONLINE SCHOOLING

Ashley Ellis has two sons — one current first grader and one current third grader: I'm grateful for the incredible job that the Lower School teachers did. It was definitely challenging for the parents and the teacher to keep the kids in their seats all day, but they were allowed to get up and go play, and the teachers did a great job directing them and letting them get up, run around for a minute and come right back.

Orchestra instructor Dr. Sarah Choi has two sons — one in fourth grade and one in ninth grade: I have a current fourth grader who was a new third grader to the school last year. Even though many people remained remote, we had to send him to campus because otherwise, it would not have felt like he had gone to a new school. Even though we felt hesitant in terms of the health risk, we had to send him because it was so important.

For my other son, a ninth grader, that lack of social interaction, that contact between students and teachers, was difficult. Those interactions are a huge part of their happiness and their engagement throughout the day, and for him to not have that was very isolating. For lack of a better word, it was a real downer, and we saw those effects on him a little more than on my younger son.



SARAH CHOI

Dr. Gabby Reed, Director of Counseling: There's information out there about the impact masks have on younger kids, especially in a social aspect. Because, when wearing masks, you're dealing basically with just eyes, so learning to read facial expression is much tougher. A lot of the cues we get about other people, like their facial expressions, have to be visual. So, when we returned from remote learning and moved to masks, there were costs there for little kids.

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Ceramics instructor Scott Ziegler has a third grader and a fifth grader:

Both of my boys have a lot of energy, so I would make it a point to go outside if they had a break or to go throw a baseball or a football or go for bike rides if they ended early. We were also lucky enough to have a swimming pool in our backyard. Getting them away from the screen and outside was important.



SCOTT ZIEGLER

AE: I happened to be one of the grade representatives for my second grader last year. I got a lot of interaction via email with other moms, and so into the first semester, we started doing things with other kids. Sports started meeting, and signing up through the YMCA was really one of the only ways the kids had social interactions with each other. We as parents had to take control of this situation ourselves.

Julie Ziegler, Scott Ziegler's wife: An issue we had was that I work full-time, and it's hard to separate four people in four different Zooms and still have everybody be mostly productive. One thing I did was sit them together so they wouldn't feel isolated and would be closer to everybody, which I feel like made a big difference.

SC: For us, it was not uncommon to have a couple people at the dining table or in their rooms. Whenever there was a break, we all had to be quiet because other classes were going on. Sometimes, the kids told me I'm teaching too loud. Overall, my kids were expected to be able to stay on their own track, but I know that there were a lot of families where the parent can't be home. I don't know how you expect a second grader to figure this out on their own. If you still have to go to work or not able to work from home, you can't pop out to help the second grader who pressed a random button and left the meeting.

A RETURN TO NORMALCY

Ted Choi's, Sarah Choi's husband: For my son's second year there, this has been a completely eye-opening experience. The first day back, he got to actually eat in the Great Hall that he'd never seen. There were kids in his grade that he didn't know because they had never mixed last year. This was a completely different experience for him. He really enjoyed practically going to school for the first time again this year.

AE: I think young kids are always going to be fidgety, and I'm not sure if online school really enabled them to focus better when going back to in-person.

JZ: When going back to school, especially with my youngest son, because he lost a lot of his first-grade year to COVID and the tornado, was just getting into the routine. He wasn't used to it because he never had the same school routine established like our older son, which I feel added some anxiety for him.

I don't think the kids suffered socially, because everybody was in a similar situation, and it wasn't like they were hearing about all these amazing, wonderful things their friends were doing. I think once we returned back to school, everyone reacclimated pretty quickly and found their people without much trouble.

Reed: One thing the pandemic showed us is that we can be resilient. We made it work. It's pretty impressive that we and schools all over the country and world were able to educate a school full of people. Now that remote learning is hopefully behind us for good, we can say that we learned a lot of lessons about security, internet and communication.



DR. GABBY REED

STORY Zach Goforth, Keshav Krishna, Morgan Chow
ILLUSTRATION Morgan Chow

Record number of students qualify for national math competition after taking rigorous test

by Ian Dalrymple

Eighteen students qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) this year, a record number for the school.

Senior Jeremy Yu, who took the AIME last year and qualified for the USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO), spoke about the process.

"You start with the AMC, then if you qualify you move on to the AIME, then the USAMO," Yu said.

Completing the tests isn't easy. According to Yu, they require solid familiarity with the topics.

"You have to do a lot of studying," Yu said. "There are four broad topics that you have to be familiar with, which are algebra, geometry, number theory and combinatorics. But if you are just kind of familiar with the concepts, then

you can't really be adept at applying them. The reason why it's difficult is because the tests go very deep into the topics. You have to do a lot of practice problems to get really familiar."

While all of the tests require practice, each one presents a different depth of problems and unique time constraints. Master Teaching Chair Dr. Zuming Feng says that the math team activities have changed to help students do well on the tests and accommodate to the varying tests.

"The main changes are in math team activities," Feng said. "We have introduced some contest math curriculum to different activities. We now have three different group settings to meet the needs of students with different backgrounds, and this year there have been evening Zoom meetings

for those who can make it."

Feng says that the math curriculum may also change.

"We are also going to try a new course next year: Algebra II/Precalculus Accelerated," Feng said. "This course is for students who, among other things, have qualified for AIME. It likely will bridge classroom math topics with math extracurricular activities and contests more than other courses."

The increased number of AIME qualifiers is encouraging to Yu, and he hopes that future test-takers will learn from their predecessors.

"The number of AIME qualifiers has been going up these last two years, and that's super good to see," Yu said. "I hope that they can look to upperclassmen as an example. They have a really bright future ahead."

by the
numbers

18 students qualified for the AIME

25 problems in 75 minutes on the AMC

9 hours for the USAMO

HOMELESSNESS

NEVER ALONE
Many organizations and shelters throughout the city offer around-the-clock resources for the homeless.



Homeless, not hopeless

With the homelessness rate in Dallas increasing recently, many shelters, alongside affordable and transitional housing providers, have stepped up to the plate to take as many individuals off of the streets as possible.

Most residents of Dallas see a homeless person every day.

But as homelessness becomes more and more of a problem in the city, the vast majority of citizens choose to look forward and lock their doors instead of sympathizing with and helping these people.

Most of Dallas ignores a homeless person every day. Grace Bergeron, daughter of math instructor Greg Bergeron, doesn't.

Bergeron works as a case manager for CitySquare, a nonprofit organization seeking to fight poverty in the area, with a specific focus on ending hunger and offering affordable housing.

"CitySquare goes about this mission in four different ways: by targeting housing, health, hunger and hope," Bergeron

said. "For hunger: we have a food pantry that's available to anyone, and you can go there once every two weeks. For health, we have a clinic that is available to people with or without insurance. Lastly, we try to inspire hope because we believe that all of our

neighbors have the potential to be great."

One of CitySquare's affordable housing programs is The Cottages, whose tenants include many chronically homeless individuals. Here, Bergeron and her colleagues supply them with important knowledge about homeownership they may have forgotten while homeless.

"I provide housing stability skills among a plethora of other things that people might need," Bergeron said. "A lot of people who are coming out of shelters

have never or haven't in a very long time lived in an apartment or house. They don't know what a lease is, they don't know how to get a money order to pay rent and they don't know how to put in a maintenance request. I mostly teach these basic housing skills and help reintegrate these people into a housing system."

As an organization, CitySquare's housing branch has built itself up from ground zero, gaining more than \$200 million in assets in just 21 years since its inception and helping thousands of people get back on their feet along the way. However, Bergeron believes they could do more in the community if they had more assistance from the government.

"Depending on who's running the government, funds don't always get distributed where they need to be," Bergeron said. "One thing I've learned about is how tax cuts affect nonprofits. CitySquare had to close several programs in 2019 because the one percent of the most wealthy people in the United States were given tax cuts. What people don't realize is that those taxes fund our programs for people experiencing homelessness and our mental health clinics."

The chair leans back. The gentle whir of the clippers fills the small backroom. Then, the spray bottle baptizes the client. With every pull of the clippers and snip of the scissors, hair leisurely drifts to the floor. A haircut's a new look, a fresh start. For many, it's ubiquitous. But for the homeless Casey McManemin '79 sees, it's a simple reminder of hope.

"Seven or eight years ago, we opened up a new barbershop at the shelter," McManemin said.

"The thing about a barbershop is that it can help people with dignity and self-esteem. You might have a homeless person who has everything that takes to get a job but lacks the confidence in how they look to someone hiring them. We want people to feel good to get the mental attention that they require and deserve."

McManemin is the chair of the board of trustees of The Bridge, a homeless shelter in downtown Dallas. He has been actively engaged in the leadership of the shelter for around a decade. Prior to that, he was a donor and volunteer.

"The Bridge is pretty much the only secular shelter in Dallas that has both day and night services," McManemin said. "Night services are just having the comfort of a bed and not having to spend the night out in the open. But day services are where a lot of people can really benefit from the facilities The Bridge has to offer."

McManemin also emphasizes The Bridge's policy of opening its doors to nearly all adults who arrive while maintaining the shelter's security.

"Many places can't have felons or sex offenders or separate couples who aren't married," McManemin said. "We welcome everybody, and there are times where we'll have 800 people on our campus. A few years ago, we reached a thousand people."

For McManemin, a path to getting back onto one's feet is at the heart of what The Bridge provides.

"The Bridge is a recovery center," McManemin said. "The language we use is important. We refer to the people there as guests. The idea is that from the first day someone walks in, we want them to know that we're going to help them get housing. We want them to know their current situation isn't permanent."

Funding for The Bridge comes from the municipal, state and federal levels, totalling approximately \$14 million. But to McManemin, the impact of The Bridge goes beyond the numbers, and resides in the assistance they can provide their guests.

"While we are an organization that has a relationship with public funding, we do not evaluate ourselves by the number of people we bring in," McManemin said. "We are not an output organization, but an outcome organization. Our goal is that for every person that does come in, we are going to find a way to help them get housing and have the proper kind of experience."

STORY Keshav Krishna, Grayson Redmond
GRAPHIC Morgan Chow

Blood Drive sees highest participation in eight years

by **Myles Lowenberg**

The school blood drive collected the most blood since 2014 on Feb. 16, which could impact up to 84 lives in need of blood within the DFW area.

Community service director Jorge Correa attributed the large amount of blood collected to a turnout far greater than past years, with members from all divisions of the school community coming to donate.

"I'm very impressed and thankful everyone participated, not just students," Correa said. "I saw parents who came with their children. I saw faculty, maintenance people and administrative people there too. So, a lot of people take this opportunity to donate blood."

The blood collected went to Carter BloodCare, a provider of blood for transfusions,

Blood bits

- Someone needs blood every two seconds in the United States.
- The most common blood type needed is Type O.
- 4.5 million Americans need a blood transfusion every year.
- An average of 43,000 pints of blood are donated every day in North America.
- One pint of blood can save three lives.

SOURCE BLOOD.ORG

which goes to over 200 hospitals around the area.

"We provide blood to what are called the blood banks," Correa said. "Anybody who gets sick may need some extra blood, and they need to get it from somewhere. So, when we picked Carter BloodCare,

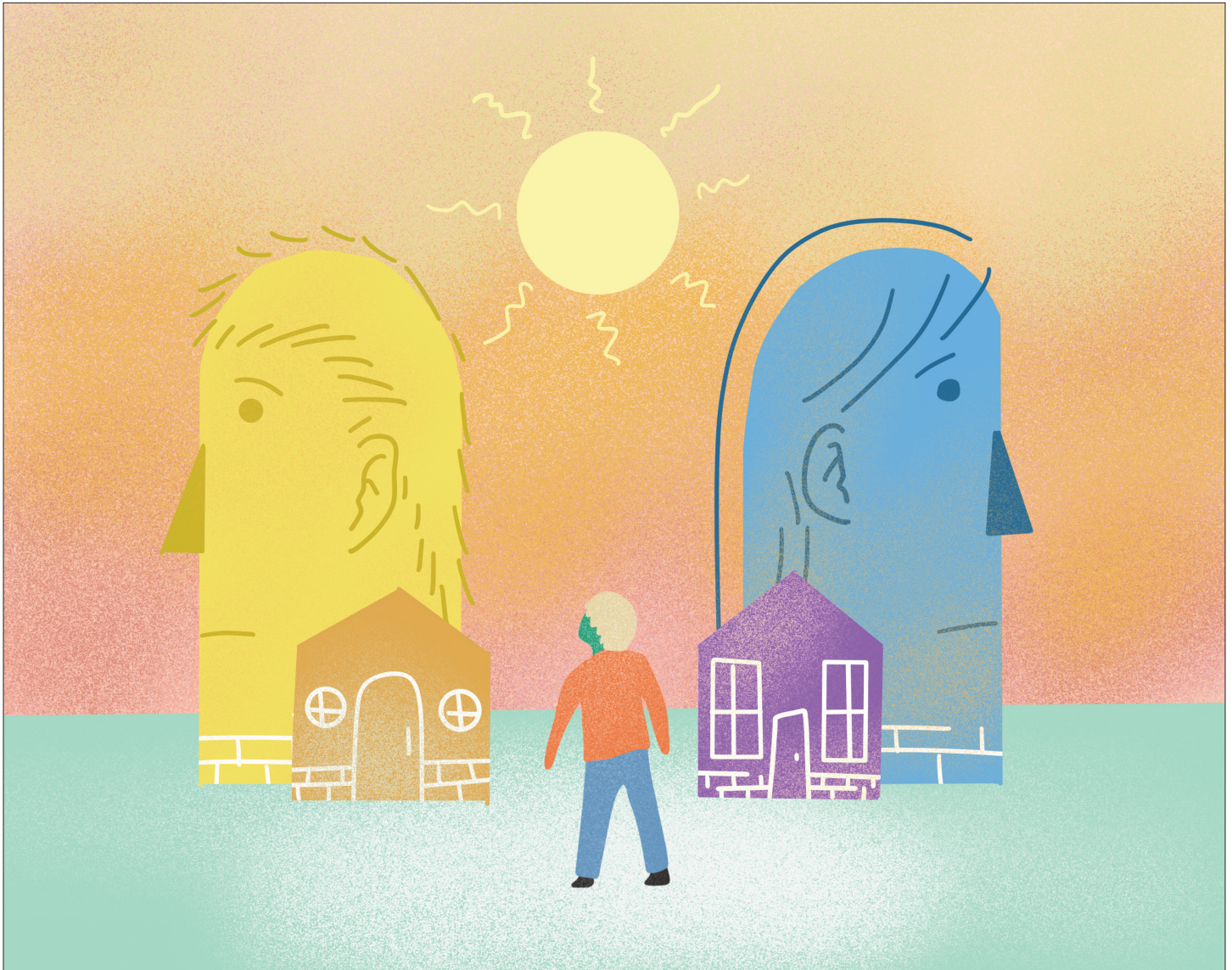
we made sure that it would stay here in DFW."

The drive went on from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., but Correa would like for an expanded donation time during the next drive because of the busy schedules of many in the school community.

"We would like to keep our drive at the level it is at now because this is how it was before COVID," Correa said. "We know it's hard because you're trying to do the drive and at the same time, attend your classes, sports and whatever you have to do. This was the most since 2014, so even before the pandemic we had less. We used to have the whole day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. because we had enough donors."

Correa especially appreciated the influx of blood from the school community due to the lack of donations during the years of the pandemic caused by unwillingness to visit a hospital.

"What happens when there's no blood left," Correa said, "or when during the pandemic, they're hesitant to go to a hospital to give blood because of all the COVID there? So now it's starting to pick back up again, and that's great. It's something that people need to have, and we're glad we can help collect as much as possible."



Family divided Adjusting to a new family dynamic after a divorce brings new obstacles into a child's life, one being the challenge of regularly switching between two homes.

the living situation came down to a matter of convenience. My mom was closer to school, so it was just easier for everyone. That really was one of the biggest problems, since it was simply tough timewise.”

Beyond the living difficulties, another responsibility of Baker's came in the form of being a role model for his younger brother.

“With my brother Isaiah, his family situation is a little weirder, so I've really had to help out and guide him a lot through his life,” Baker said. “I've definitely been able to mentor him greatly, and there's still a lot that I need to do.”

On the other hand, Vanzant has been fortunate to receive guidance from an older family member who made his way into Vanzant's life.

“Having another mentor is

also really cool,” Vanzant said. “My step-dad is always there to advise and support me, and that's really great.”

Over the years of Vanzant living with this dynamic, a sense of normalcy remains within the family.

“Obviously, I've grown closer and closer with my half-brother and my stepdad, but my relationships with my actual parents have stayed the same. I stay in contact with my dad pretty much every day. Even my parents are still on good terms. Though they don't talk regularly, they'll still communicate with each other over scheduling issues.”

To keep connections with his different family members, Vanzant was forced to make adjustments to his daily life.

“I developed really good time management skills, so I could still find

time to maintain the relationships I wanted to,” Vanzant said. “Spending quality time with each parent was something I strived for. It was also tough making sure that my biological sister and half-brother understood what was going on.”

Although Vanzant acknowledges the hardships that arise through the adversity, he recognizes the positives that emerge as well.

“No kid really knows what to expect from something as serious or as important as divorce,” Vanzant said. “Going into it, I didn't expect anything ideal to come from it. However, I've come to love my half-brother. He's amazing.”



ELIJAH BAKER
senior

STORY Will Pechersky, Dawson Yao
GRAPHIC Morgan Chow

Statement

Every time I tell someone I'm part of my school's journalism program, the first thing they assume is that I must be a great writer.

While I'd hope that might be correct (you'd have to ask our readers), what most people don't realize is that I'm a designer and artist at heart, not just a writer. Instead of using Google Docs, I utilize Adobe Illustrator. Instead of taking notes with a pen and paper, I create my work with an iPad. Instead of striking up conversations through writing, I pique readers' interest through visuals.

This journey started six years ago in a Middle School literary magazine club, where I fell in love with graphic design. It became my newest passion for the next two years, but even so, I considered digital art merely a minor aspect of the whole process. It certainly was entertaining and a hobby I wanted to keep pursuing, but I assumed it was only to complement the "real" journalistic operations like interviewing and writing. So, I joined the introductory journalism course freshman year, hoping to learn about these "real" procedures.

But through the course, I learned that some things were impossible to express with just words. Where writing failed, art thrived. So, I kept at my passion, spending hours trying to improve my skills, like discovering hidden mechanics of every Adobe product, even sleeping at midnight experimenting with effects I had seen on the internet. The upperclassmen noticed my commitment and soon assigned me small graphic work. And I cherished every newspaper cycle, as each assignment gave me something else to practice. From there, creating at least one illustration for every issue became routine, and my reputation as a visual artist grew.

I finally made my big break at the end of sophomore year with the opportunity to draw the cover of the 2020 April issue discussing Asian hate. Until that moment, all I had been given were simple tasks, but this assignment meant the complete trust of the staff to create a compelling first page covering a sensitive topic. Not only the pressure as an amateur graphic designer but also as an Asian American myself meant I had to be deliberate. So after a week of disregarded drafts and late nights, I emerged like Moses and his Ten Commandments with my masterpiece, my *pièce de résistance*. But that cover art gave me more than just morning fatigue; it gave me a chance to see the potent effect a single work of art can have on a community. I received compliments and encouragement for the piece, resulting in a newfound eagerness for my role as an artist. It pushed me to become the creative powerhouse of every subsequent issue, and in a month, I was selected as editor-in-chief of the paper's supplemental magazine *Focus*. After one more year, my hard work culminated in my selection as the managing editor of design for the newspaper itself.

Through all these experiences, I've realized the true significance of visual elements. Pleasing accompanying graphics make it so Pulitzer-worthy stories can't be forgotten, emotional narratives can't be unappreciated and entire publications can't be left unread.

It's truly been an honor growing as a graphic designer and journalist with such a fantastic team. Without the trust and encouragement of my peers and the legendary advisor of Mr. Westbrook, I would not be here today as an artist. And I hope that through my work, others can also realize that journalism is not just made of stories but art as well.

Submitted Art

1. **Commitment to Community (Cover page May ReMarker)**

As a side effect of the pandemic, community service hours were at a recent record low; however, Austin Street Shelter, one of the city's largest homeless shelters, had built a new 50,000+ square-foot building in our school community. We knew we had to promote community engagement and take advantage of the new space, so I created this graphic to help get the message across. I started with our school's Path to Manhood statue, which stands at the front of our main building and embodies the ideals of our school. In this graphic, it leads the way, leaving behind a trail for the figures inside to follow. Represented by the light blue silhouettes of people in the foreground is our city community; the shelter itself is represented by the building in a darker blue; and finally, the entire city of Dallas is represented by the gray skyline in the background. A more flat, less complicated color scheme made it so that people could see our message and the graphic.

2. **Weight of the World (Page 22 The Human Effect)**

This story delves into the responsibility the school has to be green to make up for previous generations, so I used the Path to Manhood statue again to represent my school community. Our obligation is to protect the earth and support the world, so I made the graphic to mirror the position of the Greek Titan Atlas, who had to hold up the world as punishment for his irresponsible actions.

3. **Frustrations (Page 4 March ReMarker)**

After an entire year of online schooling, families were still feeling the effect of this lack of in-person communication. Because the article discusses the hardships of schooling over Zoom, I wanted to represent these frustrations and the toll it takes on families, especially parents and younger children. So, I drew a familiar scene of an exasperated mother and tired son in front of a laptop to show that the situation was prevalent in the student body.

4. **Never Alone (Page 6 March ReMarker)**

As the homelessness rate grew in Dallas, the city saw many shelters provide for people in need, reminding them that they weren't alone. To illustrate this, I hand-drew a pair heading arm-in-arm into one of these shelters in the middle of the city. The primary two figures are the clearest in this graphic, and most of the background is a bit more blurry to emphasize the two subjects.

5. **Family Divided (Page 5 Family Matters)**

Most children whose family goes through a divorce have to switch between houses and parents constantly. This illustration conveys that these children feel torn between the two homes, which in reality, represent the two parents. I conveyed this with color as well; the secondary color green represents the child while the parents are the primary colors blue or yellow. The colors signify that the child is still a product of their parents, even though the couple might not share any mutual colors in their life anymore.