



austin,  
texas

McCALLUM HIGH SCHOOL 2021

the  
knight  
volume  
98

but  
it's  
not  
all



**AN EVENT 2 REMEMBER:** Graduates Alex Melendez, Caroline Cox and Abby Soto have prime seats in a Jeep driven by Cox's mom Alicia. Cox said the parade was a blast except that her 2021 balloons kept falling off her car. She said the students in the car two spots behind them kept retrieving the numbered balloons along the road as they drove by. That minor annoyance, she said, was far eclipsed by the joy of seeing all her friends' parents along the parade route and being able to take the event in with two close friends. Cox said she and Soto have been classmates since kindergarten at Lee Elementary, all through Lamar and Mac and that she met Melendez when they were freshman but became close when Melendez managed the basketball team Cox and Soto played on as sophomores. She said she happened upon Melendez at the quinceanera of freshman Lidia Pecina earlier in the year and hung out with her pretty much every pandemic day after that. Cox said the parade should become a permanent senior tradition at Mac. "It would be cool for it to have been our thing, but since you can't say goodbye to teachers during graduation, I think the parade is a good way to say goodbye to everybody. I think every class should do it." In the end, she said, "Senior year wasn't too bad. It definitely ended well, a thousand times better than I expected." *Photo by Dave Winter*



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66 IN 2

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Jeff Seckar-Martinez (art)

volume 68  
**THE KNIGHT 2021**



River Peña (9)

**BLUE**  
it's not all



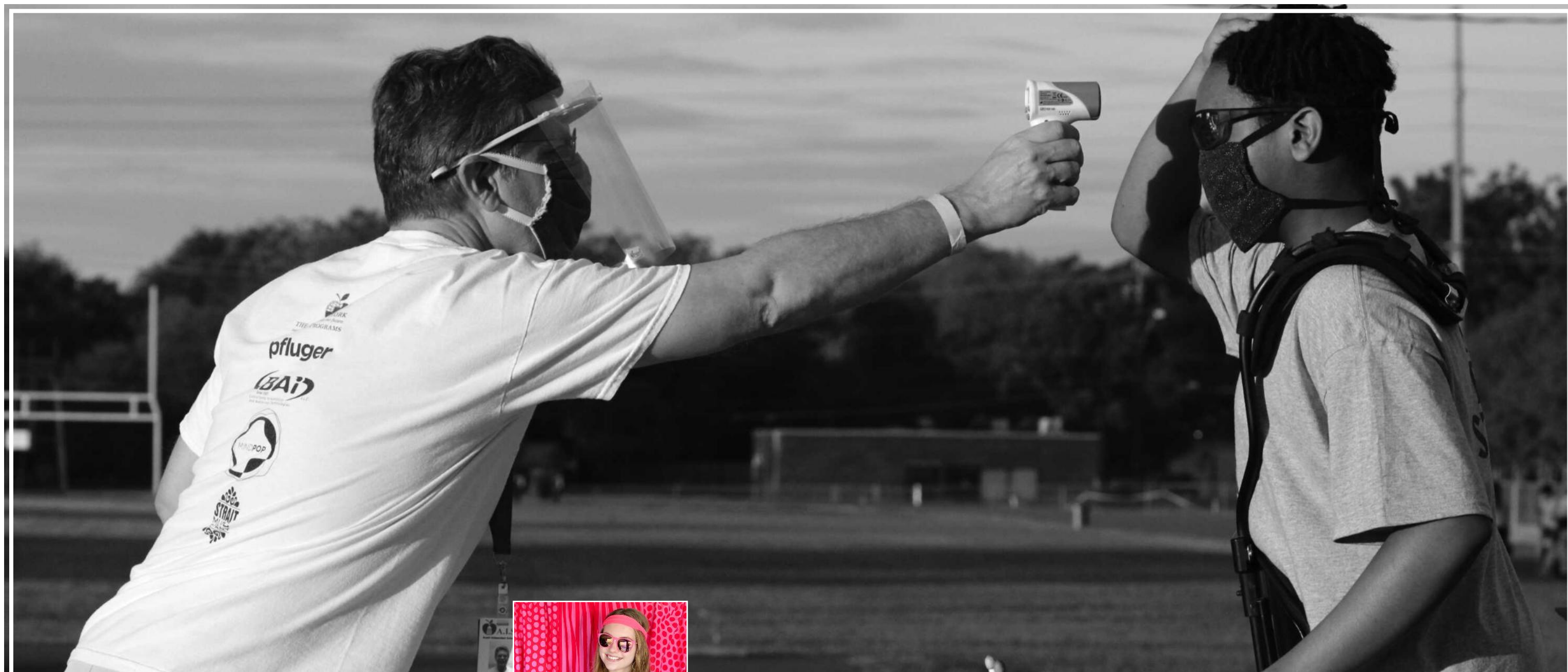
Wynter Winston (11)

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Kenta Asazu (12)





**STEPPING FORWARD:** Band director Jeff Rudy performs a COVID-19 safety temperature check on freshman MJ Lee as he arrives at the first day of in-person rehearsals of the year — a step forward in what has been, until now, an exclusively online season. “I remember two things about that evening: one, how great it was to see students in person for the first time in forever, and two, being extremely cautious with safety protocols and following them to a ‘T.’ Even though we were outside, we were sanitizing anything we touched and were placing students five yards apart,” Rudy said. “It felt so good to actually have a practice, though nothing about it was ‘normal.’” Photo by Ale Luera



Bella Russo (12)



Ingrid Smith (9)



Vanessa Lee (12)

*This year was one for the history books. That can't be denied.*

**We lived through a pandemic,  
a once every 100 years pandemic.**

**It was scary and exhausting, and lonely and stressful.**

*By the time school started in September,  
the only thing we knew for sure  
was that we were all going to be  
stuck at home for a while.*





Karlann Smith



Pearl Heinley (12)



John Pratt (12)

Pretty much everything else was unknown and subject to change with the next AISD update. We had few answers but endless questions about what was to come.

**When will teachers have to return to the classroom?**

*When will it be safe for students to return?*

Does anyone know how attendance works?

**When will it be safe for sports and extracurriculars to resume?**

When, if ever, would freshmen get to set foot on campus and start making new friends?

Could this election get any stranger?

How long will this winter storm last?

*Can the state's power grid really be this bad?*

**Will we get to have prom and graduation?**

*When can we get vaccinated?*

**MONARCHS OF THE ART ROOM:** Junior Zoey Rucker works outside the ceramics classroom on March 4 to sand her sculpture so she can paint it. Rucker said that it took forever, long enough to convince her that the school's new outdoor learning initiative should come with a warning to use sunscreen. Rucker, who was among the first students to come back to campus, said she really enjoyed it, especially at first when there were only about 50 students at school. "It was quiet and my teachers let me let me do most of my work offline," Rucker said. "Being back in the art rooms was great. I was the only one in there for about a month and would take up like three tables with my prints." Rucker added that she enjoyed the flexibility of the year even if it was strange. "It was weird having the freedom to switch between online and in person. Sometimes I would just show up for my sculpture class and leave. During the very beginning of the spring semester, the only person I knew in person was my sister," Rucker said. "It was weird constantly getting told to stand six feet apart from a person you live with though." *Photo by Dave Winter*







**LIGHTS OUT KNIGHTS OUT:** Coming together to celebrate the win over Marble Falls by singing the school song, the lights at House Park stadium were turned off. With the school's slogan being "Lights out, it's Knight time," the lights going out was the perfect way to celebrate the win over the tough district opponent. *Photo by Caleb Melville*

*All of these unknowns left us tired and sometimes discouraged, but was it all bad?*

**In some ways, yes. But in more important ways, no.**

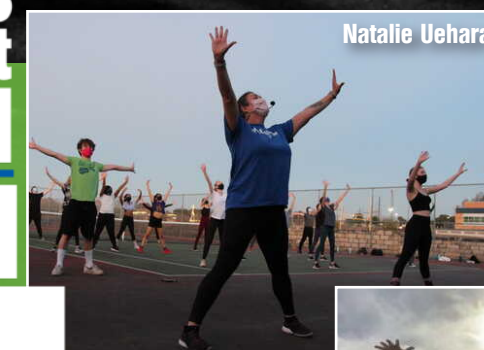
**We don't think so.**

*Because we refused to give in.  
We found new ways to connect,  
to find the positive and to make it work,  
**over and over and over again.***

*That's why we'd like to share with you,*

**BLUE**

**it's  
not  
all**



**Natalie Uehara**



**Gella Andrew (9)**



**Josie Bradsby (10) & Lydia Reedy (10)**





# FALL

**CLEAN SCREEN:** As the members of the Blue Brigade head to the field for their halftime show at Burger Stadium on Nov. 13, junior lieutenant Annabel Winter dispenses hand sanitizer to each Blue Brigade member as they exit the bleachers. To stay COVID-safe, the team practiced outside and wore masks while in the stands and while dancing. "In a normal year, giving out hand sanitizer and wearing masks at a game might seem unusual, but it felt like the new normal in 2020 because I got used to taking temperatures and checking green screens at practice." She said such steps were not annoying but rather enabling. "Going to football games felt like a privilege because the year was filled with such uncertainty," Winter said. "For a long time, we weren't really sure if we were going to be able to perform on the field or even attend the games." *Photo by Dave Winter*



# STOP INSTR

**BREAKING NEWS:** On Jan. 6, the day the Senate and House were supposed to confirm the election results from the November 2020 election, President Trump hosted a rally in Washington D.C., which later turned into a riot and an attempted insurrection. The news traveled fast, and midway through third period the few students that were on campus, including senior Luke Lozano, all tuned into the news in their classrooms, watching and wondering what the future of the United States would be if the rioters were successful with their mission. Lozano watched on his computer in Mrs. Smith's class while they discussed the events as the news popped up. *Photo by Lindsey Plotkin*



# PEOPLE

**WORK NEVER STOPS:** Working on an art project, sophomore Esme Moreno stays focused to get her work done. This project was for her Painting I class, where students learned the basics of painting. Because students were not in person for most of the year, they picked up supplies during the first week of school to be able to successfully work from home. *Photo courtesy of Moreno*



# REFERENCE



**THROUGH THE FOG:** In heavy fog, junior Anna Bausman looks for the ball during the JV girls soccer scrimmage against the Weiss Wolves to open the 2021 season. Despite the heavy fog on the field, the game continued with the Knights and Wolves tying 2-2. "I remember this game being one of the first we had of the season," Bausman said. "We were a new team and had only practiced for a short amount of time. I couldn't see from one end of the field to the other because of the fog which made it difficult for our team to really connect and learn to play with each other. The fog made the game feel like it wasn't a game at all because it was just so unusual." *Photo by Anna McClellan*



After it was all said and done, we think you agreed.

## It wasn't all blue.

*"This past year was something none of us expected and though there were many challenges we faced, they brought us together. I went through a pandemic and on top of that, faced the loss of loved ones, making life exhausting. Yet, I also gained new people in my life and they made my life brighter because of the support they have given me. From these experiences, I have been able to grow into a better person because I have gotten to know myself more and having a larger support group helped me to make better choices. Like the saying goes, 'Too many people miss the silver lining because they're expecting gold' and in our present situation people are looking at the suffering of the pandemic, but they should actually be looking at how they have grown."* **Cara Fong (10)**

*"This past year has been miserable and beautiful all at once."* **Bess Estrada (10)**

*"There have been a few positives coming out of this year such as me being accepted into a college. I have also had an above average baseball season and have accomplished many of my goals. I also got to enjoy prom with my wonderful girlfriend of 2 1/2 years and that was super fun and I got to dress really nice also."* **Easton Salinas (12)**

*"My biggest takeaway from this year is probably that no matter how hard things get or how out of my control they are, I can always control what I do. I can always find ways to learn and grow no matter the circumstances."* **Jenevie Anderson (11)**



**Raleigh Margulies (12)**



**Esme Moreno (10)**



**Alisa Biji-Spiro (11)  
Samantha Powers (11)  
Grace Nugent (11)**



**COMING HOME TO CENTER STAGE:** Senior dance majors Dorothy Anne Smith, Abby Tobleman, Alana Brown and Sipriana Alba leap together during the appropriately named number, "Solidarity," during the final performance of the spring dance show in the MAC on May 15. Senior dance majors Isabelle Baird and Avery Miller choreographed the dance, and the senior dance majors performed it earlier in the year at the student-directed dance show on the outdoor stage on March 10-11. At the spring show, the seniors performed it three more times. "This piece was special because we have been working on it for a long time," Vargas said. "When we do it, it's just all muscle memory, so we can all have fun." The show was also special for the dancers because it marked the first show held in the MAC in more than a year. "We were planning on having the show on the outdoor stage but at the last minute decided to switch indoors since most of us are vaccinated, and the MAC is big enough to social distance in," senior dance major Georgia Dover said. "I don't think any of us realized how much we missed that stage, and it was really cool to be able to return to our roots for our final show of the year." *Photo by Dave Winter*





**UNEXPECTEDLY HAPPY NIGHT:** At the graduation ceremony, salutatorian Iris Horn smiles while she gives her speech. After rain the week leading up to the ceremony, the district opted to move indoors from House Park stadium to the Burger Activities Center gym. Despite the change of locations, everyone, including Horn was just happy to be in the presence of their classmates and be able to celebrate together after a year filled with so many negatives. "To be completely honest with you, this is not where I thought I'd be standing tonight," Horn said. "This year has given us a chance to prove ourselves, overcome obstacles and move on to the next chapter of our lives." *Photo by Dave Winter*



**Abby Tobleman (12)**



**Mabry Adair (10)  
Ava Laware (10)**



**Erin Toliver (12)  
Matthew Vargas (12)  
Sipriana Alba (12)**

*"I think the silver lining in doing online school was being able to sleep in and go to school in my pajamas everyday. While I hate most of online school, it was nice to be able to get up two minutes before class in my pj's or stay at home and sleep through my off period."*  
**Luke Robb (12)**

*"This past year I was able to dip my toes into a lot of new things. I began listening to different music and looking into different clothes. I took a break from a lot of things and was able to rekindle some friendships. I also lost a few but I feel like it bettered me as a person. I began to realize a lot of things about myself and how I approach certain situations and how differently people perceive me from myself. I learned a lot about myself and proud at where I am at."*  
**McKenzie Martinez (9)**

*"I used the extra time that I was given by virtual learning to devote myself to what I love. I made great achievements this year that I think would have been a longer process if I were not using lunch breaks, extra time after finishing assignments early, what would have been commuting time, and our stir period to develop skills pertaining both to in-school commitments and out of school commitments. I used this year to set myself up for a bright future this next year is sure to bring."*  
**Kate Shackelford (10)**

*"The biggest silver lining of this year for me was probably the sense of community that the school has provided for me. I think without school in person, it made us be thankful of the in person relationships that we shared."*  
**Sophia Carter (11)**

*"I think that having good people in my life made the year a bit better. Having family and friends and teachers to talk to was really helpful and eased the stress of the pandemic. When you surround yourself with people who make you happy and have a positive impact on you it makes unfavorable situations more bare-able."*  
**Nahla Wilson (11)**

*"To say this year was normal, is far from the truth, but to say that this year wasn't full of opportunities would be a lie. I was forced to connect with others on a deeper level, due to online learning and social distancing. I was forced to spend time with myself that I usually wouldn't get. I got to know myself better physically and mentally, and learned new things. There were definitely challenges to the year, but I'm thankful to be here and to have spent quality time with myself and my family."*  
**Mia Gomez (11)**



"Soccer season was very different because we weren't able to have a preseason, we had to play in masks, we had no access to the locker rooms, and we had to drive ourselves to games. Despite all of the challenges we faced and how different this season won, we were still able to go undefeated in district and win the district championship. We were unable to have team dinners so we made the most of practices and games, and we were still able to become a super close-knit team." **Lindsey Plotkin (12)**

"I love was how close everyone was able to become. Through all the hardships we faced as a community, we were in it together and were able to help and support each other through it all. This was all new to us, and we didn't have a clue what to do, but it truly brought teachers and students a lot closer - through trying to figure out technological difficulties, broken wifi, and so on- I saw our school work harder and stronger than ever before." **Elle McRae (11)**

"I think honestly I made some of the most valuable friendships this year. Like I don't even know how that came to be, but honestly through clubs, PALS, and Ambassadors I was able to make very impactful and meaningful friendships that I will hopefully have for the rest of my life. The only way to make connections was to get involved, and I'm so glad I was able to keep being involved in everything I love at Mac." **Isabela Tellez (12)**

"I cannot take social interaction for granted. Online school especially has shown me that when there does come a time where we can all socialize like before COVID, we all need to appreciate the time we spend with others. While there has been a lot of time by ourselves, we must look to the future for a more hopeful time where we can return to normal social life." **Gage Sanchez (11)**



**Mary Ayala (11)**



**Jonathan Porter (12)**



**Fabian Castillo (12)**

**OVER SEVEN YEARS IN THE MAKING:** Coach Jim DeLine and senior Mariana Torres-DeLine embrace after finishing the archery season. "Ten years ago, we had no idea where we would be today," Mariana said. After four years of hard work, the father-daughter duo were finally able to lead the McCallum team to nationals. "There is no way to predict 'hope' from the perspective of resolve and steadfast courage," said Coach DeLine, the NASP National Coach of the Year. "Nationals gave us everything to build on and nothing to be ashamed of." McCallum finished tied for eighth among Texas high school teams that competed at nationals. The team scored 3,156 points and shot 88 bullseyes to place 167th out of 247 high school teams across the nation. Photo by Ellen Fox





# BLUE

it's  
not  
all

## the colophon 2021 KNIGHT

The 2021 Knight was created on students' and advisers' personal computers with 95 percent of the staff working from home the entire school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Classes met over Zoom 2-3 times per week and on occasional work nights. During the spring semester several staff members returned to campus and were able to work together in-person. The bulk of the book was produced with Balfour's online platform, Encore, because most students could not access Adobe. The staff strived to create the best book possible to accurately cover the unique school year and the student body who was divided between in-person and remote learning, all while learning the production process. When looking through the yearbook, please remember it was created by high school students during what very well might have been the most challenging year of their lives.

The 750 copies of the 67th volume were pre-sold at a cost between \$65 and \$85 dollars. The yearbooks

were printed by Balfour Publishing in Dallas, Texas and went to press on July 12, 2021.

Staff photographers and photojournalism students took the photos in this book on Sony A6000 and A6300 and Panasonic GX85 mirrorless cameras, and several Canon Rebels, unless they used personal cameras. Photos were also crowdsourced through the MacJournalism instagram account and the use of Balfour's EZPic email campaigns.

The theme "it's not all BLUE" was originally the idea of Elly Schottman. The editors then worked together during Balfour's virtual Intensity workshop to develop the visual and verbal carrythrough of the theme. The theme phrase drew from the idea that even though much of this school year looked and felt different, due to the isolation of quarantine and online school, it wasn't all bad. In the end, the positives of the year shined through.

The cover was designed by the editors in partnership with Juan Valdez. The yearbook cover is a 4-color lithocote cover with a soft touch finish. Other applications include UV varnish and air texture. The cover was printed in three different colors (pink, green and orange) and students who preordered were able to choose which cover they preferred. The endsheets are full color with a soft touch finish and they are printed on 10 pt. coated endsheet stock. The book's 256 pages were printed on 100# Anthem Plus Matte paper. The staff used the Olympia font family throughout the book.

Special thanks to Jim Anderson, Stacy Mehrens and the entire Balfour team, especially our patient and always helpful account executive Nancy Dewees. We would also like to thank our photographer, 1st Photo Texas, our principal Nicole Griffith and the teachers, administration and custodial staff for supporting us throughout the year.





**WEAPONS OF MASS DECEPTION:** In a decisive moment of the theatrical version of Clue, Col. Mustard (sophomore Finn Higgenbotham), Mrs. Peacock (junior Grace Hickey), Mrs. White (junior Lila Plummer), Miss Scarlet (senior Amélie Chaouat), Mr. Green (junior Arlo Sever) and Prof. Plum (junior Oscar Renwick) each receive one of the classic board game's trademark weapons from Mr. Boddy (senior Terrel Hall), whom they believe to be the mansion's owner and the one blackmailing them to kill the random people who know his checkered past or risk having their own sordid secrets revealed. Hickey said the scene was tedious to choreograph because everyone had to thrust their weapon skyward with the same quizzical expression at precisely the same time. Everyone that is except poor Mrs. White (Plummer), who in mere seconds, will mistake her rope for a snake and scream bloody murder (so to speak). The challenges of staging Clue went way beyond this scene. The incessant spring rain literally dampened the enthusiasm of the cast and crew and canceled multiple shows. When Clue closed on Sunday, May 9 (when this photo was taken), it marked the last x-ne arts performance of the year on the outdoor stage. Dance, music and art exhibits after May 9 were held in the MAC, the Fine Arts Building Theater or the gym. "I am so proud of what we were able to accomplish this year with all of the help from the community volunteers and the supportive faculty," said Hickey, whose mom Shaneye Ferrell secured the Lowe's Community Heroes Grant essential to building the outdoor stage. "Looking back I am so honored that audiences continued to show up and support our amazing little theatre department no matter how much the world and weather persisted against us. The lessons I learned and the work I put in this year made me so much more mentally tough and excited for the future that lies ahead of me." *Photo by Dave Winter*

it's  
not  
all  
**CLUE**