



# Tiger Inquirer

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Harmony Science Academy-Houston

## Arts and Crafts Festival

## Ashley Semier

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The Arts & Crafts Festival will be held September 29, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m. The cost to get into the festival will be \$3.00.

Mr. Matthews, a former social studies teacher for Harmony, will be retuning to his "throne" in the dunking booth. We are sure that there are many students ready and willing to dunk him. Ms. Brito stated that she might be willing to get in the booth, but she knows no students would want to

dunk her.

There will be Door prizes and food will also be sold at the festival. The construction will not get in the way of the activities that were held last year. The waterslide/moonwalk will still be around to



occupy children.

Traditional carnival type attractions will also be available such as apple bobbing and face painting.

If you want to buy your tickets in advance or have any questions about the festival contact Ms. Alcorn in room 125.

Be sure to bring the family and spend a Saturday supporting your school and Fine Arts Department. See you there!

### Profound Quotes

Education is not preparation for life; Education is life itself. ----John Dewey

Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one. ---- Malcolm S. Forbes

The larger the island of knowledge, the longer the shoreline of wonder. ---- Ralph W. Sockman

## Upcoming Events

## Community Outreach Department

### HSA Happenings

- PTO Elections : Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- Open House (for all grades): Thursday, October 11 at 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- Lifetouch Student Pictures: October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Family Fun:

- Houston Astros vs. Atlanta Braves : Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:05 p.m. at Minute Maid Park
- Domsday Wrestling on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m. at Meridian

### Outings:

- Magnetic Attraction: Science Station September 29, 2007 9:00 a.m. Children's Museum

## Interview with Mr. Robertson

Sean Lavallies and Damaun Lott

Hello, Harmony Science. Now that we've jumped head-first into a new school year, that also means new teachers. There are still some familiar faces in the HSA family, but there are also a lot of new ones. There's not much that we know about Mr. Robertson, but in our first interview of the year, we hope to change that.

**P:** Do you like teaching here?

**Mr. Robertson: Yes (emphatically)**

**P:** What made you come here?

**R:** Well, I was in the process of sending out my resume/interviewing here at Harmony and learning about the school environment and the way that the school is run and conducted, I really enjoyed and was interested in the level of freedom and opportunity that this job would afford me, so I eschewed all of my other offers and now here I am.

**P:** Are you thinking of staying here?

**R:** If by "staying here", you mean "living here", then, no I'm not considering moving out of my apartment and into the school, but, if by "staying here" your mean "continuing gainful employment here", I most certainly am thinking about it and I'm very interested in it.

**P:** What school did you come from?

**R:** I graduated from the University of Houston with a BA in English Literature (minor in Psychology), magna cum laude. While attending UH, I worked there for two years teaching Developmental English and ESL. As far as teaching High School, this is my first go-round on that front.

**P:** How were your high school years?

**R:** In 10<sup>th</sup> grade I was 6'2", weighed 115lbs, had extremely long hair, and played Dungeons and Dragons. My High School years were actually pretty short, as I graduated a couple of years early. There were good times and bad times back then. Mostly, I'm just glad that I grew out of my "awkward and gawky" phase and



into the handsome, witty, intelligent, stylish person that stands before you today.

**P:** Did you always want to be a teacher?

**R:** There was always a part of me that wanted to be a teacher, specifically an English teacher. I have a strong passion for literature and writing. I also enjoy passing on my love of reading and writing to other people and hopefully showing people that reading for knowledge or for pleasure and writing and researching isn't actually some Medieval form of torture and that it can, in fact, be quite enjoyable. Also, a few years ago, I was at an Astros' game and the guy that threw out the first pitch was the HISD Teacher of the Year; so, if teaching can help me realize one of my goals in life, throwing out the first pitch at an Astros' game, that's all the better.

**P:** Do you have a favorite class?

**R:** Sure. I like the working class. They have all the best songs written about them—"Working Class Hero"... "Don't Stop Believing"... 99% of Bruce Springsteen's catalog... good class of people they are.

**P:** What was your family like?

**R:** My family was great. I was born in Texas, but I spent most of my life growing up in South Louisiana. My Dad worked (and still does work) offshore in the oilfield and my Mom was (and is) one of the kindest, most loving and giving people I've ever known. I have an older brother that works in the

**"In 10<sup>th</sup> grade I was 6'2", weighed 115lbs, had extremely long hair, and played Dungeons and Dragons."**

oilfield and a younger sister that worked for a few years as the Senior Writer for The Baytown Sun and is now writing press releases and other things for the College of Business at University of Houston. I'm very proud of all of my family and I attribute a large part of making me the absolutely wonderful person I am today to the love, guidance, and support that I have received from my family over the years.

**P:** Does teaching interfere with your love life?

**R:** No. I think that my insistence on singing along (loudly and badly) to country radio while in the car with my fiancé and my tendency to make bizarre, obscure references to things that no one other than myself has ever heard of or cares about while talking to her has done more to interfere with my love life than has teaching.

**P:** What do you do on your free time?

**R:** I like reading and listening to music and watching TV a little. I'm quite excited for September 24<sup>th</sup> when the best show on TV, Heroes, comes back on. I also like watching Astros' baseball (even when they're playing like they are this year) and Nick-at-Nite. Other than that, I play guitar and banjo a little bit and I like walking my dog, Little Dog, and hanging out with my cat, Spunky, and my fiancé.

I'm also considering, after an interesting conversation on the subject, taking up rowing. I think I'd make a valiant coxswain.

**P:** If you could teach a different subject, what would it be/why?

**R:** If I could teach something other than English, I'd be interested in teaching Psychology or Latin. *Quidquid latine dictum sit altum videtur.* (Anything in Latin sounds profound.)

**P:** What has your teaching experience been like?

**R:** My teaching experience, thus far, has been great. There have been challenges, certainly, but, on the whole, it's been really wonderful and I'm looking forward to a great year full of learning, discovery, and questions about the large stuffed gorilla wearing a necktie that I keep in my room.

## No Clubbin' in this School

With the beginning of the new school year, the returning students are probably wondering what happened to the clubs that were implemented into the former years' schedule. Clubs were always known as the time where a student could blow off a little steam, relax, and have some fun as the school week came to an end.

I had a chance to talk to Mr. Yavuz and Mr. Aslan regarding these matters. From what I've learned, the old club

system will be entirely revamped.

"It will be perfect!", says Mr. Aslan. The new club system will not be embedded into the regular schedule, but instead will be after school. In addition, clubs will not only be on Fridays anymore, but will be scheduled everyday.

The new club system will be called the "After School Program". Each program will be between 45 minutes to an hour long.

## Anthony Davis

There will also be an "After-After School Program" for agendas such as study hall.



Although the decision has not been made regarding the amount, there will be a fee for the new club system. Students, participation also depends on your conduct so try not to rack up too many DPS points if you are interested!

## The Bands of a Tiger

The author of our school song and an intense music teacher, Mr. Black, was asked what plans he has for this coming year. He stated, "I am planning on making an HSA Band this year."

At press time, he was not sure what kind of band it would be. "It might be a string ensemble,

a sting quartet or maybe even a jazz band."

What he is sure of is that it will not be a marching band or an orchestra, due to the lack of instruments. He plans on doing a fundraiser to have this option available in the future. Everyone is excited to see what he can do

## Journalism One

with the band and students this year. Mr. Black requests that all students that play an instrument and want to be in the band see him soon.



## National Honor Society

Many students may have noticed the National Honor Society (NHS) pledge posted around school. The NHS is an organization made to create enthusiasm for displaying scholarship, leadership, service and character in students.

Members of the NHS are acquired to have an average of 3.25 or over, and accomplish 10 hours of community service per semester.

On September 05, 2007, eight candidates ran for the NHS offices. However, only six came out on top.

The new officers are as follows: Colleen Kennedy (President), Ilka Maza (Vice-Pres), Mehmed Atik (Secretary), Ana Ramirez (Treasurer), Stephanie Rosales (Public Relations), and Jose Cortez (Tutorial Chair).

## Alejandra Solano

Colleen, president of the NHS, says, "I am very grateful to all the people who voted for me and who think that I am good enough for the job."

Even though these students have much work ahead of them to have a successful organization this year, we all know that they'll pull through.



## A Heartfelt Goodbye

Christina Nguyen

As students returned back to HSA this semester, it was strange to not hear Mr. Matthew's voice yelling, "Good Morning!" Without a doubt, he would be missed the most among students and staff. However, he wasn't the only one that left this year. Many teachers such as Ms. Morris, Ms. Haggard, and Mr. Hooton packed up their things and said farewell to Harmony. It was a shock over the summer as many students heard the rumors and it was an even greater shock to arrive at school and see that they were true.

Mr. Matthew's popularity was due to his many jokes and teasing. He was almost like an **older** student among the rest of us. Many students say that it's weird to walk by his room and see all his belongings gone. Most of all, we will miss hearing Mr. Matthew's signature word, "Behoove." Since no one knew of the teachers' departure, this is finally the proper Good-bye to all the teachers



# Meet The Press

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## PSAT and SAT

Admir Ljuca and Erica Lazo



The PSAT (Preliminary SAT) and SAT are right around the corner. Harmony Science Academy is helping students get prepared by offering free after-school and Saturday tutorials. Mr. Gebes is one of the main teachers that are contributing to helping students get prepared for the PSAT and SAT. When questioned about his motivation for teaching the after-school class, Mr. Gebes replied, "You have to study if you want to pass the SAT and PSAT and you have to solve many, many, many, questions before you can be ready." There will be many SAT Practice test dates coming up. The dates include, September 22<sup>nd</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> through October 4<sup>th</sup>. On October 6<sup>th</sup> will be the first "real" SAT that the 11<sup>th</sup> graders are taking. If a student scores 217 out of 240, he or she will be eligible to attain a scholarship. Finally, on October 17<sup>th</sup>, the PSAT will be taken by all high school students and it is mandatory. Good luck!!

## Sudoku Challenge!!

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2	9				8		5	
6		3	5			4		
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7		4	8		5		9	6
		6			3	5		4
	8		9				1	2
	4	2	1		7			