

compose a photo

- 1 “The most important aspect of photography is initiative. You will never get the photo you want if you’re not willing to try something that’s never been done.”
Ryan Carlise, 11
- 2 “Lighting is the most important factor because it makes or breaks the picture.”
Zoe Nathan, 11
- 3 “Having a photographer’s eye is most important. Being able to see and capture a picture is key.”
Shayam Ramachandran, 9
- 4 “The feeling you get with the picture is important. When the picture’s aura is bright, you feel drawn to it.”
Anna Bobbitt, 9
- 5 “The meaning behind the picture is important. If there is no meaning behind the picture, then it’s just pointless.”
Peri Kincaid, 10



emilie gardner

SEE WHAT DEVELOPS
Before developing the first roll of film, freshman Edén Eckstrom and senior Maura Kearney take the temperature of the D76. “Film is fun,” Kearney said, “but I like digital photography better because it is nice to be able to look at the pictures you take right then and there.”



MAKING MAGIC

After exposing the print, freshman Tim Whaling and junior Julie Moskow patiently wait while their photo develops. “I love when the picture magically turns from a white piece of paper to this special moment that you captured,” Moskow said.

laura gilligan



1 At the ATPI convention in Arlington on Feb. 11, seniors Hannah Kunz and Shea Wendlandt check out the free gear available. 2 After the developing process, sophomore McKenzie Kendall picks out what to print with photojournalism teacher Deanne Brown. “I love film because of its raw and vintage feel in black and white,” Kendall said. 3 During the JEA/NSPA Fall National Journalism Convention in Minneapolis, photographers pick out possible photos for inclusion in the *Best of Texas High School Photography* book to be published in time for the JEA/NSPA Convention in San Antonio in November 2012.



1. casey simmons 2. emilie gardner 3. chris bull

ALL ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY

Students attend the 25th ATPI conference

Shot 1: senior Hannah Kunz places Woody and Darth Vader figurines on the train tracks.

Shot 2: sophomore Laura Gilligan arranges the figurines so that Buzz Lightyear is taking a picture of Woody and Vader.

Shot 3: senior Chris Bull sets Lightyear drowning Vader in a water fountain.

Shot 4: senior Alyssa Carper carefully positions Woody and Lightyear riding a boat in a fountain.

These were all the shots the four photographers needed to win first place in the School Portfolio contest at the 25th annual Association of Texas Photography Instructors (ATPI) Winter Conference in Arlington Feb. 10-12.

“The best part of the ATPI trip was going on the adventure to put together the school portfolio,” Kunz said. “It was so cold outside, but we just had to keep shooting because we knew we were running out of time.”

This conference gave them, along with photo teachers Deanne Brown, Moira Longino and Cindy Todd and 14 other photography students, a unique chance to grow and learn in a conference that remained one of the few conferences all about photography.

“I loved the opportunity not only to

enrich my knowledge of photography and compete in photo competitions, but also to spend the weekend with fellow photography geeks and friends,” senior Madison Scott said.

While there, Westlake students had several different classes and competitions to choose from. Some photographers competed in a scavenger hunt where they had a list of objects and had to shoot them in the most creative way.

“Finding the stuff was the most difficult part of the scavenger hunt,” senior *Featherduster* photo editor Barrett Wilson said. “Some of the hardest items to find were an old-school pencil sharpener and the albino squirrel on campus.”

Bull also competed and placed third in a new competition called *Cropped* based on the Food Network show *Chopped*. The competition started with 24 students; after every round, half the number of students were eliminated.

On Sunday morning, professional photographer Sam Abell talked to the group about making the perfect picture, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

“I learned to not be impatient when you’re shooting,” junior Sarah Guthrie said. “You just have to sit and wait for a good shot to come in your path.”



laura gilligan



chris bull

BONES

Holding hands with a skeleton, junior Casey Simmons poses for a picture at the ATPI conference. “It was for our studio portrait class, and the skeleton was our model,” Simmons said. “We had fun with it and named him Skely.”

UNDER STRESS

At the ATPI convention in Arlington on Feb. 12, seniors Alyssa Carper and Chris Bull shoot a scene for their portfolio competition. “The most stressful thing was figuring out the theme for the portfolio,” Carper said. “After that, the competition was a breeze.”

EXPRESS YOURSELF with environmental self-portraits



lydia hoffman

“The topic was Environmental Self-Portrait, and when I heard that, I thought recycling and thinking green. I had leftover green paint from my room, and I thought it would be a good idea to just put my feet in. I didn’t really want to do my face, so why not put my feet in? I’m also in art class so I thought of something I wanted to do to incorporate that.”

lydia hoffman, 11



graham tyson

“I was inspired to take this picture and use it as my self-portrait because it was a pretty new bass so I thought why not take a picture with it. I play the bass because it’s usually the least prominent instrument in most songs but also one of the most important. It’s what completes a composition.”

graham tyson, 10