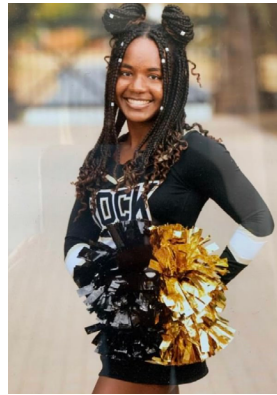
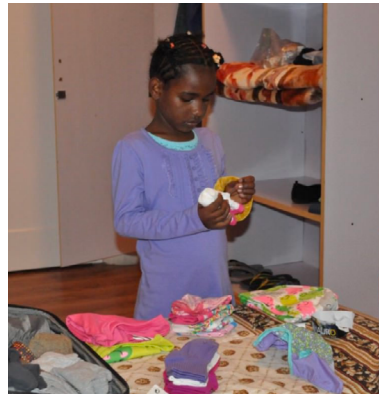


FAMILY LIDIYA BROWN '24

"I remember the place that I lived in... I remember the day that my birth dad gave me to the orphanage... I remember the day that my parents came."
 Junior Lidiya Brown was adopted from Ethiopia when she was eight years old, and moved straight from Ethiopia to Castle Pines. Junior class president as well as a Varsity cheerleader, Brown has been open about her story.
 Finding a new family can be hard for a young kid. Recalling the day of her adoption, Brown states "It was a lot of fun. It was these random, weirdly skin colored people that came over and brought food, clothing, and toys... so I had a blast. That whole day is very vivid."
 When coming over to the United States, Brown did not know English or any other American cultural norms.
 "My mom likes to say that I was an earthling living amongst the earth people, when a random martian came and took me away. Then I had to assimilate to martian life."
 Although Brown eventually assimilated into her new life in America, she never really felt like a true martian. "It wasn't just like, I was adopted [to America] and I had to get used to all the people, but I also had to prove to all these people -- who hadn't seen a lot of people of color in the first place -- that we are just like everybody else. Living around here it's made me really unique, and people are in awe. But in my perspective there's nothing really cool about me, there's nothing about my adoption

that I had control over. I was just this girl who went through all of these things. I don't think that makes me special."
 Moving across the country and finding a way to assimilate can be very challenging, in response Brown said "When I came to America I had to build an extroverted identity, to prove that I wasn't a weird, shy girl that they didn't know anything about. I built my whole identity on the fact that I didn't know what happened, and that I didn't have all the puzzle pieces together from the first eight years of my life. In a way, as traumatic as it was, I think it was a cool opportunity because I was able to shape who I was with no predetermined, well- anything."
 But, when asked what that identity was- Brown was open about the fact that she was struggling. "I think I've been struggling with my identity just for the reason that I've had to shape it so that others would accept me," she states, expressing her experience moving to white suburbia as a young black girl. "I'm a confident person in who I am and what I look like, but I definitely have been through straightening my hair so that I blend in, and acting in certain ways."
 Early on, Brown started using her story to educate others, especially in an area as isolated as Douglas County. "I think it's been more beneficial to others around here for me to have my story and be open about it than for me, and being around these people, especially when I was younger."
story by: b. villares photo courtesy: lidiya brown



CALE WILLIAMS '25 student fights rare form of cancer

13

williams was the 13th PEComa Cancer case in the world



Cale Williams '25, an academically motivated student, practices mountain biking, theater and improv. He was diagnosed on Sept. 9 2022 as the 13th person in the world to have PEComa cancer.
 Williams had his first surgery a couple days later. "I am on the school's cross country mountain biking team and through this process I will have to miss half the races," Williams said.
 The problem became present when he originally went to urgent care with appendicitis and was told he must be rushed to the hospital. Williams explains how he found out about this situation, "We did not know what was causing the pain so we did a CT scan and it showed an abnormal tumor around my bladder and they also found a stone on my appendix, and they took both out."
 He is doing better and is back at school, which he was excited to "get back to my normal life and see all my friends."
photo courtesy: cale williams

CANYON SCOTT '25

sophomore canyon scott's love for art, beginning in elementary school, carries out into high school

"People who find inspiration and emotional value in my work really impact me. Art has changed my life for the better in every way."
 "I started painting because I love the idea of creating life on 2D object that could have so much meaning to just one person."
 I love simple sketches because one pencil and one stroke could create so much structure to a piece," Scott said.



photo courtesy: canyon scott

CONTRIBUTING

ENGLA CADWELL '25

future pilot, engla cadwell '25, works toward her goal to get her private pilot's license for over a year

2011 "The first time I flew a plane was probably when I was like four. I would just do the hand controls while my dad did the actual flying."

2018 "The real first time I took over was around the age of 11." Cadwell and her family own a small Cessna 210 and take it out flying a few times a month.

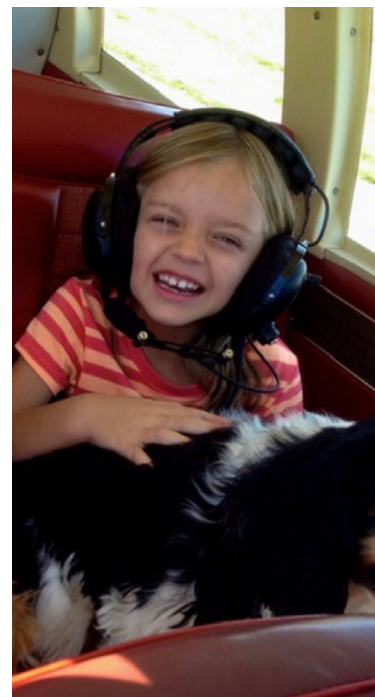
2022 "There is a very long process before you can earn your pilot's which includes going through ground school, pre solo exam, solo flight training, practical exam/check ride test, and the private pilot FAA written exam."

2023 "Right now I'm working to earn my pilot's license for which the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] requires you to be at least 16 years of age to fly solo"

2024 You must be at least 17, and document at least 40 hours of flight time for to get a private pilot's license. Cadwell was eligible to obtain her license on her 17th birthday in February.



Cadwell and her family own a small Cessna 210 and take it out flying a few times a month. Cadwell learned to fly at a very young age. She is not old enough to fly by herself but is working towards getting her pilot license. When she turns 18 and has 40 hours of flight time, she will be able to have her private pilot license.
photo courtesy: engla cadwell by: c. schriefer, i. ormer



LILIENE ANDERSON '26

jaguar ballerina makes a 'pointe' of achieving dreams of performing and competing

2011 "I started dancing when I was three years old, and it always just stuck with me, and now I never could imagine stopping" Anderson said.

2018 "This was the first time I ever did multiple dances at one competition" Anderson said.

2020 "I started doing pointe in 2020 after I finished pre-pointe. I had to wait till I passed level 4 and did one year of pre-pointe to do pointe" Anderson said.

2022 "Not only is it my twelfth year dancing but, this is my first year getting to perform both a solo and a duet," Anderson '26 said.

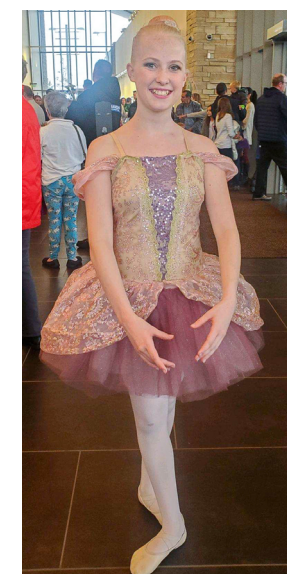


photo courtesy: lilienne anderson

BRASS ZOE DANILCHICK '23

Zoe Danilchick '23 started playing trumpet in 5th grade and decided to practice on her own for an hour every day instead of doing the class during middle school.

"I rejoined the band in high school and started doing Marching Band as a sophomore."

"I really love the culture Zachary Fruits has fostered. It's a really great program and everyone is so sweet and the music that we play is awesome. I really love it." Danilchick has been marching for the last two years and is one of the 68 people that make up this year's marching band. "My favorite thing about marching is putting the music with visuals because the music by itself is fantastic but in an actual artistic show takes it to a whole nother level." Junior year she was the band captain. "I love being in a leadership position, so it's really fantastic to be able to conduct and lead the whole band."

"I've gained a sense of community with everyone that I've interacted with, it's a really, really sweet group of people." "It's just a great way to give me a break from my other problems while doing something that I really enjoy, along with people that are really fun to be around." Danilchick said.

photo courtesy: zoe danilchick story by: a. gustafson

