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### Three Graduates With a Love for Muscle Cars

Just mention muscle cars, and three Lake Country Christian School seniors will spend hours talking about their favorites, including the ones they currently drive. All three boys have something in common: they began learning about cars with their dads, out in the garage, handing them tools. “I started helping my dad with a 1978 Vega he used for racing, and I was a junior dragster when I was eight years old,” says Matthew Thurwanger. “It’s great that our knowledge and interest was passed down to us from father to son,” comments Kurt Kessler.

“With old cars, all you need is a few tools, a garage, and you’re good to go,” says Michael Wansing. Each student has a great story to tell about their car.

Michael Wansing, son of Bill & Linda Wansing of Fort Worth, who drives a 1972 Chevy Chevelle, knew he wanted a late ‘60s, early ‘70s car. He found someone selling the Chevelle because the owner’s wife wanted a pool. The wife got her pool, and Michael has the Chevelle. The engine and body were in great shape, so his main “fix-its” were the shocks, bushings, exhaust system, and air conditioning. “It’s not really cold air, but it helps a little,” says Michael.

Kurt Kessler, son of Randy & Ronda Kessler of Azle, has a 1965 Chevy Impala that needed a new paint job. The car had been sitting outside for 10 years, so the sun had faded it four different colors on each of the four sides. With a new paint job, carburetor, tail lights, and some chrome pieces, it was “good as new.”

Matthew Thurwanger, son of Daniel and Cheryl Thurwanger of Fort Worth, found a 1968 Mustang that had been rebuilt, but it had been sitting for two years. The former owner had run into a fire hydrant, but with a little body work, a new radio, and new upholstery, the car was ready to go.

What’s so great about an old muscle car? “You really learn how to take care of a car because you have to constantly be checking things like the oil, the air filter,” says Michael. “When you’re driving a car like this, you have to watch your gages and listen to the sound of the engine.” Matthew says that with today’s cars “everything gets in the way when you’re trying to repair something under the hood.”

Each student has their favorite that would be their next restoration job. Michael would like to have a 1967 Shelby GT 500, Kurt would want to tackle a 1969 Olds Cutlass, and Matthew is ready to take on a Shelby Cobra. Whatever their choice, they know they will help be a part of keeping the muscle car alive and well and rumbling along the roads of Texas.



Photo cap: Lake Country Christian School seniors and their muscle cars (l. to r.) Matthew Thurwanger and his '68 Mustang, Kurt Kessler with his '65 Impala, and Michael Wansing with his '72 Chevelle.