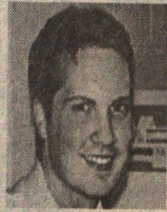


Athlete of the Month

Read about Mike Hanrahan and how he has become September's Athlete of the Month. PAGE 15



New Teachers

Learn about five of the new teachers including Steve Govertsen. PAGE 10



German Trip

See how students felt about Germany, and its differences with the U.S.. PAGE 10

All Night Long wants suggestions

By Brittany Blanchard

The All Night Long Committee is asking for student opinions and ideas for improvement regarding the All Night Long festivities.

Decorations chairperson Bonnie Wostratzky, a member of the committee since 1995, said that All Night Long is a non-exclusive event offered to all juniors and seniors and their prom dates.

However, the committee has noticed the occasion is losing popularity with a steady decrease of student attendance.

"Obviously we aren't meeting students' needs with what we're providing and so we're looking to see if there is an activity we can provide, either in conjunction with or as an alternative to the event at Bowling Green," said Wostratzky.

The committee is asking students to fill out ballots with suggestions for improvement. Ballots will be available on Tuesday, Oct. 12 in commons during all lunch periods.

Snowball is back

By Maria Perez

Winter fun is just around the corner because for the first time in three years, Operation Snowball is having a retreat off campus.

"We are really excited about it. It has taken us three years to build a program where we can take students off campus for a real retreat," said Snowball sponsor Catherine Thielberg.

For the past three years Snowball has had a lock-in at West Chicago.

Now, for the first time Snowball is planning an overnight stay at Camp Lorado-Taft in Oregon, Illinois from Friday through Saturday on October 29 and 30.

Plans for the retreat include an overnight stay in dorms at the camp. During the camp stay students will enjoy a bonfire, meet speakers, attend workshops, and play games or activities for teen building and fun.

In order to afford the camp stay there is a \$75 cost increase in Snowball admission. With this increase transportation, meals, and t-shirts are covered.

(See Snowball page 5)

FBLA shows they are the future at nationals

Seniors Jeff Cisowski and Nick Kuras took fourth and ninth place respectively at the national competition

By John Jennings

The Future Business Leaders of America had a tough time this summer carrying home all the hardware they won at nationals held in Denver.

Senior Jeff Cisowski came away with a fourth place finish in business law, senior Nick Kuras took ninth place in technology concepts, and graduated seniors Christy Adduci and Jennifer Tan grabbed a top 15 honor in emerging business issues.

Alongside these four and advisers Nancy Blume and Mia Wirth, 11 other students were sent to Denver to compete including: Michael Oleksiak, Sean Reynolds, Dan Harms,

Andrew Denniger, Michael Casey, Alex Carpenter, Chris Jelen, Amy Axelrod, Heidi Colliander, Mena Gentile, and Tyler Hempel.

Events usually entail a written test that the contestants have to take dealing with the subject and real world applications for what it is that they are competing in.

For example, Cisowski placed in business law for which had to take a written test about case studies on the law and then he had to answer questions about the laws themselves.

Success at nationals is not a rare occurrence for FBLA as they have had at least one student place at nationals for the



Photo courtesy of Mia Wirth

Nationals were good to FBLA last year as they took home two awards in business law and technology concepts.

last four years.

"Somebody always brings home an award from nationals," said Wirth.

Last year, FBLA took both a fifth and seventh place finish at nationals. While FBLA has been succeeding, they have rarely ever had a national champion. The last person to take first at nationals was in 1991 under the tutelage of Don Zabelin.

Nationals is the biggest event for those in FBLA. Wirth said, "It is huge. The kids look forward to it every year, and it is what the whole year builds up to."

This year, FBLA hopes to

achieve the same results and bring home some more trophies.

Cisowski said, "As for competitions, I hope that we do well at nationals and we have a lot of people take home awards, but as a club, I hope that we can increase community involvement."

Senior Heidi Colliander displayed the same expectations for the year.

"My hope is that we can bring more than 10 people to nationals this year, and as for the club, I hope we can do more good for the community and help more people," said Colliander.

Spanish exchange students come to America for the first time in three years since 9/11

12 Spanish students visited the school for two weeks and found a few differences in the two cultures

By Kellie Virnich

For the first time since the 9/11 attacks, teenagers from Spain stayed with American students.

The last exchange occurred during the attacks and afterwards the exchange program was cancelled because of low enrollment.

From Sept. 11-25, 12 students and their teacher visited from Soria, Spain sitting in on classes and sightseeing around Chicago. They saw Navy Pier, the Museum of Science and Industry, and the Field Museum, as well as a tour of West Chicago.

West Chicago has done a Spanish exchange for over 10

years, alternating between hosting students and traveling to different high schools in Spain.

"It's a good opportunity for both (American and Spanish) students to experience a different culture. Whether they're hosting or traveling, they're learning about another way of life," said Tara Dellutri, Spanish teacher and Spain exchange coordinator. "It also gives people a more accurate opinion of Americans."

The Spaniards had to adjust to a different atmosphere in and outside of school, with a much stricter time structure and a longer, more rigid school day. Schools in Spain have

shorter classes and more breaks in between classes, and the students are dismissed at 2:30 for lunch, so that their afternoons are free.

It is strange to them that most students drive, especially their own cars, because in Soria, they can walk almost everywhere, and in the bigger cities they always take public trans-

portation. Spanish teens don't get licenses until they're 18, but they can smoke at 16.

They were also surprised at how many American teenagers have after-school jobs and extracurricular activities.

They have sports, soccer and tennis being the favorites, but they have very few clubs.

(See Exchange page 5)



Photo courtesy of Sue Junkroski

One of the differences that shocked the exchange students is how many students drive cars to school.

September brings two new awards to the already acclaimed Chronicle staff

The staff of the Wildcat Chronicle received two first place awards for their outstanding papers last year

By John Jennings

September brought two new awards to the staff of the Wildcat Chronicle in addition to the many that they have already won thanks to their efforts last year.

The staff won the Quill and Scroll International First Place Award and the National Scholastic Press Association's First Place with two marks of distinction. A mark of distinction indicates exemplary work in a certain area of the newspaper.

The judge from the Quill and Scroll International Honorary

Society wrote, "I enjoyed reading the Chronicle, especially school and people coverage. Keep up the good work."

The judge from the National Scholastic Press Association gave similar praise to the Wildcat Chronicle staff. "An excellent publication that grew better throughout the year. Obviously good reporting. The staff works hard to cover school events and areas of interest outside of school," the judge wrote.

Over the last four years under adviser Laura Kuehn's

guidance, the staff has consistently won awards, but each year as they improve, the place numbers have gone up.

Last year the staff implemented many new changes in the design and look of the paper, and were unsure of how they would do at the competitions. Though the paper changed, the quality of work and content did not, as the number of awards shows.

Kuehn said, "These awards reflect the hard work of the staff and how they have really come together. We owe the awards to the great leadership demonstrated by Sam West, a 2004 graduate, and the willingness of the staff to work together as a team and learn from each issue."

During the first semester in

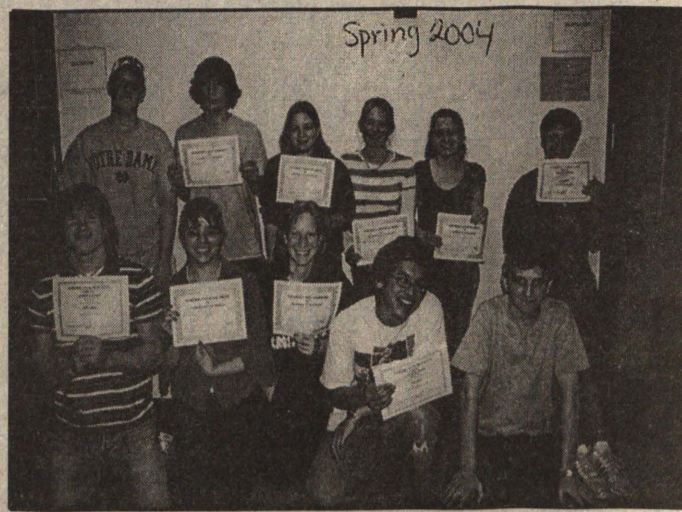


Photo courtesy of Laura Kuehn

With five staff members graduating last year, it will be a challenge to keep up the winning ways of the Chronicle.

2003, the newspaper staff was comprised of Doug Seider, Maria Perez, Kyle Bullis, Isaiah Ly Buado, Mary Beth Selby, John Jennings, and was led by editor-in-chief West. Kelly Virnich, Andrea Bradley, Elliot Tinnes, and Brittany Rose joined the staff in the second semester.

"Hopefully the veterans can continue to teach the new

members on the staff so that they can learn how to make an award winning paper when it is their turn to lead," said Kuehn.

As for expectations for the rest of the year, the staff is looking forward to another year of tough competition, and they hope that they will be as successful as last year and surpass last year's achievements.



Photo courtesy of Don Zabelin

Meeting Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert was the highlight of the summer for graduated seniors Ben Hoshaw, Tom Burke, and Kelly Karbach.

Students win an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. for sound investments

2004 graduates Ben Hoshaw, Kelly Karbach, and Tom Burke were able to meet the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dennis Hastert

By Brittany Blanchard

Students in last year's consumer education class won a trip to Washington D.C with their first place finish in the Capitol Hill Challenge.

The Capitol Hill Challenge is a national competition, more commonly referred to as the stock market game, that consumer education teacher Don Zabelin has had his students participate in for over 20 years.

"[The stock market game] allows students the opportunity to understand and appreciate the risk involved when investing," Zabelin said.

In Zabelin's consumer education course, the stock market game is a class activity. The students break up into teams of two or three people and are then given \$100,000 of imaginary money to invest.

Graduates Ben Hoshaw, Kelly Karbach and Tom Burke turned their original \$100,000 into an impressive \$128,274.54 within a 10-week period.

As the team with the highest gain in the nation, Hoshaw, Karbach, and Burke took first place and received a trip to Washington D.C., all expenses

paid, to be acknowledged for their achievement.

Speaker Dennis Hastert presented the award in his office in the Capitol.

"Speaker Hastert was very cordial and made the students feel warm and welcome," Zabelin said.

Zabelin went on to say that Hastert was proud the students were learning about the stock market and remembered from when he was a teacher that he liked doing activities, similar to the stock market game, in the classroom so that the students could really live and breathe economics rather than just read about it in a book.

Although not a member of

the winning team, Kirsten Chase accompanied Zabelin and his students to Washington D.C to receive an award of her own.

Chase took first place in InvestWrite, a national essay competition requiring a 600-700 word writing composition about the stocks she purchased during the game an explanation as to why it was a good investment.

Chase focused on Wal-Mart and the fluctuation of stock prices because it was an item in her portfolio and Wal-Mart is a stock that she was able to obtain a plethora of information about.

"The whole experience was very thrilling because we were not only in the Capitol, but we went to the personal office of the Speaker [of the House of Representatives]. People of high importance were treating us like we were celebrities," said Zabelin.

Wildcat Chronicle
326 Joliet Street
West Chicago, IL 60185
(630)876-6360



- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Editor-in-Chief and News Editor: | John Jennings |
| Perspectives Editor: | Kellie Virnich |
| Paw Prints Editor: | Maria Perez |
| Sports Editor: | Andrea Bradley |
| Special Sections Editor: | Cristina Sarnelli |
| Graphics Editor: | C.J. Hinojosa |
| Artists: | Cristina Sarnelli, Brittany Rose |
| Reporters: | Brittany Blanchard, Joe Harte, C.J. Hinojosa, Sabrina Potirala, Doug Sieder |
| Adviser: | Laura Kuehn |

The Wildcat Chronicle is the student newspaper at West Chicago Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The Chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making the decisions concerning the paper's contents. Unsigned editorials represent the views of the majority of the staff. Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold a name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and may refuse to publish a letter.



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Preparation in early years is key to the improvement of students' PSA scores

This year's seniors improved close to 10 percent in every subject of testing over 2004 graduates

By Doug Sieder

West Chicago improved in all five categories of the Prairie State Achievement test (PSA) going up almost 10 percent in every aspect.

The seniors took the PSA last April and improved the school's scores in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.

Principal John Highland was impressed with the scores. "To go up a couple percent is good, but when you go up 13 percent, that is significant."

While Highland was glad with the results he also indicated they are not necessarily a predictor of future years. New students mean new

scores, Highland said.

He added that the state as a whole did better.

Students improved in writing the most. Two years ago they scored a 53.4 percent and last year students scored 66.3 percent. In math two years ago they scored 57.8 percent and last year scored 63.8 percent.

In science students' scores sky rocketed from 51.4 percent to 62.1 percent, and in social studies scores jumped from a 62.6 percent to 69.1 percent. Reading scores increased from a 54.8 percent to a 59.7 percent.

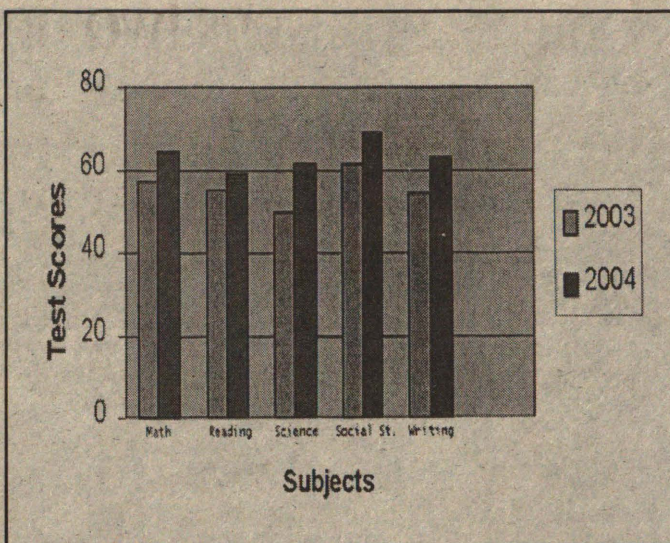
"I would like to believe in a classroom and curricular sense that we have made a tremen-

dous impact and that you've seen significant gain. The reality of it is that it was a different group of kids. It's like comparing apples and oranges," said Highland.

Many counselors expressed interest in students taking tests that prepared them for the ACT, and now on Oct. 8 freshmen and sophomores will be taking tests to prepare them for the ACT. The freshmen test is called "Explorer" and the sophomore test is called the "Plan."

The cost for the test will be about \$3,500 per grade, so it will cost the school about \$7,000 total. Highland feels the money will be well spent.

These tests will hopefully show growth of the students from year to year. Highland feels that these tests will show the school what they have been teaching well, and what the school needs to improve on.



Community High School students have made great strides in virtually every subject in the last two years.

Some of the statistics include a 12.9 percent increase in writing scores, a 10.7 percent increase in science, a 6.5 percent increase in social studies, and a 4.9 percent increase in reading.

"Laramie Project" fails due to complaints

Questionable content containing homosexuality leads to rejection

By Andrea Bradley

The original fall play "The Laramie Project" was cancelled due to numerous complaints and was replaced with a new play called "12 Angry Jurors."

Many of the complaints came from worried parents who read over their child's script, but students who felt uncomfortable with the play's

content complained as well.

"The Laramie Project" is a play that demonstrates a hate crime, which is the killing of a homosexual. In the play, a young man is beaten and left to die. The man was murdered after a group of individuals discovered that he was a homosexual.

The content concerning homosexuality quickly became

highly controversial, and several people did not want "The Laramie Project" to be performed.

Some people believe that the play is inappropriate for high school said Principal John Highland.

To avoid further problems, Highland and play director Mary Hafertepe decided to change the play.

Highland said that he and Hafertepe did not feel the need to push forward with the production of the play.

"I didn't have enough energy to direct the play and deal with the controversy," said Hafertepe.

Although many people complained about the play's content, there were also people who weren't happy with the changed play.

There were a few people who were sorry that the play was changed, said Hafertepe.

On the other hand, Highland believes that the decision that was made is ultimately the best decision.

Highland believes that the school does well with dealing with diversity and he thinks the students are very open to it.

To him, the school creates a very respectful environment, which is something that not all other schools have. Highland believes that acceptance is something that makes the school so strong.

(See Laramie Project page 4)

Tired of sitting around the house with nothing to do?

By Kellie Virnich

One of the best ways to meet new people, and make the school year go by faster, is to join some of the many clubs offered by Community High School.

There is a club for almost every interest you may have, and these clubs are always looking for new members to join.

The following is a list of clubs the school has, including the clubs' sponsors, meeting times, and locations.

- Ambassador Club – Dan McCarthy
- Art Club – Dave Exner and Lorena Samaniego – Thursdays after school – Room 193
- Aviation Club – Annette Rubino and Eduardo Montoya
- Best Buddies – George Petmezias
- Cheerleading – Eva Silva
- Chess Team – Joe Splinter
- Flag Corp – Catherine Steere
- Forensics – Steve Kellner, Jason Kling, and LB Norton – Mondays after school – Room 321
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) – Nancy Blume and Maria Wirth – Every other Tuesday at 7:15 a.m. – Room 198
- Horticulture Club – Annette Rubino and Cory Stieglitz – Third Thursdays after school – Room 232
- International Club – Sarah Bellis and Marjorie Appel – Tuesdays at 7:20 a.m. – Room 303
- Intramurals – Julio Del Real and Maro Godinho
- Junior State of America (JSA) – Shawn Healy and

Barb Laimins – Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. – Room 179

Key Club – Ward Rau – Second Fridays at 7:15 a.m. – Room 198

Math Team – Aaron Hayes, Kristina Mallon, and Amanda Slobodecki – Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. – Room 149

Mind's Eye Literary Magazine – Andrea Cobbett – Every other Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. – Room 307

National Honors Society – Catherine Jaeger and Katie Jones

Operation Snowball – Kim Brafford and Cat Thielberg – Mondays after school – Room 122

Peer Helpers – Judy MacDonald and Myrna Woodson – available every hour for freshmen – Room 198

Pep Club – Candace Kairys and Wayne Kosek – Wednesdays at 7:20 a.m. – Room 186

Photography Club – Chris Bardey and Mike Conroy – Every other Monday after school – Room 192

Poms – Danielle Drum

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) – Kristina Mallon and Amanda Slobodecki – Fridays at 7:30 a.m. – Room 146

Scholastic Bowl – Nick Caltigirone

Skills USA – Paul Junkroski and Patti Kozlowski – First Fridays at 7:15 a.m. – Room 106

Student Council – Chris Lukas and Kim Maloney – Fridays at 7:15 a.m. – Room 198

Thespians – Mary Hafertepe – Wednesdays after school (per announcements) – Room 217

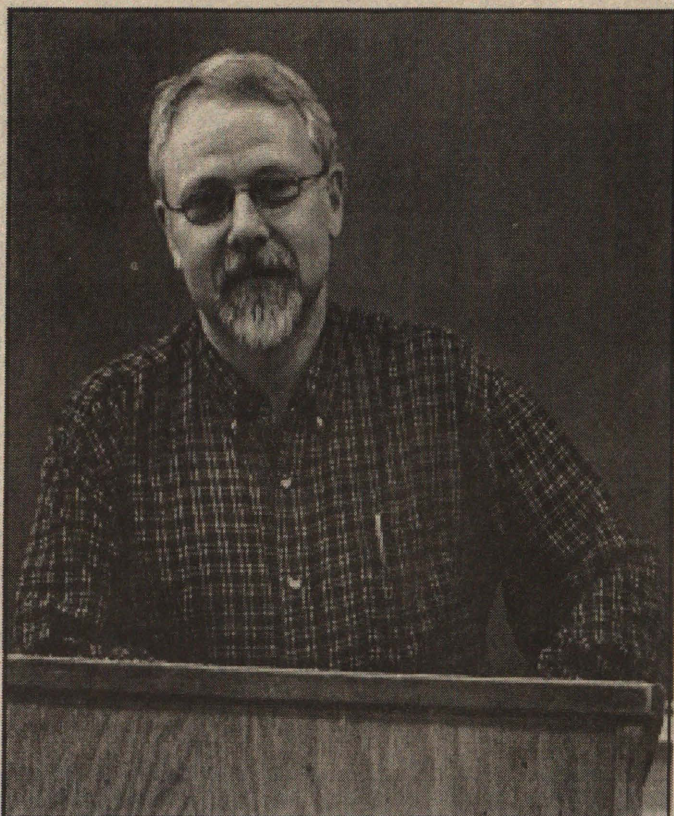


Photo by Sabrina Potirala

The LifeSmarts team coached by Don Zabelin is employing unique tactics to make it back to nationals this year and hopefully win.

Special homecoming celebrations this year

By Kellie Virnich

Rocco Clark and Emily Gehrke became this year's homecoming king and queen, announced Friday at the all-school assembly, preceding a weekend of float building and window painting between grades and clubs.

Also on Friday, the new mascot was unveiled as he came riding out on a motorcycle, and proceeded to beat up the Wheaton North Falcon.

After defeating the Falcon, students saw that it was Principal John Highland dressed up as the wildcat.

Don Zabelin started things off with a harmonica solo.

This year's theme is game shows with each grade putting on a different show.

The juniors held their own version of Wheel of Fortune in commons on Tuesday morning, and on Wednesday the

sophomore class held an adaptation of The Amazing Race.

The Fun Fest was Wednesday night, followed with the pep rally, and the powder-puff and student vs. faculty football games.

The seniors played The Price is Right Thursday morning, and hallway decorating is at night, along with a movie in the auditorium where students and their families can watch "Remember the Titans" for \$1.

Friday sees the freshmen play Family Feud, a five-hour day, and a food fest from 12:30-2 p.m. The homecoming game is against Wheaton North. During the game, student council is selling T-shirts commemorating West Chicago's centennial.

The homecoming dance is in the Bishop Gym on Saturday from 7-10 p.m.

LifeSmarts sets their sights on being national champion by end of the year

After a controversial loss last spring the team is more focused than ever to go back to nationals this year

By Sabrina Potirala

After a disagreement in answers at nationals last spring, LifeSmarts Coach Don Zabelin became motivated to enhance the teams' performance for upcoming competition.

The LifeSmarts team was eliminated due to the judges only awarding the team three points for three correct answers. Most answers are usually worth either five or 10 points.

"Our goal this year will be to win state again and improve on our showing at the national competition," said Zabelin.

LifeSmarts prepares before a competition by getting to-

gether after school and using a buzzer system to improve reflexes for when the contestants have to answer the questions. Zabelin believes these tactics help to form a "very strong team."

The LifeSmarts team will also have new practice questions available this year to use as training.

"I am definitely very excited about putting a competitive team together this year," said Zabelin.

To enter the national level, the team must win two double elimination matches, which Zabelin is looking forward to.

"I believe a vast amount of knowledge is gained from this

experience," said Zabelin.

Supervisor Paul Junkroski, of the LifeSmarts team, believes they will be very successful.

"Mr. Zabelin always cranks out a good team," said Junkroski. A total of five members make up the LifeSmarts team and four play at a time.

Jake Bermudez is the team captain for the third consecutive year. The rest of the members in LifeSmarts have not been chosen yet.

Members are picked by taking an online quiz. All classes are allowed to take the quiz, but only the students that reach a certain level are eligible to make the team.

Ideally, students should be in consumer education, business law, or investments and receive top scores. Most competitions are held at a high school.

Laramie Project... (Continued from page 3)

"Our school is not trying to hide our head in the sand, we just feel that there is no need to go further with the play," said Highland.

Due to the pulling of "The Laramie Project", the new pro-

duction for this fall will be "Twelve Angry Jurors" in which a jury must decide the fate of a 19-year-old who is accused of murdering his father.

Hafertepe wanted to do a

drama this year, so she decided to pick a murder story.

The play is based off a television play from the 50s and 60s.

The fall play will take place Nov. 18-20.



Photo by C.J. Hinojosa

At the end of the pep assembly Friday, Rocco Clark and Emily Gehrke were named homecoming king and queen, right after a game of Let's Make a Deal led by English teacher Jason Kling.



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Reading time changes, but continues this year

Reading time was moved to third hour because some students last year were not able to read ninth

By Brittany Blanchard

School-wide weekly reading is returning to the schedule beginning Thursday Oct. 7 in an effort to focus intensely on reading because of its vitality in academic achievement.

This year it is mandatory that all students and school employees take part in the reading. Principal John Highland has even contacted building engineer Kevin Kane to ensure that the entire maintenance staff will participate.

"We'd like to encourage all of the students and staff to take advantage of [the weekly reading] for obvious reasons," said Highland.

During the remainder of first semester, weekly reading days will operate on assembly schedule C, recently created for weekly reading purposes. Assembly schedule C lengthens third hour for reading to take place. Teachers will conduct class only after the students have read and listened to the announcements.

The scheduled time slot for the reading has been changed from last year's ninth hour program to include the students who attend the Technology Center of DuPage (TCD).

"Last year TCD students could not take part in [the reading] so we wanted to make sure

they were given the opportunity this year," Highland said.

Additionally, the district purchased books students may read during this time.

Students paid an extra \$6 as part of the registration process this summer towards the purchase.

The Reading for Fun Committee selected three books for students: "The Code" by Mawi Asgedom for freshmen; "Two Badges: The lives of Mona Ruiz" by Mona Ruiz for sophomores; "Our America" by LeAlan Jones and Lloyd Newman for juniors; the choice between "Two Badges" and "Our America" for seniors.

Students are allowed to read a book of their choice because these particular books are not mandatory reading; merely recommended novels.

"All of the stories are essentially about identity, overcoming obstacles, and achieving great things. Each one has a rather profound message," said Highland.

However, the administration is still looking for an official name for weekly reading days. Many different acronyms have been suggested but Highland said he would appreciate any ideas or opinions from students.

Exchange... (Continued from page 1) —

"In Spain, we don't have jobs. We just study," said Elena Heras Hernández, a guest at Heidi Colliander's home.

Though most exchanges mainly consist of girls, most of the students this year are boys, causing the rare occasion of mixed genders between hosts and guests.

Many of the hosts either went to Costa Rica over the summer or are planning on going to

Spain, and wanted to experience both sides of the exchange.

Senior Rachel Bednar, who hosted Ignacio del Almo Alvaro, said, "It's a really fun experience that not a lot of people our age get to have. I was a guest in Costa Rica and I wanted a chance to host."

Next year, students from West Chicago will become the tourists, and travel to Spain.

Snowball... (Continued from page 1) —

Also, for students who can't meet the payment, Snowball does have some scholarship money to help cover the costs.

Students attending the event should provide their own transportation afterwards. Snowball will provide transportation by bus to the campsite but parents need to pick up students

after Snowball.

Snowball is a weekend retreat and a drug and alcohol prevention conference.

"The philosophy is if I have good information and I share it with other people, then they can influence decision friends make and it will snowball," said Thielberg.

Possible names for school reading time

AWARE
AWARE
CART
GROWL
PAWS FOR READING
PRIDE
PROWL
WEGO for Reading
WEGO CAR
WEGORTA
WILDCAT RAP
RIOT
WILDCAT WART

All Wildcats Are Reading to Enjoy
All Wildcats Are Reading for Enjoyment
Cats Are Reading Together
Getting Reading On our Wildcats' List

Putting Reading In Daily Education
Pairing Reading Opportunities With Learning

Cats Are Reading
Read To Achieve
Reading for All Purposes
Reading Is Our Thing
Wildcats Are Reading Together

Board of Education decides to add three new courses to the curriculum next year

All three classes are going to be electives that students can take in addition to the mandatory classes

By Kellie Virnich

The Board of Education at its September meeting approved three new courses for the 2005-2006 school year. The prospective classes are broadcast communication production, advanced literature in Spanish, and digital photographic imaging.

The three prospective courses would be categorized

as electives, and the curriculum committee suggested them as ways to keep students involved and interested in school by giving them opportunities to explore other areas than those covered in their core classes.

Broadcast communication production would be added as an extension of broadcast communications, where students could continue their work on

"We-go Through the Tube," much the same way journalism production allows students to work exclusively on the newspaper without reviewing the basics every semester. It will allow students to apply more of the skills they learned in the first class with little or no extra cost estimated.

The next step after native speakers 1 and 2, which Spanish-speaking students usually take to improve their reading and writing skills, or an elective for other advanced Spanish students, advanced literature in Spanish would be open to all students.

Rather than working on speaking and listening Spanish skills, the emphasis will be put on reading novels in Spanish, exploring writing style such as similes and metaphors, and dialogue versus narrative.

It will focus on Spanish grammar and syntax, the word and sentence patterns of a language, like an English class rather than vocabulary as in a Spanish class. This course is also said to be helpful to those interested in taking the Spanish AP test.

The committee has considered starting a digital photography class for several years, and digital photographic imaging will give students interested in the primary class an opportunity to experiment with both techniques. The original photography class will still be offered, and Principal John Highland said that the cost of new equipment and training would be worth it to "enhance the program we already have."

The curriculum committee hopes that offering a wide variety of courses will give students an incentive to stay in school and pursue areas of interest that they wouldn't have known about otherwise.

Academic improvement is priority one for the school

By Cristina Sarnelli

The members of the Board of Education is looking for ways to improve the school for this year and for future years.

According to test results and surveys, the students of We-go are making progress in academic skills, but the board would like to come closer to meeting target goals.

One of the subjects that assistant principal Tom McCann said needs improvement is literary skills such as recalling main ideas and critical reading skills.

The plan also has a character target which is for students and staff to treat others with respect and to value one another. McCann reported that most students at We-go feel happy with the staff and get along most of the time.

"Students feel comfortable with the school and staff," McCann reported.

A problem that the board is concerned with is the number of discipline referrals. The referrals have increased over the

years, and the school improvement plan is targeting to fix that problem.

Participation is another issue that school leaders would like to see improvement on. The participation rates at We-go compare well with other schools according to results of the Prairie State Exams, but Principal John Highland would like to see the every student involved in a club or activity.

Highland also wants every student to be reading. He said that the school has taken much effort to get students to read more.

"I think we've taken a lot of big steps in our reading initiative," Highland said.

The board would like to see graduates of the high school get involved with the school improvement plan.

The members believe that the graduates could use past experiences, college experience, and opinions that they have to help make We-go a better school.

Our View

No Child Left Behind is idealistic, not realistic

Though not one of the more talked of political controversies right now, like gay marriage and war in the Middle East, Bush's No Child Left Behind Act is one that affects students, teachers, and parents across the entire country.

Passed in 2001, the main idea of NCLB is to improve test scores and balance the quality of education for all public schools. The act gives aid to schools that meet requirements, raises expectations for students' test scores, and allows parents to transfer their children out of dangerous or low-performing schools.

Success is measured by yearly assessments, testing whether certain groups of students are improving academically. The required percentage increases every year until 100 percent of every group of students is proficient in core subjects like math and reading.

This all sounds good in theory, but it's not realistic for the American school system. The law focuses on improving only specific groups of students academically, namely racial minorities, handicapped, and economically disadvantaged students. It holds them to the same expectations as all other students,

and if these groups' test scores do not improve drastically every year, the entire school district is punished.

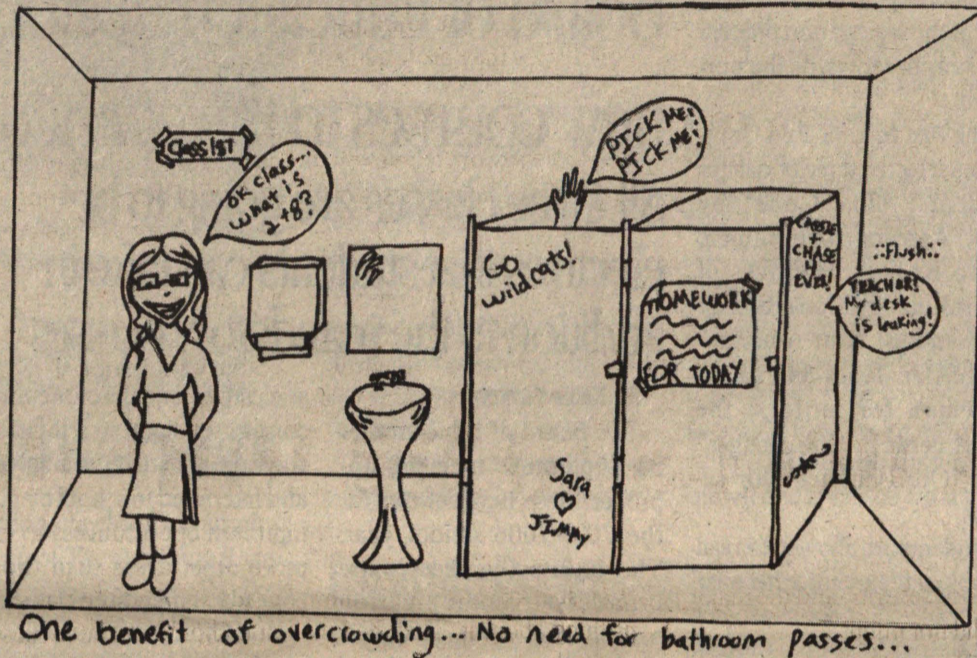
It forces educators to teach only what is going to be on the test, drilling it into their students' brains eliminating any room for creativity or flexibility in lessons. Curricula in math and science have been severely watered down so that every student is guaranteed to pass the exams, otherwise funding would eventually be taken away from the school.

Teachers whose students' test scores are regularly

low are fired. Having less funds results in fewer teachers, let alone qualified ones, and less opportunities for students to maintain a good education. But if a school does exceed NCLB requirements, it often becomes overcrowded from students switching from schools below requirements. The act does not allow enough extra funds for more teachers, facilities, or equipment to accommodate these extra students.

Allowing students to leave a school doesn't make the situation any better. Classes are then often combined, even grouping together different ability classes, more often than not with the less qualified of the teachers. This forces the higher ability students to work at a slower pace so that everyone can simply pass the annual test.

During Bush's convention speech he said that he would "do whatever it takes to get every child across the finish line" which is a noble cause to be sure, but if that means lowering the bar so that anyone can just step over it, then the plan for a brighter, more diverse future has certainly failed.



Non-weighted grades jeopardize students' futures

Community High School is special to those who work and learn here, but the school is also unique to the state of Illinois. Unique because it's one of the few schools in the state that doesn't have weighted grades.

On a normal 4.0 scale an A in any class is worth 4 points, a B is worth 3 points, a C is worth 2 points and a D is worth 1 point. Then when grades are calculated, the numbers equivalent to the letter grade earned are averaged together to find a student's grade point average (GPA).

A district with weighted grades, however, operates on a 5.0 scale which makes grades in advanced courses worth a greater amount of points—an A is worth 5 points, a B is worth 4 points, a C is worth 3 points and a D is worth 2 points. So when the GPA is averaged, a B in an enriched course is worth 4 points, equivalent to an A in an average level course.

Where weighted grades are not offered, a student who enrolled in an advanced class and obtained a B will have a lower GPA and lower class rank than another student who took a less

rigorous class and received an A.

There is no doubt that honors classes are difficult, and students may choose not to take them because of the workload, but many students find the incentive to challenge themselves when grades are weighted.

David Victor, an expert on the weighted grading system, fought to bring the opportunity to his high school and its students.

"Weighted grades encourage students to challenge themselves. Without weighted grades, many students choose not to take enriched courses for fear of getting a B or a C that will hurt [their GPA and class rank]," Victor said.

This issue is important because most colleges look highly on an applicant's GPA and class rank during the acceptance process. At the University of Illinois, for example, 57 percent of the accepted incoming freshmen in 2003 graduated in the top 10 percent of their class.

Not having weighted grades places honor students at a disadvantage in class rank and GPA, affecting college entrance

and scholarship opportunities.

"Although course load is important, most colleges mainly look at it when they have two similar candidates. Colleges then may be more inclined to accept a student who took tougher classes," Victor said.

Victor went on to explain that students who aren't offered weighted grades in high school may not even be eligible because, even though a student may have taken several difficult classes, if his or her GPA wasn't

high enough to begin with, that person would not have been in the position to compete for eligibility in the first place.

The majority of high schools in a grade study reported that they use some form of weighted grades, and that GPA systems that are calculated without a weighted scale may place students at a disadvantage when they apply for college admissions.

Students who want to challenge themselves by taking

advanced courses should be rewarded for their efforts, not penalized.

At this school, honors students who take enriched courses could theoretically be risking their college acceptance choices and scholarship opportunities which can ultimately jeopardize their future.

Community High School needs to re-think its policy regarding weighted grades because the lack there of is clearly unfair to many of its students.

Americans must take advantage and vote

As Americans, we enjoy countless freedoms that other countries cannot. We have the freedom to practice whatever religion we like, to give and share our opinions freely, and to become anything we want to if we are willing to work hard enough.

Most importantly though, is the freedom we have to choose the kind of person we want leading our country. We, as a nation have the unique ability to elect someone to lead us.

We take this privilege for granted all too often. We do not think about those in the world who have no say in their country's leader. We are truly blessed to live in the United States.

That is why it is the duty of every person living in a democratic society to take advantage of his or her rights and vote for our country's leader.

When a person does not vote, it is like saying that they would just as soon live in a

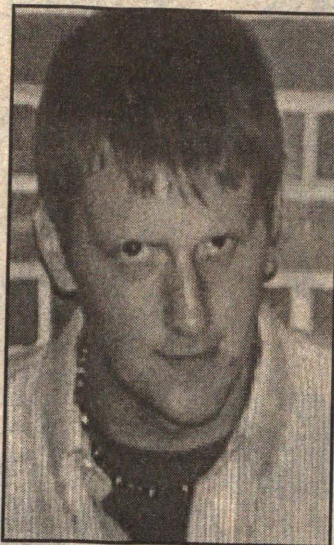
country where it did not matter what the people wanted. Not voting is just another way of saying you don't care.

People who do not vote seem to think that it does not matter because theirs is just one vote. But get every apathetic person with this opinion and you have a lot of people who aren't heard.

With the voting registration deadline coming up on Oct. 3, there is not much time left. Register to vote and take advantage of what our country has to offer.

Point/Counterpoint

Government censors protect the public



By John Jennings

Government censorship of the media has become a hot topic in the last few years, especially after Sept. 11 and the wars with Afghanistan and Iraq. People now wonder whether or not the American public is being told

the whole truth.

For all those who worry if they are being properly informed, you can stop fretting. The answer is simple. The American public is not being told the truth, but the real question behind this is: Is not knowing the whole truth better for the people at large?

I believe that it is. For the most part, Americans are told the essentials, what they need to know. That information should be enough for them. The government or the media, whichever you choose to talk about, does keep secrets, but it is better for America if the people do not know. As the saying goes, "What you don't know can't hurt you."

People tend to get irrational and I do not think that they can

be trusted with the whole truth. They will only disturb the equilibrium of the society. Evidence for this lies in the 1960s and '70s. The Vietnam War was taking place, and for the first time the people at home were being shown the gruesome reality of war and its effects.

What did they do? Well, a bunch of kids in their 20s decided that they knew everything, or at least they knew better than the people running the country, so they protested and rioted.

Had the Vietnam War not been shown on television, I doubt that the protests would have taken place.

It literally took years, and every American soldier to be pulled out of Vietnam, for the population to settle down.

America does not need another decade of rioting and protesting.

Trust is the underlying issue in all of this. How much can we trust our government? Are they truly making the right decisions? That is why people get upset over media censorship. It is because they do not trust the government. They see dead bodies coming home from a war and assume that the government has made the wrong decisions.

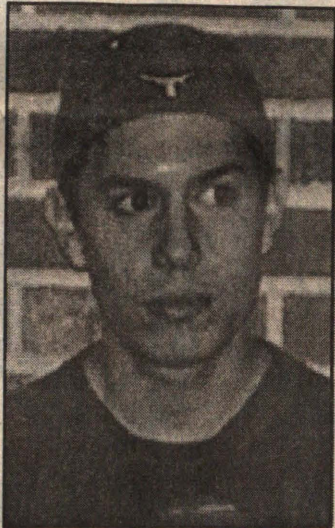
Seeing footage like dead Americans coming home in caskets does no good for the public. They lose confidence in their leader and their morale is shaken, and as any leader will say, during a war there is nothing so important as the country's confidence.

It is to the public's benefit that they don't see the whole truth. As a whole, the public is weak and concedes easily and its morale can be quickly shaken or destroyed.

The American public must have faith in their leaders that they are being told what they need to be told. They need to trust and learn to live with the fact that they do not know everything that is going on.

By the way, this technique did seem to work well for the first half of the 20th century. In the 1940s it was rare to see protest. Instead, you saw flags flying proudly to support our boys. They need to humble themselves and support the government instead of denouncing it. Government censorship is one way to accomplish this.

America needs to be told the truth



By C.J. Hinojosa

In post 9/11 America, government censorship is a highly discussed issue. The numbingly tragic events of that day cast a shadow of fear over the entire nation, which gave the Bush administration a lot more control over media and basic American freedoms. With the passing of the Patriot Act, the

public gave up many of their freedoms in hopes of heightened security, and the majority did not mind.

But two of the most coveted American freedoms, listed right there at the top of our Bill of Rights, are free speech and free press. And now, I wonder if American people thought about how patriotic the Patriot Act really was.

Today, the American public is not being told the truth by the media because the U.S. government is lying. And it is for your own good, the government says.

Look at the Vietnam War. People were being exposed to images of war and casualties for the first time on the TV news. They witnessed their American brothers dying. But people and these "bunch of kids in their 20s" did not protest this war because they thought they were

all-knowing and better than our government. They cried out against it because they knew nothing about it. They had no idea why we were fighting in Vietnam, so naturally they would want to know why our soldiers were being sent to early graves.

The media told the people the truth about the war, and rightfully so. Many more could have died; plus we didn't accomplish a lot in Vietnam anyway. The media opened the public eye with its stark, realistic coverage. The media helped cut the war short. This proves that watered-down, censored reporting doesn't make an impact. Instead, it is just accepted and discarded because we are becoming more and more desensitized to what should be shocking.

You can cross the line somewhere, though. There are some dark secrets that you cannot just

unleash all at once on live TV. These things need to happen gradually. But the military for one, should not be so secretive. We need to know how our soldiers are doing and the real reasons we are involved in war.

Sadly, with our people being lied to by the media on government orders, we are leaning towards fascism, meaning the state first, its people second. I always thought America was trying to spread democracy all over the world, including Iraq, which is what we are now being told is the reason we're there. That is not what we heard when we first went there; spreading democracy to Iraq was not on the original agenda. The government needs to favor its people more instead of using fear as a gripping control device. We need the government's help, and they need ours, but lately it seems the people are

not getting their fair share.

How can you trust your government if it constantly lies to you? We would love to be able to trust our leaders, but we need a change first.

Our American people must be told the truth. If they continue to hear lies on the 6 o'clock news, their view of society and our world will be warped from reality, and things will continue to spiral downward.

But if people become aware, they can make a change. It will take a lot of people participating in activism to affect matters significantly, but that can be done if our government, today, tells the media to tell it like it is, for the most part. Bring back widespread free, truthful press. Some say "what you don't know can't hurt you." But I say what you do know can make a difference.

Ricky Williams lets down team and fans with early retirement

By Joe Harte

Miami Dolphins running back Ricky Williams retires at the age of 27, displayed the ESPN news scroll the day Williams announced his retirement, but the truth is that Williams did not retire, he quit.

Usually when someone retires they do not do it at the peak of their career, they cannot compete at the same level they were able to at one time, they're over the age of 30 and they are not the focus of their team's offense.

Williams definitely breaks the

mold, because he was at the peak of his career, and had not lost a step on his old form.

For the 2005 NFL season, the Miami Dolphins offense was supposed to focus on Williams, but a week before training camp Williams decided to call it quits.

He said that his heart was not in the game any more and he wanted to be "free" from the constraints of football.

That is respectable if it's what Williams truly wants to do, but do not leave your team-

mates high and dry like that.

These guys are like Williams' brothers and he left them without looking back. It wasn't just that he turned his back on his team, but that he did it a week before their training started, leaving the team without the opportunity to look for a qualified replacement.

Replacements like All-Pro Eddie George and starter Antowain Smith were free agents but were not available because they signed with other teams just before Williams re-

tired. Miami could have signed one of those players if he would not have waited until the last minute to retire. Instead Miami, a team whose offense focuses on the run game, will have to start Travis Minor who has not even proven himself as a respectable backup in the NFL.

Not only is it bad the way Williams left the team, but he also told ESPN reporters that he mainly retired so he could do illegal drugs without having to worry about taking drug tests. He said that he was tired of hav-

ing to constantly hide his drug use. He had already failed four drug tests, one right before his announcement, so his reason should not have been a surprise. He would have been suspended for the season anyway. He said that he purposely failed so his problem would be out in the open and his fans might understand his retirement.

Well have fun Ricky, you could have been one of the greatest running backs of all time, but perhaps the grass will be greener in retirement.

2004 means celebration as the school observes its 100th anniversary

Special logos, stickers, class rings, even graduation tassels are being designed just for this year

By Cristina Sarnelli

Community High School is turning 100 years old, and the centennial committee is planning ways to celebrate.

The centennial committee is made up of students, staff, parents, alumni, and community members. Plans for this year include designing special logos and stickers for the anniversary and putting together special presentations about the school's history.

Mary Randle, head of the centennial committee, said that most of the activities would be centered around Homecoming weekend. From 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 1, a reception will be held for the retired teachers and staff

and for all alumni.

Students will give a multimedia presentation for the alumni. At 6 pm, student ambassadors will give tours of the high school to the alumni and will interview them for past experiences at the school. The marching band will have a Homecoming parade that will go out into the community starting at 2 p.m.

At the Homecoming football game an alumni hospitality tent will be set up and alumni will be recognized by the crowd. The booster club will recognize the 1974 football team that won the state championship. The band will also

have a centennial theme during the half time show.

On Oct. 2, the Homecoming dance will start at 7 pm. The alumni will have a "Dancing Though the Decades" dance held at Centergy that same night. Randle said that the dance is likely to have a large crowd and is one of the big activities planned for the celebration of the school.

Other plans include special class rings and graduation tassels. Dave Exner is in charge of painting a special mural for the anniversary. The West Chicago City Museum is setting up a display of artifacts and information about the school history. A centennial celebration booklet will be made as a memory of the events that took place from 1904 to 2004 at the high school.

Randle is expecting the celebration to be big and fun. "It should be pretty exciting," she said.

Good ol' days were not always so good

By Brittany Blanchard

You won't see a wooden paddle in a classroom to discipline students anymore. Instead you will see a referral form. These are only some of the changes that have occurred since 1904. Here are others:

Population:

Then: In 1904, the graduating class had a total of two students.

Now: The class of 2004 saw 480 students graduate from We-go.

School Supplies:

Then: Students wrote with quill pens and ink. It was the responsibility of the teacher to whittle goose feathers and make ink for the students to use!

Now: There is a wide variety of pens, pencils, and markers for students to use which come in many different colors.

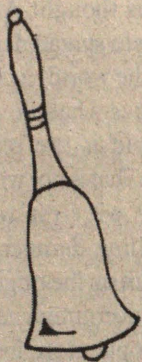


Bells:

Then: Since many schools were only one room, the teacher typically had a hand bell that he or she would ring when it was time for students to congregate and go

inside.

Now: There is a systematized bell system that sounds at precisely the same time everyday to indicate the beginning and end of the day as well as each class hour and the much appreciated two minute warning.



Discipline:

Then: In the early 1900s the wooden paddle was commonly used as a means of discipline. Normally the paddle would be kept within sight of the students to motivate them to behave well in school.

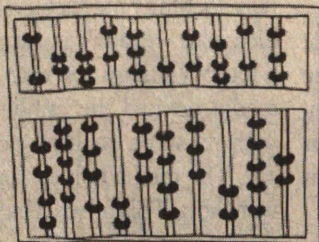
Now: Since instruments are no longer used to enforce discipline, schools today frequently take away privileges, suspend, or expel students depending on the degree of their disobedience.

Technology:

Then: The abacus was made of a wood frame with parallel wire rods and each had wooden

disks that slid on the rods. This early calculator was used to demonstrate and test calculation skills.

Now: The majority of students each own their own TI-83 calculator that not only computes equations but can also graph the information.



Heating:

Then: Most one room schoolhouses used a potbelly stove to heat the classroom. However, this inevitably left the students sitting close to it feeling very warm and drowsy while the students furthest away were most often sitting by drafty windows and needed many layers of warm clothes.

Now: Each teacher has their own thermostat to control the temperature in each particular room.

Lunch:

Then: Most students' lunches consisted of bread with jam or meat, hard-boiled eggs, and dill pickles, and were transported from home to school in a metal bucket.

Now: Students usually bring their lunches consisting of sandwiches, chips, cookies, and the occasional piece of fruit in a brown paper bag or buy a hot lunch in the cafeteria. Vending machines provide cold drinks and snacks.



Has the world around us changed as much as we think it has?

These are just a few of the more infamous events that took place in 1904, including a giant hurricane and a major presidential election.

By John Jennings

Community High School has been around for 100 years now, and a lot has changed since the opening of the school. Not only has the school changed, but the world around it has made dramatic changes.

Today the world is preoccupied with war and the gain of land and resources. Back then, the world was preoccupied with war in order to obtain land.

Some of the more important

events that happened in 1904 was a war between Russia and Japan which Japan won; Great Britain invaded Tibet; a tribe of native Africans fought the Germans; and the New York subway system was created.

Also in 1904, the United States purchased the Panama Canal for \$10 million, Longacre Square in New York was renamed Times Square, a fire aboard a steamboat in New York City's East River killed



2004 WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS AND COUNTING

ound us changed as n the last 100 years?

1,000 people and hurricane in Goliad, Texas killed 114 people.

Theodore Roosevelt was elected president in what the people then thought as they do today that it was "the most important election of our lifetime."

Some notable firsts include the invention of the ice cream cone by Charles Menches and the first Rolls-Royce was produced.

1904 was also a great year for being born. Some of the most well-known people born in 1904 include Cary Grant, Dr. Seuss, Joan Crawford, Robert Oppenheimer, Salvador Dali, and Johnny Weissmuller. One of the famous deaths was

Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev, the creator of the periodic table.

In 1904, the United States of America was only comprised of 48 states, as Hawaii and Alaska would not be admitted until 1959. Since 1904, women have gained the right to vote, schools have been desegregated, the atom bomb was created and used, the economy has crashed, boomed, and crashed again, and there have been 18 different presidents.

Over the 100 years that the school has been around, there have been two world wars, communism has risen and fallen, and the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago White Sox have combined for exactly four World Series wins, and still fans come and watch their games.

Students create centennial blankets for the celebration

By Brittany Blanchard

The advanced clothing class is producing centennial celebration blankets to sell to students, staff, and the community of West Chicago in honor of the school's 100-year anniversary.

As part of teacher Patti Kozlowski's class curriculum, each student must come up with a project incorporating either design or business, run it effectively, and finally evaluate themselves at the end of the venture.

"At the end of the project students must respond to how they could have streamlined their business, if they targeted the appropriate group of consumers,

and review their clientele," said Kozlowski.

Student Liz Goodman is leading the project and needed to first come up with the idea, then develop a contract and determine how to set up the sales to generate these commemorative blankets.

"We decided to use the fleece blankets because, being football season, we thought they'd be a good seller," Kozlowski said.

The blankets, with an embroidered centennial logo designed by Chris Bardey and his graphic arts classes, will be available all year with pre-ordering through Kozlowski for a cost of \$25.

However, if special additions to the blanket, such as the embroidery of a name or sport, are requested, an additional fee will apply.

The blankets and logo were displayed during homecoming week and the class will begin production once the orders are placed and the money has been paid.

The advanced clothing class already has numerous orders placed for purchase.

"With all the orders we have already, I have a feeling we'll be wearing that new embroidery machine out real fast," said Kozlowski.

1976 graduate fondly remembers her high school experience

By Cristina Sarnelli

Becky Koltz, an alumni of We-go, says that the school is different today but also is the same in many ways.

Koltz graduated in 1976 with a graduating class of around 385. She remembers wishing that the high school had a five year plan.

"I just wasn't ready for it to end," she said.

Koltz said she had fun in school by getting involved.

"I was involved in a lot," she said. She did musical activities such as playing flute in band, flute in orchestra, and was involved in choir. She did thespians, speech team, and student council as well. She played a lead

school was like back in the '70s to now. The school used to have an audio visual room, there was no pool or fieldhouse, there was no addition to the cafeteria, and no fundraising for band.

But Koltz noted some similarities between the past and now.

"Parking has always been a problem," Koltz said

She also said that parts of the school are still the same. "I remember when I brought my kids to the school to find their classes, it was really easy to find everything because it is mostly still the same," Koltz said.

Koltz's favorite moment during high school was the football team winning the state championship.

"It was just so exciting." She said that being in band made winning even more special because she was performing. Another of her most favorite moments was dating her husband during senior year, and they are now married 27 years.

After graduating, Koltz went to Southern Illinois University but did not get her degree. She is working for it now in communications/public relations now and is a school/community relations specialist for West Chicago Elementary School.

Koltz said that high school prepared her a lot.

"In addition to academics, high school also allowed me to have an incredible number of friends." She said that high school helped her to learn about interacting with a vari-

ety of people and taught her people skills.

Koltz believes that students should enjoy high school and shouldn't worry so much about what they are going to do.

"Go to college and get a degree. The degree is the ticket," Koltz said. She added that worrying about what occupation to go into is not important.

Koltz liked the high school so much that after moving away and starting a family with her husband, her family moved back to the school district just so that her children could go to We-go too.

She said that she made life long friendships at the high



Photo courtesy of Becky Koltz
Becky Koltz senior picture in 1976.

role in the play "Bye Bye Birdie" and was involved in a South Africa trip that she went on the summer before her senior year.

Her favorite subject in school was English, and her favorite teachers were Vera Sornson, advisor of the South Africa trip, and Ron Benner, choir director.

Koltz recognizes a lot of the differences from what the high

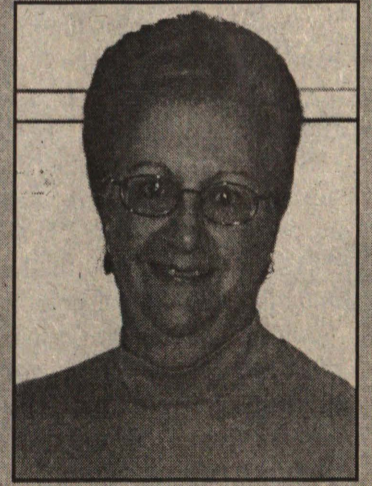


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli
Koltz is still involved with the school today.

school that she is very happy with and that high school helped to define her life now.

"I had some of the best times of my life with some of the best people of my life," she said.

Besides keeping in touch with the school because of her children, Koltz is still involved herself as the co-chairman of the centennial committee.

Students acquire a taste of German life and cuisine

By Joe Harte

A lot of exciting things happened this summer for the German students, but the biggest activity for them was their three-week trip to Germany.

"(It was) an incredible experience," said German teacher and trip organizer, Terri Strohm, about this past summer's trip to Germany.

Every year, since 1980, the German students have the opportunity to travel to Germany to experience the country's sites, culture, and language first hand.

The students who made the trip this summer were Alyssa Claude, Deborah Corson, Emily Doll, Ashley Egert, Andrea Johnson, Jason LeGear, Erik Nelson, Katie Roberts, Kelly Wdowiarz, Bryce Wolfe and Tom Wood. They were accompanied by Strohm and substitute teacher June Lincoln.

The trip took place during the students' summer break, from June 11 to July 2. While in Germany, the students stayed in the town of Gunzenhausen,

a town in southern Germany, about two hours north of Munich.

During the trip, the students did a lot of traveling around to different parts of Germany.

"We visited a lot of historical sites," said Strohm. One of the places they visited was Nurnberg, which is famous for its 'Christmas market and bratwurst.

Nuremberg was also the city where Adolf Hitler held most of his meetings, including the one where the Nuremberg Laws were passed, depriving the German Jews of most of their rights as German citizens.

The students also went to Wurzburg, which is considered by famous philosopher, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, to be one of the most beautiful towns in Germany.

At another time the students took a three day trip to Munich, home of the 1972 Olympics, with the German students who were hosting them. The host parents got to go on the trip as well. The entire group traveled

together by bus.

On this excursion to Munich the group went to Zugspitze, where they got to view the beauty of the tallest mountain in Germany.

Additionally, they visited Oberammergau, where the Passion Play is presented every 10 years. The play is very important in the German culture.

During the three day trip, the group of students and parents visited the Alps. At the Alps, the students saw some interesting sites.

"Cows walked across the streets, that's something you never see here in America," said Strohm. The students also visited Dachau and Augsburg.

Some of the great things the German students saw weren't the sites but the hospitality they received. When the students arrived in Germany they were welcomed with a reception organized by their German host families. Present were the mayor and Union representative Dr. Ingo Friedrich.

(See Germany page 11)



Photo courtesy of Terri Strohm

German students enjoyed sightseeing different German cities and historical sites.

College Column: As fall nears so do college decisions

By John Jennings

As October approaches, every senior should realize that application deadlines are nearing for colleges. And as a rule most seniors should already have chosen which schools they want to go to, or at least apply for.

If school visits have not already taken place, students should plan them for this fall.

"If seniors have not visited colleges yet, they need to start looking right away and set up campus tours and information sessions," said Maura Bridges, head of the counseling department.

The biggest issue for seniors right now after campus visits, is deciding whether to apply early decision, early action, or regular decision.

For those out there who do not know these terms should definitely think about writing them down. Early decision is what some colleges use, many of them Ivy League schools, to accept those who really want to go to school there.

"Early decision is binding, which means that if you apply to a college or university using early decision and you get accepted, you must withdraw all of your other applications immediately and you must go to that school only," said Bridges.

This option is for the people who know for a fact that no matter what the expense, that college or university is where they want to go.

Early action is similar, but there is one difference.

Bridges said, "If you apply early action to a school and they

accept you, you do not have to withdraw your other applications."

Your options are still open, if say, you find out that you cannot afford to go to that school. Another important issue that draws kids towards applying either early action or early decision is that you will receive a letter from the school in December regarding your acceptance, rather than in April. This is a great way to apply early if you know exactly where you want to go.

Remember that each college has their own rules regarding early decision, so college-bound students need to find out the policy of the school they are interested in.

Regular decision is exactly what it sounds like. Regular decision is for students who want to apply to a school during the regular time. Most applicants do apply using regular decision to colleges.

When seniors start applying they should look at applying to anywhere between three and five schools.

One of the schools should be a safety, one or two can be reaches, and one or two can be places where you think you stand a good chance of getting in.

A safety is a school that you know you can get into. A reach is a school that you would love to get into, but one that has high standards so acceptance would be difficult.

Examples of reaches for most students would be Harvard, Princeton, or Stanford.

(See Choices page 11)

Man of many talents, Steve Govertsen, joins the staff

By C.J. Hinojosa

Band and orchestra are playing to the beat of a different leader's drum this year.

Steve Govertsen has filled in for the retired James Guter as band director. His favorite thing about West Chicago? "The thorium," he joked.

Besides that, he added that his new digs are treating him well and he does indeed like it here.

His relationship with the marching band at this point is "growing," he says with visions of a bright future. "It's a steady process of getting to know kids and develop. That's hard because we have a band of 115 kids."

New drumline member, senior Tim Bolt, said of Govertsen, "He's cool, I like him."

Songs performed by the Govertsen-led West Chicago band will have a Latin jazz theme for this year.

Aside from directing the marching band, Govertsen has assumed other roles around the school.

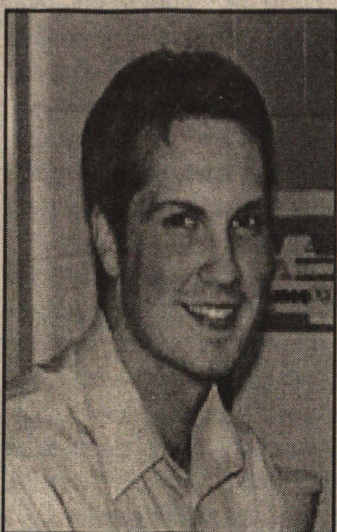


Photo by C.J. Hinojosa

Steve Govertsen shares his love of music with students.

He's the orchestra director and teaches music technology. In addition, he holds an independent study class for student musicians learning new instruments.

"We're forming a small band," he said, smiling.

Govertsen plays the tuba, piano, and stand-up bass, and he played a little guitar in grade school.

"I'm supposed to be able to

play everything, but not necessarily well," he added. He began playing the piano at age 4. "It trained my ear," he said.

And as far as what he listens to, "I'd hate to classify myself as someone who likes anything but country, but... yeah I am." He especially enjoys jazz, which he brings now to the band.

The band doesn't really run through a set routine each day, Govertsen noted. Everything changes.

It depends on what needs practice, whether it's outdoors, indoors, fixing up music, anything. Of this, he says he's feeling good and that things look bright this new year.

Before the first home football game on Sept. 10, Govertsen was psyched. The band? "We're pumped. Still refining the show, but if we had to do it tomorrow, we could."

In the past Govertsen was an assistant band director at Willowbrook and then the head band director last year at Glenbard South. This is his second year of teaching.

Paw Prints

Students traveled half the world

By Kellie Virnich

For two weeks last summer, students experienced a blend of Irish, English, and French "old world" traditions and modern culture on the European history tour.

The tour took 11 students through some of northwestern Europe's most famous sites, including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and Buckingham Palace. They also saw authentic Irish dancing and a reenactment of "Much Ado about Nothing" at the Globe Theater, which, instead of the traditional all-male cast, featured only women.

"Students learn best by experiencing things for themselves," said Mary Ellen Daneels, one of the trip's coordinators, "The trip isn't just seeing places of the past, but experiencing the culture of the present."

The tour gained back some of the popularity lost after Sept. 11, though there were still fewer participants than originally planned. Though Community High School traveled with two New York high schools for the majority of the trip, they were able to visit and see more because of Daneels's "vending machine fund." She receives the profits from several vending machines, which she



Photo courtesy of Mary Daneels

Students enjoyed traveling through Ireland, England, and France this summer with the European history tour.

puts toward the tour every year. This allows the students to see more with no added cost.

Senior Madeline Foote said, "I've always wanted to go to Ireland... The trip was even better because Ms. Daneels and Mrs. Laimins both put in so much time and effort."

Foote also said that the tim-

ing on the tour was perfect, with nothing too rushed or drawn out, one of the reasons she decided to go on the trip next summer.

The trip through the United Kingdom and France cost about \$2,500 for students and \$3,000 for adults.

It included hotels throughout

the countries, guided tours, meals and transportation, and even though it mainly consists of upperclassmen, all students are welcome.

Next summer's tour goes through Italy and Greece. Any student interested should see Daneels for the forms they need.

Germany...

(Continued from page 10)

To welcome the Americans the German host students gave presentations.

While there, the West Chicago students had the opportunity to get involved in their German hosts' personal lives, especially in their graduation.

"Graduation is a dinner party, graduation ceremony, prom, and variety show all combined," said Strohm.

Strohm has been going on the German trip since it started in 1980. She truly likes to share the experience with people from other departments in the school.

She realizes that the trip has dramatic changes on people's lives and that is why she wants as many people as possible to take advantage of the opportunity.

"It is a great feeling when former students approach me and say that the trip has changed their lives," Strohm said.

Probably the only downside of the trip was the long eight-hour flight to and from Germany.

However it wasn't enough to keep the students and their teachers from making the journey this past summer, and it won't be enough to keep others from going next summer.

Choices...

(Continued from page 10)

Every student should have a well-rounded group of schools to which they are applying. When seniors are narrowing down their choices of where to go, money should not be an initial concern.

"Seniors should worry about getting into the college of their choice first, and then they should worry about how they are going to pay for it," said Bridges.

Do not cut your dream short because you may not be able to afford it. There are plenty of scholarships out there, and universities typically give money to those in need through grants, loans, student-work, etc.

Seniors need to get started on those college applications because even regular decision is due in December, which is approaching rapidly.

As for juniors and sophomores, college is also on the horizon. For sophomores, career exploration and life after school should be the focus.

Anyone who has questions regarding college should head to the counseling department next to commons.

Traveler Grande settles in as new counselor

By C.J. Hinojosa

Samirah Grande is the school's newest counselor. Attractive to her about Community High School is its diverse high school population, and she enjoys the other members of the staff.

Besides helping students with their everyday issues, she's quite fond of her French poodle Butkus, named for Dick the ex-Chicago Bear, and sushi.

"I'm not a fish fan," she insisted, however. Just sushi.

That could stem from Grande's love of traveling the world, something she tells all her students she does avidly. For her, the thrills come from meeting new people and seeing new places. She's seen France, Spain, England, Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic, Holland, Mexico, and Canada, and says of all that the lifestyle is more laid-back, and people just seem to enjoy life more there. And the food, of course, she included.

"I guess I like to explore,"

Grande said, "There's history in those places."

The overall experience of the trips themselves were her favorite thing, but mostly she remembers the crazy people she's come across throughout Europe. Such as an elder French man on a Paris-Barcelona train that whacked people with newspapers, and then read those papers upside down.

Back in her office, her take on counseling is one with respect and moral support for all students, no matter if they seem to lack discipline, Grande said. Also, she says that she never makes an attempt to discourage their dreams even if they appear a tad farfetched; she always encourages them 100 percent.

Last year, Grande was a counselor at Amos Alonso Stag High School in Palos Hills, another very diverse school with an Arabic, Polish, and Lithuanian ethnicity.

Today, she's glad to be part of what she calls one of the more established counseling depart-

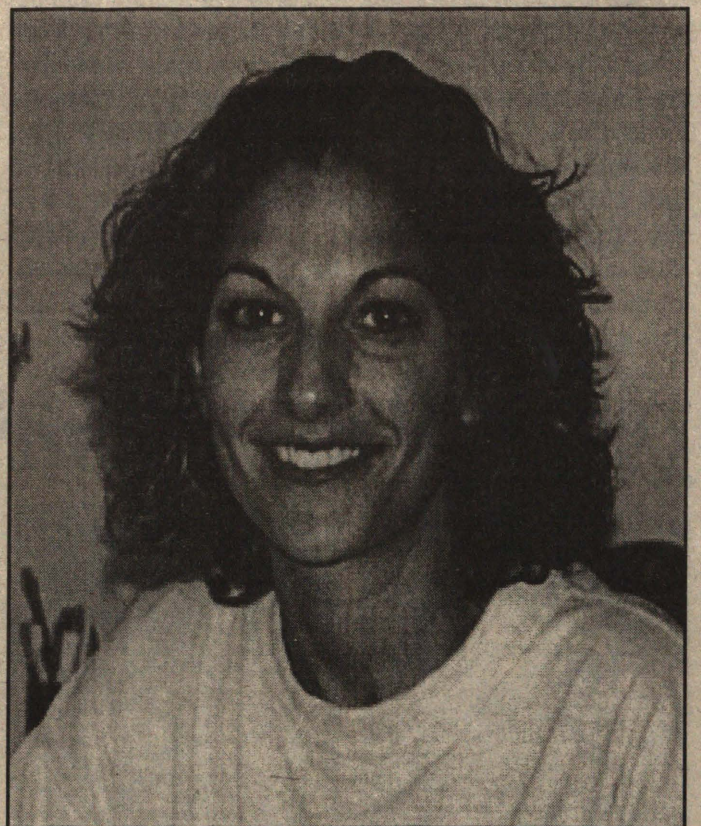


Photo by C.J. Hinojosa

Samirah Grande makes herself at home in the counseling office.

ments.

Last year at Stag is when one of her most memorable and fulfilling accomplishments occurred.

She worked with a troubled student throughout the year and in the end it all worked out.

A card saying "she got put into that school as an angel from God."

Grande says she is adventurous, but not super-artsy, although she enjoys indie films and is passionate photographer.

Her advice to students and basically anyone is that, "People should be open minded and read. Learn about new things and don't shut them away; even if you don't agree with it, just take it all in."

Paw Prints

From chemical plants to classrooms

By Cristina Sarnelli

Science teacher Katharine Holzer is starting out a new teaching career at Community High School and feels very much at home.

"The people have been very nice, friendly, and helpful," she said about the staff.

Holzer is teaching biology and chemistry this year. It is her first teaching opportunity, and so far, it has been a good experience. "It has been fun and pleasant," she said.

Holzer said that on her first day of teaching she was nervous and didn't know what to expect.

"I wasn't sure of how it would be. Would I trip or talk to the students and make no sense to

them?" Holzer added that her day ended up being positive and went well.

Holzer is a graduate of Montana State University and has a graduate degree in fish and wildlife management.

She majored in biology and received her bachelor and masters degrees.

Before coming to Community High School, Holzer worked at Nelco Chemical Company for six years.

She took seven and a half years off to raise a family, and then went back to Nelco for another year. After that, Holzer decided she wanted to try teaching.

She came to Community

High School because she knew the opportunity was here and decided to pursue it.

Holzer decided to go into teaching science because she had a good background in biology and chemistry and wanted to help students grasp the subject more.

"I have a strong feeling that science is very important for people to know no matter what their interests are," Holzer said.

She decided to teach so she could make the subjects more interesting and enjoyable for students.

Holzer expects to learn about students' study and learning habits and wants to help them find efficient ways to learn.



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

After six years working at Nelco Chemical Company Katharine Holzer decided to teach chemistry and biology.

Sammons shares the Spanish language with her students

By C.J. Hinojosa

West Chicago *tiene una maestra nueva de Español*. English: There's a new Spanish teacher on campus, and that would be Karin Sammons.

She's situated up on the third floor, teaching Spanish I. Or maybe you encountered her last year, when she played a bit part subbing in French classes. But now she's got her own gig.

Her past days were spent teaching both Spanish and French out at Glenbard West and Stevenson, but these days she's a Wildcat. According to her, teaching French and Spanish is very similar, as well as a lot of fun. Some days when she's in the hall, she says, she'll

see students she had in French classes last year and then recall that she now teaches Spanish.

Three words to describe her Spanish I classes: "Good, big, and high-energy," Sammons noted. And also "very smart."

Sammons has visited Costa Rica and France. While at Glenbard West she took her students to France, and among them were former math teacher Michael Assaf and current sociology teacher Lisa Willuweit. Human resources director Kim Brafford was also a student of Sammons'.

"I like this school a lot," Sammons said, "I love the variety of people, students and teachers and there's a real sense

of community." Being a foreign language teacher she appreciates the diversity in the school. She's also glad that the school is close to home for her and thus she has a short drive here. Plus, her sister Kirsten Vondrak helps out with math in the Academic Skills Center, and her kid's friends go here as well, so that's cool, she said. But she does point out that there's, "No window in my office."

Besides that, she's very satisfied and exuberant about Community High School foreign language and history travel programs.

Sammons enjoys photography, and is a fan of camping and hiking, as well as southern rock

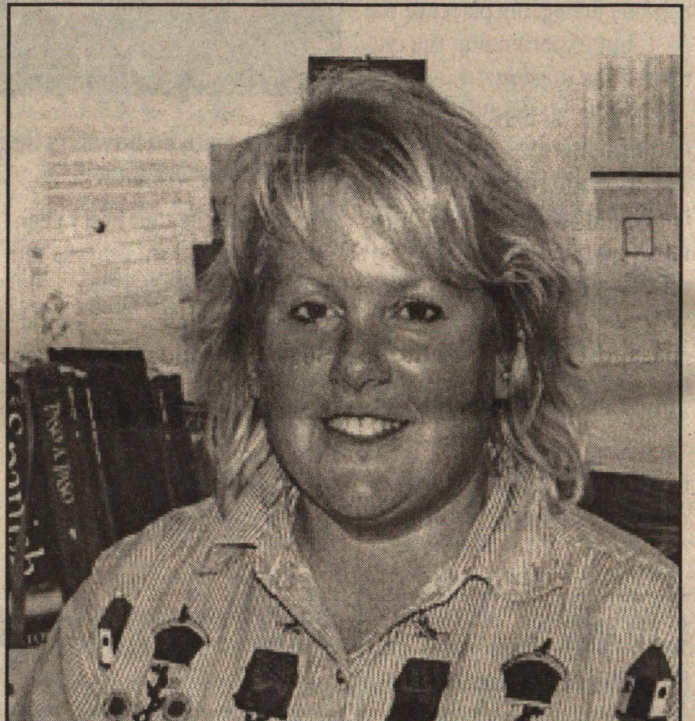
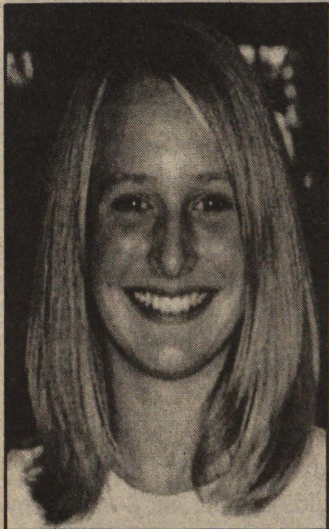


Photo by C.J. Hinojosa

Sammons enjoys seeing her family at Community High School as she shares her Spanish skills.

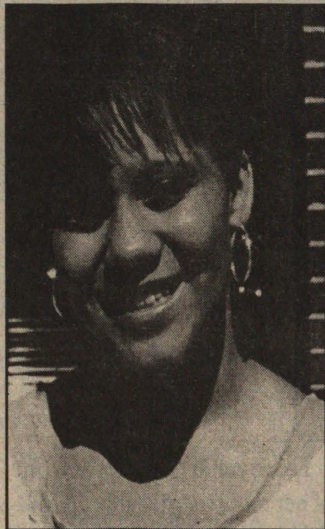
music. And she points out that "West Chicago High School she likes going to sports events, sports events," she said.

Q&A: What is your favorite school subject?



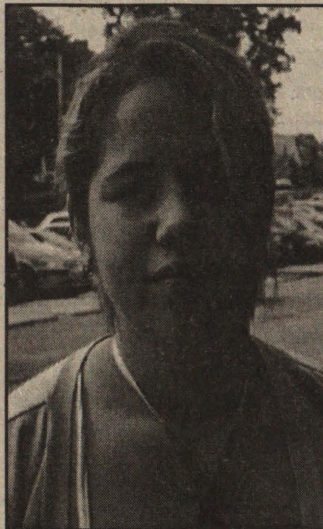
Alex Mills
Freshman

Global studies because it's very interactive, it's fun learning about different countries and it's opinionated.



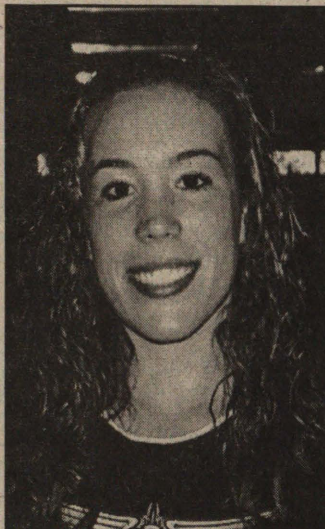
Ashley Czerwinski
Freshman

Biology because I like learning about the earth and the experiments are useful.



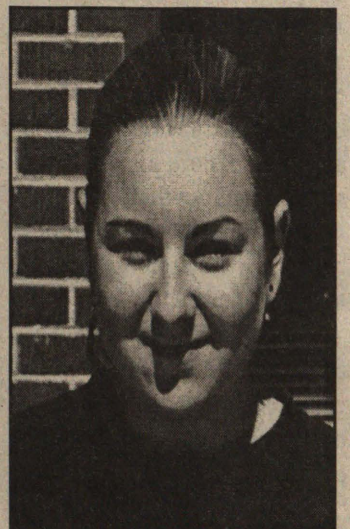
Raquel Brummel
Sophomore

Business law, because it helps me get closer to my goal of becoming a lawyer and I become 20 percent of the country that understands the government.



Megan Scott
Freshman

French, because the teacher is really funny, she explains things really well, and it's a cool language.



Lindsay Black
Freshman

Algebra, because I'm good at it and my teacher tries to relate to her students.

Paw Prints

After a few rocky starts Spanish students enjoyed their stay at San Jose, Costa Rica

By Andrea Bradley

The adventure was big this summer as 17 students from Community High School rode horses through the mountains, went white water rafting, and flew through the rainforest while strapped in harnesses.

The students went to San Jose, Costa Rica this summer spending three weeks with a Costa Rican student.

Teachers and advisers Sue Junkroski and Elizabeth Malinsky got off to a rough start, but the trip got going soon after their landing in San Jose.

The rough part of the trip took place while the group was still in the United States.

Once everyone arrived at the airport, they quickly learned that Junkroski was not able to fly that day.

The airport would not accept her passport because a person's passport must be valid six weeks after the planned return date of the trip.

Since Junkroski's passport was not valid for six weeks after her return date, she was told she could not come on the flight.

She had to get a new passport in the span of one day.

"I was pretty mad, and annoyed. I was just worried that I wouldn't have been able to get a new passport in one day," said Junkroski.



Seventeen students experienced horse backriding, white water rafting, and viewing the rain forest in Costa Rica during the summer.

Photo courtesy of Sue Junkroski

Junkroski was able to get her passport and boarded a separate flight the next day.

After the confusion was settled the rest of the trip opened up and everyone had fun, said Junkroski.

For three weeks, Community High School students followed their "brothers and sisters" to school and to everyday activities.

Junkroski believes that although the students were worried about their speaking skills, they have overcome those fears and did a good job.

"Adapting to the language was a tough process," said exchange student Amy Axelrod.

"The first day of my trip my sister asked me if I understood what she was asking. I thought she asked me if I was lying.

That was a difficult conversation to overcome. Of course I'm not lying," she said.

Junkroski also thinks that the students gained independence from the trip rather than just conversation skills.

Since the students were by themselves, they depended solely on what they were able to do, said Junkroski.

Students also had to work

their way around the Costa Rican school.

While at school, the students had to wear uniforms.

Junkroski gave the students a heads-up to pack green pants and a khaki shirt to wear.

The Costa Ricans also wear their school logo on a patch on their sleeves, which was supplied to the students to wear too.

One thing that the students had to get used to was going to school on a city bus, said Junkroski.

Since all of the hosts live in different areas of San Jose, a city bus is needed to get to school.

Not only did the students stay with their hosts, but they also spent three days in a hotel in the cloud forest.

The hotel was called El Establo. It was an appropriate name because that is where everyone saddled up and rode horses through the mountains.

This time was also spent on the canopy tour where the students were attached to a zip line with a harness and went through the rainforest.

Junkroski's favorite part of the trip is the same every year, and that is the look on students' faces when they really enjoy something.

"I love watching students' faces light up when something cool happens with them," she said.

Davis follows her heart as she joins math staff

By Cristina Sarnelli

Math teacher Diana Davis started out her first year at Community High School feeling "a little like a freshman" for the first few days.

"I was just trying to get used to a new place," Davis said of her somewhat chaotic first day.

Davis said that she was not surprised by the confusion of the first day and that everything went like she expected.

Everything settled down for Davis later as she started to get used to the flow of school. "I feel that I am back in the teaching frame of mind," Davis said.

Davis was a high school teacher at Glenbard East for three years. She stopped teaching to help her husband start a new business. After her hus-

band got settled, she decided to get back into teaching.

Davis is teaching algebra one and advanced algebra. She chose to come to the Community High School and continue her career.

Davis made the decision to come to the high school because she heard positive things about the school. She also said that teaching at the high school felt right.

"I just got a good feeling with the different people I met," said Davis.

Davis graduated from the University of Illinois and received her bachelor of science in mathematics.

She also has a teaching degree from Elmhurst College. After graduating, Davis found a job

at a bank and found out that it wasn't right for her.

"It didn't feel right working (at the bank)," she said.

Davis said that in high school she wanted to go into law but was not sure if that was really what she wanted to do. She got advice from a high school teacher who told her to do what she felt was right and that it should be something she liked.

Davis said that she chose to teach mathematics because she likes the material and enjoys spending time with students.

Davis expects the year, "to be a growing experience personally and professionally." One of Davis' goals for the future is, "to be one of the best teachers at West Chicago in future years."



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

After the chaos of the first day of school Diana Davis settled into an algebra teaching mode.

La comunidad celebra las tradiciones Mexicanas

Por María Pérez

West Chicago mostró su espíritu Hispano el domingo 12 de septiembre con la celebración del Día De La Independencia Mexicana.

“El Día de la Independencia es un día importante en la historia Mexicana, y por la población alta de Mexicanos, nosotros debemos celebrar nuestra historia. Nosotros no necesitamos estar en México para celebrar nuestra historia,”

dijo Tomas Aviles el organizador de las festividades del Día de Independencia.

Áviles y otros voluntarios comunitarios participaron en un desfile Mexicano que empezó en Main Street y terminó en Joliet Street en el estacionamiento del mercado La Chiquita.

Había 25 unidades en el desfile. Algunos de los participantes fueron la oficina de correos de West Chicago,

negocios locales, carros low riders, carros decorados con banderas Mexicanas, políticos, caballos, y muchos excursionistas, dijo Aviles.

La banda de la escuela secundaria de West Chicago tocó cinco canciones a los miembros reunidos de la comunidad. Después hicieron El Grito, seguido por el Ballet Folklórico Quezalcoatl, y para terminar la celebración los voluntarios le cantaron a la multitud, y un pinchadiscos tocó música Mexicana, Cumbias, y Rancheras.

Ésta fue la primera vez que Aviles organizó el evento, aunque antes del evento Aviles ayudaba en la celebración Mexicana por El Día de la Independencia de México.

“El año pasado el Chamber de Commerce decidió no hacerlo este año. Yo decidí asumir el cargo yo mismo para ayudar organizar el evento para que no perdiéramos un día tan importante en la historia de México,” dijo Aviles.

Aviles consiguió organizar el evento en un mes con un costo de \$350, haciendo la celebración del Día de la Independencia más corta.

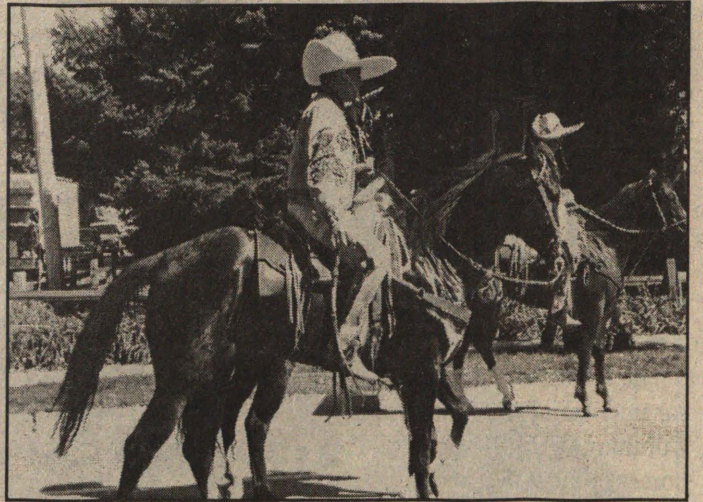


Foto por María Pérez

Había 25 unidades en el desfile de Independencia, incluyendo este Charro.

Aviles admitió que en el pasado la comunidad tenía un evento de tres días con un carnaval de viernes a domingo. El domingo era el día principal de la celebración con el desfile, El Grito, discursos, timbrado de la campana, una banda, y bailadores folklóricos.

“Pero este año nosotros no tuvimos el carnaval porque nosotros no teníamos bastante tiempo para organizarlo y buscar voluntarios,” dijo Aviles.

De todas formas Aviles piensa que este año salió bien con la celebración pero podrían haber tenido más gente ayudando.

Como no había bastante gente ayudando había la misma gente haciendo todo desde preparaciones a limpieza.

Dueña local de tienda y voluntaria Emma Ríos, está de

acuerdo con Aviles. El próximo año Ríos espera que el evento es mejor organizado con más voluntarios ayudando con el evento, también con una reina de la fiesta patria de 2005. Candidatas para reina necesitarían ser mujeres entre 18 a 25 años de edad y un residente de West Chicago.

Ambos Áviles y Ríos quieren tener un carnaval con cabinas y exhibiciones de comidas y artículos tradicionales de México.

Ya Áviles y Ríos han empezado a organizar los eventos del próximo año planeando una junta.

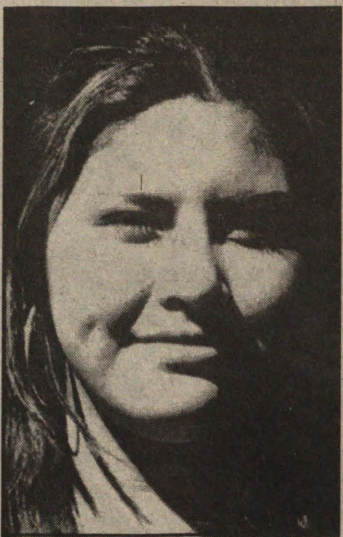
En general, Áviles dijo que se sintió que organizando el evento del Día de la Independencia de México era una responsabilidad grande y él estaba feliz con la respuesta que recibió de la comunidad.



Foto por María Pérez

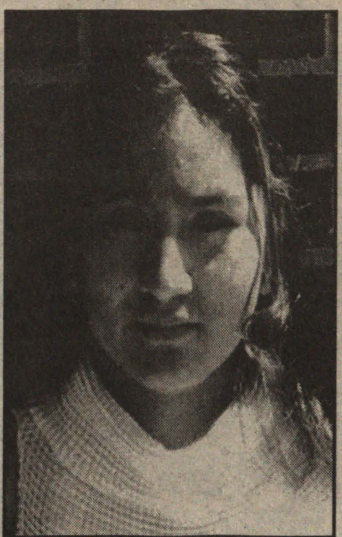
La comunidad disfrutó viendo tradiciones Mexicanas, como el baile tradicional folklórico.

Pregunta y Respuesta: ¿Como celebras la Independencia Mexicana?



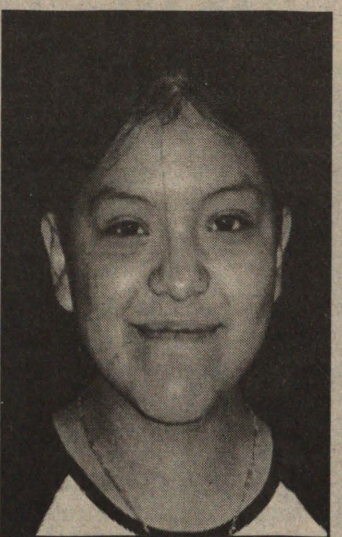
Imelda Vera

Es un día muy importante para los Mexicanos porque es el día que México empezó el movimiento por independencia. Yo lo celebro con mis amigos, vamos a los desfiles que hacen y vamos a bailes.



María Martínez

Yo soy de Oaxaca y allá lo celebramos con un paseo por el Zócalo llevando la bandera de Mexico y gritando por los heroes que lucharon por la libertad de México.

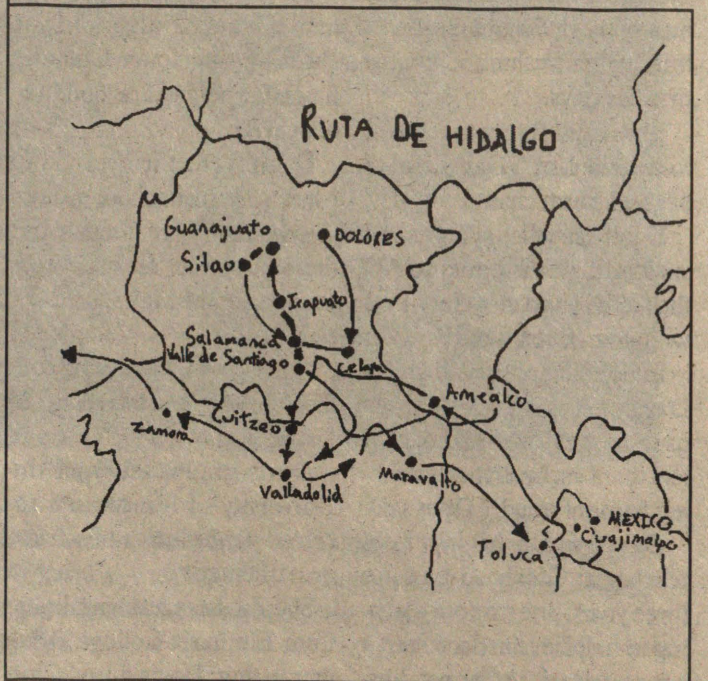


Karla Andrea Cardoza

Cuando fui al Zócalo dimos el Grito de Independencia al medianoche. Hay veces que se llevan narina, confeti, espumas, y las avientan unos a otros.

Datos del Padre Hidalgo

- El 16 de septiembre es el día que empezó la independencia. No es el día cuando la independencia terminó.
- Padre Hidalgo empezó la revolución con el grito en septiembre 16, 1810 en Dolores, Guanajuato.
- Hidalgo tocó la campana de la iglesia para juntar la población junta para incitarlos a que pelearan contra Españoles por su libertad.
- Juntos 300 hombres tomaron la ciudad Dolores sin resistencia.
- Entraron a Guanajuato y en el 28 de septiembre 1810.
- Hidalgo fue capturado y ejecutado en 30 de julio 1811 en Chihuahua.
- La guerra de Independencia duro 11 años.



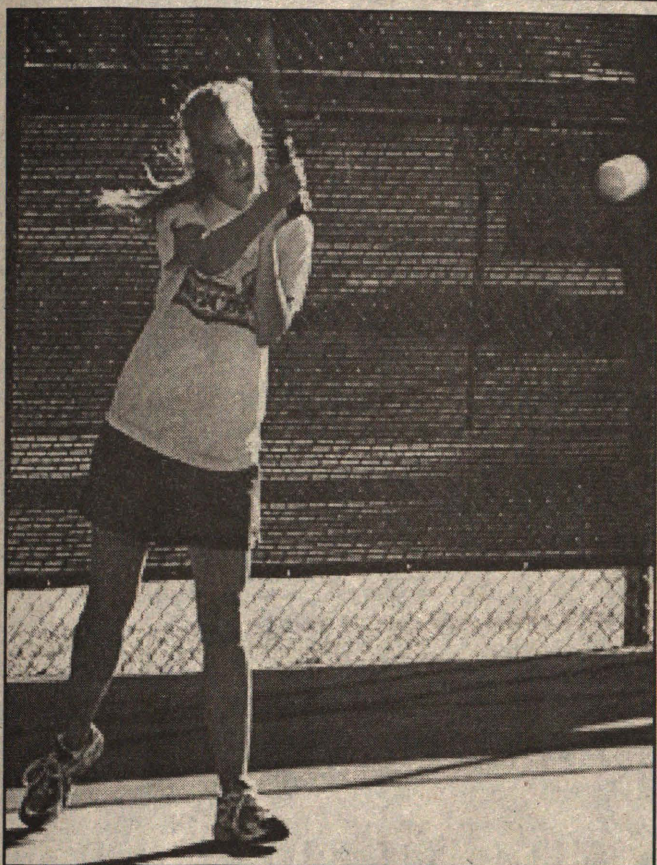


Photo by Brittany Blanchard

Varsity player Laura Steere says that she is having fun this season and hopes that more people join the team.

Netting state qualification top goal for girls tennis team

Although the team is small, hopes are still big

By Brittany Blanchard

Even though there has been a shortage of players this year, the girls on the tennis team have overcome adversity and are playing well.

After a low turn out for try-outs this year, the tennis program was forced to eliminate the freshmen and sophomore teams since there were only enough girls to make a varsity and junior varsity team.

However, varsity player Justine Egert says this hasn't put a damper on the girls' spirit or determination. Recently at a tournament in Willowbrook the team took second place.

"Although the team is smaller this year, we're still doing awesome. Everyone is really nice and very supportive and our hard work paid off at the Willowbrook tournament. We were really proud of ourselves,"

said Egert.

Varsity first place singles player Kelsey Lesniak added, "We are trying to do well in our conference which is really rough this year. We are trying to stick in there and stay competitive."

Head coach Sione Moeaki believes the girls have improved a great deal since last year and that there are many more victories to come.

"We expect to be doing better than last year, hope to have a .500 season and improve our DVC record from the last few years," Moeaki said.

Moeaki said the team is excelling at their ground strokes and are doing well on serves but believes that the girls could be more aggressive at the net.

"There is always a lot of room to improve, but (the area

which needs it most are) in our net game and our mental game," Moeaki said.

In preparation for upcoming matches the team has been working hard, spending a lot of time on mechanics and techniques.

"Whatever we do badly at the last meet, we practice. Typically it is our volleys, serves, and backhands," said Egert.

The team hopes that their hard work will pay off because they are looking to qualify for the state tournament this year which would be the first time West Chicago's tennis team will have qualified for state in almost 10 years.

"We're working really hard and trying our best so that we can represent West Chicago at the state competition," said Egert.

Girls golf swings away

Teamwork is main goal for girls

By Joe Harte

The girls golf team is starting the season off on a good note winning their first conference meet for the first time in the last four years.

The team's hopes are higher than they have ever been due to their huge conference victory against Glenbard North. The team credits their successes in large part to their good team chemistry.

"I feel that this year's team is going to do well, we've already won our first conference meet this season so things are looking good. I think we are going to have the best team we've had in a while because of our great team work," said senior golfer Dana Yormark.

One of the keys to the Wildcats' success this year is just relaxing and having a good time. "The main thing I am worried about this season is having fun. This is my senior year and my fourth year on the golf team so I just want to put all the technical stuff behind and play well," said Yormark.

The golf team is trying to have fun this year, but they realize that they have to take the game seriously, and work hard to improve themselves and their scores.

"We can have fun this year but we still need to be focused, we can't just mess around and treat everything like a joke," said senior golfer Jamie Klingberg.

Another positive aspect the girls have been concentrating

on is keeping a positive attitude.

"This season has been pretty good so far. Everyone has their bad days or weeks but then you come back, tell yourself everything is all right and find your swing," said Klingberg.

Due to the early success this season the golf team is already looking for success in the DVC and in their conference tournament.

"I think that we will give a couple of teams in the DVC some competition this season. I also think we will have a strong showing in the DVC conference tournament," said Yormark.

Even with all the confidence the Wildcats know they have some really tough opponents ahead of them this season.

"I think that this year's biggest rival is Wheaton Warrenville South. They have had a lot of really strong teams in the past so I'm predicting that they will be very good this season," said Yormark.

A special element about this team is their lack of selfishness. There is no real leader on the team; everyone is equal and they all look to each other for help.

"The real leader on this team is our whole team put together. We all get along and everyone is treated equally so we all share the role of leader," said Yormark.

The Wildcats girls golf team is coached this season by St. Andrews golf pro Mike Cain.

Athlete of the Month

Hanrahan gets honored for football

Senior football player earns recognition for great plays on both offensive and defensive sides of the ball

By Doug Sieder

This month's Athlete of the Month is Mike Hanrahan for his achievements in football.

Who inspired you the most during the year?

Throughout the year my coaches and teammates have inspired me along with our great fans and the squad.

Do you play any other sports?

No, I don't play any other sports because I do not find them as interesting or exciting.

If so which sport do you enjoy the most?

I don't play any sports other than football competitively, but I do enjoy tennis, which Ryan Morris and I plan on playing this year.

What plans do you have after high school?

After high school I plan to play college football and study accounting or business.

Do you plan to play any sports after high school?

No, I don't plan on playing

any sports after high school except for football. It's hard to imagine me not playing.

What is your best sports memory?



Photo courtesy of Mike Hanrahan

Mike Hanrahan would like to continue football in college.

My best sports memory is when we upset Naperville Central to make the playoffs.

What has been the best part about football?

The best part of football for

me has just been hanging out with the guys. Nothing else I have done has given me such an adrenaline rush or excitement.

What coaches have helped you achieve your goals throughout high school and how did they help you?

I thank all my coaches, coach Chambers, coach Martino, coach Stone, coach Bicker, coach Walters, and coach Malowkaus for giving me support and helping my confidence grow.

How many years have you been involved in football?

This is my sixth year being involved in football.

Have you achieved any awards in football?

No, I have not achieved any awards in football.

Do you do anything special before each game?

I don't do anything special for pregame, but I do have to listen to the best musical group of all time. Wu Tang Clan.

Football team survives tough competition with starting record of 1-3

Two of the team's first four games were against state ranked teams

By John Jennings

Inconsistency has plagued the football team so far this season, as they have begun the year with a record of 1-3.

The team started off the year by winning at Plainfield, then they went on to lose to Batavia, and then gave state-ranked Naperville North a run for their money in the third game before losing to Wheaton Warrenville South in the fourth game of the year.

"We had a great first game against Plainfield, then we were unprepared for our game versus Batavia shown by our five fumbles, and then we played a pretty good game against Naperville North," said head coach Bob Stone.

Stone is happy with where the team is heading this year.

"We really rebounded well off of our loss to Batavia with a good showing against Naperville North, and I am really proud of that," said Stone.

The team's strength on offense is the passing game between senior quarterback Ryan Morris and senior wide-receivers Mike Hanrahan and Greg Callahan.

On defense the team's strengths are its defensive ends and its linebackers.

Overall, the team displays great speed on both sides of the ball and good teamwork. Senior defensive lineman Chris Carrington said, "As a team, we are really quick with our wide-receivers and our line-

backers. Another one of our strengths is how we handle ourselves on the field. We really work well together on both offense and defense."

Running the ball has been one of the team's weaknesses, and the team also needs to shore up its secondary on defense which is superb at times, but often gives up the big play.

"We stop a team and hold them to minimal gains when they are on offense, but too often we have breakdowns that cost us a touchdown or a big gain," said Carrington.

As for expectations, playoffs are where the team wants to be by the end of the season.

"Playoffs are the major goal for all of the players, and it is what we want to achieve," said Stone. "I am looking for good things the rest of the season, and whether that translates into wins and losses is another thing. No matter what, I think that we will be a team to reckon with for anyone who comes up against us."

One of the biggest upcoming games for the team is their meeting with Glenbard North on Oct. 8.

"Many of the players are from Carol Stream and so they know a bunch of the kids on the other team, and that's what makes it a rivalry for our players," said Stone.

The team is led by Morris and Hanrahan on offense and Travis Saville and Brad Murison on defense.



Photo By Brittany Blanchard

Boys soccer player Marco Campos pulls a quick move to steal the ball away from his opponents.

Boys soccer plans on taking DVC Varsity experience should push team to the top

By Brittany Blanchard

The boys varsity soccer team has started their season with a kick in the right direction.

Although the team is relatively small in comparison to previous years, head coach Steve Brugmann has high hopes for his soccer players.

"Our team is a big hard working group of guys. We have lots of varsity experience and we're looking to go down state this year. We can take DVC this year and I haven't said that in a while. Usually I say we can make top three but this year I really think we can win it," Brugmann said.

In their first tournament at Bolingbrook the team went undefeated and overall has lost only once so far this season.

The first game against Marmion Academy was a disappointing loss, Brugmann said, because the team was capable of winning the game.

"There were a few close goals that we should have scored but didn't," Brugmann said.

While this year the team has many strengths, there are a few things that Brugmann says they can work on.

"We are making great runs on the attack this year but we need to work on staying with open men," said Brugmann.

Standing out in particular on the team are seniors Jose Villa, Victor Lopez, Paul Reyes, and Bruce Janek. Brugmann said that Villa is vital in helping the team orchestrate and Lopez is offensively strong as well as the leading goal scorer. Reyes has been doing a great job directing defense and Janek, the team's goal keeper, is allowing on average only one goal per game.

Earlier in September the team jumped at the chance to redeem themselves against rival Wheaton Warrenville South who beat We-go last year 7-0.

The team practiced hard and prepared by looking at the other team as well as pinpointing their strategies for attack and defeated Wheaton Warrenville South 6-0.

Junior Victor Salazar was

thrilled with the outcome of the game.

"It was one of the greatest victories of my soccer career. We still have a lot ahead of us but this win gives us a lot more confidence," said Salazar.

Brugmann said he was also satisfied with the victory because the team played a very composed game.

"[The win against Wheaton Warrenville South] lets us know that we do have the ability to play with the best teams around and it was nice to show the world that the win against Naperville North was not a fluke. We've got some pretty talented individuals who do some pretty creative stuff with the ball. It's an exciting game," said Brugmann.

Even with the team's recent victories, the coaches are still not pleased with the team's size.

"We're not terribly happy with a team of 15 so we're looking at the JV and sophomore teams to see if there are some kids who can help us toward the end of the season," Brugmann said.

Scaling new heights

Students prepare to use school's new climbing wall

By Doug Sieder

Starting this year, a new way of teaching gym is in place as teachers focus on team building activities.

Gym classes will participate in new team learning activities, such as team games, and a new climbing wall that was installed this summer.

The entire school faculty participated in some of the team building activities at the start of the year.

Dan Johnson, PE department chair, said they really en-

joyed the activities and thought it would be a good idea to do them with the students.

"I think there is a new trend towards fitness and traditional sports. More students are into the whole "Survivor" game show and extreme sports, so we are trying to include more adventurous activities," said Johnson.

Starting soon, freshmen and sophomores will take a standard gym class, which will teach the students about all the rules and strategies of the sports students

will play so students will be more familiar to the sports come their junior and senior years.

Freshmen will still have to take a standard health class and sophomores will still have their driver's education class for half the year, while the other half will consist of the new gym class.

One of the positives of this new system is that the freshmen and sophomores will get to sample a variety of sports so they know what they like,

said Johnson.

Johnson said one of the reasons they decided to do this is because students had so much variety in classes before and would switch classes to be with their friends. The teachers were getting frustrated with the amount of changes.

Juniors and seniors will be able to choose their gym classes the same way they do it now.

To prepare for the climbing wall, the faculty is training to become certified for the wall, and later the P.E. department

plans on starting a leaders program, where they would train a few students who would be certified to use the climbing wall and help other students to use it. During their gym hour the students would help classes do team building exercises such as the climbing wall.

Also, in October the school will find out if it will receive a grant from the government, which would help the gym programs with technology, upgrading equipment, and a high ropes course.