



Community High School



326 Joliet St. West Chicago, IL 60185

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Changes to school calendar in full swing

By Leah Kuzmicz

Mark your calendar and hit the snooze button because late arrival is here and finals week is gone.

Instead of cramming for finals after winter break, students will have regular classes through the end of the semester.

Teachers will still give finals but during regularly scheduled class time.

English teacher and member of the team that helped revise the calendar, Tim Courtney, said that he feels the changes will bring more contact time with the students and that it will be a good use of instructional time.

"There are a lot of ways to test our students," said Courtney.

Another change is late start days.

Late starts begin at 10:06 a.m. with a 3:05 dismissal. Many students have showed their support for late starts.

"I'm really excited and I am looking forward to sleeping in," said junior Robyn Nickelson.

Before the late start time, teachers will hold meetings.

Inside

Center Spread

Where do you fit on the high school "food chain?" Find out on page 8.



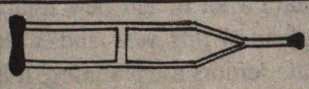
Features

Check out the Tokyo exchange student and how she likes America on page 10.



Sports

Sports can be quite a risky business. Find out why on page 14.



Hasty is Coach of the Year!

Finally, a staff member of Community High School is recognized for her achievement

By Kym McDaniel

Kristi Hasty bumped the competition out of the court when she was named Coach of the Year of Illinois for boys volleyball.

"I am deeply moved by this award," said Hasty. "It is nice to know that you are noticed in the state of Illinois in a school that is not typically a powerhouse year after year."

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and other coaches in Illinois voted and granted Hasty the title based

on serving as a leader and role model.

"The best part about coaching is knowing that you could possibly have an impact on a student-athlete in a positive way," said Hasty. "Plus, it is still fun."

Hasty has been coaching volleyball for 26 years and has been coaching boys volleyball at the school for 13 years.

"We work very hard here and it is great to get recognition,"

See Hasty page 3



Photo by Dave Thomas

Kristi Hasty coaches both boys and girls volleyball. She is glad to be recognized for the Coach of the Year award and is happy that someone was finally recognized at Community High School.

Students are all wrapped up in the web of homecoming events

By Kait Taylor

The Wildcats plan to display extraordinary powers and abilities of spirit as superheroes when homecoming week rolls around Monday.

Homecoming 2006's theme is superheroes, with the seniors representing Spiderman, juniors as Superman, sophomores as Batman, and freshmen as the Incredible Hulk.

"I figured this would get more people involved," said

Student Council president Katrina Means. "Girls, for the most part, participate in the dress up days. So I figured most guys like superheroes so they might participate more. This theme gives us a wide variety of things to work with."

Window painting is on Sept. 30 at 8 a.m., and the

rest of the week is filled with homecoming festivities and spirit days.

Oct. 2 is Dodgeball Day, where students should dress in their dodgeball uniforms (represented by the superhero theme) and teams can compete in a dodgeball competition after school at 6 p.m.

"The dodgeball tournament is always a successful event because everyone wants to be on a team and be involved. It creates competition within the whole school and gets people excited to see who will come out on top," said Means.

See Homecoming page 2



Photo by Kait Taylor

Like the Sept. 15 home game against Glenbard North, The Squad will show off their school spirit by sporting blue and white body paint and chanting "Let's go We-go, let's go!!" when the Wildcats take on Wheaton North at homecoming, Oct. 7.

Chronicle does it once again!

The newspaper has two more awards to add to its collection

By Ellyn Fortino

Once again the Wildcat Chronicle has brought back awards from two respected high school press associations and this time better than ever.

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association awarded last year's Chronicle a Gold Medalist award, up from the previous year's Silver Medalist Award, while the Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society for High School Journalism honored the Chronicle with the International First Place Award: Superior Achievement, up from first place.

Judges from the Quill and Scroll Society said that the Chronicle "did an impressive job of covering a wide variety of news in their school, out

of school, administration issues and board concerns. Many topics other schools overlook."

Adviser Laura Kuehn is thrilled the staff's hard work and dedication paid off.

"Last year's staff worked exceptionally hard to improve the ratings the paper received from the journalism associations. I am extremely impressed with the caliber of student journalists working on the Wildcat Chronicle, and the gold from Columbia is prestigious," she said.

Editor in chief and news editor Cristina Sarnelli believes the ratings can only improve.

"Winning these awards is awesome. Every year our newspaper gets better and better, and I see great potential in the staff this year



Photo by Laura Kuehn

Columbia Scholastic Press Association awarded last year's Chronicle staff a Gold Medalist Award. Participating on last year's staff were from top left: senior Leah Kuzmicz, graduates Brittany Blanchard, Julie Youngwith, Andrea Bradley, Terri Molo, and Nick Gorski, seniors Kait Taylor and Dave Thomas, and graduate Kayla Harris. Bottom from left are: graduate Kellie Virnich, senior Cristina Sarnelli, junior Kym McDaniel, and senior Ellyn Fortino.

to improve the Chronicle even more."

The staff is made up of only five seniors. Besides Sarnelli, editors include perspectives and sports editor Kait Taylor, features and

graphics editor Ellyn Fortino, special sections editor Leah Kuzmicz and entertainment editor Dave Thomas. Kym McDaniel is a contributing reporter to the staff.

"Although the staff is small

this year, we are already so diligent with our work that I know we are going to put out one of the best papers we have ever had. It's great to be working with such a dedicated staff," Sarnelli said.

Big changes to physical education start next year

By Dave Thomas

Grades earned in health, physical education, and safety education will count towards students' grade point average (GPA) next year, the Board of Education decided Sept. 5.

The decision, a P.E. department proposal several years in the making, will affect next year's freshman class and succeeding classes.

According to P.E. department chair Dan Johnson, the department "wanted to make substantial changes" to the P.E. classes.

"The school board and the school sent a message when they made gym class count towards GPA," said Johnson. "That message is that we want to educate all students in heart, body and mind."

Johnson said that he also believes that "for the vast majority of students, their GPA will improve." He also said that 22 states have laws that require physical education be calculated into students' GPA.

Some teachers support the board's decision, noting the potential benefits of taking the class seriously.

"It will help students understand the importance of physical fitness and sportsmanship," said psychology teacher Barbara Laimins. "If you develop patterns earlier in life, you'll continue them later in life."

Many students also support the decision.

"If you were required to do gym to graduate, then it should be required for your GPA," said senior Paul Castellanos. "You should just try as much in gym as you do in class."

The proposal to have P.E. class count towards GPA is just one of several the department has made in the last few years. This past summer saw a proposal to reduce the number of P.E. exemptions given to students. The board passed the proposal.

According to Johnson, when the department rewrote their curriculum by creating academies for freshmen and sophomores, they also wrote a federal grant.

A grant of \$286,000 was awarded to the department, which has used the money to buy new equipment for

the fitness and weight rooms, a rock-climbing wall, and a high ropes course, which Johnson said was "the highest and most elaborate one in any school in Illinois."

However, Johnson said that one of the stipulations of the grant was to reduce the number of exemptions given out.

But another effect of the grant has surfaced, due to the creation of last year's adventure education class.

"We found that two to three students, in every hour, really enjoy the adventure education class," said Johnson. "So we designed a course to use their leadership abilities."

Entitled "Seminar in Adventure Education Leadership", juniors and seniors will be trained to use the same equipment and even perform rescues, the same way the teachers were trained. The class is year-round, but for the first nine weeks, the students would spend their zero hour learning, quite literally, the ropes of the class.

After their training, students will serve as support for teachers, especially at the freshman-sophomore level.

Homecoming: Students look forward to the many festivities

Continued from page 1

Oct. 3 is Villain Day, and Oct. 4 is Class Shirts/Powder Puff Day. The powder puff game is at 6:45 p.m., followed by an outdoor pep rally and a bags tournament, at 7:30 p.m.

"Powder puff is always so fun because it gives girls the chance to play tough like the guys," said Student Council vice president Lindsay Krage. "We added new things like the bags tournament for a wide range of people."

On Oct. 5, students are encouraged to dress as their favorite superhero character.

Oct. 6, is School Spirit Day where students are supposed to wear Squad shirts and school colors.

The coronation of homecoming court will take place at the pep assembly 2:35 p.m. The class schedule will run on assembly B.

The homecoming court nominees are: For girls, seniors Brittany Herdman, Maggie Stremel, Carrie Staiton, Kelly Tinnes, Christine Williams, Michelle Dimas, Rosie Delgado, Kristi Klouda, Nancy Martinez, Tiffany Kirschke, and Steffany Hish, and boys, seniors Nick Horvath, Geoff

Wilson, Owen Kershner, Carl Kershner, Nick Puetz, Dave Thomas, Brad Rathe, Mike Kline, Leo Guili, and Dan Rooney.

Foodfest will begin at 12:30 p.m., followed by the homecoming parade at 1:30 p.m.

"With candy being thrown at the parade, games, and pep rally, these are all can't miss events," Krage said.

The varsity football game against Wheaton North will begin at 7:30 p.m.

"We're playing our rival and the half-time show will be great," said Means.

Homecoming week will come to an end Oct. 7 at the homecoming dance, which begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 10 p.m. A B96 deejay will perform at the dance.

"It is such a great event: good music, a good date, and fun," said Means.

"Homecoming is a fun time of year because it gives everyone something to do. It gets people excited for the window painting, float building, and the game. We have a lot of fun new things planned this year and since the seniors are planning, it is going to be great."

European History Tour '06-'07 to explore cities of Italy and Spain

By Dave Thomas

Hundreds of years of history, art, and architecture are just some of the features of Europe students will appreciate on the European History Tour 2007.

Unlike last year's tour, a 15 day, six country tour of the continent, the 2007 tour will take students to Spain and Italy during spring break.

On March 23, the students will take an overnight flight to Rome, Italy. From there, students will be able to take in the remains of the Roman Empire, which include the Colosseum, the Pantheon, and the Forum Romanum, which once hosted the economic affairs and the administration of justice for the Romans.

In addition to being the capital of the Roman Empire, Rome continues to be the center of Catholicism, which students will witness when they visit Vatican City. The city is also the home to the Sistine Chapel, the same chapel whose ceiling Michelangelo painted.

After touring the Italian cities of Florence and Genoa, the students will take an overnight ferry to Barcelona, Spain. There, the students will tour the city that hosted 1992 Olympics.

Then, on March 31, the students will fly home.

"I have been to Rome and Florence, but not Genoa," said government teacher and tour adviser Mary Ellen Daneels. "I've also never been to Spain, so that's new."

Daneels also said that she was very excited about the Leaning Tower of Pisa, a site that the group will see during their stay in Florence. Daneels is eager to see Barcelona, which she hears is a "very cosmopolitan and a very European city."

Other major highlights of the trip include St. Peter's Basilica, the Piazza Venezia, the Piazza di Spagna (a.k.a. the Spanish Steps), Michelangelo's "David", the unfinished La Sagrada Familia, Montjuic Hill, and the Room of a Hundred Columns.

The students will pay about \$1800. According to Daneels, students can still sign up for the trip.

Students will need four teacher recommendations and accept the rules of the tour before they're eligible for the trip. There is no age or club requirement for the trip.

Students who are interested should contact Daneels for more information.

Career Exploration Day gives students hands-on occupational experience to help guide their future job choices

By Cristina Sarnelli

Career Exploration Day, which was previously known as Youth in Industry Day, is a program that allows students to get a hands-on experience in a job that they are interested in.

On Dec. 1, a maximum amount of 60 students will shadow various individuals at their workplace.

Adviser Peggy Peach explained why the program is helpful.

"It's a job shadow day. It's to give kids exposure to careers. Usually kids only get to see careers through T.V., such as programs like "CSI," but that's not always a realistic point of view," she said.

In the past, students have shadowed coroners, engineers, physical therapists,

and forest rangers.

Any student is eligible to apply for the program as long as they are able to supply their own transportation.

It lets students see behind-the-scenes at what a person in that particular field does'

-- Adviser Peggy Peach

To apply, a student has to fill out a Career Exploration Day form with the top three career choices that they are

interested in. The applications will be sent to a committee made up of business members who take the applications from the students and try to find the best possible career match.

Peach feels that the program is very helpful for students, especially juniors and seniors who are trying to find a career path that fits for them.

"It lets students see behind-the-scenes at what a person in that particular field actually does. It's just as much of a learning experience to see if that particular career is something that they are not interested in as well," she said.

If you are interested and would like to apply, see Peach in room 250. Applications are due by Nov. 1.

Teacher cuts cause class size to increase More students cramped into small classrooms make for a squishy situation

By Ellyn Fortino

Teacher cuts from the '05-'06 school year have resulted in larger student to teacher ratios than previous years, all in hopes to save the school money.

All classes have been affected by an increased amount of students, said science teacher Jodi Brodbeck.

"More students in the classroom means bigger groups and less hands on experience," she said. "There is either not enough time for

given."

Senior Kate Krecek agreed. "Students are not getting the one-on-one help that they need in order to learn to the best of their ability. It's also really hard to learn and concentrate when you have many people cramped next to each other in a small room."

Senior Melissa Olsen believes there are both positive and negative affects of larger class sizes.

"With a bigger class you have a larger discussion and a lot more answers and

though. Once one person starts to talk, everyone will start and it will be hard for the teacher to calm the class down. This could frustrate the teacher."

In physical science last year there was an average of 23 students to a class and this year according to Aug. 1 enrollment, 31 students were in a class. Last year there were 20 students in English 2 classes and this year there are about 29 in a class.

Brodbeck's main concern with overcrowding is safety.

"The lab stations are not big to begin with, and when you have larger groups working in a small area there

Hasty: Boys volleyball coach is honored as Coach of the Year

Continued from page 1

said Hasty.

Hasty will receive a certificate from IHSA for her award.

The best part about being a coach for Hasty is having an impact on a student-athlete in a positive way. She loves coaching and enjoys her job very much.

Hasty played volleyball her senior year in high school when sports were introduced to girls. She continued to play in college where her team went to the national championships all four years.

She enjoys the visits she receives from students who she used to coach.

"I think my biggest reward has been the numerous athletes that come back to see me over the years after they have graduated," said Hasty.

Along with coaching volleyball, Hasty tries to teach student athletes life

skills which include respect, accountability, responsibility and citizenship. She believes there is more to just winning a game.

"I have high expectations for my athletes," said Hasty. "We focus on more than just wins and losses and volleyball."

Hasty was inspired to coach from her athletic family and Gail George, who used to be the assistant athletic director and coach at the school.

Hasty said she admired George because of her "love for the school and its athletic programs."

Hasty always knew she wanted to be a coach and be around sports and said that she still has a passion for coaching.

"The day I wake up and say to myself, 'I dread going to practice,' is the day I quit coaching," said Hasty.

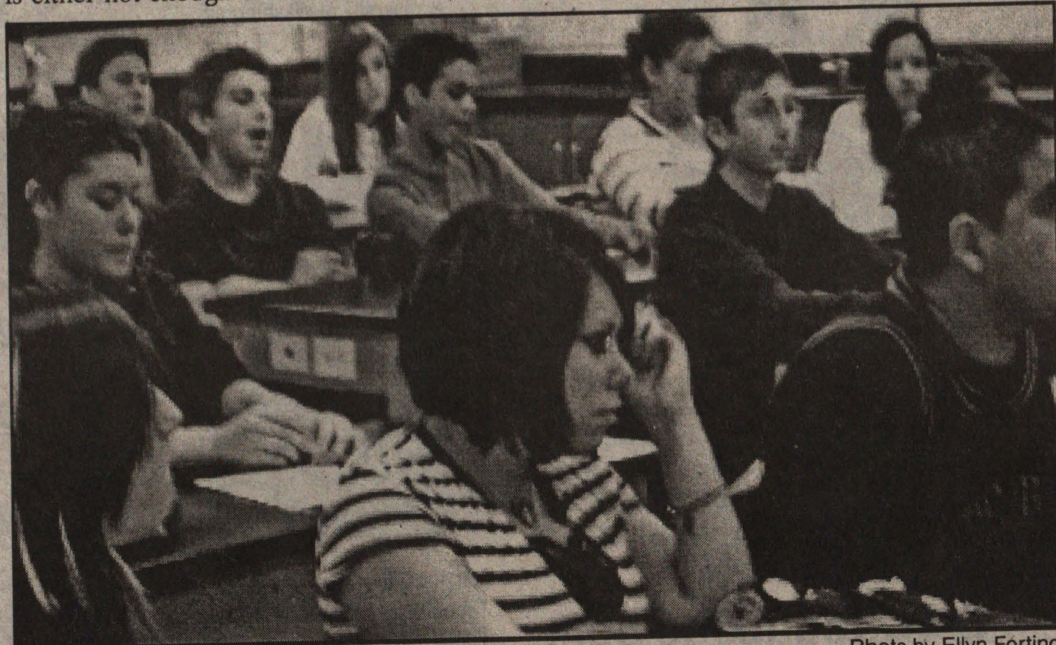


Photo by Ellyn Fortino

Jodi Brodbeck's physical science class is one of the many classes that is experiencing overcrowding. Some students feel crowded classes take away from learning time.

individual help, or there is not enough content covered if more individual help is

thoughts will be brought up," she said.

"There's more distractions

is a higher risk of something going wrong and someone getting hurt," she added.

World Cup gives students a kickin' good time

By Cristina Sarnelli

The students got a huge kick out of the European History tour when they experienced the excitement of the 2006 Fifa World Cup over the summer.

From June 12 - 29, 19 students and two teachers traveled England, France, Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Austria. The group landed in England and spent two days in London. There they toured the city, saw Buckingham Palace, and visited the British National Museum. Senior Rachael Hasse described her most memorable part of visiting England.

"I remember we had to get up so early in the morning, around six, to go and see Princess Diana's (Kensington) palace. It was cool and looked like a museum," she said.

After London, the group took a ferry to France and a bus to Paris.

"In Paris we went to see the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, the Champs-Elysees, and the Musee D'Orsay. Some of the girls in the group got sketches done in France as well,"

government teacher and trip adviser Mary Ellen Daneels said.

France wasn't the highlight for Hasse during the trip.

snooty French lady was hitting these people with these bags while we were waiting in the hotel lobby. Parts of France were really

students took the night train over to Berlin, where they were lucky to experience the thrill of the World Cup.

Junior Austin Pietrobon enjoyed Germany.

"The people were really nice, especially in Germany. That's where I got to interact with them the most," he said. "Overall the people were glad to see tourists, and very few were rude to us because we were Americans."

Daneels also had fond memories of Germany.

"My favorite part of the trip occurred in Germany. I really enjoyed the tour from the gentleman from East Berlin because it was like an insider's view of what happened in that part of the country. The kids really enjoyed Germany and the atmosphere of the World Cup," Daneels said.

After Germany, the students traveled to Prague, Czech Republic. The students also got to see some famous faces there.

"We saw the president of the Czech Republic outside of his palace. That was neat," Hasse said.

Next came Budapest,

Hungary where the group took a trip on the Danube River.

"It was nice to slow down and take a look at the city," Daneels said. "The hotel we stayed in was an old Communist building, so it was neat to get a sense of what life was like in those stark buildings."

Lastly, the group went to Austria where they visited Vienna and did a lot of shopping.

Pietrobon's favorite country was Austria.

"Austria was great because we went to an amusement park there. It was one of the best I've been to," he said.

According to Pietrobon, the European History Tour is an opportunity everyone should take advantage of.

"I would encourage students to go because it is a once in a life time opportunity. If you were to go to Europe any other time by yourself, you would be clueless in any of the cities. Through the European History Tour you get to see everything with people that you will really enjoy," he said.

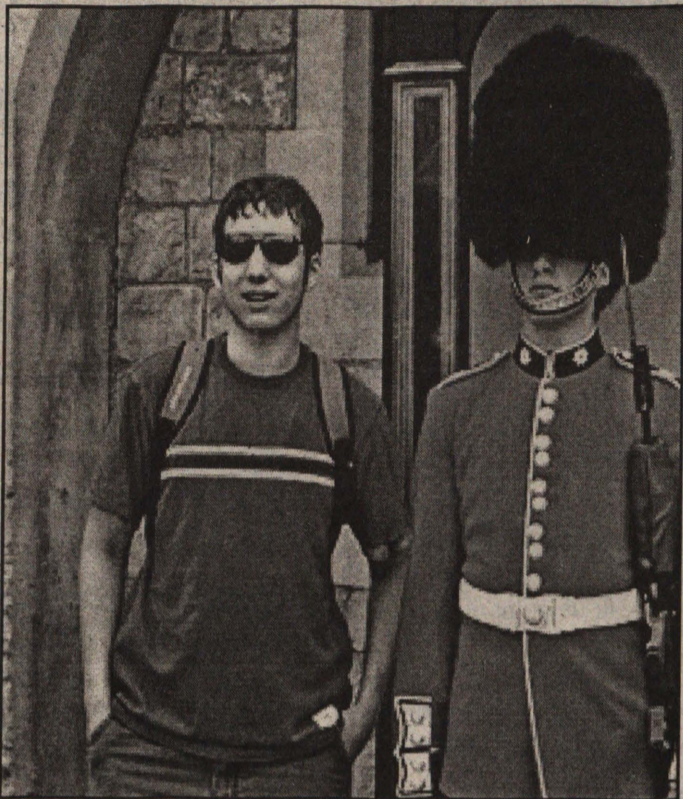


Photo courtesy of Dave Thomas

The students first visit was to England where junior Austin Pietrobon met one of the very serious members of the Royal Guard.

"France was actually my least favorite country. This dirty too," Hasse said. Next stop, Germany. The

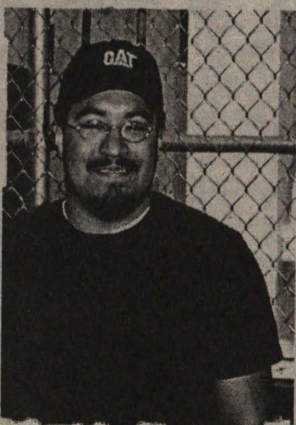
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Passion for the arts leads to local gallery

By Dave Thomas

Sophomore Kelsey Davis and industrial arts teacher Chris Bardey share the same passion: art. Their art also shares the same location: Gallery 200 in West Chicago.

Davis' drawing of a blonde girl entitled "Madison" was on display at the gallery when Bardey was the featured artist.

"I'm interested in art because it's something I've been doing for a lot of years," said Davis, who heard about the gallery from a neighbor.

Artists who want to display their work must pay a \$5 membership fee and produce new pieces of art every month.

Although Davis does not

from Aug. 12 to Sept. 10.

"Since I was 12, I knew I wanted to be an artist," said Bardey, who has a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Georgia. "And then at some point in college, I knew I wanted to teach."

One of Bardey's displayed pieces was a hand colored woodcut that features a magnifying glass zoomed in on a lit match. The zoomed-in portion of the match read: "Made in Heaven." Bardey said the pun is lost on some students.

The gallery was originally a small art show during Railroad Days (now called Heritage Days) said former We-Go art teacher Fredericka Howard.

"It was what we always

Changes in driving laws may affect how long it takes to acquire license

Secretary of State Jesse White looking to enforce stricter laws in order to ensure teen safety

By Ellyn Fortino

Young drivers may find themselves behind the wheel longer if a new task force set up by Secretary of State Jesse White has its way.

According to White, more can be done to reduce teen traffic fatalities.

The 27-member task force will focus on proposing legislation this fall aimed at reducing vehicle crashes among young drivers: The number one killer of teens, according to the Chicago Tribune.

The committee members will also review the Graduated Driver License (GDL) laws of Illinois and other states, examine recent studies on the effectiveness of GDL laws and consider proposals from traffic safety organizations to enhance teen driving laws.

GDL programs are designed to hinder full driving privileges while allowing beginning drivers to obtain their initial experience under low-risk conditions.

Illinois is one of 41 states with a GDL system. Under the system are driving rules

depending on age.

For example, drivers 17 and under have night curfews, can't use cell phones while driving and are limited on the number of passengers in their car.

Three stages in the program include: a

I think it is a good idea to have more driving hours before getting your license'

-- Junior Sam Arnold

supervised learner's period, an intermediate license that limits unsupervised driving in high-risk situations and a full-privilege driver's license available after completion of the first two stages.

Junior Sam Arnold believes that lengthening the time of a young driver's permit is

unfair.

"I think it is a good idea to have more driving hours before getting your license, however some teenagers have jobs and unless they have their license and can drive themselves they might not be able to get to and from work," she said. "Extending the ban on night driving will also hurt the teenagers with jobs because some have to work late."

Senior Bianca Speer already has her license, however she said that this plan will still affect her daily routine.

"I would have to drive my younger siblings around more because they will be without a license for longer," she said.

Freshman Sam Venchus and sophomore Chio Vasquez believe that more experienced drivers on the road will help decrease traffic accidents, but will upset many teenagers.

"There will not be as many inexperienced drivers on the road and hopefully teenagers will be able to make more careful decisions while driving, but it is still unfair because this is the way it has been for a while," Vasquez said. "I would be upset if this happens before I get my license, because I am really excited to start driving."

New books and friendlier ambiance create a cozier place to read and study

By Cristina Sarnelli

In an effort to promote a friendlier atmosphere, the library staff is creating a cozier place to crack the books.

"We are trying to be much more open to the students this year and trying to make the library a friendlier place where students can come up here so they can read and check out the new things and just relax," LRC director Eric Bodwell said.

The staff bought new furniture for the library to create a more comfortable setting by trying to set up pleasant study and reading areas.

Magazines and books have been updated with many new titles and issues.

Bodwell also changed library rules. Students no longer need a pass to enter the library during a period

other than lunch.

"I talked to the Student Council and individual students about what they thought about that particular rule. Basically it was getting to be too much for the guards because kids were either late or skipping class. Instead of enforcing that rule, we're going to try to focus on the few students who are just skipping class," he said.

The library will also get involved with the physical education department by including more books about fitness and health to try and promote being fit and active. Together they will sponsor a teen read week from Oct. 15-Oct. 21. with the theme "get active."

"There is a big push in the school for keeping fit, so we thought this would be an excellent way to get teens involved with their health,"

Bodwell said.

The bookstore, which was moved to the library last year, has also changed.

"Supplies are not being sold in the classrooms anymore. You have to buy materials at the book store," book store manager Edie Freund said. "We've also added a few new items such as mechanical pencils and glue sticks to the list of things that can be bought at the store."

And poster board is no longer free. Students will have to pay 30 cents per sheet.

"Compared to the prices that school supplies are in the stores, the book store has some really great deals, especially after the back-to-school sales are over," Freund said.

The book store is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and can be found near the library entrance.

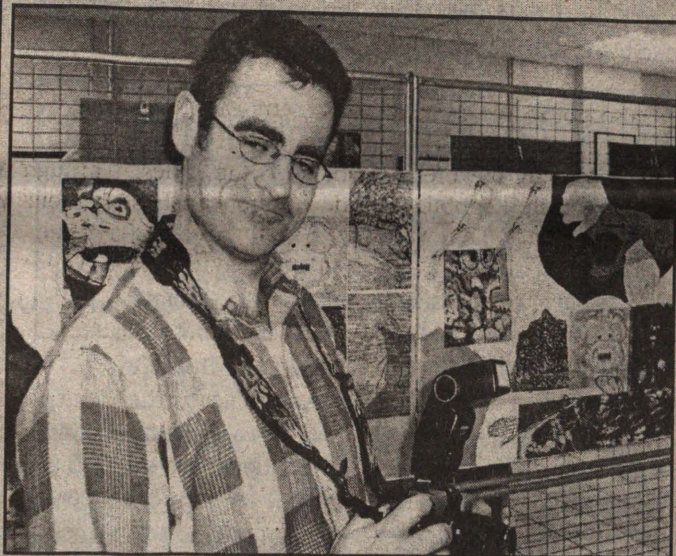


Photo by Dave Thomas

Chris Bardey's passion for art paid off when his art work was housed in the local Gallery 200. Bardey feels very honored with this accomplishment.

know of any other students who are participating at Gallery 200, she feels that she does not belong there. She points out that a lot of the artists are much older than her, and that the style she created "Madison" in is different than all the others.

"It's anime mixed with realism," said Davis.

However, age nor style differences do not seem to be stopping Davis from submitting art to Gallery 200 in the future. According to Davis, her future project, which she'll use as a portfolio for college, is a "couples' series." She plans to photograph couples, and then draw them.

"Pursue it," said Davis on art. "It's really something you can be thankful for, if you have the gift."

Davis' sentiments reflect Bardey's, who was the featured artist at Gallery 200

dreamed for," said Howard. "We wanted to have a gallery in the old library building, but the city tore that down. Then, the city bought this building, and because they didn't want the building to become a hole, they gave it to us."

However, not as many pieces of Bardey's art are on display now. His reign as the featured artist came to an end.

There are no artists displaying at the center now because Gallery 200 is undergoing an overhaul until a Grand Re-Opening Oct. 5 when new work by the gallery's artists will be displayed.

Gallery 200 is located on 200 Main St. in West Chicago.

Operating hours are 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, 4 to 9 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and 12 to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Our View

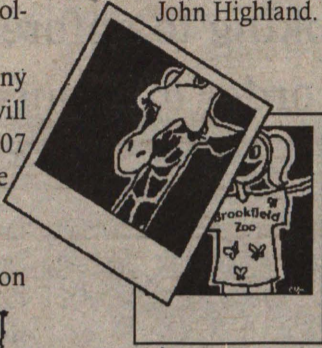
Priceless learning is lost as the price tag on field trips is just too expensive for the tighter budget

Bus ride for five hours or less, \$160.99; substitute teacher for five class periods, \$95; going to the Brookfield Zoo to take pictures of the wildlife, priceless. But no matter how priceless and worthwhile a field trip is, the Board of Education decided that field trips would no longer

be school funded, effectively preventing many school-related trips.

Cutting trips is one of many strategies that the board will be trying for the 2006-2007 school year to reduce the budget deficit. Last year the board spent about \$24,000 to \$33,000 on

field trips alone, said Principal John Highland.



Field trips were cut even though Highland thinks they are of great value and an opportunity to extend and enhance learning.

Valuable or not, field trips are still cut.

Apparently, the board will still permit field trips as long as students pay for their own transportation, substitute

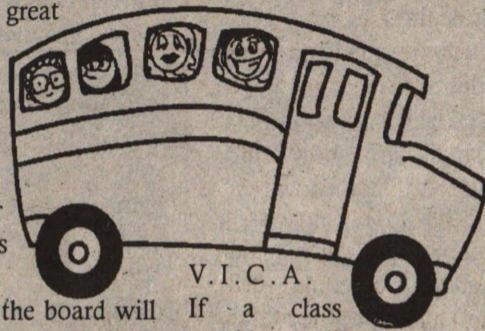
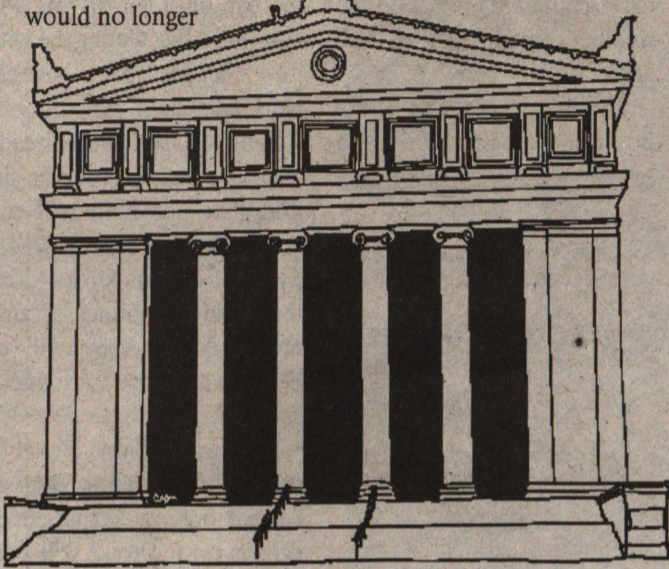
teacher and have permission to leave the campus. If students can not pay for a field trip, others may have to pay their bill. The board still has not worked out the details of that point.

Teams that are doing well are also allowed to go on field trips paid for by the school, such as Life Smarts, and Skills USA/

Unfortunately, most classes are not participating in anything that would make them successful enough to actually leave the building. According to www.dictionary.com, success is defined as the favorable or prosperous termination of attempts or endeavors. A teacher who rewards his or her class with a field trip should still qualify.

The bottom line is that students enjoy field trips and appreciate their value.

This is an unfortunate situation the school finds itself in. When the board examines the budget for next year, they should recognize the value of field trips and bring them back without strings attached.



V.I.C.A.

If a class would like to go on a field trip, they have to be successful.

Concern for safety should drive laws requiring more behind the wheel experience for teens

One of the constant concerns of parents and educators is that teen drivers do not accumulate enough experience before getting their license. Factoring in possible substance abuse is enough for any parent to shudder in fear.

A task force, helmed by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, is touring the state in "an effort that may result in doubling the length of time young drivers hold a learner's permit" (Chicago Tribune, Aug. 30).

They're also pushing to extend the ban on night driving for 16 year olds. As of June 22, teen drivers in Illinois must spend 50 hours in a Graduated Driver's

License (GDL) program before they get their driver's license.

Basically, White's task force would change those 50 hours to 100. And it's about time. White has realized that Illinois cannot play catch up to other states. In North Carolina, teen drivers are required to hold a learner's permit for a full year. The law also bars 16 year olds from driving after 9 p.m. and allows only one non-family person under 21 in the car.

It works. According to the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center, "fatal crashes involving 16-year-old drivers declined about 60 percent" when comparing 1996 (the

year before the GDL took effect) to 2000.

With North Carolina's GDL in mind, one has to wonder, why it has taken so long for Illinois to adopt something like this? Illinois adopted its GDL program in 1998; North Carolina did so in 1997.

The only argument against adopting a comprehensive driver's program is mainly convenience.

As reported by the Chicago Tribune on May 5, a series of driving laws in Iowa was defeated when "parents expressed concerned that an 11 p.m. driving curfew would prevent their children from even having pizza after a football game." As Iowa's

public safety commissioner Kevin Techau said, "All of the arguments boiled down to convenience versus safety."

The series of laws, named Nick's Law after teenager Nick Bisignano who was killed in a car crash, would have "boosted requirements for driver training, enhanced seat-belt rules, increased penalties for providing teens alcohol, required beer keg registration and limited teens to one non-family passenger."

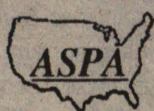
Granted, these laws might not have saved Bisignano, who was described as a "textbook example of the tragic mix of underage drinking and speeding." But that fact that parents were more worried about chauffeuring their

teenagers around than whether or not their teens can drive is shameful.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, "two out of five deaths among U.S. teens result from motor vehicle crashes." Further, the CDC estimates that the economic cost of police-reported crashes among teenagers amounts to about \$40.8 billion.

Convenience may have won in Iowa, but it would be shameful to see Illinois lawmakers and parents oppose White's changes simply because they're more worried about picking up their kids late at night than their safety.

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THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE is the student newspaper at 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 content. 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. Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to Laura Kuehn at lkuehn@d94.org or delivered to room 319 before or after school.

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Perspectives

Wildcat Chronicle

September 28, 2006

7

Dying to be a kid again

High school is all about finding out who you are, learning something about life, and preparing yourself for the future. It's about responsibility, work, independence, friendships, and college. And it's definitely exciting.



Kait Taylor

But sometimes, despite the fact that I have one foot out the door already, I just want to be a kid again.

Somewhere along the line, we're told that acting like a kid is a bad thing. Even the best of us get out of touch with our childlike nature because we're constantly told to be mature, not to act like a child, and to grow up.

But I love acting like a kid. And what's so wrong with

that anyways?

Don't get me wrong, there is a difference between acting like a kid and behaving immaturity. I don't condone baby talk or excessive jokes about one's bodily functions.

But teenagers are so caught up in appearances that we don't see the potential for fun all around us!

Back in grade school, a t-shirt was just that, a t-shirt. It didn't usually match the rest of your outfit, and you didn't carry a purse. You carried a Barney backpack, and that was just fine.

Boys were gross and school politics were more about who was "it" during a game of tag on the playground, not about the new "it" couple.

All the while, we were dying to be like the big kids, someday we could drive (gasp!) and go to the mall by ourselves.

But if I could go back in time, I would have spent a lot more time making forts with my neighborhood buddies, playing house, and building igloos. I wouldn't have wasted my time trying to grow up faster or striving to lose all of my teeth before everyone else.

I wish I could be a kid forever, but maturity does have its finer points.

I think that we should be taught to keep some parts of our childishness. People are far too serious and fake. Maybe it's because I'm old-school, fourth grade chic (my screen name still includes the word "gurl"), but I think that childishness is a beautiful thing. It shows that you haven't been too corrupted by the world that we live in, if you can still find the fun in the small things like playing tag.

In the words of the late, great Fred Rogers, better known as Mr. Rogers from a beautiful day in the "neighborhood" (won't you be mine?), "We've forgotten what it's like not to be able to reach the light switch. We've forgotten a lot of the monsters that seemed to live in our room at night. Nevertheless, those memories are still there, somewhere inside us, and can sometimes be brought to the surface by events, sights, sounds, or smells. Children, though, can never have grown-up feelings until they've been allowed to do the growing."

Ipod lawsuit promotes unfair play

America is turning into a sue happy society. If people are willing to sue others for a missing iPod, what's next? A missing Barbie?

In June, parents of a middle school student in Aurora sued another student all over their daughter's missing iPod.

Shannon McCarthy said she lent her iPod to a girlfriend and then left class to go to the bathroom. The classmate, Stephanie Eick, said she listened to one song and left the iPod on McCarthy's desk before leaving class herself. But McCarthy never went back to that classroom and the iPod disappeared. Now both girls are in court over who should pay for the lost music player.

The McCarthy family is demanding \$475 from the Eicks: \$350 for the two-week-old iPod Nano, a black leather case and an unspecified number of downloaded tunes along with \$125 in court costs.

This is ridiculous. Both girls share responsibility, and without their court costs each would owe about \$100. Take it from their allowance. Odds and ends tasks teach

responsibility and the value of money, something that these teens were obviously not exposed to.

What sort of a lesson does it teach to go to court? When it comes to law, Americans try to make everyone else the bad person, the responsible person. Nobody wins in these situations except the lawyers.

This is a perfect example of a situation where two civilized adults can and should be able to sit down together and solve the problem like grown ups.

If something like this happened to me and someone left a \$400 item on my front porch (kind of like what UPS or FedEx does with online orders) and it got stolen, I would feel comfortable approaching them. Those services should deliver safely, that's their job.

I'm not questioning that there's legality to the claim, I am disputing the "got a disagreement? Just sue!" mindset that seems apparent here. If the other party said "too bad, so sad," then there is a reason to go to court. But in general I tend to feel that involving the legal system is a last resort when behaving like

responsible, civilized adults falls through.



Ellyn Fortino

In the end, if McCarthy did save up to buy herself the iPod, maybe next time she would not be so quick to loan it out. And if Eicks has to pay her friend back, she will be more cautious with other people's belongings in the future. By going to court the parents ingrain in the girls' minds that they should only take responsibility for something when the law or a court forces them to do so, rather than because their conscience or personal sense of justice says they should.

I just think that there's a lesson here, and it's being drowned in favor of self-entitlement.

Question & Answer

What is your favorite childhood memory?



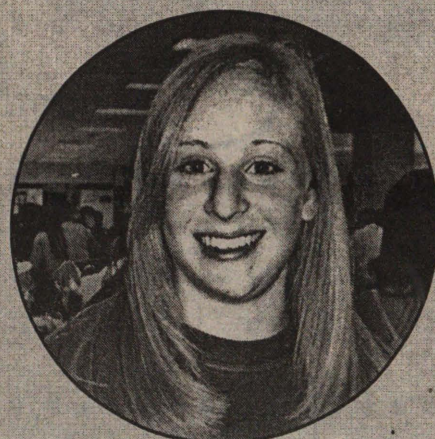
Bruce Donasch
Physical education teacher

"Winning the CYO baseball championship in 8th grade. Playing baseball is what I did most summers."



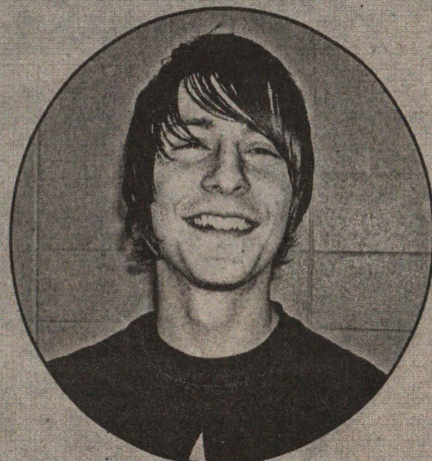
Jessica Demas
Freshman

"Watching the TV show 'Banana in Pajamas' on Nickelodeon."



Rachel Nash
Junior

"Birthday parties at Discovery Zone."



Ryen Prindle
Senior

"Staying up late with my parents on New Year's Eve."

Squad t-shirts. Congratulations, you're cool.
Opinions. You can have them this year.
Permits. You will come to hate them.
Hello study periods, goodbye study hall!
Opportunity knocks...in the form of a job.
More freedom. Nothing wrong with that.



“Junior year is a veritable cornucopia of knowledge, tests and quizzes,” junior Matt Reinhardt.

Oh boy, we're almost juniors!
Recognize. Being a sophomore you have already established friendships with your peers.

Easy homework. Sophomores have no stress this year – so take advantage of it.

Sophomore-itis doesn't exist. Now do your homework!



“It's really nice not being a freshman sophomore Ethan Burau.”

“We're taller and stronger than everyone else.”
 Wanous.

Squad leaders. **E**arly dismissal. **N**o more ACTs! **I**n control.

“It's so much better than middle school, and it's fun as long as you stay away from the upper classmen,” freshman Angela Sarnelli.



“It's nice having a locker by whomever you want,” senior Stacey Sams.

Information and photos provided by: Leah Kuznetsov, Tina Sarnelli, Kaitlyn Thomas, Dave Thomas

Finding classes is almost torture. **R**unning aimlessly. **E**veryone appears to be gigantic. **S**ucking up to teachers. **H**

High School!

chain. You have freshmen
ould do anything not to be
e are the sophomores who
because they aren't fresh-
s can't wait until their chance
l great to be upperclassmen.
urse, and enjoying every
s men. Too bad college is

“It's cool because
this year we're in
driver's ed and are
able to get our
licenses,” sopho-
more Dan Mich-
iels.

ing a freshman,”
urau.

er and better look-
ryone,” senior Kim



Junior research paper. The longest paper you'll ever write.

University/college search begins. Have fun knowing you'll never see your friends again.

Never sleeping due to backbreaking homework. Sleeping is overrated, anyway...

Ignoring the ACTs until the very last moment, but don't worry, it's only your future.

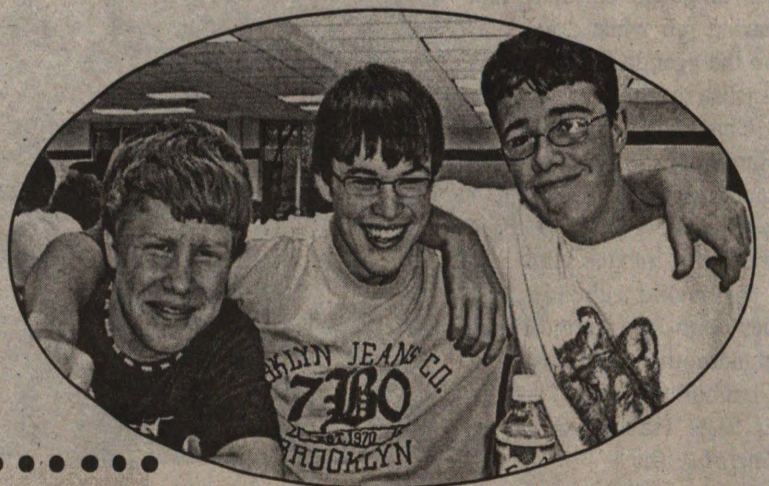
“OH YEAH!” for prom. Girls: don't buy the same dress. Guys: learn to dance.

Ready for high school to be over. And it will be before you know it.

Senior year is just one day closer. Start thinking of where you would want your locker.

ontrol. **O**ptimistic about college. **R**ule the school. **S**enioritis.

“The teachers are cool, there is not a lot of homework and the tests are easy,” freshman Kyle Hunter.



“I never do any homework, take any tests, or listen,” senior Derek Sauter.

and photos gath-
h Kuzmicz, Cris-
Kait Taylor, and
as

h m e n
uge backpacks. m iddle school is over. e xcited about homecoming. n ot enjoying low status in high school.

Foreign exchange not so foreign after all

Community High School is hosting foreign exchange students from Japan, China, and Montenegro. This month, junior Nanao Sakabe is the featured foreign exchange student. The other exchange students will be featured in later months.

By Dave Thomas

Dressed in Hollister and leaving commons with junior Victoria Cunningham and senior Abby Sherby, junior Nanao Sakabe looks like an average American high school student. But that's on the surface.

Sakabe is not from any of the three middle schools, not from Illinois, and not even from this country.

Sakabe is a foreign exchange student from Tokyo, Japan.

"I wanted to come to America because I wanted to make many friends," said Sakabe, "and in America, they have many kinds of people."

Arriving in Los Angeles on Aug. 12, Sakabe is staying with Cunningham, who said she was always interested in Japan.

As Sakabe described, there are numerous differences

between high school in America and Japan.

Here, Sakabe is taking classes such as broadcast communications and pre-calculus with trigonometry. But back at Meijigakuin higashimurayama, a private high school, Sakabe attends classes such as Japanese, home economics, and mandatory English.

Sakabe even takes classes in calligraphy, the art of beauty writing.

But the differences do not end there.

In America, high schools have grades 9 through 12, while Japanese high schools only have 10 through 12. In addition, students go to class six days a week, almost year round.

For Japanese students, summer vacation starts July 12 and ends Sept. 1.

But despite these differences, Sakabe is like an American teenager. She enjoys delicious potato chips, cookies, and, of all things, mayonnaise.

Sakabe enjoys the infectious beats of hip-hop and R&B and the punk/pop music of Avril Lavigne. Among her

favorite movies are "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Mr. and Mrs. Smith", and she enjoys karaoke, bowling, and purikura.

Purikura is the Japanese version of photo booths in American malls. But purikuras allow customers to draw on the pictures and change the background before they're printed.

In the words of Cunningham, purikuras are photo booths "pimped."

Sakabe also enjoys American sports, such as baseball. So far, both her host families have taken her to see the Chicago Cubs and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

And in true teenage fashion, Sakabe is unsure of what she wants to do after high school.

When asked, she said she would like to go to a college in Japan, but didn't name specifics regarding college or what she would like to do. But she does have an idea.

"I would like to travel to another country, like the U.K. (the United Kingdom) or Australia," said Sakabe.

But even though Sakabe is a foreign exchange student,

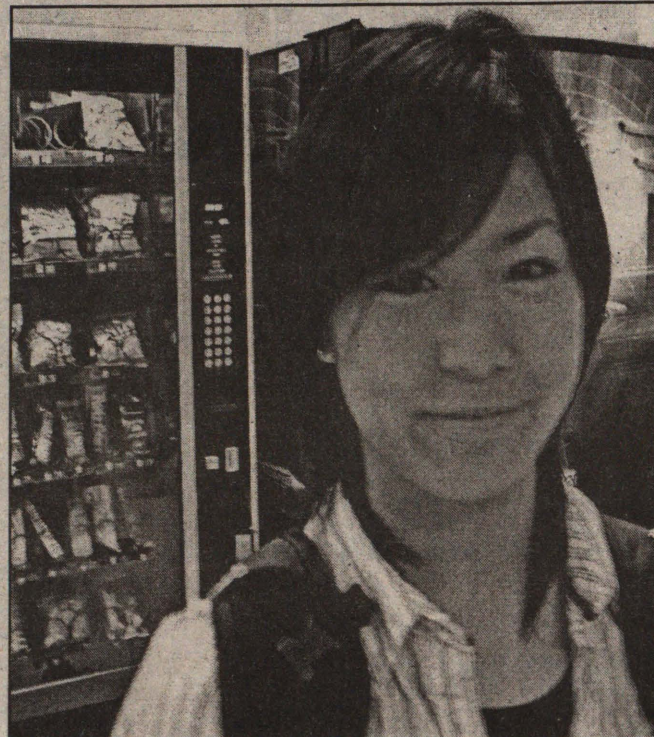


Photo by Dave Thomas

Nanao Sakabe has adjusted to American foods, her favorites include: potato chips and cookies.

other students shouldn't start running to the foreign language department to apply for foreign exchange students from Tokyo.

Sakabe's stay in America is not school-sponsored. The exchange was arranged by AYUSA Global Youth Exchange, a non-profit organization that promotes "global learning and

leadership through high school exchange programs."

According to Cunningham, she applied online, and the organization contacted her shortly thereafter.

Sakabe is to spend the 2006-2007 school year at West Chicago. According to Cunningham, the latest she can stay is June 30.

New English teachers plan page turning lessons

Four new teachers joined Community High School. This month, English teachers Chris Covino, Katie Hammond, and Angela Janusauskas are featured. Science teacher, Tom Knutson, will be featured next month.

By Cristina Sarnelli

Teaching students to use the language correctly and having fun while doing it is on the agenda for three new English teachers.

Chris Covino, Katie Hammond, and Angela Janusauskas are three of four new teachers who have been welcomed into the school.

Hammond already has ties with the school. Her grandmother graduated from Community High School in 1939. Hammond teaches English 1 and 3.

Covino was previously a teacher for eight years at district 204 in Nequa. He teaches English 1 and AP3 and is also the English department chair.

"My first days here have been really rewarding. I have not taught freshmen in a long time. I was worried they wouldn't talk to me," Covino

laughed.

"Things are going well and the classes are starting to come alive."

As far as his position as department chair, Covino

Jankauskus is teaching English 2 and speech. She's had experience teaching college writing and also taught at Hinsdale South. She prefers teaching high school.

Jankauskus added that she wanted to try teaching younger kids.

"I thought that I wanted to teach elementary school, but I figured I would be too

and her father inspired her.

"I bounced back and forth with what I wanted to be. Good teachers were my inspiration. Ultimately I've been good at helping and I always was the kid who taught the students when they couldn't understand the way the teacher was explaining it. I just love words and the English language, too. I used to read the dictionary with my dad," Hammond explained.

For Covino, teaching was not his first choice in major.

"I wanted to be a politician. I realized I'd have to be immoral for that role though, and I thought it wasn't worth sacrificing. I chose to teach English because it is the furthest thing from math," Covino joked. "English also provides the best conversations."

Agreeing with the other teachers, Jankauskus added that she wanted to teach her students to use the language correctly.

"Words are powerful tools, and I want my students to be able to know how to use them well," she said.

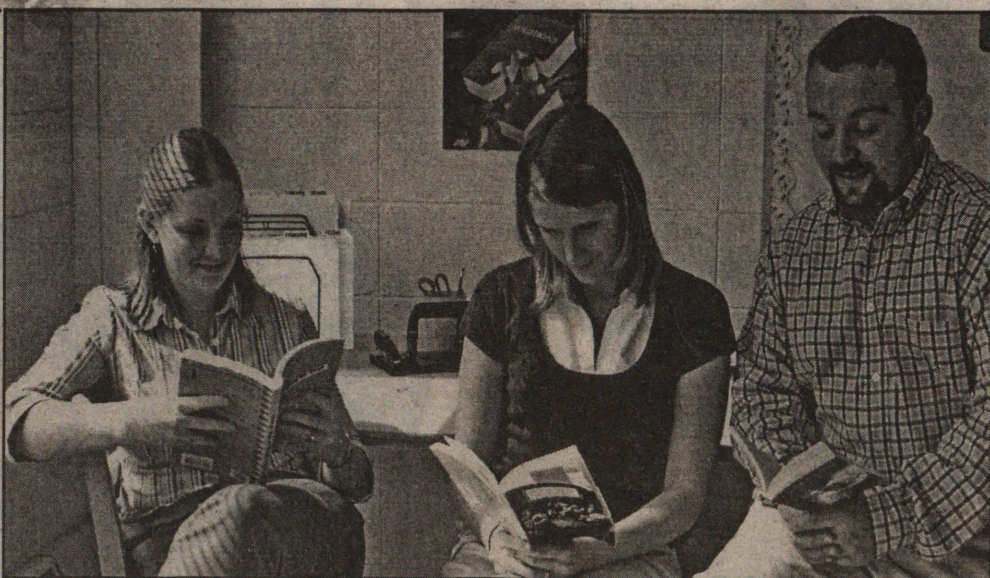


Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Angela Janusauskas, Katie Hammond, and Chris Covino are passionate about English literature. Their favorite books include "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" (Hammond), "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" (Covino), and "The Kite Runner" (Janusauskas).

said it is going smoothly.

"The English department is setting some new goals. We are excited about planning the curriculum, and it is challenging to get to know the new staff," he said.

"I am definitely excited to teach high school. It's more fun. I laugh more when I teach high school students. I'm so impressed with what my sophomores can do," she said.

sarcastic for the kids there," she joked.

Each teacher has their own special reason for what inspired them to become English teachers.

Hammond said her teachers

Cadet loses his wings

By Kait Taylor

When West Chicago graduate Chris Prochnow ('06) left for basic training with the United States Air Force Academy (USAF) June 29, he was expecting brutal training and the fulfillment of his life long dream: becoming a pilot.

But that aspiration was shattered when United States Air Force (USAF) flight surgeons told Prochnow that he could not fly planes for the USAF with his impaired vision.

According to Prochnow, the USAF only allows prescriptions up to -5.50 to get laser surgery and obtain a pilot waiver to fly. He has a -6.75 prescription.

"I was pretty much crushed and didn't know what to do when I found out," Prochnow said in a telephone interview from Colorado.

Prochnow went through the difficult process of determining his future with the USAF. He debated the

possibility of becoming a member of the ASAF Special Operations Team, the equivalent of a Navy Seal in the USAF, but is still undecided.

Another option for Prochnow is to transfer to Embry-Riddle at Colorado Springs, a top aeronautical engineering university, or to attend University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. All choices lead to a career as an aeronautical engineer or airline/corporate pilot.

Looking back on his experiences in basic training, Prochnow can name few positives experiences.

While he won the obstacle course, earning the best time out of 1,300 other cadets, homesickness and arduous training got the best of him.

"We did lots of push-ups, sit-ups, marching, physical training, learning knowledge, waking up early, and got zero sleep. Just imagine everything you hate to do in life, that's what we did," he said.

Basic training ended Aug. 10, and Prochnow was eventually allowed to use the computer and telephone.

That, combined with the tough officers and physically weak cadets caused Prochnow to second guess a career with the USAF.

"Most of the time, the officers were just hard on us," he said. And as for the other cadets, Prochnow said, "I think sometimes, 'how could some of them get in here?' Physically, some of the cadets are so weak." Not being able to communicate with his loved ones was one of the toughest parts of training.

"All I could think about was going home and being with my friends, family and girlfriend. I missed my house, my car, my bed... just being at home. I really wish I could have one more year at home. I really miss Illinois," he said.

However, Prochnow is continuing his studies at USAFA for the remainder of



Photo courtesy of Chris Prochnow

Chris Prochnow's, second from right, family visited the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in August to watch him be honored for completing basic training.

the school year.

He is enjoying the many intramural athletics, shipments of Monster energy drinks, visits from his parents and girlfriend, and the possibility of many trips home.

Prochnow made his first trip home Sept. 9, and was able to spend time with the friends and family that he longed for.

Despite the difficulties of basic training and the

crushing reality of his sight disability, Prochnow is determined to persevere. His major struggle is which road to take.

"I do want to continue to serve my country, but I just don't know what to do anymore, because the only reason I wanted to be in the Air Force, was to be a pilot," said Prochnow. "In the end, I really don't know what I feel anymore. But I'll figure it out."

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'Covenant' spell easily broken

By Dave Thomas

"The Covenant" opens with: "No one knows how the Power came to be." In hindsight, this is a very apt description of the movie. No one knows what the story is. No one knows why the fighting is so bland.

No one knows what type of executive would green-light such a horrible, confused script. No one knows why all the actors look like models from a Calvin Klein ad.

In other words, no one knows why "The Covenant" exists, except to suck.

The movie follows four teenagers: Caleb (Steven Strait), Pogue (Taylor Kitsch), Reid (Toby Hemingway) and Tyler (Chace Crawford). They are the Sons of Ipswich, the descendants of four of the five families that escaped Massachusetts during the Salem Witch Trials. The fifth family is believed to be deceased.

Starting at 13, the boys inherit part of their power. This enables them to do fancy parlor tricks, like winning pool games, making enemies vomit or lifting beer kegs with the mind. Simple stuff.

But when they turn 18, they "Ascend." This enables the teens to do almost anything, but...they have a "limited" supply of energy. Every time they use their powers, the teens' life forces drain away. If they use it enough, the teens could age faster than normal.

It is this plot line that limits

the fights to the crapshoots they are.

Anyway, the four teens are having fun. There's a new guy and gal in town,

worsen, and he suspects that it's Reid who's causing trouble. He was the hothead of the bunch. But Caleb's suspicions are wrong, and the

And then there are the fight scenes. The movie climaxes to a fight, but "The Covenant" lets you down because the action is anything but.

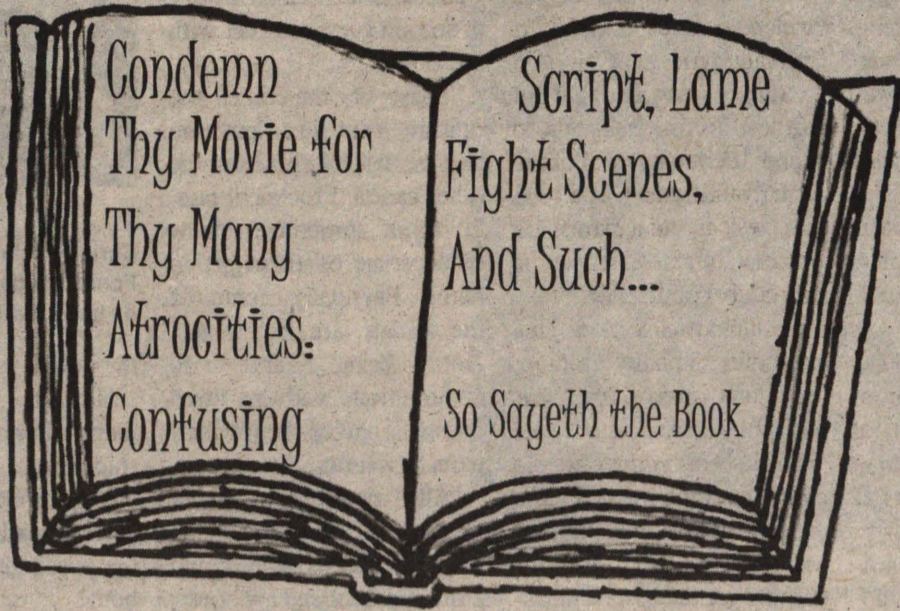
The characters fight with "balls of force." They look like water on the screen, except they explode like artillery fire. That's it. That's all the characters use to fight.

Whatever happened to the good ole days of cool battles? The fights with fireballs, mindless minions, blazing gunfire, and gravity-defying kung-fu?

Not this movie.

The only enjoyable experience was seeing the trailer for "Jackass: Number Two."

Seeing a seven second clip of Johnny Knoxville being gored by a bull is more enjoyable than the steaming hour-and-a-half feces that was "The Covenant."



Chase (Sebastian Stan) and Sarah (Laura Ramsey). Everything's fine, until Caleb gets a "darkling," which is really a corpse. The movie never tells you what it is.

Caleb's experiences

enemy reveals himself.

"The Covenant" is from the same producers of "Underworld," and tries to imitate it by interweaving a historical yet fantasy back story to action. They failed.

The winner of the tickets to see the Black Eye Peas and Rihanna in concert is...



Sophomore Ania Skorupski

Skorupski saw the Sept. 23 concert with her sixth grade sister, Maya.

Tickets were donated by the Black Eyed Peas and raffled off by the Wildcat Chronicle for fundraising.

'FutureSex/LoveSounds': A soundtrack for a porno?

By Kait Taylor

Is Justin Timberlake bringing sexy back or sexually explicit techno?

All signs point to the latter with the release of "FutureSex/LoveSounds," the follow up solo album to the wildly successful "Justified" in 2002.

In the first track off the album, "Futuresex/Lovesound," Timberlake busts out lyrics that are way too suggestive. One might think they were listening to the soundtrack of a cheap porno rather than the solo album of a former PG boy band member. It's all in there: desperately moaning vocals and sex-crazed content.

Not only is the album lyrically challenged, but Timberlake hardly sings on the album. Nearly every track is dominated by techno/dance beats.

However, the single "SexyBack" dominates the album, one of the few songs that don't sound overproduced.

Produced by the hip-hop legend Timbaland "SexyBack" has a techno-derived dance beat so sharp

and so energetic you can't help but dance.

Amidst the album's busy club-ready anthems, its biggest surprise is the closer, "(Another Song) All Over Again", a blues track

However, the single 'SexyBack' dominates the album, one of the few songs that does not sound overproduced.'

untouched by heavy beats that distort Timberlake's impressive voice. Backed by only a piano, organ and drums, Timberlake challenges his vocal range with success. It was, by far, the vocal triumph of the album.

Timberlake featured a lot of artists on the album. T.I. joins with smooth rhymes in "My Love," the second single off the album. It is an astonishing collaboration of rave synthesizers and slow beats.

Will.i.am of Black Eyed

Peas appears in "Damn Girl," a repetitive and boring track that doesn't measure up to "SexyBack."

The disc's other guest stars, Three-6 Mafia and Timbaland, outshine Timberlake who lamely raps with a hip-hop twang on "Chop Me Up."

This album is clearly a jump for Timberlake next to "Justified." Timberlake pursues mostly tuneless, hook-free electro-funk. Too many of the tunes drag on too long. Timbaland produced 10 out of the 12 tracks, which is clear in the lack of variety on the album.

"FutureSex/LoveSounds" serves as the soundtrack for a night of partying or as getting-ready-to-go-out music, and while Timbaland's creative beats and Timberlake's vocals demonstrate their talent, the collaboration was played out by the end of the album. Timberlake should have worked with more producers and gotten a more eclectic sound for his album, much like he did with "Justified." Overall, not a terrible flop, but definitely not album of the year.

Russian singer moves and grooves in follow-up album

By Kait Taylor

Though she is practically unknown compared to MTV's pop artists, Regina Spektor's innovative songs and eccentric lyrics are rocking the indie scene with "Begin to Hope" in 2006, the follow up to her 2005 debut album "Soviet Kitsch."

Spektor, a Russian-born singer, songwriter, and classical pianist, has a different style that can take some getting used to. Her sound is seamless fusion of the soulful piano tunes of Fiona Apple, the quirky beats of Björk, and the smooth jazz

voice of Billie Holiday.

"Begin to Hope" is a bold, uninhibited compilation of jazzy vocal quirks, oblique melodies, and unusual, yet brilliant, lyrics.

Songs such as "On the Radio" and "20 Years of Snow" demonstrate Spektor's remarkable talent as both a song writer and a pianist.

"20 Years of Snow" introduces a tinkling music box melody that fades into beautiful piano chords. Spektor's strong vocals are set off by an arrhythmic base, which seems impossible, but sounds completely normal.

And as if the jazz inspired vocals weren't enough to shake things up, the lyrics throughout the album pack a surprising emotional punch.

"That Time" is exceedingly different from the more pop-influenced or classical jazz tracks. It is a quirky song that begins with an energetic guitar loop where Spektor's lyrics hint at her relationship with infamously wild Strokes lead singer Julian Casablancas.

Once you think you've figured out the track, she suddenly quiets to a near-whisper saying, "Hey, remember that time when you

OD'ed?" clearly suggesting her own past drug abuse.

However, the entire album isn't littered with drug references.

Spektor is fluent in Russian and French, and

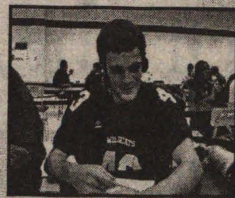
uses her language skills in the track "Apres Moi." The thunderously gloomy piano on the track is contrasted by poetic verses in Russian and a chorus scattered with both French and English lyrics.

The tracks range from playful to introspective, showing influences from classical to hip hop. The diversity of genres on the album only adds to its impressive use of piano, synthesizers, violin, drums, guitar, and tinker box beats.

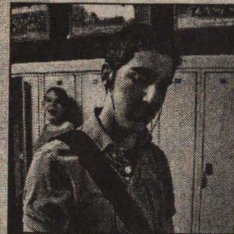
As a whole, the album is expertly-crafted, poignant, and refreshingly candid. Spektor is incredibly talented and clearly a force to be reckoned with.

Although her sound is different and away from the main stream, "Begin to Hope" is an album that will leave its mark and challenge female indie artists to step up and create more interesting music.

What CHS is listening to...



Austin Hale
Junior
"Remedy"
by Seether



Mike Dalton
Junior
"Barbie Girl"
by Aqua



Fiction is sometimes better than the "truth"

By Dave Thomas

After their first day in office, Presidents become personified with controversy. Historians will always debate the policies of former presidents, and pundits will always debate the current and future ones.

Thus, it makes sense for any movie based on a president's life to be controversial. Take "The Path to 9/11." Starting from the 1993 World Trade Center bombings, the miniseries follows the paths of two government agents dealing with different aspects of the WTC bombing.

Despite the disclaimer, the miniseries drew criticism from Democrats. Although President William Clinton is not

portrayed in the movie, other officials are, and they're showed as being more concerned with collateral damage than catching Osama Bin Laden.

There's even a scene where Secretary of State Madeline Albright refuses to shoot missiles at Bin Laden until they have permission from Pakistan. Albright has said that this is not true.

But Clinton is not the only president who has been "de-faced."

The miniseries "The Reagans" portrayed President Ronald Reagan from 1949 to his last day in office in 1989. But like "The Path to 9/11," it's not entirely true. One of the most controversial (and fictional) points in

the series came when the president remarked to the First Lady regarding AIDS patients: "They that live in sin shall die in sin."

Then there are the movies that don't wait for the president to die or leave office. Case in point: "Death of a President."

The British film is a documentary three years after the fictional assassination of President George W. Bush in Chicago, October 2007. Following his death, the assassination is pinned on a Syrian man, and the now-President Dick Cheney calls for Patriot Act 3 and starts bombing Syria.

As reported by BBC News on Sept. 1, the White House said, "We are not going to comment

because it does not dignify a response."

Every presidential film biography has some overt message behind it, but politics tend to diminish or expel the piece altogether. "The Path to 9/11" was edited extensively, "The Reagans" aired only on Showtime (instead of CBS), and "Death of a President" will probably never be released in American theaters.

You have a better chance of seeing "Passion of the Christ 4: Jesus vs. Jason Voorhees" than "Death of a President" at Charlestowne.

Which is why fiction or satire is a way to good for a lot of movies. That way, the filmmakers can spoof or criticize presidents without ever having to

identify them. Instead of a "docu-drama" of the 9/11 attacks, filmmakers should have been creative and made their own bombing and their own "9/11."

Instead of "The Reagans" and "Death of a President," why not a fictional biography of the life of an actor turned vice-president who has to face the fact that the president has just been assassinated.

Filmmakers of factual presidential biographies often want to tell the audience something, but mixing truth with politics just doesn't work like it's supposed to.

Truth may be stranger than fiction. But fiction doesn't gut itself as it leaves the editing room like how "truth" does in some of these films.

School sports often a cause of injury; risky business for the health of teenage athletes

Student Angle

A few of Wego's injured athletes speak out about their injuries, how they occurred, and what they are doing to get better.



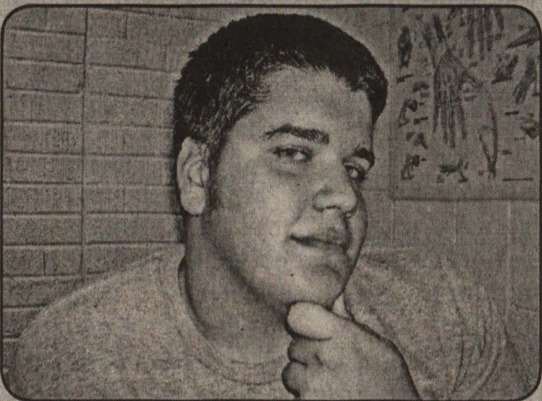
Joe Majchrowski
Senior

Ligaments are strained in both of my knees and the cartilage in my knee cap moves to the front of my knee when I run. The problems are a result of an injury from soccer in eighth grade, and I can't do anything besides ice it.



Mikki Winn
Sophomore

I have tendonitis in my right shoulder because of years of swimming freestyle. Pam gives me exercises to do with an arm band to get better.



Dan Martin
Sophomore

I tore my MCL and dislocated my knee cap while I was playing football. I'm doing a lot of physical therapy to get back on the field.

Sports injuries can leave many student athletes on the sidelines during important games and big competitions

By Leah Kuzmicz

Football, soccer, volleyball, cross country, and swimming are just a few of the sports that can be very fun, but can also be potentially harmful to the health of athletes.

Many sports this fall involve a lot of summer preparation including weight lifting, conditioning, and intense practices.

The students participating in these events sometimes take summer clubs and practice all year around.

When the fall finally approaches and the sport takes full swing, the players are supposed to be fully ready.

Despite the conditioning, the fall season is when most athletes get injured.

According to personal trainer Pam Denhof, athletes who are getting hurt need to take the right measures to insure their safety during practices.

"They need to be taking care of their bodies. They need sleep, proper equipment, stretch a lot, and make sure they are flexible," says Denhof.

Physical therapy gave me the needed exercises for my (health) to go back to normal.

-- Senior Pete Konchar

Sports that have the most injuries usually occur in football. The reason is that it has the greatest amount of players. Football is also a major contact sport.

The majority of injuries this year are sprained ankles and tissue strains. Denhof said that there have not been

any major issues because she believes that kids are better informed about it then a couple years ago.

Another reason that athletes are not being as injured is the skill level that they acquire said Denhof.

To resolve more issues from injuries athletes resort to physical therapy.

Physical therapy is treatment for physical injuries, pain or malfunction without the use of surgery, medicine or radiation.

Senior Pete Konchar has been going to physical therapy for two months.

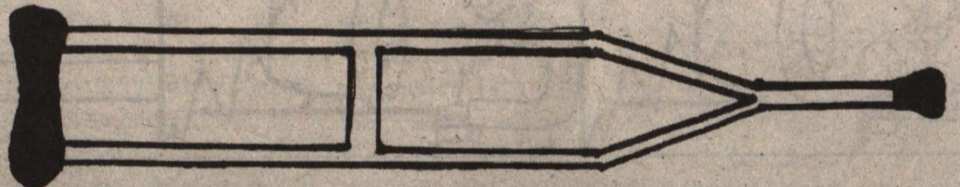
Konchar's back started hurting him during basketball season.

His back pains have been hurting for six months, and have been lessened because of physical therapy.

"Physical therapy gave me the needed exercises for my (health) to go back to normal," said Konchar.

Athletes with injuries are encouraged to stop by Dehof's office for help.

Sports injuries: The Facts



- In the United States, about 30 million children and teens participate in some form of organized sports, and about 3 million injuries occur each year.
- Approximately 20 percent of children and adolescents participating in sports activities are injured each year, and one in four injuries is considered serious.
- More than 775,000 children and adolescents are treated in hospital emergency rooms for sports-related injuries each year. Most of the injuries occurred as a result of falls, being struck by an object, collisions, and overexertion during unorganized or informal sports activities.
- Sports and recreational activities contribute to approximately 21 percent of all traumatic brain injuries among American children and adolescents.
- Although death from a sports injury is rare, the leading cause of death from a sports-related injury is a brain injury.

Information from www.sportsinjuryclinic.net

Girls swimming is making waves



Photo by Dave Thomas

Sophomore Hanna Colliander and a plethora of talented breaststrokers, including Julia Shallcross and junior Jamie Lesniak are power houses on the swim team this season.

New leadership and conditioning prepare the girls swimming team for big success

By Leah Kuzmicz

Experience and leadership could be the key to the girls swim team's success this season.

Coach Curt Herrin is betting on experience to help meet the goal of improving the team's quality. The 24 girls on the team are ahead of last year's team

'We're small but mighty and really enjoy having fun together every day.'

-- Senior Julia Shallcross

because they are fitter, use better techniques, and the varsity girls swam throughout the year, Herrin said.

Varsity swimmer and senior Julia Shallcross agrees that the team is extremely fit because of pre-season conditioning.

"I've been swimming for

the Sharks all year, and I really hope that it pays off this season," said Shallcross.

Shallcross and seniors Katie McLeland, Melissa Sheldon, Amy Smolucha, and Caitlin Kregel all possess valuable leadership skills and are looked up to by underclassmen, according to Herrin.

Four divers on the team will also contribute to the team's success by adding points to the total score at meets, Herrin said.

Another goal that they will be striving for is to be more competitive on the varsity level.

Competing with varsity are freshmen Caitlyn Madsen, Maria Sedjo, and Kelly Loftus, and they are helping the team, said Herrin.

The bond between the girls on the team is evident throughout practices and meets said Herrin.

"We're small but mighty and really enjoy just having fun together everyday at practice," said Shallcross.

McLeland says that due to the tough teams in the conference, it is hard to compete against larger sized teams.

Cross country goes the distance to succeed

By Dave Thomas

Coach Robert Maxson has every reason to smile about his girls cross country team.

Having finished seventh last year, the girls worked harder over the summer than they had the year before.

Sprinters from the track team have crossed over to the cross country team, including junior Rachel Jefferson and junior Kara Triner.

"Wojo (junior Tara Wojciechowski) can run really well. She had a 7 minute, 7 second pace for a three-mile run," said Maxson. "These girls have worked very hard since the start of the season."

But the biggest star on the team seems to be freshman Mary Murphy, who beat 251 other freshman and sophomores in a 2.5 mile race at the Wauconda Invite on Sept. 9. Murphy beat the second place runner by 34 seconds.

"I was so surprised," said Murphy, who Maxson described as the fastest girl on the team. "I couldn't believe I did it."

According to Maxson, he

wants Murphy and freshman Annette Eichenberger to move from the freshman/sophomore level to the varsity level because "they've won a lot of hardware (trophies)."

that."

But as far as which girls would make the top seven list, Maxson couldn't name them at this time. On the list for sure, Maxson said,



Photo courtesy of George Petmezas

Senior Amber Triner, right, and sophomore Zoe Wisley practice five days a week to improve their times.

"I'm going to run at the varsity level," said Murphy. "I'm incredibly excited to do

were Murphy, Eichenberger, team captain and senior Kelly Tinnes, and junior Adi

Huerta.

When asked to name the top seven runners, Tinnes named the same four in addition to Triner, Wojciechowski, and junior Joann Kaczmarczyk.

One runner who has made improvements is senior Robyn Waldschmidt. Although new to the team, Maxson said she took about a 1 minute, 30 seconds off her time at a Sept. 12 meet at Naperville.

"I do track, and I wanted to do something that would keep me in shape," said Waldschmidt.

Last year, the team finished seventh in the conference and eighth at regionals. However, Maxson said that they finished with the same team times as the year before, an achievement for Maxson because last year was his first year coaching.

Since last season, the team has lost four varsity runners. With three graduating and one transferring, the only varsity runners left were Tinnes, Huerta, and Kaczmarczyk.

"This year, we're hoping we'll place better as a team

and try to win awards," said Tinnes.

They've certainly trained like it. Between the 7 mile runs and the sprint workouts, Maxson figures that the team runs about 30 miles a week. However, he acknowledges that his girls have "gotten pretty beat up" in that some of them have missed races due to injury or exhaustion.

One notable injury suffered was Murphy, who twisted her ankle at the Naperville North meet. She did not participate at the Larry Eddington Invite Sept. 16.

However, she does have her eye on regionals, and plans on competing.

In addition to Tinnes as a captain, the team also has two assistant captains, seniors Carrie Staton and Leah Kuzmicz. Other runners include freshman Emily Hahn, sophomores Tara Breinig and Zoe Wisley, junior Kelly Murphy, and seniors Brittany Herdman and Amber Triner.

Their next meet is Saturday at Lisle.

Strong lineup down but not out

By Cristina Sarnelli

Despite a record of two wins and three losses, the football team has high hopes for making it to the playoffs.

The team won their games against Plainfield Central 28-7 and against West Aurora

19-17. They lost against Batavia, Glenbard North, and Naperville North 35-8 (Batavia), 27-7 (West Aurora), 31-28 (Naperville North).

Senior Ben Warren, who plays on the offensive line, was thrilled with the wins

and said it was thanks to the quarterback and the offensive line that they did so well.

"The offensive line did great. We gave the quarterback plenty of time for passing and the running back plenty of holes," he explained. "Our

quarterback is a junior, and he is doing awesome."

Chris Wille is thrilled with his position as quarterback on the football team.

"There is nothing that compares to the rush of walking onto the field and having all of the weight on my shoulders to win the game," he said.

Warren added that the game against Batavia was disappointing.

"Turnovers killed us. We didn't play to our full potential," Warren said.

Coach Robert Stone said that the team has a good shot at making it to the playoffs and has made it his number one goal for the boys to make it to them.

Warren is optimistic as well.

"We have a much better team this year, and we definitely have the potential to make it to the playoffs," he said.

There are 71 boys on the team. They have been training since the summer, spending a lot of time in the weight room and practicing agility drills.

"The week before our first game we did a blue and white scrimmage which is where the team splits up and plays against each other. This helps us to prepare for our first game," Warren explained.

Michelle Dimas is one of the student athletic trainers for the team this year. She helps the players when they get injured during training.

"The team is doing awesome in training. Our passing is great. Our offensive line is doing well too," she said.

She also noted how the boys get along so well, a major strength of the team this year.

"They all have a lot of good bonding, and they all encourage each other. They believe in themselves and are very optimistic," Dimas said.

Stone said he was also pleased with how well the boys worked together and is happy with how they are improving.

"I am very pleased with the team. They are a very close group, and they are the best practice team we've had," he said.



Photo by Cristina Sarnelli

Junior Barrett Serrato, left, and senior Brian Collier practice six days a week in hopes of making it to the playoffs this season.

Football Schedule

Sept. 29
Naperville Central
Away

Oct. 6
Wheaton North
Home

Oct. 13
Glenbard East
Home

Oct. 19
WW South
Home

Football team deserves some respect

Blood, sweat, and tears are sacrificed six days a week for the players on this year's West Chicago football team.



Justin Kutilek

Everyday they put forth 110 percent effort and practice with a strong passion for the game.

However, this effort goes highly unnoticed by a majority of the student body.

Although the boys have high expectations for themselves this year, lack of enthusiasm damages our team's ability to believe that they can win.

Every week brings a new opponent to the table, and because of the caliber of talent in the DVC, rivals are usually tough competition.

When game day comes around, most Wildcats don't show their support for the team. Negative comments are often said about the team, mostly describing how badly the Wildcats are going to be beaten.

The team's morale is abused by these negative statements, making it hard to properly focus on their Friday night assignments.

Personally, I think this is

despicable. Students should be showing support for their team, not tearing it down.

Despite all the negativity, some students still show their Wildcat pride. At every game, no matter where they're playing, The Squad is there in blue and white cheering for their team.

The Squad has helped contribute to our team's high expectations, which is highly appreciated by the players. Seeing The Squad filling the stands every week, in my opinion, makes the team play better and motivates each individual player.

What people fail to realize is that the overlooked varsity football team actually has one of the most talented groups of athletes West Chicago has

seen in years.

Daily practices and games require a lot of effort in tasks including running individual drills, team workouts, weight lifting, and, of course, the much needed conditioning.

Working hard at practice three hours a day and five days a week has developed numerous gifted players.

The aggressive and confident defense looks to finish at the top of the DVC this year. Led by seniors Leo Guili, Geoff Wilson, and Brad Hock, the defense causes havoc for opposing offenses.

On the other side of the ball is a younger group of talent that is finessed and extremely fast. Junior Chris Wille steps it up at every game and will

have a big season as quarterback, which shouldn't be hard with the aid of his speedy receivers and powerful running backs.

However, such talent finds it hard to succeed without the necessary support and enthusiasm behind their game.

Support is one of the most desirable assets that the team wants on its side. The team unquestionably appreciates the support that it receives, but more students should stand behind them and show some school spirit.

Bottom line, the team needs more encouragement and the student body should give it to them, because they definitely deserve and appreciate enthusiasm.