

Wildcat Chronicle

Community High School 326 Joliet St. West Chicago, IL 60185

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Photo courtesy of Micheal Foran

Remembering 9/11

By **Connie Kim**
Perspectives Editor

All was quiet in the park as people held lights up at the sky in memory of 9/11 and those who were affected by the tragic event.

People of all races and ages gathered for the "Remembering 9/11" ceremony at Reed Keppler Park Sunday, marking the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attack.

The West Chicago mayor collaborated with the West Chicago Park District to create the ceremony.

Mayor Mike Kwasman estimated about 1,000 people attended.

"[I wanted to have the ceremony] because it was the 10th anniversary of 9/11, and I wanted future generations to remember those who passed and gave their lives for the country," Kwasman said.

A statue was placed at the park in memory of the event.



Photo by Liz Ramos

"I Love My Country" is revealed at the ceremony at Reed Keppler.

"This statue is called 'I Love My Country', and I hope you remember the spirit and character it represents." Kwasman told the crowd.

Kwasman also presented the Hometown Hero award to Josh Kerber, who lost his arm while fighting in Afghanistan. It was Kerber's dream to enlist in the army.

"The park district asked me to come to the ceremony, but I actually didn't find out why until the morning of," Kerber said. "The ceremony was very beautiful and poignant, and it was good to see the community come together to recognize something."

The school band played patriotic songs during the ceremony.

Band director Steve Govertsen said before the event that he was glad that the band was asked to perform.

"I'm glad we're doing it because it's obviously an important event to the country, and I'm hoping we could support the community by playing there," Govertsen said.

To help set up and clean up the ceremony, the Water's Edge Bible Church attended.

A member of the church, Jim Staniels, was glad to be a part of the ceremony.

"I was intending to come even before I knew my church was going to help with the ceremony because I thought it was important to remember 9/11," Staniels said.

Several community members reflected upon the attack and remembered watching the planes crash into the buildings while watching it on television.

"When the attack occurred, I was at work watching as a plane crashed into the second tower," Staniels said. "I felt numb as I didn't know what was happening, but it was obvious later on that it wasn't just an accident."



Photo by Liz Ramos

The community gathers together to honor those lost in the tragic event of 9/11.

Martin Swinney had a similar experience.

"The day it happened, I remember working in Chicago. I was the first one to get to my office, and I was having problems getting into the Internet as it was backed up for some reason, when I got a phone call from a co-worker about what was happening. I ran to a restaurant across the street as it had a television and watched from there," Swinney said.

Joy Rush remembered the event clearly as it almost affected her life personally.

"I worked at the Crisis Response team and commuted back and forth from the north tower and an office here in Chicago. The week 9/11 happened, I was back in Chicago, but I had a team working there at the time who got out of the tower and could see people jumping out the windows," Rush said. "One of the guys actually broke his ankle but didn't realize it because he was too focused on evacuat-

ing. We were lucky because we only lost one person out of 600."

Bea Riske knew a friend's daughter who was near the tower.

"She was a teacher at an elementary school nearby the Twin Towers, and her class could see the towers falling apart through the windows. One of her students had a dad who was working there at the time and was a victim," Riske said.

Police officer Spencer Kronic remembered 9/11 as a very long day as he was on duty from 7 a.m. Sept. 11 to 5 a.m. on Sept. 12.

"When I had heard what happened, I immediately thought of Pearl Harbor and though it was a [modern day] 1941, Kronic said. "I had so many emotions going on in my head because I wanted to be with my family, but I felt a sense of responsibility in the community. On the same day, there was a homicide and fire in the city and the murderer

was of Middle Eastern descent, and we believed it was in retaliation of the event."

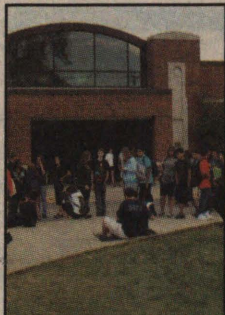


Photo by Liz Ramos

Josh Kerber received the "Hometown Hero" award.

INSIDE Busing

A new busing company presents problems for not only the high school but middle and elementary schools as well -- **NEWS**, page 2.



Surviving

High school can be a jungle. But when getting tips from upper-classmen and counselors, students have the tools they need to survive--see **CENTER SPREAD**, pages 6-7.



Future of music?

Auto-tune has raided the music industry. Turning on the radio and hearing real instruments and voices is rare nowadays. Is the integrity of music dying? Where is real music going? --see **ENTERTAINMENT**, page 9.

Count down

We're counting down our top five must-see athletic events this year. Starting the countdown is Glenbard North basketball game --see **SPORTS**, page 12.

Emotional stories portrayed in play

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Center Spread Editor

The horror of 9/11 came to life in the play "With Their Eyes," which is a firsthand account of events at Ground Zero.

"With Their Eyes" tells the story of students and staff at Stuyvesant High School, who experienced the frightening event, just one block away from the Twin Towers.

"I feel like 9/11 is something that we need to remember, and I think as the 10th anniversary, we should look back and see where we are now," junior Dan Stompor said, who played the parts of Ken and Ilya.

Cast members received the script for the play in June, giving them all summer to prepare.

"It's a really good story, and it's really cool to reenact



Juniors Maegan Daniels, left, Gaby Hernandez, and sophomore Emma Noelke rehearse for the fall play 'With Their Eyes' capturing the emotion of the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001.

Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

the events to the best of our abilities," junior Luke Jacobnis said, who played Max

and Kern.

Besides rehearsals, research and work was done to

portray the characters.

"We've done a lot of physical work, because the stu-

dents need to embody their characters," director Mark Begovich said.

The cast watched videos on the event and had discussions.

"For me, it's been an interesting experience because I have some memory of 9/11, so being able to see these stories gave me a deeper appreciation of this important event," Stompor said.

According to Begovich, the audience was able to get a lot out of the play, and was able to understand what it was like for the students and staff members at Stuyvesant High School.

"It's a very personal play," Begovich said. "This is probably the moment of the 21st century that has shaped our society."

Performances were Sept. 8, 9, and Saturday in the auditorium.

Buses fail to provide

Students left stranded

By **Hailey Lenahan**
Reporter

Students have been left stranded as the ongoing issue with the new bus company, Illinois Central, continues.

Buses have been showing up late to pick up students, sending the wrong buses and, at times, not showing up at all.

Some students are waiting up to 45 minutes for their buses after school and arrive tardy in the morning due to late buses.

The school changed bus companies to save money.

"It was presented as a cost savings. It was an opportunity to save money and based on our reference checks from other districts with Illinois Central, we received positive feedback," Principal Moses Cheng said.

However, since the switch, complaints have come in.

The girls cross country team had their issues with the new bus company for their Aug. 30 meet at Kaneland.

When the bus came to pick up the girls, it was too small for the 34 member team.

"Well, at first I was okay with it because I thought, this was all the school could manage, but then I saw that the boys had a big bus and it just seemed unreasonable beyond belief," sophomore

Diana Beltran said. "It was just frustrating because it obviously didn't make sense because the boys team is half our size."

The cross country team is not the only ones who have been affected by the switch, students who ride the bus daily have been impacted too.

Concerns with the new bus company are not going unnoticed and the administration is doing all they can to solve the problem.

"We are constantly in communication with the bus company letting them know the problems are unacceptable," Cheng said. "We've seen some improvements but there are days where issues remain."

As of Sept. 9, the situation seems to be improving.

All the buses were already filled and beginning to leave at 3:15 p.m.



Photo by Hailey Lenahan

With the switch in bus companies, many problems have come up including students having to wait 45 minutes for their bus to arrive at school.

What's Happening? March for independence

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Center Spread Editor

Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) is marching in the West Chicago Mexican Independence Day Parade Sunday.

"We always march in the parade [every year] and [go to] Chinatown every cou-

ple of years depending on demand," adviser Lucinda Sanders said.

OLAS is planning a trip to Chinatown in October Sanders encourages students to join.

"It's a great way to get to know more people at the school," Sanders said.

OLAS meets the first Tuesday of every month at 3:10 p.m. in room 130.

Speak out

By **Keyuri Parmar**
Features Editor

Speech team is looking for students who like talking in front of an audience, are outgoing, or want to come out of their shells.

Their first meeting is on Tuesday at 3:15 p.m. in the auditorium. Auditions are the first week of October.

Speech coach Paul Lichy has been working with cap-

tains juniors Farrell Lewis and Abraham Fernandez to get the season running.

Lichy's goal is to recruit SkillsUSA, FBLA, Scholastic Bowl, and other club members who could use public speaking skills.

"Students get one-on-one attention time for public speaking with a coach and feel at home. The team is like their family," Lichy said.

Creative students wanted

By **Connie Kim**
Perspectives Editor

All poets, writers, musicians, rappers, and anyone who writes their own pieces are welcome to sign up for the first Café Express Yo Self.

Café Express Yo Self is an open mic night that occurs every month on the last Wednesday. Creative

Writing Club runs the event.

The first Café Express Yo Self is on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. in the LRC.

"We have a lot of returnees so the people that perform every month are different, but we're hoping to see more new faces," Creative Writing Club adviser Amanda Cordes said.

Message of hope

Homeless man inspires Freedom Writer to succeed

By Carly Tubridy
Editor in Chief

Freedom Writer Manuel Scott filled the auditorium with laughs, tears, and inspiration as he told how he escaped poverty to become the successful man he is today.

Scott shared his story with staff and some of the incoming freshmen in the Bridge 8.5 program Aug. 22.

Scott's struggles in high school were documented in the 2007 movie "Freedom Writers", which told the story of an inspiring white teacher who helped Scott realize his potential.

With his father in prison and an abusive stepfather, Scott didn't have a good male role model. A drop-out at 14, Scott was written off as unteachable and was caught up in a life of gangs, drugs, and violence.

"I was born into a beautiful family. Beautiful but broken," Scott said.

In his freshman year, Scott's best friend, Alex, was jumped. He was strangled with guitar strings and stabbed with the bark of a tree.

"When Alex died, I went into a very dark place," Scott recalled.

He believed people like him weren't supposed to make it in this world. He wanted to be locked up.

"Why is everyone so happy and I don't even smile any-

more?" Scott remembered thinking.

Scott couldn't focus on school.

Scott's literacy level was so low he was put into an ESL class, despite not speaking Spanish. He would miss 60-90 days of class every year, and his GPA was 0.6.

But one day when Scott hit rock bottom, his life changed.

Sitting on a park bench, Scott was approached by a man who asked why he wasn't in school. This man was named Martin and had lost his house, his wife, and his kids because of his addiction to cocaine.

Martin told Scott, "You were made for better than this."

Scott felt like Martin understood him and cared about him.

"I was on my back looking up. And they say if you're on your back and you can look up, you can get up. I was on my back and this guy came into my life at just the right time and he shared his faith with me, his Christian faith with me, and it was a message that I absolutely needed at that time in my life," Scott said.

Scott went back to school and in his first semester, Scott earned five A's and two B's.

"The man I met on that park bench, I met him that one time. He changed everything," Scott said.

When he went back to

school, Scott was put in a class with a new teacher, Erin Gruwell. She was white and from an upper-middle class neighborhood and on her way to law school. After seeing the Rodney King riots she decided

to become a teacher to help make a difference. She chose to teach at Woodrow Wilson High, where Scott was a student.

A woman without the knowledge of the 'hood' wasn't expected to reach out to these students. But she did the impossible.

"She kept showing up and kept showing up and by the end, we realized we could trust her and that she had our best interests at heart," Scott said.

All 150 of Gruwell's students graduated high school and many moved onto college.

"This woman loved us. I didn't care if she was black, white, or Asian. She loved us and that was rare for us," Scott said.

Scott tried to impress upon the staff members how big of a role they play in a student's life.

"Teachers can be the catalyst. They can be that spark. They can be that agent of change that gets your attention and makes kids thirsty for an education," Scott said.

Scott acknowledges the fact that sometimes a teacher can only do so much but is adamant that they should never write a student off.

"You can't save the world.

You can't save everybody but you can do your part," Scott said.

Scott's story and message affected many of the teachers deeply.

Deeply affected with tears

streaming down her face, director of student services Maura Bridges said, "I love what he said, the message of hope, and I believe everyone has that in them. Everyone has things going on but we need to be there for each other and as educators we have a huge opportunity. I feel lucky."

New orchestra teacher Alison Zabelin hopes to use her new position to make a difference.

"It makes me extremely excited to be entering this profession, to have the opportunity to be the bright spot in someone's day, and to show them they're cared about. Through teaching

music I hope students realize their creative side and help them express their own passion and through that help them enjoy and appreciate their life," Zabelin said, holding back tears.

With his inspirational words, freshmen gained courage entering high school.

"[His speech] made me more confident and more hopeful of reaching my goals," Samantha Trejo said.

"He talked about how tough his life was and it made what we're going through seem a lot easier. If he could get through it, so can we," Cassandra Delaurie said.

Scott hopes that by spreading his message, he is using his experiences to enhance other stu-

dents' lives.

"I believe I went through everything I went through not just for me but for other people," Scott said.

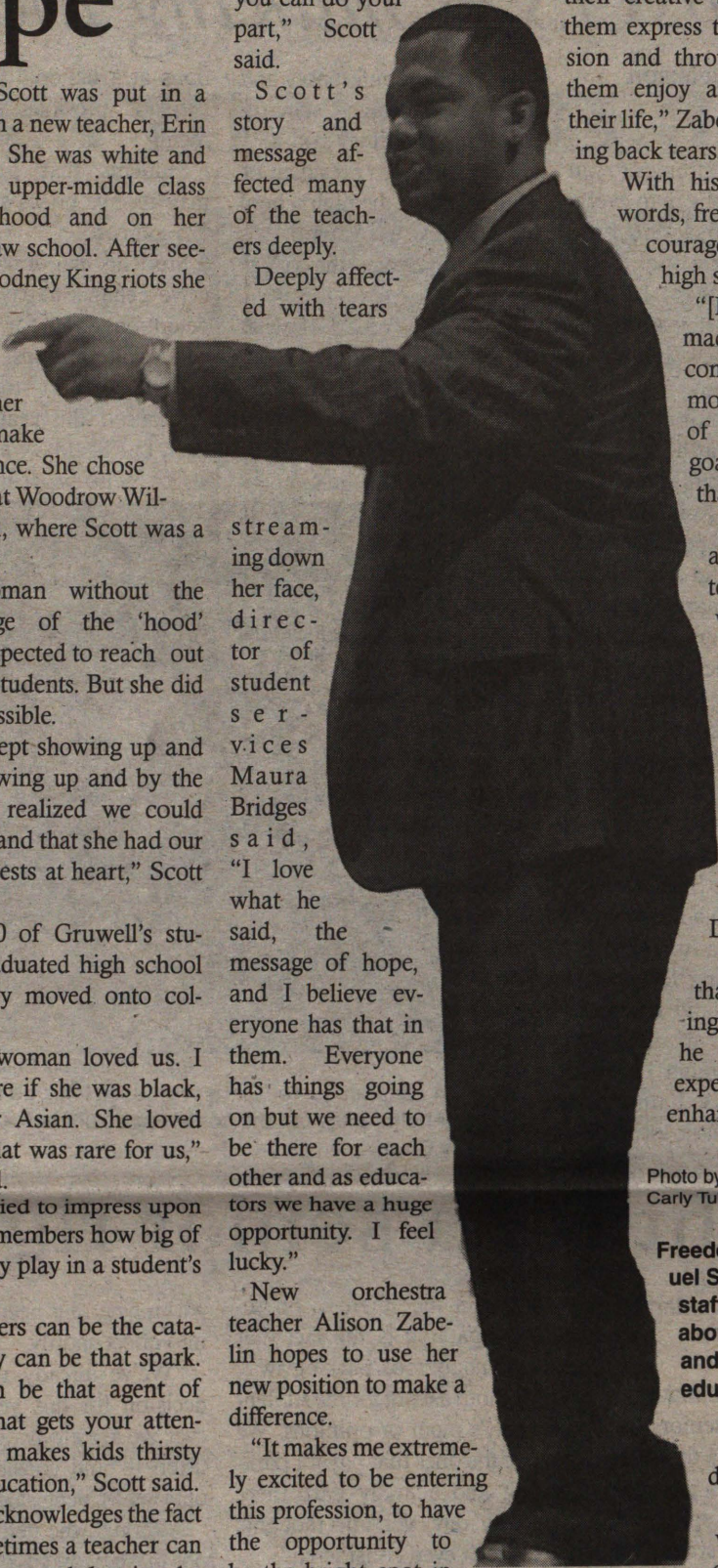


Photo by Carly Tubridy

Freedom Writer Manuel Scott talked to staff and freshmen about his story and the power of education

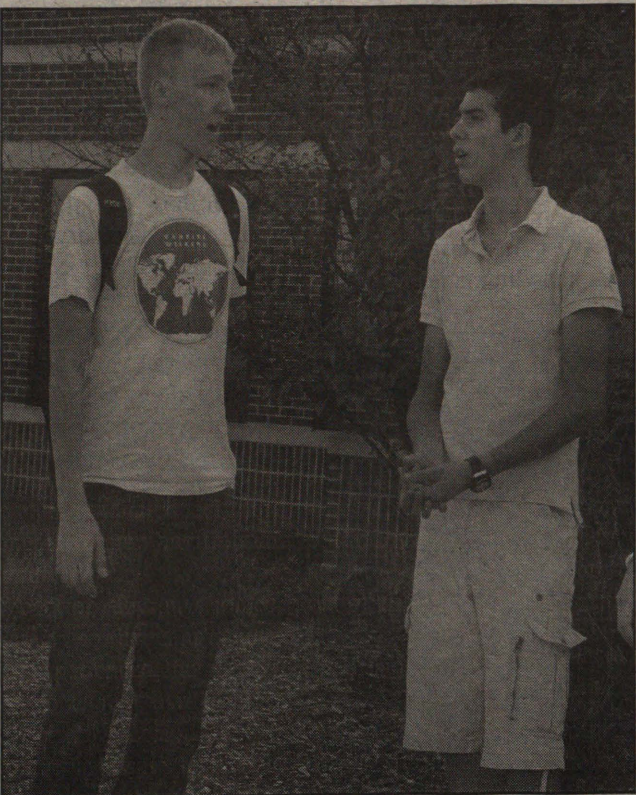


Photo by Liz Ramos

Junior Alan Thiede, left, and his Spaniard, Andres, talk together during a tour of the school on their first day in West Chicago.

Collide culture, language

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

Life-long friendships are forming as Spaniards arrive to spend time with host students and at school.

"I think we are the only school in the area that hosts Spaniards. I think it's important because it brings connections from across the world that create life-long friendships while learning the language and culture," said Sarah Gill, foreign exchange coordinator and Spanish teacher.

The Spaniards arrived on Monday.

Some students are hosting the Spaniard they stayed with during the exchange trip to Spain in the spring.

"[I volunteered to host] because I went to Spain and it was amazing. I wanted to host my Spaniard. We already got really close because I lived with him and now he's living with me so we can just joke around," junior Alan Thiede said.

Students who didn't go to Spain are also hosting.

"I thought it would be fun because I know people outside of the country and this would be one more that I know," sophomore Conor Trimblen said.

Not only do the Spaniards benefit from coming to America but so do the hosts.

"The benefits are that [the hosts] get to learn and know about another culture. You get to share your family and

friends. Opening your home to them will teach [the Spaniards] English and you will also learn about their culture and their language," Gill said.

Activities are planned to make the Spaniards experience the best it can be.

"[The Spaniards and their hosts] are going to the Art Institute. They're doing a scavenger hunt in the Loop, tailgate and go to the football game, attend and visit classes, and just follow around high school students," Gill said.

Thiede has special plans with his Spaniard like a Thanksgiving style dinner.

Trimblen plans to take his Spaniard to Brookfield Zoo.

Spaniards leave on Tuesday.

SkillsUSA making their mark

By Brandon Jackson
Reporter

SkillsUSA continues to put their name on the map everywhere they go including Kansas City, MO on June 20-24 during nationals.

Overall participants did well, with a few individual accomplishments.

This year senior Jeffery Pekosh placed fourth in national applied technical math, and Jennifer Keillhac ('11) placed 10th in speech.

Not only did SkillsUSA compete in nationals, but they held frequent debates over the summer.

"I am raising the bar a little bit, because I know what we are capable of doing," adviser Brittany Bauer said.

State officers, senior Steven Celmer and junior Keyuri Parmar went to Springfield to participate in leadership conferences in August.

"I am looking forward to this year's fall and state conference, those are always a blast. Even though I cannot compete because I am a state officer it still is a lot of fun

working the conferences and being on the stage," state officer Steven Celmer said.

Parmar is also president of SkillsUSA for the high school level, and sister Mayuri Parmar is president at the college level.

"I am very proud of what we have been able to do. We did pretty well this year at nationals," Bauer said.

Goals for this year are to continue to place in competi-

tions at a national level and surpass previous achievements.

Students that participate may receive prizes such as a \$25 gift card.

Students can donate to receive a chance to pay off their detentions, and for physical education makeups.

"There aren't too many fundraisers this year," Bauer said, but St. Mary and SkillsUSA will be teaming up

again to help with community service.

SkillsUSA will be helping out in concessions for those who want to help support the club and the school. Students interested in joining should listen to announcements to upcoming events.

"For anyone who wants to join practice your skills for the state and even national competitions, but also remember the organization is not only that. It is incredibly rewarding to become more involved and receive training and friendships, which will last a lifetime. Get out of your comfort zone, step up to be a leader, and you will never forget it," Celmer said.

SkillsUSA fall conference will be held on Nov. 4 and 5 and more information will be introduced at the annual Pal Joey's gatherings.

The Mid-America Leadership conference will be held in October and the date is unknown.

The details of the canned food drive and future conferences will be reported in October.

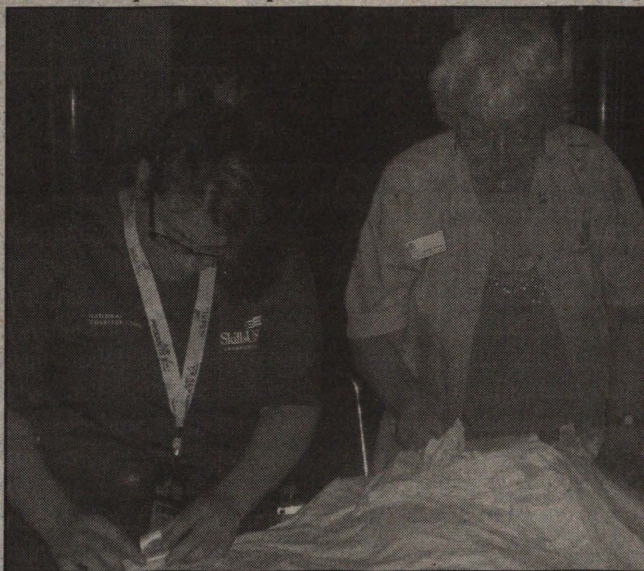


Photo courtesy of Brittney Bauer
SkillsUSA member, junior Clarissa Russel, left, and an adult volunteer helps pass out the conference t-shirts for Courtesy Core.

Got game?

By Brandon Jackson
Reporter

Bear down West Chicago there is a week-long challenge that is taking place Oct. 1-8.

This year's homecoming theme is called "WeGo Got Game" and each class represents one Chicago sports team.

Freshmen will be the Bears, sophomores will be the Cubs and Sox, juniors will be the Bulls, and Seniors will be the Blackhawks.

"I like the sports theme idea because I believe it's different," student council adviser Eric Lasky said.

Float building will begin a week before homecoming.

"Float building is a lot of fun, and it's really cool to see everyone working together," Lasky said.

Window painting will be on Oct. 1.

"A must-do activity this year would be dodgeball," Lasky said.

The dodge ball tournament will be Oct. 3 in the Bishop gym.

Juniors and seniors are encouraged to show their class pride by wearing their powder puff t-shirts.

The game is Oct. 5 at 6:45 p.m.

"I'm excited for this year's powder puff game because this year we're actually going to win," senior Meghan Carnot said.

One fundraiser will consist of purchasing Chicago sports jerseys.

"It's going to be interesting to see which classmen wear what jersey, because not everyone likes the same sport," Lasky said.

Raffle tickets will be handed out for those who participate on dress days, and potential prizes will be jerseys and other luxury items.

Everyone is welcome to check out the homecoming parade after school from 12:45-1:30 p.m. on Oct. 7.

Following the parade, the JV football game is at 5 p.m., and the varsity game is at 7:30 p.m.

The homecoming dance will be Oct. 8 from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. and is said to have a more interactive DJ.

Tickets will be on sale towards the end of September.

"The Student Council executive board has put a lot of time and energy into all the activities to make it all possible," Lasky said.

Fight for a senior right

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

After the elimination of senior parking, seniors are taking a stand for their parking in the form of a petition.

Instead of specific spots for seniors, all student drivers who have purchased a \$200 permit can park in any student parking lot.

In the past seniors had their own lot.

According to Principal Moses Cheng, the school eliminated senior parking due to students parking in senior lot without a permit.

"We tried everything we could," Cheng said. "Tickets, towing, sending out notices and reminders; kids continue to park in spots they should not park."

However, seniors don't agree with the school's decision, and 205 signed a petition senior Emily Warkins wrote to get senior parking back.

"It's simply a poorly designed system," senior Diana Serio said.

Seniors are upset tradition changed.

"Senior parking is basically a right of passage. Every school has it and now our only senior privilege left is senior hall," Warkins said. "What bothers me more than

the fact that there is no senior parking is the fact that the school took parking away without asking for the student body's input or opinions. We are the ones that pay for parking and actually park there every day, yet our thoughts weren't even considered."

Cheng agrees when initially making the decision, student input was not thought of, however after being presented with the petition, student suggestions were taken into consideration.

"Several suggestions were things we thought of when going through the decision process," Cheng said.

Unfortunately for seniors, senior parking is already eliminated for the year, as

parking permits need to come into effect shortly.

"We've already made the decision for this year, however we are always willing to listen to and consider other options," Cheng said.

Although the petition may not have worked out, Warkins still plans on voicing the concerns of the senior class to the school board.

"If they reinstate senior parking, I would be incredibly happy," Warkins said. "However, if nothing changes, at least we can say we tried and that we stood up for something we believed in."

Government teacher Barbara Laimins feels the students are demonstrating what they learn in social studies on

how to be an effective citizen by exercising their First Amendment rights to try and make a change in a policy they disagree with.

"I can understand their concerns about the change in the parking tradition, I hope the administration and school board will listen to their possible solutions and hopefully reach a compromise," Laimins said.

Warkins and Serio agree senior parking is something well-deserved that all seniors look forward to.

"The new parking situation isn't a solution, it is giving in to the problem," Warkins said. "All we really want is for the school to at least make an effort to help the senior parking system work instead of just deciding it was too difficult and eliminating it altogether."



Photo by Carly Tubridy
Cars fill senior lot before 7:10 a.m. due to the elimination of senior parking and students being able to park anywhere on campus.

Perspectives

Our View

Student underage drinking The misconception adults hold against teenagers

Drinking among high school students has always concerned adults, and many fear that the problem has worsened.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), alcohol use among people under the age of 21 is a major health problem, and alcohol is the number one abused drug among youth in the United States.

As stated by www.cdc.gov, the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 42 percent of high school students had some amount of alcohol in the past 30 days.

What the website fails to mention is that the rate of underage drinking has gone down in recent years and according to www.drugabuse.gov, alcohol use among high school students has declined from 43.5 percent to 41.2

percent.

Binge drinking among high school students has also declined in the past month, going from 25.2 percent to 23.2 percent.

While the issue of underage drinking will never completely go away, students are clearly not given the credit they deserve.

The media makes high school students out to be rebellious, out of control, people who make risky decisions and disregard consequences.

Unfortunately, most adults buy into this bad reputation.

However, part of that reputation is due to the fact that teenagers only get press for their rebellious behavior.

At the start of the school year, students at Naperville North High School arrived to their first day of school in-

toxicated and were suspended for the first two weeks of school.

Even though instances like this happen on occasion, many teens are aware of the consequences of alcohol and are responsible about the decisions they make.

High school students who have hopes of obtaining athletic or academic scholarships are aware of how getting caught underage drinking could affect their future.

Students are expected to decide which college they want to go to and what they want to major in by the time they are seniors, and, in turn, should be responsible enough to make other life decisions.

Students know the risks of alcohol consumption and are fully aware of what is at stake if they do decide to partake in harmful actions.

Drinking in high school will always be an issue, but students should be given more trust to do the right thing, or learn from any mistakes they may make.

Long-term effects of 9/11

As Americans began recovering from the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, they came to the realization that the country wasn't as safe as they thought.

Security in airports and across the nation, became tougher.

The Department of Homeland Security was established in 2002 as an outcome of the attack, which focused on guarding the nation's borders, preventing domestic terrorist attacks, creating a national defense strategy, and reducing damage from natural disasters and terrorist acts according to www.pbs.org.

Security technology continually progressed, bringing controversy with it. Airports cracked down on liquids and sharp or suspicious objects.

In March 2009, full body scanners were introduced to select airports like Salt Lake City, Tulsa, and Miami.

People thought the body scanners were an invasion of privacy

while others approved the advanced security.

But all this advanced security hasn't stopped the threats.

On Friday U.S. officials kept an eye on airlines and tightened security in a search for suspected al-Qaida members plotting a terrorist attack on Washington or New York.

According to www.msn.com, intelligence officials said the potential plot involved three individuals who entered the country by air last month with the intention of carrying out a car bomb attack on or around the 10th anniversary.

"There is specific, credible but unconfirmed threat information," the Department of Homeland Security said Sept. 8, as President Barack Obama ordered boosted counterterrorism efforts.

Security has become a way of life, which America has to accept. We have to take great measures to

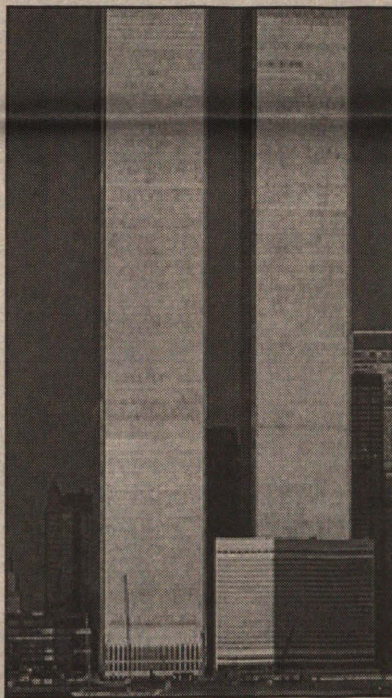


Photo Courtesy of Jake Rajs/Flickr
The World Trade Center in Manhattan before the terrorist attack on 9/11.

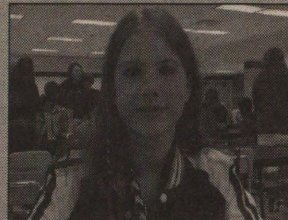
keep the country safe, and although strict security may be irritating, it is beneficial.

This is America's reality now.

Students Speak

Compiled by Liz Ramos

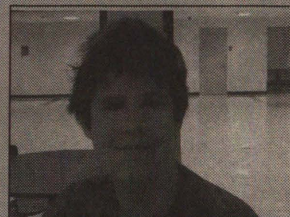
Do you think underage drinking is occurring more often in high schools?



Freshman

Sasha Slivinski

"I think it is because a lot of new movies coming out have been influencing young adult drinking."



Sophomore

Jeremy Thomas

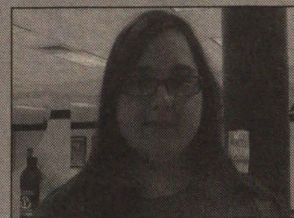
"I do because I think it's a little too easy to get alcohol to underage people."



Junior

Vince Allerruzzo

"I don't think so because I haven't really heard or seen anything. It doesn't seem likely to me."

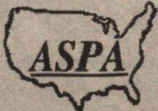


Senior

Monika Arbudzinski

"I wouldn't say so much in high school, but I think more in middle school. The rate in high school has stayed the same."

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WEGO's How-to Guide to

How to lose the **freshman 15**

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

Intimidated freshmen walking through the halls for the first couple months of the year could use some tips to have a successful first year.

From a counselor's point of view, going to every class is significant to freshmen succeeding.

"What I would say is take every class seriously. The first classes freshmen take first semester impact their future decisions," guidance counselor Barbara Brennan said.

While some freshmen are excited, some are nervous as well. Meeting new people and have fun at the same time is a possible goal.

"I was excited about getting to know people from other schools," freshman Veronica Zbilski said.

According to athletic director Paul Mullaney, studies show kids who are able to dedicate their time to hobbies and school help students manage their time, which they will need in college.

"For me it's hard to imagine kids going home after school," Mullaney said.

Whether a freshman comes from Winfield, West Chicago, or Benjamin middle schools they almost all have the same concerns and hopes.

"Freshmen should get involved in as many sports as they can. It makes the year so much better and you meet a lot of people," sophomore Priya Kurian said.

Many freshmen do whatever they can to get people to like them, when in reality they don't need to worry.

"I think [freshmen] should be themselves. Don't try too hard because you'll find people like you," Kurian said.

Being in a new school can confuse people for a while.

"It took me a while to get used to the split lunch classes. I didn't understand why the classes were for two hours," freshman Jared Sliger said.

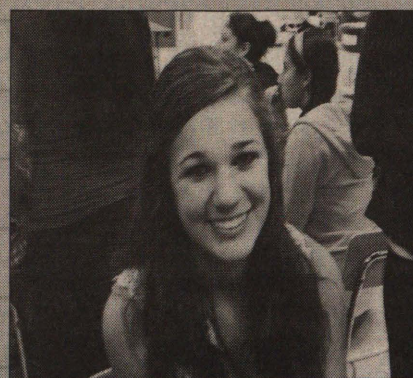
After getting used to the environment freshmen should be reminded of their purpose at school.

"Freshmen should definitely do their homework if they want to do good," sophomore Rene Sansone said.

A mix of educational and social tips will help freshmen succeed.

High School can be a zoo sometimes, but with the right tips, students should be able to tame the beast.

What they say...



"Do your homework." Brianna Bessey, sophomore

How to survive the **junior jungle**

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

Prom, the ACT, the junior research paper (JRP), and preparing for college are just some of the challenges that juniors face during the year.

"I would say make sure you manage your time and not spend time on Facebook. Time management is one of the hardest things to do but it's key to being successful," senior Diana Serio said.

What they say...

Focusing on the ACT and the JRP is the most important advice that seniors have for juniors.

"I would say just study for the ACT and prioritize your time well to do lots of homework.

Also, don't procrastinate on your JRP because doing it all in a couple of days is not fun," senior Claire Monroe said.

Guidance counselor Dave Pammer suggests taking prep classes for the ACT.

"Make sure they take advantage of the time the teacher gives them. Every rough draft or every time they do work for it they make the most of it. There are prep classes they can take. There are ACT prep classes offered through a company in West Chicago that will begin in the winter," Pammer said.

Juniors are excited for the field trips and other activities that are in store for them throughout the year.

"There are a lot of trips going on this year like Theatre Fest and choir is going to Disney, which is cool, and also prom, obviously," junior Jackie Letzter.

Along with all of the new responsibilities that juniors receive is the right to be known as upperclassmen.

"Make friends with your teachers." Kristi Hendrickson, senior

"It's kind of weird because I always looked up to the juniors and seniors when I was a freshman, but meeting the new freshmen is great. They're cool," Letzter said.

Being an upperclassman gives juniors a sense of authority.

"For some reason, I feel freer. I feel happy also because it's less intimidating than being one of the underclassmen," junior Jason Wiedmyer said.

With only two years left before juniors are off to college, starting to think of their post high school plans isn't a bad idea, according to Pammer.

"The challenges of junior year are blending your current high school year with the end of your high school career that you have to be planning. [Teachers] expect to begin to see them take a leadership role in the activities they're involved in," Pammer said.



to Surviving High School

How to avoid the **SOPHOMORE SLUMP**

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Center Spread Editor

From PLAN testing, newfound freedoms, and the transition from not being a freshman to not yet an upperclassman, sophomore year comes with its fair amount of obstacles.

However, sophomores can take precautions to avoid the effects of the "sophomore slump."

"You've been through the system at least a year, this is a time you should start to develop goals," guidance counselor Dave Pammer said.

While juniors and seniors should have a good idea, sophomore year is the year to start thinking about options after high school.

"Pay attention and learn as much as possible because [junior year] is going to be even harder and more important," senior Jon Hernandez said.

What they say...

According to Pammer, other challenges sophomores face are new freedoms that come along with no longer being a freshman, and what they plan to do with them.

"I feel like being a sophomore is another step to being an upperclassman, which is exciting," sophomore Pierce McGlynn said.

To avoid the effects of a 'sophomore slump,' Pammer advises sophomores to keep high expectations of themselves and to keep organized with their school work and time.

"I plan on focusing on my academics and extracurriculars, and I don't think I'll really have a sophomore slump," sophomore Catherine Serio said.

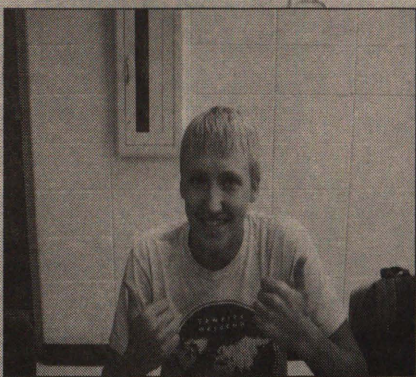
Students should start to explore electives that may help them decide what they want to do after high school.

Sophomores should also keep in mind they are just one year away from the more demanding challenges of junior year.

"Don't complain, because it's going to get harder junior year," junior Valerie Schroeder said.

Pammer suggests starting to gather a portfolio sophomore year of school work, extracurriculars, sports, and other activities to use for college applications.

"In order to be successful after high school you have to start planning early," Pammer said.



"Choose good friends."
Alan Theide, junior

How to cure **SENIORITIS**

By **Kristina Manibo**
Entertainment Editor

As a new round of high school starts for the underclassmen, it will signify the beginning of the end for the senior class. With sights on colleges and finishing their high school careers, seniors deal with a lot of stress.

Guidance counselor Mary Roley knows the challenges that most seniors face.

"Students are trying to get into the college of their choice, and it's a challenge to find a school that is a good fit. It can be very challenging to choose the right college. There is a lot to consider including programs, distance, lifestyle, and cost. Sometimes seniors are being bombarded with input from family, friends and staff which can be stressful," Roley said.

According to Roley, families are seeking other ways of meeting the high cost of education since many families have had a loss of income.

"There are a lot of scholarships that students don't realize they can apply for. They need to check for scholarships not only through school in the late winter, but at their parents' places of work. They need to look at financial aid links on their college websites, and some local organizations in which their family members are involved, can be resourceful," Roley said.

Some students have the mindset that they have to go to a four-year college directly out of high school, according to Roley.

"When students go to a community college first like College of DuPage, the difference in cost is enormous," Roley said. "Transferring out of a community college saves a lot of money and it's an option rather than ending up out of college with massive student loans."

Senioritis is also a challenge for seniors to overcome. Roley's advice is to focus on the end result.

"Try to be focused on the long term goal. Keeping in mind what you want in the end can help you meet the short term goals along the way that get you there," Roley said. "It can be difficult to stay focused, but keep reminding yourself what you ultimately want."

Aside from senioritis and the costs of college, with graduation in less than a year, seniors are excited to move forward with their lives.

"It is an amazing feeling. I am so excited to be a senior so I can graduate and start my future career," senior Alex Alhamy said. "When I graduate, I will start going to college but I am not sure which college. I know that I want to study the cardiovascular system."

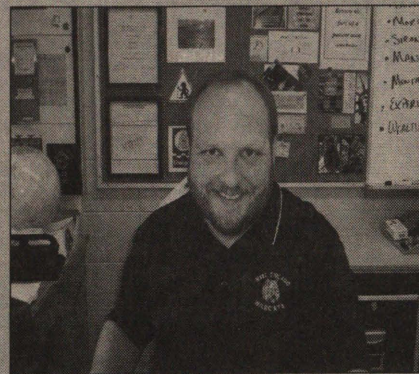
Although Alhamy is preparing for college, he knows that he will always remember his high school experience.

"Of course I will miss high school. I have so many friends in high school, good teachers, and since my life started in high school in this country, high school life will be in my mind all the time," Alhamy said.

Senior Jessi Bass looks at graduation as a fresh start.

"I'm looking forward to not so much leaving, but starting a new phase in life. I'm going to definitely miss my friends and some teachers, but for me, [graduating] is looking forward to accomplishing what my goal and dream is in life."

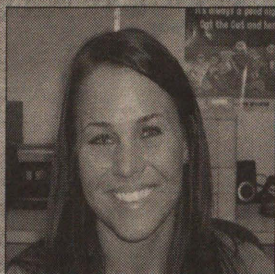
What they say...



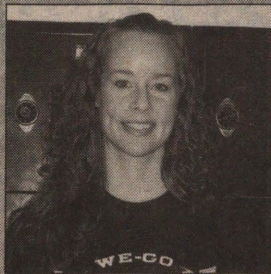
"Get enough sleep every night." Brad Larson, English teacher

Features

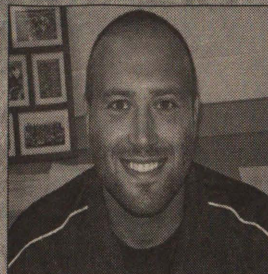
Bet'cha didn't know this about your new teachers



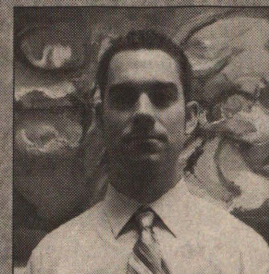
Special education teacher Beth Cox
What is your ideal vacation?
 My ideal vacation is somewhere warm and on the beach that I can lie on and just relax.



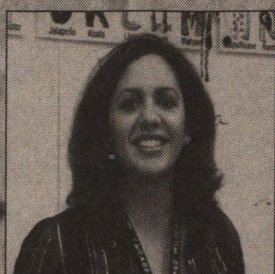
English teacher Breda Murphy
What is something unique about yourself?
 I am an Irish dancer. I started when I was 4.



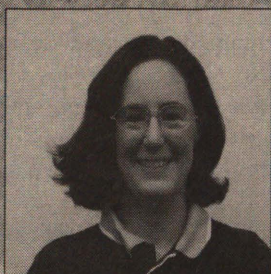
Guidance counselor David Pammer
What was your favorite college memory?
 Winning my conference championship game as a freshman at Drake University beating Morehead.



Dean David Pater
If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?
 I would have the ability to fly like Superman. It would be something humans don't necessarily do.



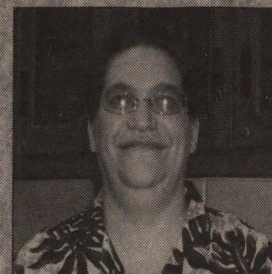
Foreign Language Ericka Richardson
If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go?
 Somewhere tropical, like Fiji.



Science teacher Erin Menig
Is there anything on your bucket list?
 I don't have a bucket list; I take each day as it comes.



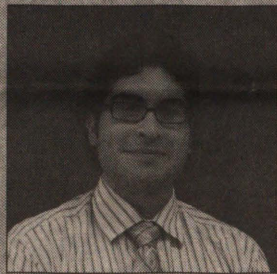
Social studies teacher Roberta Felfle
If you could be a famous person, who would you be and why?
 Julius Caesar, I just would have liked to live in the Roman republic.



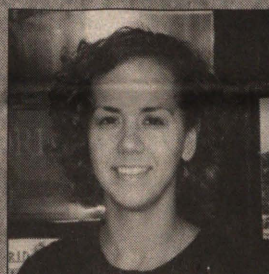
Science teacher Susan Hollinger
Who's your celebrity crush?
 I would probably say C. Thomas Howell because I met him in the late '80s when he was popular.



Speech pathologist Jennifer Grenchik
What is the most amazing place you've been to?
 I studied abroad in Veracruz Mexico, and it was beautiful.



Art teacher Jorge Bustamante
What is the most exotic food you've ever eaten?
 At the Taste of Chicago I ate alligator sausage. I don't recommend it.



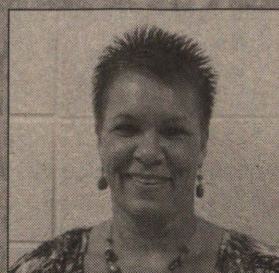
Foreign language teacher Melissa Biles
If you could choose to work anywhere in the world where would it be?
 I would work with young people. I want to be in the presence of young people who are eager to learn.



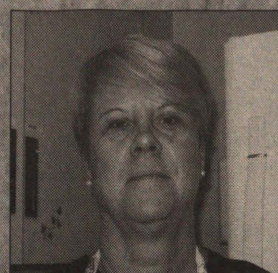
English teacher Nicole Osborne
If you were an animal, which one would you be?
 I would be a giraffe because they're tall, and I'm not.



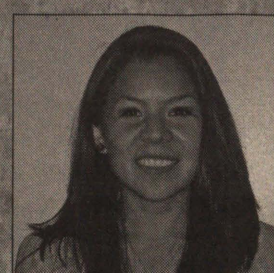
Foreign language teacher Nora Wessles
If you had 24 hours to live, what would you do?
 I would go to Germany and sky dive over there, and eat a lot of good food.



Special education coordinator Sandra Pampuch
Why did you go into special education?
 I wanted to make a difference in children's lives.



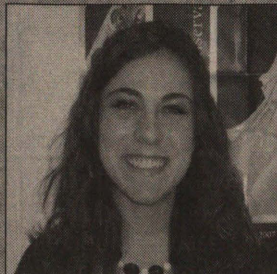
Family consumer science teacher Regina Haka
What is your favorite movie? Why?
 [My favorite movie is] "Best in Show" because it's a comedy and it's hysterical.



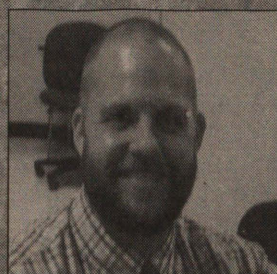
Psychiatrist Susana Pichardo
What is the most exotic thing you have done?
 [In Quintanaroo, Mexico,] I went through a cage of 40 alligators.



Language arts division head Mary Howard
What was your favorite high school experience and why?
 Building a homecoming float in my garage with the other upperclassmen.



Orchestra director Allison Zabelin
What concert is the best you have ever been to?
 Itzhak Perlmen. He is a violinist. I was in high school.



English teacher Andrew Dailing
If you could have one super power, what would it be and why?
 I'd like to fly because I like to travel.



Special education coordinator Ashley Meyers
Who do you look up to the most?
 My own children inspire me to reflect and grow as a person.

Entertainment

Wildcat Chronicle

September 15, 2011

9

Auto-tune goes mainstream

Music business is slowly turning digital

By Hailey Lenahan
Reporter

The birth of auto-tune changed music forever.

Artists like T-Pain, Lil Wayne, Ke\$ha, and Owl City have made a career out of using the pitch correcting software to improve their music.

While most teenagers today probably can't imagine a world where auto-tune is not used, once upon a time, artists had to rely on their actual vocal ability to make it in the music business.

Today, all you need is a pretty face, money, and ac-

cess to the auto-tune program to be considered a musician.

Even though many artists have jumped on the auto-tune bandwagon, some still protest its overuse. Indie-rock band Death Cab for Cutie spoke out against the use of auto-tune at this year's Grammy Awards.

In an interview with MTV news, Death Cab for Cutie front man Ben Gibbard said, "I think

over the last 10 years, we've seen a lot of good musicians being affected by this newfound digital manipulation of the human voice, and we

feel enough is enough."

The use of auto-tune itself isn't ruining the future of music; it's the overuse. The fact that many of today's top artists rely solely on auto-tune in the production of their songs is what the issue is. It is taking away from the true art of being a musician.

Before auto-tune was created, artists could record entire albums in a couple of days because they created the music themselves. They didn't have to rely on a computer to do it for them which made music a true art form.

One artist known for his excessive use of auto-tune is T-Pain. The rapper is so connected to auto-tune that there is an I-Phone app called "I am T-Pain" that allows users to use auto-tune, or "the T-Pain effect," on their own voice as they sing along to his songs.

Ke\$ha is another artist who is known for her use of



Photos courtesy of MTV

Death Cab for Cutie's Ben Gibbard, left, sings acoustic while pop singer Ke\$ha, right, performs auto-tune pumped songs.

auto-tune. In many of her songs, like "Blow" and "We R Who We R," the overuse of auto-tune allows her to hit notes that sound so unnatural they're almost robotic.

However, auto-tune has made these stars the success stories that they are. Many artists have capitalized on the vocal enhancement and created a whole new element to music that has proven to be popular among listeners.

These artists are even able

to use auto-tune in concerts with the help of a special microphone hooked up to a computer program.

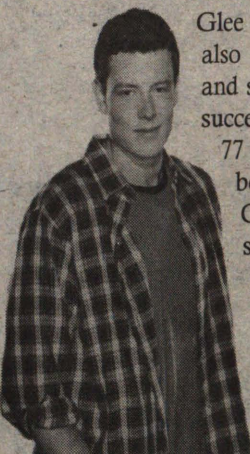
Auto-tune has changed the face of music and will continue to mask the true art of being a musician. The number of artists that rely on true talent to create music is growing smaller and before we know it, computers will be the basis of music unless listeners can begin to appreciate real music again.

Hot shows to watch

"Glee"

Tuesdays at 8 p.m.
on Fox

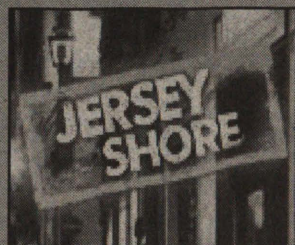
"Glee" is returning to Fox TV with a third season premiering Tuesday. For those who are unaware, "Glee" has become a huge phenomenon to America's younger generation.



"Glee" makes references to the high school Glee Club, which is show choir, while also touching on relationships, sexuality, and social issues. "Glee" has had a fairly successful review from critics scoring a 77 percent from Metracritic and having been nominated for Emmy, Golden Globe, and Satellite awards. I haven't sat down to watch "Glee" but this year I plan to make an effort, due to the fact that a majority of people that I know who watch it are quite content and if not impressed. I'll be looking forward to this year's premiere. - Brandon Jackson

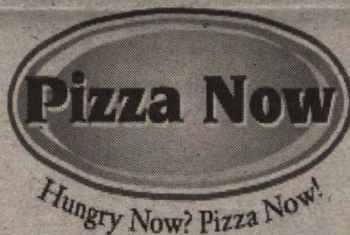
"Jersey Shore"

Thursdays at
10 p.m. on MTV



Mike "The Situation," Snooki, and the rest of the gang are back for a fourth season of the MTV drama-filled and fist-pumping show, "Jersey Shore." However, this year they decided to mix things up. Instead of choosing to film the show in the U.S., the cast and crew are filming this new season in Florence, Italy. Despite being in a new at-

sphere nothing much has changed; the guys are still going to the hottest clubs in town along with the girls to see who can get the most action. Ronnie and Sam are continuing to go back and forth and handling their relationship as if they don't have a clue. Overall it's the same story with a different setting. People just like knowing what is going on, which has the show attracting people annually and thus the reason for their overall success. - B.J.



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Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

The swim team tries to make up for loss seniors by pushing themselves in practice.

Small team looks to state

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

Despite having a smaller team than ever and the loss of six seniors, girls swimming is still working hard and looking positively into the season.

"I think given our size we're off to a decent start," coach Nick Parry said.

Having only 10 girls on the team, it is more difficult to keep up with other DVC teams, which have at least 25 swimmers, and some over 50.

"We're still working hard and winning a lot of races, but we don't have as many people to fill all the spots, so it's affecting us a little bit," senior and captain Chelsea Madsen said. Losing seniors

also hurts.

"Losing [Kelly Dunn] is a big deal," Parry said. "She was able to keep up a lot of our deficiencies. We lost six seniors and losing that many on such a small team takes up a big chunk of our ability to compete with some teams."

Although the girls improved over a summer of swimming and lifting, athletes are still feeling the strain of a small team.

"We are all on varsity, and it's hard to compete against teams with 100 kids when we have 10," junior Ashley Gaughan said.

The main goal the team has is to qualify as many girls as possible for state.

"Swimming is very indi-

vidualized," Parry said. "You can still be a bad team and have very good swimmers on it. While we may not score many points we can still win many events. A lot of it depends on depth which we don't have."

With three returning state qualifiers on the team and junior and captain Maya Skorupski already making the state cut in the 100 backstroke, the goal is not so far out of reach.

"I definitely think that we will be able to get more people to state this year, because of the great talent on our team," Skorupski said.

The girl's next meet is the Wildcat Invite Saturday at home.

Loss of seniors affect boys; girls team bigger than ever

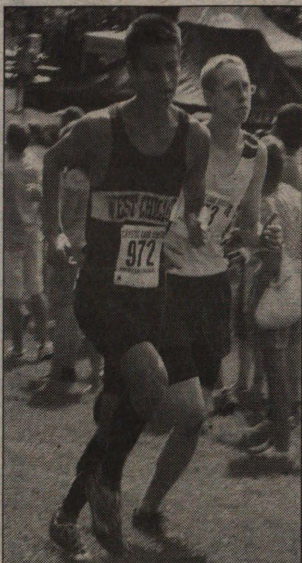


Photo by Connie Kim

Senior Jose Garcia hopes to help replace the seniors that the team lost last season.

By Connie Kim
Perspectives Editor

Boys

With the top two boys from last year gone, the boys cross country team is attempting to fill those spots.

"We did lose our top two guys from last year's team, however seniors are stepping it up, especially the ones that were on junior varsity last year," varsity coach Paul McLeland said.

Senior Jon Hernandez believes the team has been improving despite the losses.

"Yes, losing our top runners had a big impact on our team, but it has also motivated us to run faster to make up for the team's loss," Hernandez said.

Although many seniors on the team graduated last year, the team has new additions in its members.

"A lot of new guys joined this year, so the team is kind of inexperienced, but everyone works real hard during practices," McLeland said.

While last year's team had 16 members, the team now numbers 19.

The team had a meet, which is an informal kickoff

meet, against Kaneland High School and Wheaton Academy on Aug. 30.

Finishing second out of third at the meet, the results were no different from previous years, however, McLeland was particularly impressed with senior Marcus DeLaTorre, one of the captains.

"All the guys on the team work hard but [DeLaTorre] has been working especially hard and was aggressive at the meet," McLeland said.

Improvements were also seen at the Crystal Lake South Invitational on Sept. 3 as the team came in seventh out of 19 teams.

Girls

The girls cross country season started off with more girls than before.

"It looks like we'll have a team of 33 girls this year which is more than the boys

Following up last season's success

By Brandon Jackson
Reporter

With an exciting conference win and a trip to regionals, the lady Wildcats are looking to return for another dominant volleyball season.

"That's the first time in 31 years we were able to have that productive of a season," kris Hasty said.

After their tough loss against St. Charles East in regionals, they plan to defend their conference title and redeem themselves.

"The hardest team this year is looking like Naperville, however we don't take anyone lightly," Hasty said.

Practice methods, coaching, and a new set of players are what's going to be new to work with.

"Our program doesn't just concentrate on the varsity team; we look at everyone," Hasty said.

The team works on agilities as an entire unit, and how to handle game situations together.

Three new coaches joining the team, Jay Krick, Ron Murphy and Ron Katarzynski.

Krick helped out with the University of Florida's volleyball program and spent eight years coaching at Glen-

bard North.

"Our new coaches this year have a lot to offer and a lot to bring to the table," Hasty said.

Katarzynski will be the head of the Freshman A team.

Katarzynski has worked with sports performance programs and is also a parent in the program.

Freshman B coach Murphy has worked with the Geneva volleyball program, and was a high school teacher in the English department.

"Right now the relationship between coaches and players, there is a lot of good energy," Hasty said, "Everyone's getting to know each other and everyone is very excited for the year."

Within the volleyball program there is a family feel and the lady Wildcats are all part of groups with up to four people.

"We really want to express the family feel with our upcoming athletes," Hasty said.

However, the volleyball team doesn't just plan to do well on the court, but have a few activities planned for off the court.

"We're going to try, this year, to get the team out and do Feed My Starving Children," Hasty said.

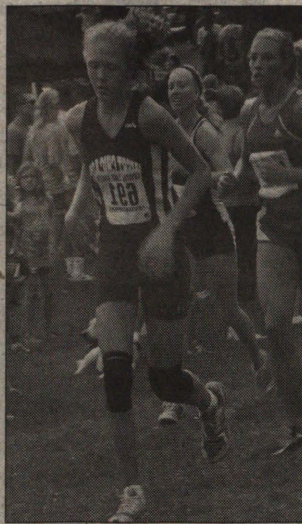


Photo by Connie Kim

Senior Kelsey Sayner thinks the girls will be competitive this year.

because they spend so much time with each other," Maxson said.

Senior Kelsey Sayner agrees that the team has been improving.

"There is a lot more depth on the team this year, and the competition for varsity has been tight," Sayner said.

or girls team has ever had," varsity coach Bob Maxson said.

According to Maxson, the reason for the sudden interest is because of the camaraderie of the team.

The cross country girls generally run all year round including during the track season.

Before the season started, the team went to camp at Loreda Taft for team bonding and for hard workouts.

Since they run together, the girls form a bond throughout the year.

"We're all going through the same thing with all the workouts whether they're easy or hard which brings us all together," junior Katie Yackey said.

Maxson has observed the bonding as he's been the girls cross country coach for a while now.

"The girls become very close friends, and it's natural

Rivalry fuels motivation for practice

Boys look for revenge after bitter loss in regional game against Naperville North

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

After a 2-1 loss at a regional game against Naperville North last season, the boys soccer team was out for revenge Tuesday.

"It was a tough game. We had a red card situation but even with that I think it was even. One of our players was sent off and we had to play with 10 instead of 11," senior Esteban Fernandez said.

Results of the rivalry game against Naperville North on Tuesday were not available as of press time.

"[Naperville North] in the last 10 years has dominated the league and have been champions. From year to year it's been a fierce battle. This year in particular, they knocked us out in a 2-1 battle at regionals last year, so we're looking for a little redemption," coach Stephen Brugmann said. "[Naperville

North] is tall and physical. We've never been a tall team so for us not to give up on corner kicks and free kicks is important."

Brugmann believes that playing away doesn't affect how the team plays.

"We've had seven games and every one has been an away game and we've been successful. It seems like we take away games as a challenge," Brugmann said.

Pushing themselves has prepared the team for the rivalry game.

"The biggest thing in every practice lately is working on defense. We've been very effective scoring early in the season so we're working on protecting the net," Brugmann said.

Good communication on the field is key to beating a tough team.

"We work excellent on the field. A lot of us play on the same club team so there's



Photo by Liz Ramos

Junior Jose Cortes, left, and junior Leonardo Robles, right, practice for upcoming game.

great chemistry and we're all used to playing with each other," senior captain Richard Paret said.

On the field and in goal, players are pushing themselves to make the team stronger.

"Me and the second goal keeper, we're working hard and working on drills in game situations like punching the ball out. We're working on our stamina," senior Marshal Carrasco said.

Players feel that beating a

rivalry team is better than a regular win.

"It feels great. We feel motivated. It just makes us want to win more especially if they're a really good team. It's a confidence boost," Paret said.



Photo by Keyuri Parmar

Wildcats take down Larkin in a fight for possession.

More time on field helps new tactics

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

With an extra hour of practice and focus on detailed strategies the football boys are more determined for this season.

On Sept. 9 the boys lost 42-0 against Glenbard North.

According to senior Nate Sudnick, their 3-5 defense will surpass the Rams [Glen-

bard East] defense and will hold them to minimum yardage on Oct. 7.

Changes to the way practice is run has given the boys an advantage this season.

"We've extended the length of practice by an hour and increased film time," senior John Ragano said.

Their film can be found on www.hudl.com.

"We have also been using

hudl which is a site where we post our practices and players can look at what they did that practice and fix their mistakes," junior Hunter Cerny said.

Every detail of improvement has been vital to the team this year.

"They have been getting better at individual skills," Reinke said.

Film time adds to that.

"Personally I feel that the extra hour of practice has helped us as team. You can always use more time to go over every detail to make sure it all works together well for game night," Cerny said.

Having new coaches has been helpful to the boys.

"The tempo of practice has increased exponentially and the coaching staff knows the game well," Ragano said.

At practice, the boys play music and try to keep the mood light, but then they get down to work.

"We've been fortunate enough to have coaches John Bryan and Dave Pammer help us with our line, who have worked with the defensive backs, with us this year, and their work has shown on the field," Cerny said.

Boys on the team agree with the rumor saying they will beat Glenbard East at our homecoming game.

Young players work to replace seniors

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Boys golf has had a gradual decrease in seniors for the past few years, so the boys are intent on filling in those spots.

Senior captain Kyle Martens, who has been on varsity since freshman year, is fixed on preparing JV and the freshmen.

"We have been working hard with younger players to get their game ready for the next level. We are in a rebuilding process, so hopefully individually we can have a few players compete well," Martens said.

Coach Eric Lasky takes a different approach to motivate the younger players.

"I offer them sort of incentives to win. Normally I get them food, especially before a meet that's tough. It's good to reward them for their performance," Lasky said.

According to Martens, the team has no serious rivals, but Wheaton North and Glenbard North are "two pretty consistent must-haves in the

winning category. They are two teams that compete with us and are close to us in talent, so it's crucial that we beat them each given year."

Martens took second place in the Mill Creek invitational at Mill Creek Golf Club on Aug. 18.

"I shot 72 to lose by one, unfortunately," Martens said. "Before the tournament, I shot 75 and played pretty well at another tournament at Maple Meadows. Going into the tournament, I was pretty confident in my game. It was a great ground and I plan on continuing to shoot in the low 70s."

Martens' physical and mental routines will push him towards victory.

"My practice routine consists of the normal practice for our team, and around two to three hours a day on the weekends," Martens said. "All I need [in order to] continue playing well is to keep practicing and stay on top of the game mentally. I have to stay focused, and if I can do that I have no doubt I will end the season strong."

FIVE MUST-SEE EVENTS THIS YEAR

Squad spirit

The Squad's spirit each year for the Glenbard North boys basketball team and the healthy competition that ensues brings the game to number five on our countdown.

The tradition of Guido night continues this year with 'Snooki poofs', orange make-up, and muscle shirts.

Many students plan on attending, as it is always a fun night.

"It is a great way to get the whole school together and into the game," unofficial Squad leader Joey Loftus said.

Old friendships provide a fun challenge within the game.

"I always enjoy playing Glenbard North because I

played with most of them when I was little. I love the opportunity to show them how far West Chicago basketball has come and why we deserve respect. Our team is mostly seniors, bragging rights are on the line, and we hope to make our last season at Wego memorable," senior Justin Mundt said.

With bragging rights on the line, and BLAHHH

"You know everything about them and they know everything about you. You grew up playing each other and living in basically the same town. Now it's time to see who's better," senior Josh Gimre said.

The game is on Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Glenbard North.

Rivalry motivates fun competition

The fierce rivalry with Glenbard North provides the fuel for softball to be number four.

After one win and one loss in regular season last year, the girls beat North in regionals leaving a bitter taste in their mouth.

"Both teams lost very solid seniors last year but we're hoping that the underclassmen will step it up and pull through for us so we'll be able to compete with Glenbard North," senior Rachel Johnson said.

Out for revenge

With a promising season ahead of them, the boys soccer team's game against Wheaton Warrenville South ranks number three.

"We also have a terrific passing game and a very diverse attack with 10 different players scoring and another 10 with assists. We're a very strong squad this year having already scored 37 goals in the first 11 games," varsity coach Steve Bruggman said.

The boys are excited about their success. Their overall re-

cord is 7-2-2. Playing against people so close to home means playing against former teammates.

According to varsity coach Kim Wallner, every game is as important as the next but the rivalry adds the aspect of healthy competition because many of the girls are close with girls from Glenbard North, as many of them play together on club teams.

The game will be April 16 at 4:30 p.m. at Glenbard North.

Saving the best for last

Homecoming comes in as number one on our countdown.

On Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. the football team will face Glenbard East in the traditional homecoming game.

"The walk from the school to the field is one of the best feelings there is on a Friday night. Also with as many fans that come out to homecoming, it's always nice to put on a show for everyone who comes out," senior captain Matt Green said.

The boys expect a competitive game.

"It will be a good game because we are two well matched teams and ultimately the result will come down to how well we execute on both sides of the ball," senior Zack Doell said.

Varsity coach Paul Reinke agrees that if the boys play to their ability they expect a win.

On top of the typical game, the homecoming activities get the students hyped up for the big night.

"Hopefully the floats will be displayed this year during half time. I love that part. [Class of 2012] wants to win four years in a row in the [float building competition]," senior executive Student Council treasurer Alex Hund said.

Another reason to celebrate: school has an early dismissal to enjoy the events.

Volley for the Cure: A night to remember

A night to 'paint the stands pink' reigns at number two.

The girls volleyball team will hold Volley for the Cure Sept. 29 against Glenbard North at 6 p.m.

With a rose ceremony for survivors and a wall of honor, it is sure to be an emotional night.

"My favorite part of Volley for the Cure would have to be honoring the survivors and everyone else that is fighting through [cancer] or has passed away," junior Andrea Skipor said.

There will also be raffles throughout the night with many prizes.

Community leadership is sponsoring a fundraiser called "Wego Pink" where students donate money to see their favorite teacher die their hair pink. They are also holding "Wego dress up" where students can donate dresses to be sold at an affordable price.

"It should be a fun night

and also a very emotional night, as we have a teachable moment to show our youth what it means to give back to the community" varsity coach Kris Hasty said.

The rivalry between Glenbard North also provides a healthy competition during an emotional night

What does the staff think?

Who will step up on the softball team after the loss of Mary Connelly ('11)?

Will the football player's hard work ever pay off?

Will the girls volleyball team win DVC?

Will the boys soccer team make it to state this year?

Keyuri Parmar



Amanda Gosbeth

Although I think the football team has improved this year, I still don't think they will get far in the season.

Yes

Since the boys soccer team is one of the top teams in the state, I think they have potential to get to state.

Carly Tubridy



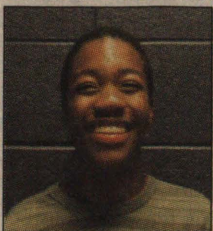
Rachel Venchus

Unfortunately, I don't think it will. They work really hard but they just can't compete with the DVC.

Yes

They are going to be a big team this year. I think they have the potential to really show the DVC what West Chicago can do. State is absolutely within their grasp.

Brandon Jackson



Rachel Johnson

At this point in time, they are not executing. They have too many distractions. If they can focus and stay disciplined as well as truly believe in themselves they can compete.

Yes

I do think they will get to state because they have matured and have chemistry now. They also have something to prove. Can they get the school out to their games?