

Taking school's temperature

How far will student surveys make the mercury rise? Training brings new ideas

Hot: I love it

Warm: It's good

Mild: I think it's pretty good

Cool: I could take it or leave it

Freezing: I want to be somewhere else.



By Keyuri Parmar
Co-Editor in Chief

After attending a training session on school climate, the administration and staff agreed that an additional survey and feedback is needed for the school.

According to Principal Moses Cheng, humanities teacher Mary Ellen Daneels secured a \$500,000 grant from the McCormick Foundation which funded climate training provided by the National School Climate Center.

The McCormick Foundation helps engaged citizen leaders to develop and makes communities better off via programs and grants.

Positive feedback was gained from the trainer who led the session on climate.

"Climate is a part of who we are as a school and the best way to do that is by infusing that to kids daily by the things we do," Cheng said. "The trainer who came to work

with us, Richard Cardello was very complimentary of our climate at the school."

Cardello pushed the teachers to look at the school climate from one angle in particular.

"We started out with the positives. He made us make a list of what's good about our school. Some people don't always realize all the good," humanities teacher Candace Fikis said.

The teachers unanimously agreed on one factor about the school.

"One of the aspects that everyone agreed on immediately is how great the students are and how so many of them are open and accepting," ESL teacher Lucinda Sanders said.

Many positive statements referring to the school climate were made.

"We talked about all the things we thought were great about the school like the diversity, how we're a small town with one district, and how

everyone is nice to everyone," Fikis said.

According to Fikis these positives have not been looked at from all angles though.

"We talked about a goal of increasing communication among the teachers, students, administration, deans, and parents because we can't be on the same page unless we are talking to each other," Fikis said.

The team had time to deliberate after the training.

"After the training we had one hour to process what (Cardello) shared with us. We discussed more application to what we discussed before," English teacher Amanda Cordes said. "A couple of e-mails have been sent to discuss when the team wants to meet again."

Further discussion with Cheng occurred.

"A couple of (people from the team) met with (Cheng) on Friday. We presented our

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State makes survey mandatory for schools

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

Beginning March 1, students will have the option to complete the Illinois 5Essentials Survey.

Under legislation, all Illinois schools are required to organize and administer the surveys, based on research by the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research, to students, teachers, and parents to help create school improvement.

In order to receive a score report on the surveys, at least 50 percent of students, 50 percent of teachers, and 30 percent of

parents need to respond.

The window for completing the surveys began Feb. 1 and ends March 31, and according to Superintendent Lalo Ponce, the teachers have already surpassed the 50 percent mark.

"Our goal is to have enough responses to have score reports in each area," Assistant Superintendent Kim Chambers said.

The five areas of the survey include effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environment, and ambitious instruction.

"It's helpful to know what the views are in these five ar-

eas. Studies show schools with success in these areas have higher achievement," Ponce said.

According to Ponce, any student, teacher, or parent can decline to take the survey, however it is recommended to participate.

"I would want (the students) to take the surveys seriously and be honest. I want them to be reflective of what we are extenuating as positives and identify what we need to work on," Principal Moses Cheng said.

Notices were sent to parents to take the surveys, and laptops will be set up during school events where parents will have the option to participate.

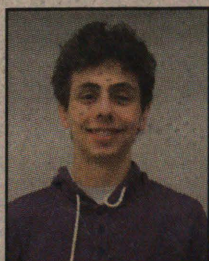
"We want the students to feel they are in a supportive

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INSIDE

State qualifier

After making it through regionals and sectionals, senior Dan Stompor qualifies for state in prose reading for speech team -- see **News**, page 2.



Love is in the air

It's Valentine's Day and love is in the air, but this emotion can be easily deceiving. Discover the difference between true love and infatuation --see **Center Spread**, page 8.

What's in a name?

Almost every name has a special meaning behind it. From uncommon names to nicknames, students share what their names mean --see **Lifestyles**, page 10.



Head to state

After one loss, senior John Carlos manages to win three matches in a row at sectionals. Carlos heads to state after a 1-3 win at sectionals --see **Sports**, page 15.

One conquers sectionals, onto state

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

Senior Dan Stompor defeated the competition at speech team's sectional tournament and advanced to state Friday and Saturday at the Peoria Civics Center.

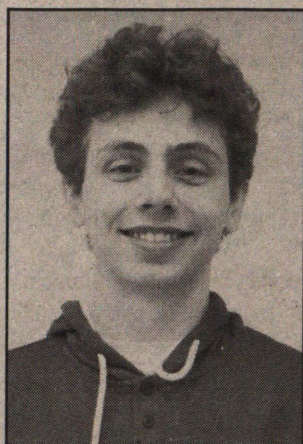


Photo by Liz Ramos
Dan Stompor

"I was over the moon (when I found out) because I worked many hours over the last four years," Stompor said. "It's a good feeling to know it's paid off."

Stompor placed second at sectionals and advanced to state in prose reading for his piece titled "Letters to My Brother," as well as being selected as a potential alternate for extemporaneous reading.

"I want to enjoy myself and perform my piece as best I can and represent the school the best I can," Stompor said.

Coach Paul Lichy helped Stompor prepare for state.

"We've kind of stepped down," Lichy said. "(Stompor) has been working all year. He's memorized his piece. We're just making sure he stays warmed up and his

style matches the style of the judges."

Lichy was proud of the teams' achievements at sectionals Feb. 9 at Wheaton North High School, especially being in one of the toughest sectionals in the state.

"Everyone offered an amazing performance," Lichy said. "No one should have regrets."

Speech team was also proud of their regional results and was excited to be hosting a tournament at home Feb. 2.

"It was a great experience to finally have a speech tournament (at school), especially regionals, and have everybody do such a great job," senior Aaron Morden said.

Lichy was happy with how hosting regionals turned out.

"It's a monster of a thing

to deal with," Lichy said. "Once it goes well, and it did, it's a great feeling."

The team is proud of a strong season, as it ends after state.

"Our season started off very strong and we could see right away that this was going to be one of our more successful years. We had a lot of promising team members competing with some really great pieces," senior Farrell Lewis said. "Coaching and practicing just made them better."

Students have enjoyed supporting each other as teammates.

"The season was amazing, I just love going and supporting my friends and teammates who make it to a final round. Even when I don't, it's

just wonderful to see how far we've progressed since the beginning," junior Marc Cuiriz said.

Speech feels this has been one of their best years with all of the accomplishments.

"This season has been the best season for me and as a team. We worked hard and it has paid off. I'm really proud of every single person on the team, and the coaches for always believing in us and pushing us past our limits," senior Gaby Hernández said.

Lichy is proud of the challenges the team has overcome over the season and for the success it is having.

"The season has been filled with a lot of ups and downs, and the kids who have stuck it out are seeing the rewards," Lichy said.

Bringing laughs, cries to stage

By Sarah Szremski
Reporter

Drama cast and crew made people laugh and cry as they performed and taught workshops in the annual Illinois Theatre Festival at the University of Illinois on Jan. 10-13.

The Theatre Fest group performed their fall studio series: "Red," "Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen," "Not My Cup of Tea," and "The Brothers Grimm Spectacular."

"We got the option of performing at the University of Illinois. We got to perform (the plays) twice in some pretty well respected time," adviser Mark Begovich said.

Senior Cat Canestrelli is proud of how hard everyone worked.

"We got a lot of laughs

which is difficult performing in front of a bunch of theater kids," Canestrelli said.

The audience was made up of students attending Theatre Fest.

"It was an amazing experience to perform for a bunch of people who also had passion for theater," junior Lindsay Fiegle said.

Drama cast and crew learned hard work pays off from their time at Theatre Fest.

"It was a great experience to be there and to show our work," senior Aaron Morden said.

Begovich appreciates the opportunity Theatre Fest gives his students.

"We go to Theatre Fest because there is nothing like the Illinois High School Theater Festival in the world quite honestly," Begovich said.

At Theatre Fest the cast and crew of the plays were able to participate in many workshops.

"I learned that if you hold your tongue and say the Pledge of Allegiance, it makes your voice come out more forward," sophomore Zandra Starks said.

Learning new techniques wasn't the only activity students took part in.

"The (student) directors hosted a workshop. We talked about what it's like to be a student director and the challenges that come with that," Canestrelli said.

Begovich believes they did a brilliant job.

"We did Community High School proud, and the students who did all that work, the whole community should be proud of them," Begovich said.



Photo courtesy of Maria Wirth

Seniors, top left to right, Melinda Elmazi, Maya Skorupski, Megan Matson, Jake Wirth, bottom left to right, Vishal Disawar, Matt Wenz, Justin Hajec, and Brian Weltzin move on to state after competing at regionals.

Success at regionals

By Darcy Akins
Perspectives Editor

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competed in the Northern Area Regional Conference at Gray-slake Central High School on Jan. 26 where three competitors and one team of students took first place.

Along with the students who took first place, 13 others placed in the top 10 of their events.

"It was awesome. I think everyone did fantastic, they gave 100 percent. We had 25 competitors and 20 of them placed in the top 10 for their particular category," FBLA adviser Maria Wirth said.

First place winners were senior co-historian Megan Matson in computer applications, senior Justin Hejac in hospitality management, sophomore Alyssa Lenning in word processing II, and the business ethics team of junior Emma Noelke, senior

Maya Skorupski, and sophomore Jake Gillespie.

"We placed in some really hard competitions and overall I think we had a really good outcome," Matson said.

Success even came for some first time competitors who were not expecting it.

"I finished much better than I had anticipated and now, I suppose I'll attempt competing at state in April," Gillespie said.

This year for regionals, even the attendance improved by more than double.

"We have been bringing home about the same amount of awards for the past five years. Our attendance at the conference was better this year however," Wirth said.

In preparation for the state competition in April, both the students and advisers believe that their studying could improve.

FBLA's state competition takes place in Springfield on April 12 and 13.

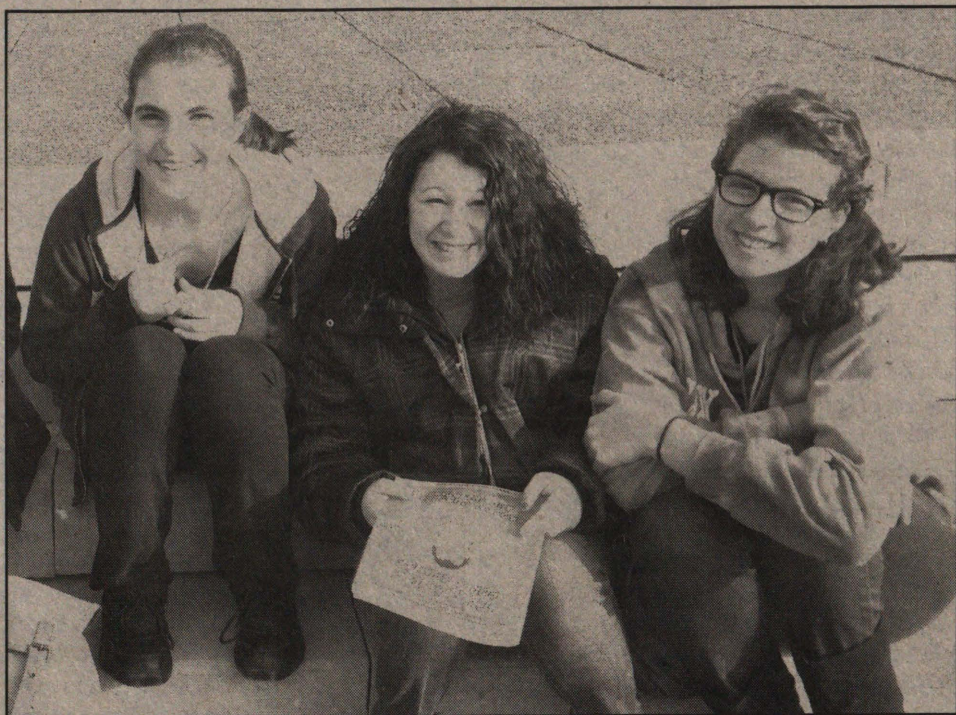


Photo courtesy of Mark Begovich

In between sessions and performances sophomores, from left, Tara Lyne, Dayna Bantz, and Edith Muñoz go over the opportunities the Illinois Theatre Festival provides for them.



Photo courtesy of Farrell Lewis

Members of dance production take their places for the beginning of one of their routines.

Show goes on for dancers

By **Keyuri Parmar**
Co-Editor in Chief
And **Liz Ramos**
Co-Editor in Chief

The show went on for dance production on Jan. 26. “(The show) was a collaboration of student work that they put together. It’s a showcase of their artistic talents that they got to perform,” adviser Julie Wyller said. “The show went extremely well, the audience was great. There was a lot of energy and support.”

There is a long process that

takes place which allows the show to occur.

“We worked on our dances everyday in class, and then starting in early November we had after school practices, and then in December we started practicing on the stage with picking out lights and working on spacing,” senior Lindsay Curriگان said. “Then the week of the show we had two dress rehearsals with costumes and lighting as if it was show night.”

Collaboration was not just used for the choreography but the theme of the show as

well, “The Show Goes On.” “We were bouncing around ideas and we thought about how the world was going to end in 2012 but the show was early 2013 so ‘The Show Goes On’ even though the world ended. We also like the song by Lupe Fiasco,” Curriگان said.

The show was an enjoyable experience for dancers.

“I liked getting the opportunity to choreograph and perform dances with friends,” senior Elizabeth Youngwith said.

With it being Youngwith’s

senior year, show was her last performance at the school.

“It was bittersweet. I love to perform and share my talents so it was sad to realize it was my last show,” Youngwith said.

Curriگان participated in the same dances as Youngwith.

Dancers not only performed in the dances but choreographed them.

“(I performed in) ‘Lights,’ ‘Some Nights,’ ‘Bird Flu,’ ‘Senior,’ ‘Everybody Talks,’ and the finale. I helped choreograph ‘Lights’ and ‘Some Nights,’” Youngwith said.

One song in particular stood out for Curriگان.

“‘Some Nights’ was my favorite because it was really fun,” Curriگان said.

Not only did the dancers enjoy the performance, but the audience as well.

“The dancing was awesome. I wish I could dance like that,” Borek said. “I really like (junior) Cristin Zapitul’s solo.”

Audience members enjoyed the performance as well.

“I thought it was pretty good. I thought the dancers did a good job in their performance,” freshman Emily Biondo said.

Survey: Climate development

Continued from page 1

environment,” Ponce said. “We want the teachers to collaborate and to be able to talk about teaching and learning together, and we want ambitious instructors so students experience rigor and relevance in their curriculum.”

While Cheng, Ponce, and Chambers, who are responsible for administering the surveys, hope the surveys expose areas that need to be improved, they also hope the strengths of the school will be shown as well.

“Overall, we have dedicated, hardworking, qualified teachers, and I hope the survey results reflect that,” Chambers said. “They’re our biggest asset.”

The completed surveys will be sent to the University of Chicago, where they will calculate a score report and send it to Cheng and Ponce in June or July.

Results will also appear on the Illinois School Report card and will be made public in fall.

Foreign exchange brings new perspective to cultures

By **Alexandra Garibay**
Reporter

For most students, seeing snow is not big deal, but for the Costa Rican students who came on Jan. 10 it was a moment to never forget.

Students and Costa Ricans alike both experienced a new culture and language over the two-week foreign exchange.

Costa Rican students had a chance to experience life as a student at the school instead of their usual life at Saint John School in Alajuela, Costa Rica.

“I like my host, they are very funny. I wouldn’t change them,” Monica Cruz said.

Freshman Lindsay Bruce, whose brother was one of the hosts, had to adjust to having Costa Rican Rafael Moya with her.

“It was pretty easy adjusting, but pretty much we did what we normally do. On weekends he’d go to our basketball games. We did exactly what we did every day, so he had to adjust more than I had,” Bruce said.

Some Costa Rican students got the opportunity to visit Wisconsin, go snowboarding, and even visit a waterpark with their host families.

“My personal favorite (part of their visiting) was seeing

their reactions to snow (since they’ve never seen it before). They were honestly so cute. They stuck out their tongues and tried eating it,” Bruce said.

Even students who did not host a Costa Rican had the opportunity to meet them in school.

Junior Gaby Lopez met some of the exchange students and bonded with them.

“I loved showing them around and hearing how they like America. One of the girls said it was just like the movies. I thought it was sweet,” Lopez said.

With a foreign exchange comes the opportunity to learn about a different culture.

“I’ve experienced a whole new culture. I learned a lot about Costa Ricans. Also,

they helped me with my Spanish as well,” Bruce said.

During the Costa Rican’s class presentation to one of the Spanish classes, the students discussed the similarities in music they have back home compared to what people listen to in America as well as the similar foods.

“We like it (in America) a lot. We’re not leaving, we want to move here,” Valeria

Soto said. Costa Rican students agreed that their favorite part of the trip was being able to go to downtown Chicago, the Shedd Aquarium, the Field Museum, and the Art Institute.

Students gained a lot of friendships, experiences, and the chance to show Costa Ricans the differences between American and Costa Rican life.

“It’s important to have an outside perspective, learn about yourself, your own customs, own culture through a fresh set of eyes,” Spanish teacher Elizabeth Govertsen said.

Costa Rican students gained a lot of knowledge as well.

“They got to practice their language, also a big opportunity to experience the city like the Field Museum, Planetarium, and experience culture. I hope it helped dispel the negative stereotypes of Americans,” Govertsen said.

The Costa Ricans left the school on Jan. 28, but those who hosted had an enjoyable time with them.

“I had a blast hosting. It was a great experience. I would recommend it to anyone. It was very enjoyable,” Bruce said.

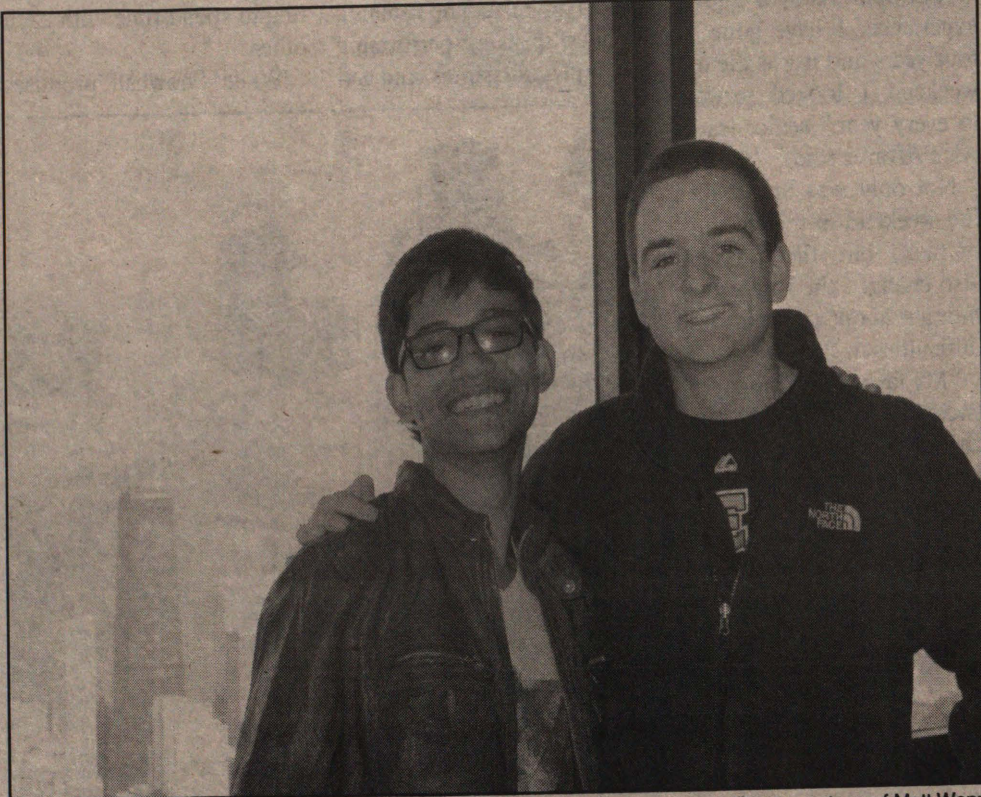


Photo courtesy of Matt Wenz

While visiting the Willis Tower, Costa Rican Fabián Lopez bonds with his host senior Matt Wenz.

Skating to the top with academic honor

By **Ericka Hauptman**
Reporter

Student of the Month is based on a solid academic history, commitment in extra-curricular activities, and community involvement. Students must be nominated by at least one staff member, and the final selection is made by the student activities director and committee made up of additional staff members.

Being involved in his hockey team and working hard in and outside of the classroom has earned senior Ryan Cooper January Student of the Month.

Cooper was surprised when he found out he was the Student of the Month.

"I was thinking to myself how did I get Student of the

Month? So many other people deserved it that I didn't expect it at all," Cooper said.

Along with his involvement in the Wildhawks hockey team, he has volunteered with the hockey team to pack food for the community for those in need.

Cooper plans on attending the University of Iowa and majoring in physical therapy and hopefully playing hockey in a league.

While being so involved in high school, Cooper has created many good memories.

"What I liked most about high school is all of the great experiences I've had throughout school and meeting all of my friends. High school has made me who I am today," Cooper said.



Photo by Ericka Hauptman

After two years playing on the Wildhawks and dedication to his academics, senior Ryan Cooper earned January Student of the Month.



Photo by Gus MacPherson

During Slammin' at Sundown, Adam Gottlieb, left, and Lamar Jordan perform a duo slam piece.

Slammin' down the house

By **Gus MacPherson**
Reporter

WeGo Ink broke it down at the Slammin' at Sundown poetry slam on Jan. 12.

WeGo Ink consists of seniors Aaron Fagalde, Michael McCarthy, Shannon Rodgers, junior Ashley Anderson, and sophomore Julia Dieter.

While the team didn't make it to finals, they still consider the event a success.

"We got a feel for what it will be like when we go downtown for the 'Louder than a Bomb' competition," McCarthy said. "I think we are more prepared than we were last year."

McCarthy was not on the performing team last year, but he went to both of WeGo Ink's "Louder than a Bomb"

competition rounds as a spectator.

Coach Amanda Cordes thought Slammin' at Sundown was a good experience for the team.

"I think they did very well, and I think that we were able to make really concrete observations for next steps," Cordes said.

"Louder than a Bomb" begins Feb. 22.

"I think this definitely prepared me. I think I am ready, I think the team's ready," Anderson said.

Indian Creek High School, Julian High School, Leyden High School, Plainfield East High School, and Plainfield Middle School were part of the Slammin' at Sundown competition along with WeGo Ink.

"Slammin' at Sundown

was about bringing together and helping (the students) get to know each other, all the way from Julian on the south side to Plainfield," Cordes said.

Plainfield Middle School won the competition.

"Plainfield Middle School deserved to win; they did a really great job, and I am really happy for them," Rodgers said.

"Louder than a Bomb's" staff sent along some professional guest poets to host the competition and lead writing workshops. These poets were Adam Gottlieb, Jose Olivares, Raych Jackson, Lamar Jordan, and Manrice Me-away.

"They really knew what they were doing, and they gave me some great advice," McCarthy said.

Opportunity to make friends, memories

By **Darcy Akins**
Perspectives Editor

After an unforgettable weekend with new friends and memories, Snowball members returned to school with no regrets.

From Jan. 18-20, students went to Laredo Taft to make new friends and learn about themselves as a part of Snowball.

"I think students enjoy building friendships, and meeting other like-minded students. I think there's a myth that everybody is making poor decisions and everybody is out drinking and partying," adviser Jared Winkquist said. "I think it's really great for kids to meet other students that are making the same choices they are."

This year's students who attended say the trip held up to their expectations.

"Snowball really is a great experience. I have gone all four years and it was the one weekend I looked forward to every year," senior leader Alex Alvarez said.

Not only was Snowball a fun weekend in the students' opinion, but the weekend also changed the way people thought about problems and difficulties in their lives.

"My favorite part is experiencing how one weekend can change so many people's perspectives on life," sophomore Amy Goldsmith said.

One of the many activities students get to do throughout the weekend is to meet new people they wouldn't have otherwise met.

"It's a great way to meet new people and it's just an awesome weekend," Alvarez said.

Some of the activities the members of Snowball partic-

ipated in included, listening to guest speakers, performing skits, playing games, and get-

ting to spend time with each other.

While Snowball promises



Photo courtesy of Emma Noelke

At Snowball, participants make posters about who they wanted to be remembered as.

to be a fun weekend away, it is also helped students feel more socially comfortable.

"For me, Snowball was more of a safe haven socially. I knew people were going to respect one another no matter what, and it just goes to show how far a little love can go," junior Erin Powell said.

As for students interested in going in the coming years, Alvarez says you won't be disappointed.

"I encourage everyone to go because if you do, I guarantee you won't regret it," Alvarez said.

Students and advisers are hoping for a good turnout next year as well.

"My hope and expectations for next year's trip are always the same. I hope that kids come and be impacted and be open-minded, and learn about positive choices, because there are a lot of students out there making those same choices," Winkquist said.

Involvement leads to educational honor for senior

By Liz Ramos
Co-Editor in Chief

Student of the Month is based on a solid academic history, commitment in extra-curricular activities, and community involvement. Students must be nominated by at least one staff member, and the final selection is made by the student activities director and committee made up of additional staff members.

With her involvement in numerous clubs and sports, senior Andrea Skipor has earned the title of December Student of the Month.

"I was very excited (when I found out I was Student of the Month)," Skipor said.

Skipor takes part in many extracurricular activities.

"I am in National Honor

Society, Pep Club, and the varsity volleyball team. I am an ambassador, and I participate in Habitat for Humanity for the school," Skipor said.

After high school, Skipor plans to play volleyball at a university.

"I plan on attending Columbus State University. It's in Columbus, Georgia. I plan on majoring in psychology," Skipor said.

Although moving on to college, Skipor has memories and enjoyable moments to reminisce over from high school.

"My favorite parts about high school are being in so many activities and leaving a part of me behind in the school by tutoring," Skipor said.

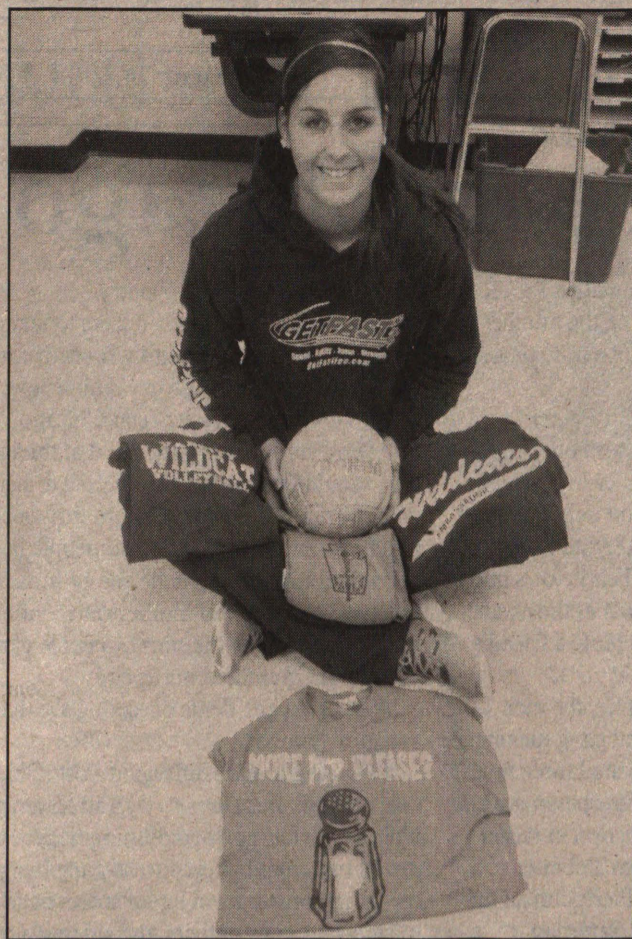


Photo by Alexandra Garibay
With being a part of Pep Club, volleyball, National Honor Society, and Habitat for Humanity, senior Andrea Skipor has earned the title of December Student of the Month.

Training: Inspiration for change

Continued from page 1

ideas about moving forward with what to do at our school," Cordes said. "(Cheng) was positive and liked our ideas."

The group decided to meet again as a whole on Feb. 25.

The teachers agreed that further action needs to be taken after the training.

"In addition to the state survey, we want something immediately so we can prioritize data based on what the students think," Fikis said.

Specific measures are to be taken so the team can take the first steps to improving the school climate.

"We talked about how we wanted to gather data alongside the required survey. Someway we wanted to gather data that would give us immediate feedback which would apply to the school," Cordes said.

Some ideas have been pitched already.

"We talked about doing a combination of a survey and authentic discussion type of feedback which would focus on a group of students who would be interviewed," Cordes said. "We know we want to get feedback in a survey format and conversation, it needs to be said out loud."

This session allowed the staff and administration to look at the school now and think of ways to improve.

"We shared an understanding of who we are as a school and points about how to proactively improve," Cheng said.

For some teachers it was a reminder of how important school climate is.

"It reminded me that my state of mind affects everyone around me and motivates me to work to get students voice out. We need to hear from the students," Sanders said.

All opinions need to be taken into consideration to truly know what the climate of the school is.

"I want to know what the students think is good because then we will know what is good and what we need to work on," Fikis said.

By learning what all the opinions on the climate are, the staff will be following Cardello's advice.

"Climate is a part of who we are as a school and the best way to do that is by infusing that to kids daily by the things we do," Cheng said.

Special moments at the Capitol

By Guadalupe Blanco
Lifestyles Editor

After hard work and making a trip to President Barack Obama's inauguration festivities, junior Janaki Thakker is continuing with her involvement in politics.

"(The trip) was almost like a dream, I did not expect it to happen, and the next second I'm in D.C.," Thakker said.

Thakker earned the trip to Washington D.C. with an essay she submitted to Mikva, a civic leadership group, and through helping to campaign for Obama in Wisconsin.

Mikva organized the trip with many different tours.

"We went on a moonlight tour, where we saw all the historic monuments. To get more historical background of the city, we went to different museums like the Holocaust and American History museum," Thakker said. "To brighten up the mood, we went to a comedy show 'Capitol Steps' where we could see the enjoyable aspects of politics."

While Thakker enjoyed the tour, the best part was going to the presidential inauguration.

"It was absolutely exhilarating to realize that with a million other people, (we were) seeing something that will make it in history textbooks someday. That idea really excited me the most about the inauguration," Thakker said.

For Thakker, the variety

of people at the presidential inauguration only made the experience more memorable.

"It was basically a pep assembly for political nerds. People were screaming and chanting. We were cold but crammed together with people from all over the world," Thakker said. "I remember that I was talking to people not only from the United States but also from Mexico, France, and Spain. One of the coolest parts was that my group of friends and I started an 'Obama' chant and everyone around us followed."

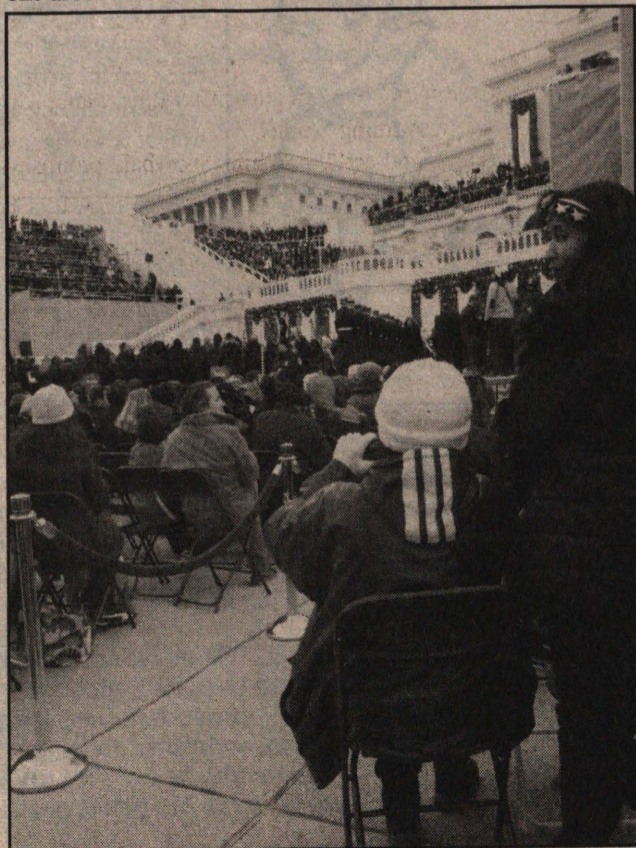


Photo courtesy of Janaki Thakker
While on her trip with the Mikva group, junior Janaki Thakker sees President Barack Obama's inauguration for his second term.

In the end, Thakker's opinions were only strengthened at Obama's inauguration at the end of the trip.

"(The inauguration) was one of the really special moments in history where a democratic leader was the most liberal that any democratic leader's ever been," Thakker said.

However, for Thakker, the trip was more than just visiting museums and learning facts, as she felt that her voice and opinions were being heard.

All 14 of the Mikva win-

ners were able to talk to congressmen, as well as discuss the current state of the government and education.

"I talked to Congressmen Brad Schneider and the Chicago AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations) leader Jorge Ramirez about the way Congress is working, since they're all kind of freshmen in Congress," Thakker said. "It was a chance to see what it was like working with politics, and we also asked questions to see what it was like to be working with politicians, understand their jobs and details of their opinions on politics today."

After talking to so many people involved in the government, Thakker feels stronger than ever about teenagers getting involved in politics.

"A lot of people say that 'I'm one person; I can't make a difference, leave it to the politicians,' but this is our world too. It's like saying that you live in a house and your mom's the only one in charge and you can't do anything," Thakker said. "You can take steps, and you will be heard. Every single person should understand that you really can make a difference."

Overall, Thakker feels that her trip to Washington D.C. served to strengthen her opinions of politics.

"Even though I might not want to go into politics in college, I still want to continue on. I want to continue with the Mikva challenge, continue on with civic rights, and whatever it takes to make a difference," Thakker said.

Perspectives

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February 14, 2013

Wildcat Chronicle

Our View

Violence in Chicago needs to end

After the killing of 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton and Chicago breaking the record of the number of homicides in January since 2002, it's time to ask when does the violence end?

Pendleton performed at President Barack Obama's inauguration on Jan. 21 and only eight days later was fatally shot on Jan. 29 in Harsh Park, in Chicago's North Kenwood neighborhood.

Two suspects, Michael Ward, 18, and Kenneth Williams, 20, were charged with Pendleton's murder on Saturday. Both were arrested as they were on their way to a strip club to celebrate a friend's birthday.

According to the Chicago Tribune, the men thought they were shooting at rival gang members.

Ward had been previously "arrested three times in connection with break-ins and trespassing while on probation for a weapons conviction in recent months," according to the Chicago Tribune.

Michelle Obama, along with other political figures attended Pendleton's funeral Saturday.

According to Chicago Police reports, Pendleton is part of record breaking homicides, with over 46 in January 2013, compared to 45 in January 2002. In 2012, Chicago saw 40 murders in January and 506 murders overall.

Pendleton's murder was a wake-up call for every-

one in Chicago and the country.

The question is why did it have to take the life of an innocent 15-year-old girl who performed at the inauguration to make people realize how much we need to control the violence in Chicago?

If Pendleton hadn't performed at the inauguration, would Chicago be responding to her death with outrage from Mayor Rahm Emanuel and a visit from the first lady? Would people be as upset?

Pendleton's death may be one of hundreds to follow this year if this murder rate continues, but hopefully it will be the start of people caring about all who are murdered in the city.

Most of the incidents occurring are due to gangs and gun violence.

According to the Huffington Post, Chicago has taken certain measures to try and lessen gang violence including "demolishing dozens of abandoned buildings believed to be gang hangouts, revoking licenses from liquor stores believed to be magnets for gang activity and signing a controversial \$1 million contract with Ceasefire, an anti-violence group that uses convicted felons to mediate gang conflicts."

Obviously, these attempts have not worked well as gangs are still continuing to fight against each other and killing innocent bystanders like Pendle-

ton.

In order to stop gangs, the only true solution is to catch those in gangs and prevent people from joining gangs.

To do so, parents and students should be notified of the dangers of gangs.

Fewer people joining gangs means fewer gangs.

Another solution to stopping gangs is having more police officers on the streets.

Emanuel and Chicago Police Superintendent Gary McCarthy decided to put 200 more police officers on the streets in hope of making Chicago safer, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Having more police officers is a start to lowering crime rates and ending gang violence but it won't solve the violence problem entirely because there's still the problem of gun violence.

In 2012 there were 2,460 shooting incidents.

Adding more laws on gun control and giving background checks to people wanting to buy a gun will help some, but it won't help with the problem of people having illegal guns.

Politicians and police need to realize there are more ways to get a gun than the right way. Although Chicago has taken steps to end the violence, we still need to work to find better solutions to save the innocent children with bright futures.

Everyone loses with focus on weight

With the media influencing society's focus, it is no surprise the story of Baltimore Ravens cheerleader Courtney Lenz being banned from cheering at the Super Bowl because of her weight gain became a topic of discussion.

She weighed her normal 124 pounds when the Ravens wanted her to drop down to 120.

Lenz alleges her weight gain prevented her from traveling to New Orleans to cheer in the big game.

When she was interviewed on "Good Morning America" she said that the cheerleaders are weighed every week and that they wanted her to be consistent or lose weight.

In Lenz's case, she had previously been benched for a game as a disciplinary action, which means being banned from going to the Super Bowl.

Lenz wasn't the only one with disciplinary action, but the other girls who had disciplinary actions towards them were still allowed to cheer at the Super Bowl.

Lenz brought this to the attention of all the fans and the media because she believed that it wasn't right to be banned from cheering because of weight gain.

Although the Ravens never told her that weight gain was the reason she was benched, Lenz suspects that is the only reason.

What would the reason be other than weight

gain? Others should have been benched for disciplinary actions but were not. Presumably they were at or under 120 pounds.

Discriminating against size or weight gain is wrong and the Chronicle does not support the actions.

This story raises the question, are looks the only way to get anywhere in life?

Role models are something all kids have, and when they see that you have to be 'skinny' to be pretty they start to follow along.

When kids start to become something they're not, they become self conscience about themselves.

Today, so many kids are bullied because of their weight because of the fact that being skinny is the only right way to look now in society.

Even magazines make a statement when they only use skinny girls on their covers with super-models who are stick thin.

According to HealthDay, a study found that being overweight increased the target of bullying by 63 percent.

In society looks are becoming more important than who we are.

Look at the health risks too. Celebrities are pressured to be thin so they crash diet and starve themselves and do all the wrong things to lose weight.

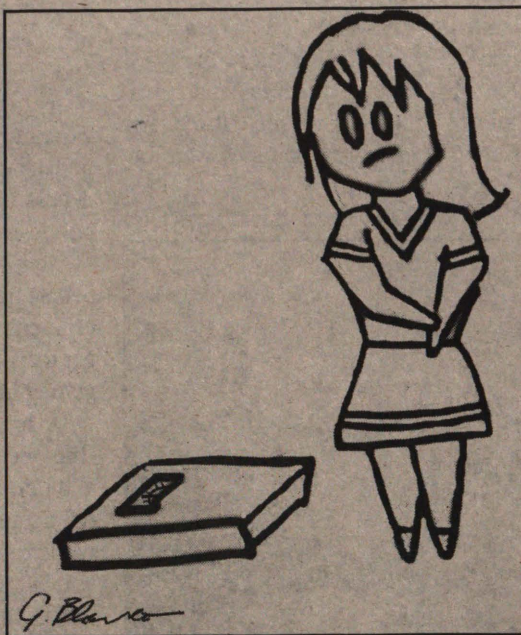
Many celebrities go to rehab for anorexia, yet these are the people children look up to.

Discriminating against someone for being overweight is wrong and needs to be stopped.

Banning a cheerleader for gaining weight just goes to show that even a NFL football team cares too much about looks.

It's crazy how we can judge people so harshly who look at themselves and think they are beautiful just to be put down because they're 'too fat'.

No one should have to be forced to look a certain way to prove they are beautiful.



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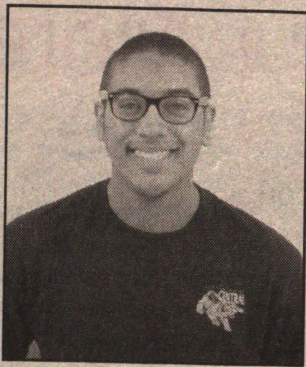
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although staff members may withhold a name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and may refuse to publish 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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For the 'love' of the game



By **Akeem Asani**
Reporter

Sports fans and people alike, including me, fell in love with the story of Manti Te'o, the star linebacker of Notre Dame, and his feel-good romance story.

In November of 2009, Te'o and Lennay Kekua started an online romance after a football game at Stanford University and continued until "Kekua" supposedly died in a car accident while battling leukemia.

Despite all the hardships, including the death of his grandmother merely hours apart from Kekua's death, Te'o led his Notre Dame team to a national title game and finished as the runner-up for this year's Heisman Trophy.

This was a textbook perfect story that inspired and captivated the entire

nation. Unfortunately, the story was too good to be true; it's all a hoax, and Kekua never even existed.

I couldn't help but feel betrayed as a sports fan because everyone loves a good underdog story.

After all the media interviews and developments, I have to admit something I never thought I would say:

Te'o might be the most naive person to grace this planet.

Ronaiah Tuiaosopo played the part of Te'o's "girlfriend" and is apparently the man behind the whole hoax. According to CNN.com, Tuiaosopo couldn't accomplish "things" as himself, and he created the fictional Kekua because he felt he needed to.

With a history of sexual abuse beginning when he was 12, Tuiaosopo blames his past on what he did to Te'o, and according to CNN.com, credits that he "wanted to help him become better (person)." Photos of Kekua are thought to have been stolen from another woman's social profile without her knowing and used for Kekua's fake social media account.

At first, Tuiaosopo allegedly played the part of Kekua on the phone, and spoke with Te'o on the phone for more than 500 hours.

New developments now show that three different voice analysts confirm Tuiaosopo's voice matches the previ-

ous recordings.

Some people side with what Te'o says and believe that he is the victim of the hoax.

I personally don't know what to believe because it feels like there's a new development every other day, making this story just as confusing as the names involved. However, I don't think I buy into the hoax.

How can somebody be in love with someone that they have never hugged? Or touched? Or even kissed?

Te'o never even visited her on Thanksgiving, Christmas, spring break, or any other break in between.

Worst of all, he wasn't even by her side when she was diagnosed with cancer, when she was involved in her car accident, or even at her funeral. Do you call that true love? I don't think so.

Last time I checked, college football wasn't meant to be a soap opera.

Yes, sports are meant to be dramatic, but not in a gossip kind of way.

They're meant to be enjoyed with friends and family and the Te'o saga is just ruining that spirit.

Every time I watch ESPN, they always have something to add to it. Can't it just all be over?

Hopefully in the future of sports, we can keep out the social media and just enjoy sports so fans like me don't feel betrayed again.

have, put their differences aside and adjust to it.

Because when people join the army it's to serve their country and have pride in what they do.

Imagine joining the Army only to find out you are not allowed to actually fight in combat?

If I would've joined the army and been told I was not allowed to fight on the front lines because of my gender I would feel worthless, especially considering I am voluntarily going into the Army as opposed to being forced.

At least now we can move on from this meaningless rule.

Now 1,186 positions at battalion level are going to be open to women in the Army, Marine Corps and Navy.

Also, six occupational specialties and 13,000 positions are now available to women.

Even with all the openings, 280,000 positions are still closed to women due to the policy.

By the summer those closed positions could become available to women soldiers.

The question I have is why wait until the summer?

Positions that are still closed should become available while they're opening other positions for women.

They shouldn't have females waiting for certain positions to become available for them.

If someone joins the Army it's because they're willing to be in combat and know the challenges and difficulties that come with being a soldier.

Females have worked hard enough to be able to join the Army, they deserve to be fighting in combat.

I believe this exclusion rule should have ended a long time ago.

New faces, same standards



By **Alexandra Garibay**
Reporter

After years of women fighting for equal rights, it's about time they have the right to fight in combat.

Just last month Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced an ending to this exclusion rule, allowing women soldiers to finally be able to fight on the front lines.

In 1994, a Direct Ground Combat Exclusion Rule was created to exclude female soldiers from fighting at the front lines.

The point of this exclusion rule was to keep women from being assigned to units where they would have to engage in combat and be exposed to combat.

Women have always been looked down upon and thought that they can't do everything men do.

It has been thought that a woman's place is at home watching the kids, cooking food, or cleaning, but over

the years women have changed the stereotypes.

Women have shown that they are capable of so much more than people think they are.

I believe women have proven that they are capable of fighting in combat with men by showing they're willing to be in the Army and by the notable increase of females in the Army over the years.

In 1983, there was a total percentage of 9.8 female soldiers in the Army. Now, it is 14.6 percent, according to the official website for the Army.

For centuries women have been fighting for equal rights that men have, like getting the right to vote.

To exclude women from fighting in the military is just ridiculous.

Yet there are some people that agree with this rule and believe it should stay in effect and not change.

These people believe having women fighting in the Army is a distraction to men.

If the men get distracted by women that's their own fault, not the women's.

Women realize that being a soldier is a serious job and not something to be joked around with.

They would not be causing trouble or distractions on purpose.

Men and women might have trouble adjusting to having both genders fighting on the front lines but I believe they can overcome any fears or doubts they

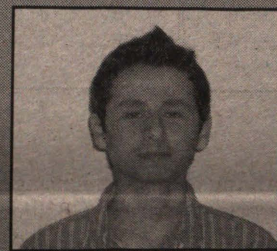
Students Speak

Compiled by Gus MacPherson

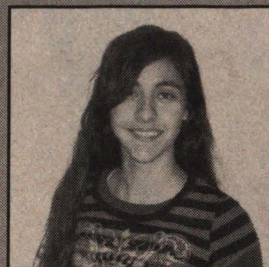
What are your thoughts on the Manti Te'o romance story?



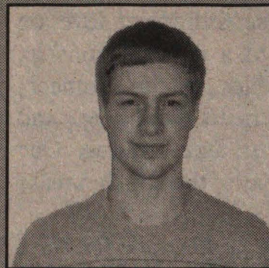
Freshman
Christy Perez
"He is weird and selfish; he was just trying to get publicity."



Sophomore
Isaias Flores
"The whole thing is bogus and he was really just doing it for the attention."



Junior
Diana Beltran
"It's pretty pathetic."



Senior
Kevin Stockman
"I think he is stupid for trying that, and he is desperate for attention."

love [luhv] *noun, verb*, loved, lov-ing.

noun

1. a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person.
2. a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend.

*From www.dictionary.com



Love vs. Lust

By Guadalupe Blanco
Lifestyles Editor

Those feelings of love are there in a new relationship. Butterflies in the stomach, rapid heart pounding, and a warm fuzzy feeling. One week later, the couple breaks up.

Such is the case for most teenage relationships and even relationships after high school, and it begs the question: what is the difference between love and infatuation?

According to www.psychcentral.com, infatuation is characterized by unrealistic

expectations of blissful passion, but without the trust, loyalty, or commitment. This, in turn, is why short-term relationships are prone to failing.

"Symptoms" of lust, according to www.psychologytoday.com, include being focused on a person's looks, lack of meaningful conversation, and wanting to keep the relationship on a fantasy level.

However, most couples in relationships are infatuated with their partner to a certain degree.

The most common occurrence of "healthy lust"

includes thinking of a significant other when they're apart.

Love, on the other hand, cannot be so easily defined.

Unlike the "symptoms" of lust, symptoms of love include being able to talk about various topics for hours, listening to each other's feelings, and wanting to make each other better people, according to www.psychologytoday.com.

While these signs are typical of love, it does not cover all branches.

According to www.psychologytoday.com, psychologist John Lee was able to di-

vide love into six major categories.

Eros is the first category in which there is desire for an idolized other.

Next, ludos is identified as playful or game-like love.

Storge is the third, being categorized as a slow, developing attachment, then mania, which is obsessive and jealous love.

Agape and pragma are the last two categories of love.

Agape is unselfish love, with pragma being practical

More than

By Liz Ramos
Co-Editor in Chief

Not many people would expect a relationship to last a long time in high school, but these couples have somehow made it work.

Freshman couple Marcy Gonzalez and Chris Stibal have been together for a little over a year and consider themselves in love.

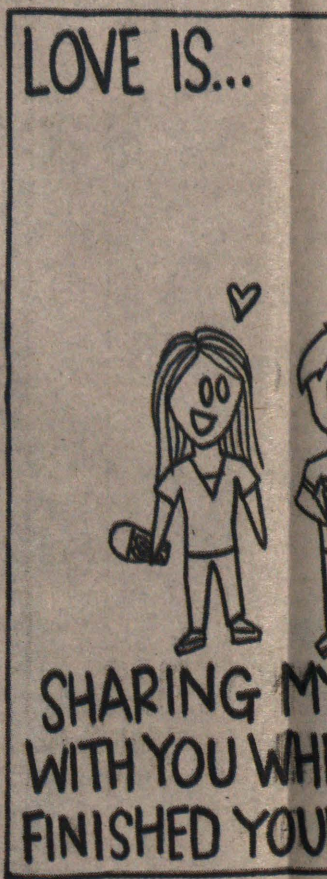
"I like being with her and getting to do stuff with her," Stibal said.

After three months into the relationship, Gonzalez and Stibal were in love.

"(I would describe falling in love as) when you feel comfortable enough in the relationship and have confidence in the other person," Gonzalez said.

Sophomore couple Ana Montanez and John Kulikowski have also been together for a year and a month and found themselves in love a month into the relationship.

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love.
In a relation-
ship, it can be
hard to tell the
difference be-
tween love and lust,
but the rule of the thumb
is this: does the relationship
bring out the best in both
people?
In the end, that teenage relationship
that only lasted a
week probably ended because
there was no real love.

is love?

man just puppy love

"You realize you can talk to them about anything and they're your best friend as much as your boyfriend or girlfriend," Montanez said.

Junior couple Sean Young and Gracie O'Malley have been in a relationship for a year and five months.

"I think I know I'm in love because I'm extremely comfortable with him and I can do or say anything and I know he's still going to love me," O'Malley said.

Although they fight sometimes, Young and O'Malley know what's important.

"Everyone says trust is most important in a relationship and it's definitely true but so is forgiveness," Young said.

Senior couple Jared Baranowski and Julia Caithamer have been together for two and a half years as of Jan. 13.

"I love the fact that I can be myself around her. One thing I like a lot is that we can talk about anything," Ba-

ranowski said.

Their relationship started as being best friends their freshman year.

"Jared and I have been best friends since freshman year so I've always kind of loved him but I was never in love with him," Caithamer said. "So I think when we started dating it took me a while to say that I was in love with him instead of saying I love him."

It was eight months before these two teenagers found themselves in love.

"The more we dated the more and more I liked her,

and there was never really a point in time but it was a good way into our relationship when I could say I actually am in love with you," Baranowski said.

Throughout the years, there have been ups and downs for Caithamer and Baranowski.

"You have to get through some hard times you have to get through some really good times. You have to be able to have fun. You have to really get to know the person," Baranowski said.



Truth about love

By Gus MacPherson
Reporter

While love has many definitions, psychology has its own view of love; from love at first sight to long term relationships. Love normally begins with attraction. "You're attracted to certain people, and what attracts you to them is looks, similarities, and proximity," psychology teacher Barbara Laimins said. "If you have things in common, if you think they are good looking, and if you see them." Psychologist Robert Sternberg (1949-present) created a theory of love called the triangle love theory, which uses a triangle to explain healthy love. Intimacy, passion, and commitment are the points on the triangle and according to the theory a good relationship has elements of all three. Psychology also says there are ways to know who you will be attracted to before you even meet them. "Clyde Hendricks and Susan Hendricks (American psychologists), created six types of love (passionate love, the game of love, good friendship, practical love, dependent love, and non-demanding love), and they created a test to find your love type," Laimins said. Psychology provides an idea about love at first sight as well. "There is a theory that you have an instant attraction to someone, better known as love at first sight, that there is someone out there for all of us, and if you meet them you know it's them," Laimins said.

XOXO



Sternberg's Triangle Scale Love Quiz

Which are the strongest components of your relationship? Intimacy, passion, or commitment? Rate your agreement with each of the following items using a 9 point scale in which 1=not at all, 5=moderately, and 9=extremely.

Intimacy Component	Passion Component	Commitment Component
I am actively supportive of his/her well being.	I find myself thinking about him/her frequently during the day.	I am committed to maintaining my relationship with him/her.
I am able to count on him/her in times of need.	I cannot imagine another person making me as happy as he/she does.	I would not let people come between him/her and me.
I am willing to share myself and my possessions with him/her.	I find him/her to be very personally attractive.	I view my relationship with him/her as permanent.

Add your rankings for each of these three sections and divide each subscore by 3 to get to get an average subscale score. An average rating of 5 on a particular subscale indicates a moderate level of the component represented by the subscale.

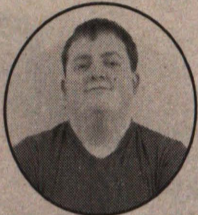





*Quiz courtesy of psychology teacher Barbara Laimins



Lifestyles

HELLO my name is

Trending: Names

		Senior Michael McCarthy			Sophomore Michael Quiroz			Junior Jacob Plant	
Guys	Girls		Guys	Girls		Guys	Girls		
1. James	1. Mary		1. Michael	1. Jennifer		1. Michael	1. Jessica		
2. Michael	2. Linda		2. Christopher	2. Amy		2. Christopher	2. Ashley		
3. Robert	3. Patricia		3. Jason	3. Melissa		3. Matthew	3. Emily		
1950s		1960s		1970s		1980s		1990s	
		Guys	Girls		Guys	Girls			
		1. Michael	1. Lisa		1. Michael	1. Jessica		Guys	
		2. David	2. Mary		2. Christopher	2. Jennifer		1. Jacob	
		3. John	3. Susan		3. Matthew	3. Amanda		2. Michael	
								3. Joshua	
								1. Emily	
								2. Madison	
								3. Emma	

*Information compiled by Sarah Szremski from www.ssa.gov

**Photos by Darcy Akins and Gus MacPherson

Is your name on the list?

Playing the name game

By Sarah Dalla Costa
Reporter

Over and over, several times per day, people's names are heard and spoken. Names are how people identify each other, after all.

Some people, however, develop nicknames which they may go by instead of using their original names.

These nicknames offer individuality, and one moment can be the spark starting a nickname, which can then spread like wildfire.

Being passionate about a topic is one potential cause of a nickname.

Senior Eric Medina's nickname "Banana" comes from his belief that bananas are going extinct.

"It's a terrible thing considering bananas are such a good fruit," Medina said.

He heard about the issue when reading a book called "Bananas" in British World Literature.

The numbers of bananas are decreasing due to a fungal disease, according to Medina, who isn't sure how the disease started.

When Medina is older, he wants to start an organization called "Save the Bananas

Foundation" where he plans on donating money to help save bananas from going extinct. The foundation's main goal would be trying to prevent the fungal disease.

Bananas are Medina's favorite food, and he doesn't want bananas to become nonexistent.

"They're good for you. They're healthy, and how can you make a banana smoothie without bananas?" Medina said.

Shortening one's original name is fairly common. But even doing so may create a memorable moment.

Senior Catherina "Cat" Canestrelli shortened her name so it would be quicker for her soccer coach to say.

However, it caused a misunderstanding in her childhood. Since she goes by "Cat," a kid wanted to know if she acted like a real cat.

"In second grade, this kid named Tom, he asked if I pooped in the litter box, and to entertain him, I said yes. So from then on kids thought I pooped in the litter box," Canestrelli said.

As people associate themselves with names, they also do so with hobbies and life-

styles.

Sophomore Michael Carroso's nickname Vejo comes from the combination of the words "vegan" and "banjo."

Carroso sometimes shows his banjo skills at school when he brings the instrument to play.

"During eighth grade in the talent show, I played 'Free Bird' on the banjo," Carroso said.

He also plays several other instruments including the guitar, bass, piano, harmonica, and drums and is involved in two bands.

According to Carroso, Vejo isn't his only nickname. He's also been called Boo, Banjo Boy, Golden, Happy Feet, and Mic Mac.

On other occasions, names come from characters in books or movies.

Such is for senior Amy Tedeschi, who has the nickname "Kit," referring to the name of the car in the movie "Nightrider."

"My middle name is Katherine, and my older friends last year called me Kit Kat. But they liked 'Nightrider,'" Tedeschi said.

The way one introduces themselves is the choice of that person.

Not everyone will use their birth name, but a nickname.

Process behind name choosing

By Darcy Akins
Perspectives Editor

Choosing a name these days has more to do with than just looking in baby name books; often times the names that people pick have a psychological tie with them.

More and more parents today are naming their children based on state of minds and places, according to www.psychologytoday.com.

Every country might have their own ways and traditions of naming their kids, but every region is subject to parents naming their children after personal experiences.

In Argentina, it is common to name your child after someone famous, or a famous sports player, according to www.pocketcultures.com.

However, in America one almost forgotten naming phenomenon was the last name first name phenomenon where you give the child a last name as a first name, and a first name as a last name.

While parents are naming their kids after different experiences, places, and people,

other trends are on the rise as well.

Different ways of spelling common names is also a trend that is on the upswing, according to www.psychologytoday.com.

With so many creative names already out there and almost every name thought up, parents have tried new spellings on common names to make the name they pick more creative.

Some common new spellings include names like Jaxon for Jackson, Kassidy for Cassidy, and Jazmine for Jasmine.

Along with new spellings that are a rising trend, another trend is combining two names. Some of these names include the combination of Ashley and Lynn to get Ashlyn and Ryan and Alan to get Rylan.

These days, with all the new ways of naming, it seems almost as though it's a competition between parents of who can come up with the most interesting and creative name, according to www.psychologytoday.com.

Handling life with an unusual name

By Liz Ramos
Co-Editor in Chief

Generally there are names that are common throughout the years but these students have names that make them stand out from the crowd.

Senior Tuyetmai Chau has a Vietnamese name that is common in Vietnam.

Tuyet means snow and mai is a type of flower. Together it means snow flower.

Many people pronounce Chau's name wrong.

"Everyone does because I told them to pronounce it that way. It's supposed to

have a space between tuyet and mai," Chau said.

Chau believes her name fits her personality well.

"My personality is childish and playful around people I'm close to but more reserved and shy around people that I'm not close to. Even though I'm childish and playful, I am very mature for my age," Chau said. "So I think it kind of represents snow because playing in the snow is fun but snow can also be peaceful at times. To me peaceful represents maturity."

Some names are unique even for their culture.

Junior Vishakha Patel has an uncommon name not just in the United States but even in India and means constellation.

"My dad's from central India and my mom's from east India so my dad named me a name from around his birthplace," Patel said.

Vishakha can be hard to pronounce for many people which Patel believes may persuade people not to want to get to know her.

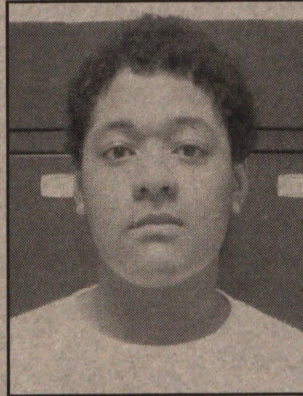
"I feel like since my name is complicated to pronounce a lot of people don't really want to pronounce it so whenever someone sees me they don't really say my name, they just say 'hey'," Patel said.

To make it easier for friends and teachers, Patel usually goes by Vishu.

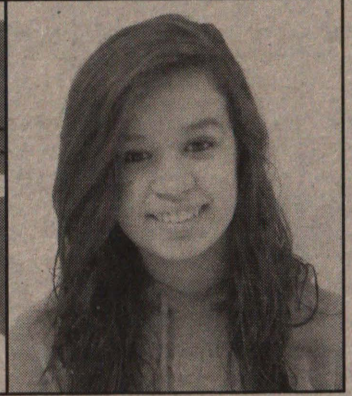
Others are named after actors.

Sophomore Keanu Ingles was named after the actor Keanu Reeves.

"It's unique and no else has it that I know of," Ingles said. Ingles could only think of



Sophomore Keanu Ingles



Freshman Yamilex Gonzalez

one similarity between himself and Reeves.

"He's a good actor. He's talented and I'm talented," Ingles said.

Some of Ingles' talents include being good in school and playing sports.

Reeves has been in movies such as "Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey," "Constantine," "The Last Day on Earth," and "The Matrix" movies.

"I've seen all of 'The Matrix' movies. They're pretty mind twisting. They make you think," Ingles said.

People pronounce Ingles' name wrong as well.

"It's annoying, but I'm used to it because that's been happening for 16 years straight," Ingles said.

Freshman Yamilex Gonzalez was named after an actor as well.

"(My mom) saw (the name Yamilex) in the novella that she liked but she kind of messed it up because it's supposed to be Yamilez," Gonzalez said.

After years of hearing her name wrong Gonzalez goes by Lexi to make it easier.

"I feel kind of mad in a way (when people say my name wrong)," Gonzalez said.



Senior Tuyetmai Chau



Junior Vishakha Patel

When my sister Mayuri was born, my parents best friend looked up her horoscope, which is called a nakshatra, and is based on the moon.

Where the moon is in the sky the day the baby is born determines what letter the child's name begins with. Due to this, my sister was named Mayuri.

My parents did not wish to go through this process again. Therefore, I was named Keyuri because it rhymed with Mayuri.

My name also means a koel, which is a bird from the cuckoo genus.



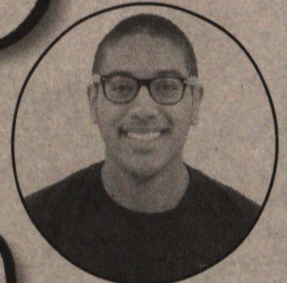
Keyuri Parmar
Co-Editor in Chief

My name comes from the 1988 movie "Coming to America" starring Eddie Murphy.

Murphy plays an African prince in the movie and my father is from Nigeria.

Being fans of the movie, my parents thought it was fitting to name me Akeem.

I best identify with Prince Akeem's personality traits of kindness and how he's outgoing.



Akeem Asani
Reporter

Even though I have a common first name, my middle name Storm, is very uncommon.

While my dad was driving, he came across his favorite car, a 1960 Oldsmobile and on the side of the car was the word "Storm." Thus, my middle was chosen.

Today everyone calls me Storm and even though it may not be a first name, it's a pretty unique middle name and I'm proud of it.

Even though my name isn't uncommon, people do a double take when I tell them I was named after my grandfather, Giulio Caesar Gagliardi, who moved to America from Italy when he was 14.

My mom saw the name "Juliana" in a class reunion book. She liked the name and decided to name me after her father and the traditional Italian spelling.

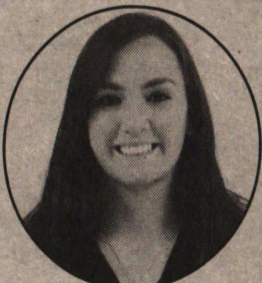
The origin of "Giuliana" is Italian and means young or youthful.



Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

I got my name (Angus) from my grandfather; it is his middle name, and it is tradition to carry the name on in a Scottish family.

When I was born, my father decided to revive the tradition that my family had left behind when they left Scotland.



Ericka Hauptman
Reporter



Gus MacPherson
Reporter

Rare names on the Chronicle

Playing among the guys

Girls are becoming more common on the ice in a typically male sport

By Liz Ramos
Co-Editor in Chief

Hockey is generally known to be a guy's sport, but sophomore Danielle Browning goes against the crowd and plays in an all girls hockey league.

Browning plays U16 division for 15 and 16 year olds on the Chicago Mission, which is made up of different schools from all over Illinois.

"My brother and all his friends played and I always wanted to play too so I begged my mom," Browning said. "I've been playing for about nine years."

Although Browning's family loves hockey, Browning's mother didn't want her to play hockey at first.

"My mom never wanted me to play but now she loves it," Browning said. "She always thought I was going to get hurt and never really wanted me to be in a guy's sport. She wanted me to dance or something, but I just wanted to play hockey."

Being a female hockey player is something Browning is pleased to be.

"I'm actually proud of it because I think it's cool that girls can do a job that guys can do and sometimes better," Browning said.

Some people find it hard to believe there are female hockey players.

"It's really underrated. No one really looks at girls as physical people so they can't accept that girls are out there doing such a physical man sport," Browning said.

People are usually surprised to hear that Browning plays hockey.

"They usually ask me if I get in big fights and they just think it's cool. They don't really believe it because not a lot of girls play," Browning said.

Instead of being more of a physical game, girls hockey tends to be more mental.

"Men's (hockey) is more physical because you can check, but I think women's

(hockey) is more (mental) because you have to stop them without hitting them like the boys do," Browning said. "I think the refs are more serious when it comes down to girls fighting than guys fighting."

Drama on the ice can become intense between the ladies.

"With girls there is a lot of drama sometimes because that's just how girls are," Browning said.

Hockey brings many challenges on and off the ice.

"Some of the challenges just for hockey is that you miss out on a lot of stuff because you're at a lot of away tournaments for the weekend so a lot of Fridays and Saturdays," Browning said.

Women's hockey can be just as competitive as men's.

"It gets really competitive sometimes. There are fights, there's slashing. Girls can be jerks," Browning said. "I've probably only been in one real fist to face fight but I've



Photo courtesy of Danielle Browning

Sophomore Danielle Browning, who has been playing hockey for nine years, attempts to make a shot during one of her games for the Chicago Mission U16 division.

been in a lot of tussles."

Competition and scoring goals are Browning's favorite parts of playing hockey.

"(Scoring a goal) feels amazing because you know you've helped your team and everyone is so proud of you. You know that you're the best one out there at that moment. It's an accomplish-

ment," Browning said.

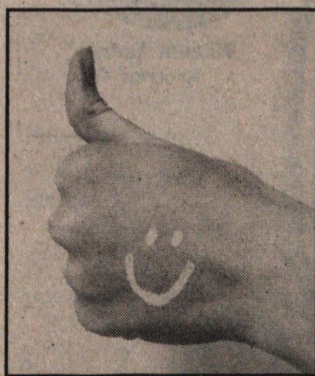
Traveling is another aspect of playing hockey Browning enjoys.

"It's really fun because I get to travel all over the country. It's a really cool way to see the world or the country. I've been to Canada and that's about it. It was fun," Browning said.

Love is in the air

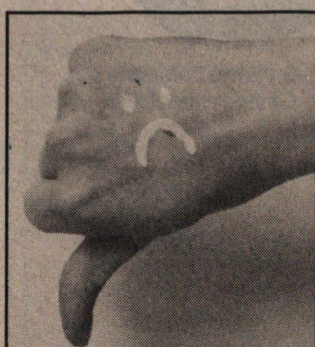
With Valentine's Day here, how do you think your holiday will go? Here are some helpful do's and don'ts

The do's



- Do make reservations in advance
- Do buy the quality chocolate
- Do treat your partner special every other day of the year- you shouldn't need one day as an excuse
- Do wear their favorite scent
- Do make homemade gifts
- Do dress for the occasion
- Do watch romantic movies
- Do send them a crush can of their favorite flavor
- Do your homework on whatever activity planned
- Do appreciate whatever he gets you, even if it is small
- Do be cute and cheesy-but not too cheesy
- Do go out of your way for them
- Do compliment them
- Do kiss her goodnight
- Do open the car door for her
- Do have a plan ahead of time
- Do be classy
- Do be yourself

The don'ts



- Don't get the cheap chocolates from the Dollar Store
- Don't expect too much
- Don't make reservations at White Castle
- Don't overdo it
- Don't get her what she doesn't like
- Don't get too sappy on him
- Don't wait until the last minute
- Don't order garlic at dinner
- Don't leave your date with the check
- Don't ask two different girls out for different times
- Girls: don't accept two different dates for different times
- Don't drench yourself in perfume or cologne
- Don't show up late
- Don't use too much hair spray
- Don't wear sweatpants and a t-shirt
- Don't take it too seriously- it's just a Hallmark holiday
- Don't make her drive
- Don't act all nervous
- Don't ditch them at the last second
- Don't show up unprepared

Sports

Wildcat Chronicle

February 14, 2013

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Photo by Ericka Hauptman

At the game against Wheaton North on Feb. 4, junior Natalie Warkins attempts to maneuver around a guard to pass the ball.

Regional loss

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Center Spread Editor
Keyuri Parmar
Co-Editor in Chief

After putting up a tough fight against rival Glenbard North, the girls basketball team was defeated 40-37, ending their season.

"Since we were playing Glenbard North, it made us have a little more fight in us because we really wanted to beat them," senior Amanda Gosbeth said.

Coach Kim Wallner is proud of the girls for keeping up a tough game.

"We held (Glenbard North) to 40 points which is good for us defensively, but we just couldn't score enough

points," Wallner said. "We had our chances and had some good shots, but they just couldn't go through."

A couple more shots would have resulted in a victory for the girls.

"The defense did really well, but we just needed a couple more shots to follow through," Gosbeth said.

Many achievements were made during the season.

"(Senior Laura Panicali) scored her one thousandth point and broke the single season scoring record senior night," Wallner said.

In addition to breaking the record set in 1985, Panicali was also unanimously named all-conference.

Prep for sectionals

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Center Spread Editor

After receiving fourth place at DVC and their first championship in 12 years, boys swimming has been tapering and preparing for sectionals at Saint Charles East on Saturday.

"(DVC) went very well, we had decent races among everyone," senior captain Mark Cole said.

Despite the successes, the meet had its ups and downs.

"I'm happy the 200 free relay won third," coach Nicole Cleveland said. "I was unhappy all the relays gained time. We'll have to work on that before sectionals."

Eichenberger placed first in the 50 free.

"Winning DVC in the 50 felt great and gave me more motivation to shoot for state,"

Eichenberger said.

Qualifying for state is not out of reach for the team.

"Our biggest goal in sectionals is to get at least one boy down to state," Cleveland said. "(Eichenberger) is (0.3) of a second off of the state cut in the 50 freestyle untapered."

According to Cleveland, tapering helped the boys tremendously last year, and believes the rest period this year will help send Eichenberger to state in the 50 freestyle and 100 free as well.

The boys plan to give the meet their all.

"I'm hoping for a repeat of sectionals last year, everyone did the best they could," Cole said.

Cleveland also feels new swimmers sophomore Thahn Lee and senior Josh Siefert stepped up this season.

"You need eight people to fill a line up at sectionals," Cleveland said. "They have to step up and swim at sectionals, which is not something a first year swimmer normally has to do."

Pushing limits to victory



Photo by Liz Ramos

Senior Jimmy Rizzo put up a tough fight against Wheaton North by attempting to escape from Wheaton North's guard.

By **Liz Ramos**
Co-Editor in Chief

With regionals beginning on Feb. 25, the boys basketball team is pushing their limits to make the last conference games a victory.

On Friday, the team goes up against Glenbard East.

"We want to put together a complete solid 32 minute game against them," coach Bill Recchia said. "We prepare for every game the same way."

With Glenbard East being of the top three in the conference, the Wildcats are ready to put up a fight to get the win.

"We played well against

them last time so we can hopefully play as well as we did last time this time and come out with a win," senior Jimmy Rizzo said.

Shooting may be an element keeping the team from success but having good defense helps the team as well.

"Right now we're playing pretty good team defense and if we keep that up we should be doing pretty well. One of our weaknesses is our shooting hasn't been that well which is not normal for our team," Rizzo said.

To win against Glenbard East the chemistry on and off the court will be important.

"On the court I think there are certain players that have

chemistry with other players and they have it better with certain people. Off the court we're all close," Rizzo said.

Players are working hard individually to make sure the team has success and confidence.

"I expect to compete and maybe come out with a win. I'm just going to be a team player and make the other guys on the team better," junior Ryan Orr said. "I think we have a lot of heart and a lot of quickness. We're not the tallest team in the DVC but our heart makes up for it."

Friday's game against Glenbard East is at home in the Bishop gym at 7:30 p.m.



Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

At practice, sophomore Thahn Lee practices his front stroke in preparation for sectionals.

Moving up: high school to college sports

By Liz Ramos
Co-Editor in Chief
Yesenia Gonzalez
Reporter

For seniors Andie Lazzerini and Dean Pauley, the time has come to move from a high school level of play to college level as they sign to play at universities.

Pauley verbally agreed in January to play football at St. Joseph's College and official-

ly signed on Feb. 6.

"It feels great, one of the happiest moments of my life right now," Pauley said.

Although he has yet to play with the team, he has met some of the players.

"It's a great environment. The kids on the team, they take you in as a family, the team is actually pretty good. It's going to be fun," Pauley said.

St. Joseph's College proves

to have many reasons to be the right university for Pauley.

"My mom graduated from there, it's close to where I used to live. They offered me the most money and it's the best option I have," Pauley said.

Other than playing football, Pauley plans to major in sports management and looks forward to the college experience.

"The classes are smaller, which is good. I'll get more one-on-one time with the teachers, and it's a small community so everyone is together," Pauley said.

Just three hours away from St. Joseph's College will be Lazzerini at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) where she signed to play soccer.

Lazzerini verbally agreed to sign in March and finally signed on Feb. 6.

"I decided to go to (IPFW) because I really liked the team and I really liked the coaches," Lazzerini said. "They had a lot to offer me educationally and athletically too."

Wasting no time, Lazzerini met her team and got a taste of the college life.

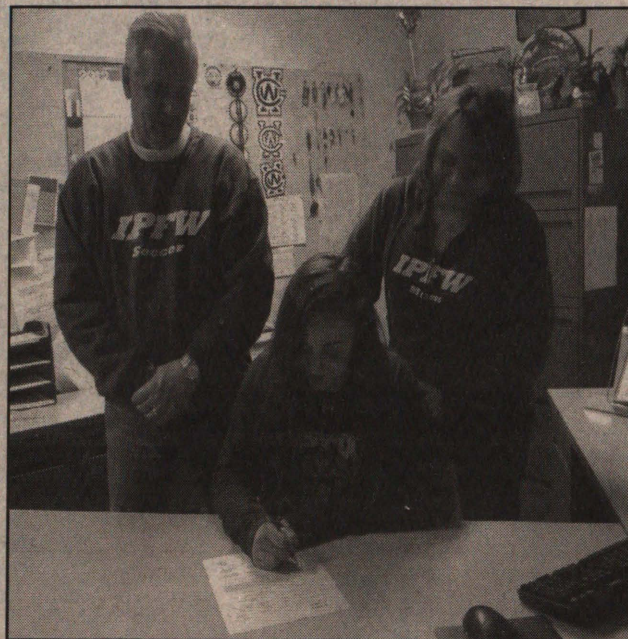


Photo by Liz Ramos

Senior Andie Lazzerini signs with IPFW while her parents look on.

"I played with (the team) over the summer at camp and I've met my roommates," Lazzerini said. "I've met a lot of the team and upperclassmen too."

Being away at college means leaving home which Lazzerini is ready for.

"(I'm looking forward to) being away on my own for once, not having my parents tell me what to do, and mostly just new experiences," Lazzerini said.

Due to soccer games,

Lazzerini will also be traveling across the country.

"I am looking forward to the competition, traveling a lot and mostly just getting to play in new areas in the country so that should be fun," Lazzerini said.

Lazzerini is eager about going to IPFW and will major in criminal justice.

"I feel really excited and nervous about this new chapter in my life but I'm really excited mostly," Lazzerini said.

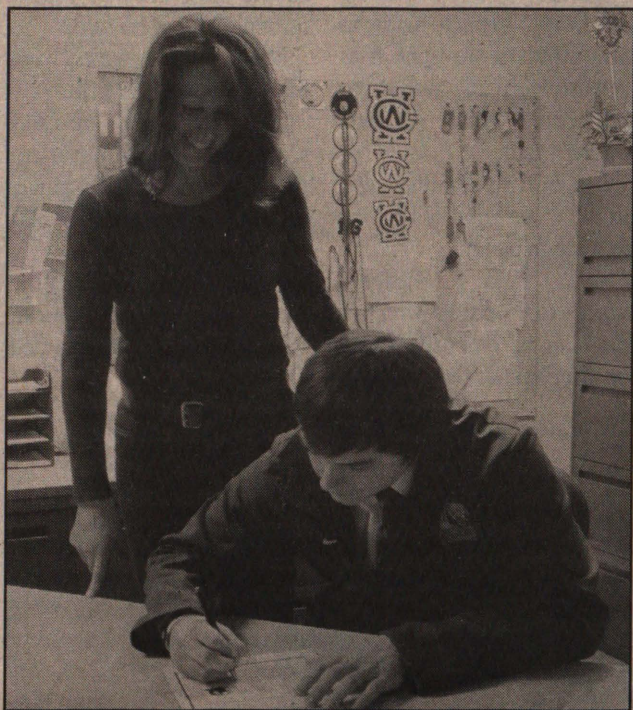


Photo by Liz Ramos

Mother watches senior Dean Pauley signs to St. Joseph's College.

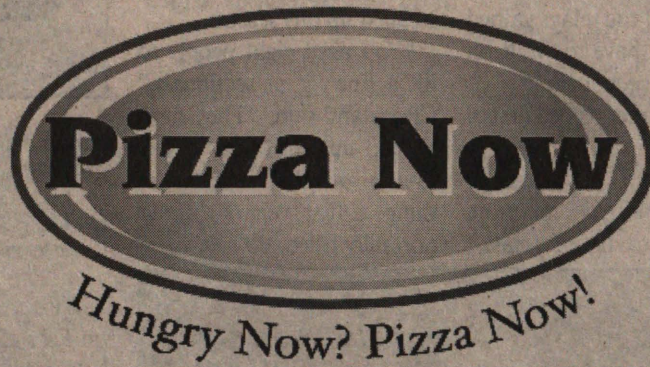
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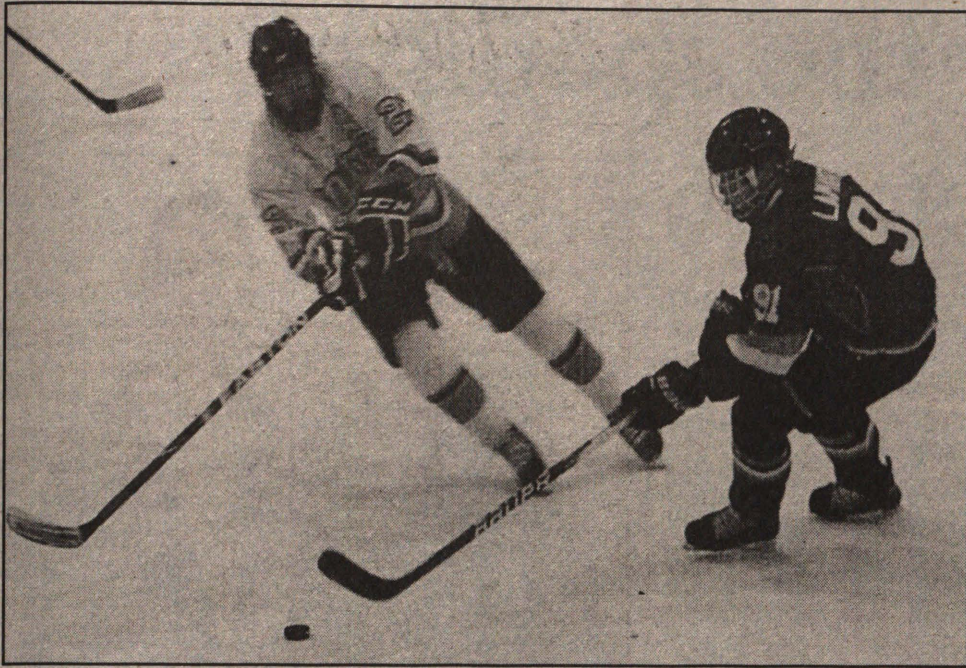


Photo by Keyuri Parmar

During the third period at the Wildhawks senior night game against Hinsdale South, sophomore Dean LaMantia attempts to score.

Regional playoff challenges

Positive outlook after one win and two shootout losses

By Keyuri Parmar
Co-Editor in Chief

Although the Wildhawks are 1-2 in the playoffs, the two losses came from two shootouts giving the boys a good outlook on the rest of the season.

"We have lost in two shootouts which aren't terrible because we still get a point out of the shootout losses," senior Ryan Cooper said.

Going into playoffs, the boys were somewhat upset due to their seed.

"Everyone is a little frustrated because we received the number six seed when we feel like we deserved better and we are going to play like we are a higher seed," senior Kyle Nielson said.

The Wildhawks are in a tough league making their goal of state more difficult.

"Our league playoff will be extremely tough with some top-end teams in Sandburg, Naperville North, and Naperville Central. Any of the top eight teams in combined state could feasibly win the state tournament," coach Dave Dyson said.

Because of playoffs, the boys have been focusing on specific techniques.

"We have really been working on getting pucks to the net and capitalizing on our scoring chances," Cooper said.

Cardio work is not the team's top priority since they have games so often at this time of year.

"At this time of year, we focus on fine-tuning and execution. We focus a lot more on puck movement, special teams, and defensive execution," Dyson said.

Dyson is hoping some boys

who don't usually score will begin to do so.

"Our biggest hole right now is goal scoring. We are looking for a few players to step up late in the year and start putting pucks in the net," Dyson said.

Teamwork has been seen more on the ice since playoffs began.

"We have come together as a team and started to really play together, we need to work on playing the hardest we can because our team has so much potential," senior Doug Browning said.

The Buffalo Grove/Hersey/Wheeling High School's (B/G/HW) team, the Stampede, is to be a top competitor.

"For state playoffs, we are not going to overlook any team because we are the underdogs this year but B/G/HW is the team we will have to eventually beat to go play at the United Center," Nielson said.

Heading to state after sectional win

Three in a row victory leads to state

By Ericka Hauptman
Reporter

As the season starts to wind down for wrestling, senior John Carlos is heading to state Thursday chasing a state title for the Wildcats.

At sectionals Feb. 8, Carlos lost his first match but won the next three in a row to beat out his opponent whom he had lost to in the first match.

He went on to win third place and qualified for a state title.

The boys finished as a team with a fourth place finish in DVC which is better than years past, according to

coach Jamie Philips.

On Feb. 2 the boys wrestling team headed to Glenbard North for the regional wrestling meet with hopes of sending many to sectionals.

"We had hopes of sending all six kids through (to state) but we fell a little short," said Philips.

Although they may have fallen short of sending boys to sectionals, Carlos brought home an individual regional title.

Along with Carlos, junior Tyler Svestka and sophomore Tommy Svestka also placed second at the regional meet.

As the boys prepared for sectionals, they scouted other opponents they meet on the mat along with preparing for the meet in two ways.

"Preparing mentally and physically was a main focus for the boys (during practices)," Phillips said.

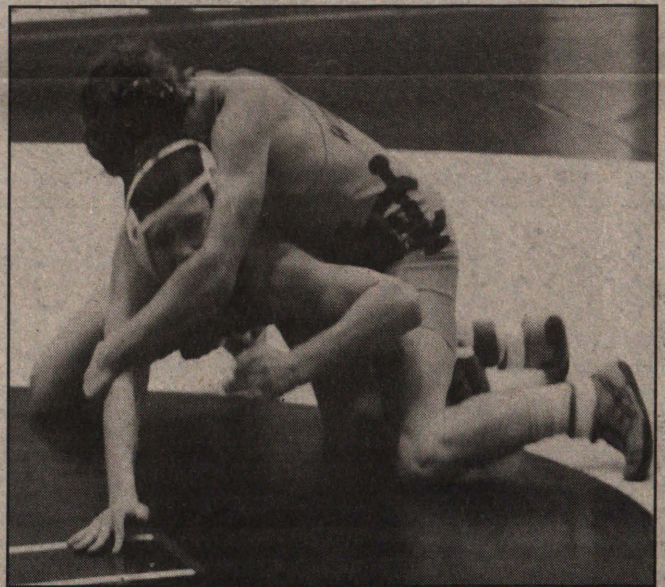


Photo by Ericka Hauptman

Junior Tyler Svetska cross-faced a Naperville Central competitor on Feb. 2.

Blackhawks come back



By Ericka Hauptman
Reporter

Every decade or so in professional sports there is a disagreement with the players and owners about how much money one should get.

This causes a lockout to occur, and that's what happened to hockey.

Last year the NHL made record revenue of \$3.3 bil-

lion, according to www.newyorktimes.com which caused the owners to want a bigger share.

The regular season for the NHL has 82 games, however this year with the lockout ending on Jan. 6, it was almost split in half with a meager 48 game season.

Having had the NHL in a lockout doesn't just affect the players whose lives depend on the money but the fans, the people who work in and out of the league, and kids who look up to professionals.

The fans played a major role in the lockout of 2012 and many were losing interest in hockey because of how

long it took players and owners to agree on a deal.

Yes, there was other hockey going on, but it's not the same as watching your favorite hockey team and cheering in front of the TV.

Along with the fans, people who work at the stadiums or work with the teams lost jobs until the lockout was over.

Hundreds of people work at the United Center selling hot dogs and pop around the arena, and while the NHL lockout was happening employees received a 20 percent pay cut, according to www.wbez.org. When there is no game there is no pay.

Fans are the heart and soul

of the NHL. Without them there is no NHL, and without the NHL there is no greater hockey fan.

In my opinion, there is no need for an argument of money to occur over players and their team owners. Hockey players make the least amount of money of all professional sports players with an average salary starting at \$2.4 million, according to www.ehow.com.

Hockey players don't care about the money and neither do the fans. All they care about is the game.

The owners want the money and greed is what these men seek, not passion for the game.

Regaining fans will be the easiest or biggest struggle be-

cause of how much interest was already lost.

The true fans will be there for the team, but others may not be.

I am a true die hard hockey fan, not just a bandwagon fan, and I can even admit when the lockout was happening I was frustrated.

Another lockout won't occur for 10 years because the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA) has signed its longest contract, according to www.nhlpa.com.

If another lockout occurs, it will be devastating to the fans, youth players and everyone who works in front and behind the scene of the NHL. Let's hope we will be seeing hockey on TV for a long time.

Sharing the spotlight

Finding balance on team

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Center Spread Editor

Playing varsity volleyball together, senior Kayla, junior Mary-Kate, and freshman Ronni Katarzynski find a balance between typical sisters and competitive teammates.

The girls started volleyball at a young age.

"I started volleyball when I was 12," Kayla said. "I was a very athletic kid and loved sports

and my parents liked when we got involved."

Her younger siblings soon joined her, starting with Mary-Kate who began at age 11.

"I got involved because my two older sisters played vol-

leyball so I followed in their footsteps," Mary-Kate said.

The girls enjoyed playing on the same team together.

"It was an awesome experience getting to play with

my sister Kayla, and my first season playing with Ronni.

It was weird to get used to because I never experienced that before but I ended up liking it," Mary-Kate said.

Being sisters, there were still some negatives when playing on the same team.

"We would bump heads and since we are sisters we tend to argue more," Ronni said, who began volleyball at age 10.

Despite their competitiveness, the sisters are able to separate being teammates

family.

"We are three very competitive girls and don't like losing so on the court we put our family aside and just play as teammates, where at home we're your typical siblings," Mary-Kate said.



Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Mary-Kate, left, Ronni, and Kayla Katarzynski

them because I never have before," Kayla said.

Although it was a fun experience for the sisters, it took some adjusting to be teammates.

"This was my second year playing on the same team as

Brother telepathy

By **Liz Ramos**
Co-Editor in Chief

From football to lacrosse junior brothers Jordan and Colin Lelito's twin telepathy help to make them closer on and off the field.

"We tried out for football when we were really young and have just stuck with it through the years, whereas lacrosse was the replacement for baseball which we quit

in fifth grade. It was a great decision that I don't regret at all, I love lacrosse," Jordan said.

On the football team Colin plays free safety on defense and wide receiver on offense, as well as on many special teams while Jordan is the quarterback.

Because they're on the same team, there is sibling competition.

"No matter what it is we are always competing against each other. We always find a way to compete against one another," Colin said.

When it comes to who's the better player in football there's slight disagreement.

"Jordan (is the better player) because he is much bigger than me even if we play far different positions," Colin said.

"See, I'd have to say Colin, he almost never comes off the field," Jordan replied.

On the other hand, with lacrosse the brothers are in agreement of who's the better player.

"Definitely me, whenever we go one-on-one I beat Jordan," Colin said.

Jordan joked, "That's what he thinks. He's usually on the ground with hurt ankles as I go score the goal, but to be honest he is better than I am."

For the lacrosse team Colin plays defense and long stick middle while Jordan plays face-off middle and middle.

Playing on the same team has made their relationship stronger.

"It's added a way for us to show each other how much we depend on each other," Jordan said.



Photo by Liz Ramos

Colin, left, and Jordan Lelito



Photo by Keyuri Parmar

Ryan, left, and Austin Cooper

Reunited once again

By **Keyuri Parmar**
Co-Editor in Chief

From the first time they stepped on the ice together, 13 years ago, brothers senior Ryan and sophomore Austin Cooper are reunited for the last time on the Wildhawks.

"My family is a hockey family since my uncle was a captain of the University of Illinois hockey team and my dad was an assistant coach of the DuPage Devils team," Ryan said. "My dad signed us both up to play."

This was not the first season that the Coopers played together on the same team.

"Before high school we played with each other every other year until five years ago," Ryan said.

Austin enjoys playing on the same team as his brother again.

"It's pretty cool to get to play on the same ice as him again after such a long time," Austin said.

Before the brothers were at an equal skill level, Ryan played on a more advanced team.

"We weren't on the same teams because I played on a travel team for a while," Ryan said.

Both brothers claim no competition has existed between them besides when they first started playing.

"I guess I was better when we first started playing and my brother was just learning how to skate and pushing the cone around the ice," Ryan said.

The extent of the brothers'

competition goes to messing around with each other at practice.

"There's no competition between us because we play different positions," Ryan said. "I never tell him he's bad at practice. Sometimes I joke around with him though."

Hockey holds a strong connection for the Cooper's relationship.

"He's the kid I can always talk to about hockey. My mom still just doesn't understand and my dad gets annoying," Ryan said.

The brothers both learn from each other.

"We talk a lot before and after games and talk about how we did," Austin said.

Since the brothers have to find their own way to practices and games they spend that time bonding with one another.

"(Being on the team together) has definitely helped our relationship. We don't realize how the long road trips to practices and games actually bring us together," Ryan said.

This season holds a lot of meaning to Ryan and Austin since it is their last year playing together.

"It's nice to get to play with him during my last year of high school because there's a slim to none chance that we will ever play together on the same team again," Ryan said.

Austin is grateful for this last experience with his brother.

"It's going to be a sad last game because we won't play together again," Austin said.