



Photo by Alexandra Garibay

Students interested in applying for Tri-M can earn points through participating in activities in the music department, including band, orchestra, and choir. Members of concert choir have been preparing for upcoming performances.

## Music makes comeback

By Guadalupe Blanco  
Editor in Chief

After experiencing cutbacks in the music programs, band, orchestra, and choir have brought back the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Tri-M is the music honor society for high school students, under NAFME, the National Association for Music Education.

"In years past, the music (programs) were cut across the board. I think that Tri-M probably ended with that, and it just didn't start up again," Wojciechowski said. "So we're piloting it this year, and next year it will be fully in place."

Next year, Tri-M will be starting earlier in the year in August, and students will be admitted in September, compared to the later start the program had this year.

However, despite being the pilot year, there has been much interest in the program from students.

"We had a lot of applicants, and we had a total of 33 students accepted," Wojciechowski said. "It's real-

ly to hear what CHS has to offer musically and talent-wise."

In order to be eligible for Tri-M, students earn certain points from activities in the music department.

While freshmen are not eligible to apply, sophomores need 40 points to qualify, juniors need 50, and seniors require 60 points to apply, according to Wojciechowski.

Similar to National Honor Society, students also have to participate in service hours, and help out in the music department.

Despite all the work that goes into being part of Tri-M, it serves as an opportunity to strive to do better in music, according to Wojciechowski.

"You're raising the bar for expectations, you're sharing ideas. On top of that, we have a greater unity between the choral department, the band department, and the orchestra department," Wojciechowski said.

Another benefit students will be receiving from is the having a creative outlet.

"Arts and music always have the challenge of getting cut first. But music and art are creative outlets that engage

part of the brain that is not used in typical academics," Wojciechowski said.

According to Wojciechowski, music also requires intelligence that aren't used in average curriculum.

"You're hitting every single type of intelligence. You're going off of social and emotional intelligence because you're communicating with people around you. You're intrapersonal intelligence is being used because you're self-analyzing," Wojciechowski said. "You're using your physical intelligence because you're studying your own motor skills. Literary skills are used because you're reading music, and you're using different languages. It's cross-curricular."

Along with the cross-curricular learning that the students receive, there's also a sense of unity.

"You also get family if you're in band, orchestra or choir. You hear of the joke 'ork dorks,' and 'band geeks,' but we're not really bothered by that," Wojciechowski said. We're happy to be called that, and we all have our own quirkiness and we have that home and CHS that we're proud of."

## Report card paints picture of school

Information gives insight, data on how school is doing

By Guadalupe Blanco  
Editor in Chief

After receiving the Illinois School Report Card, the school now has information that paints a picture of the school.

"The report card is a snapshot of student demographics. I don't see it as a mechanism for positives and negatives," Superintendent Douglas Domeracki said. "The actual perceptions are thought up by the reader. (But) there is a lot of time and energy being put into the school."

The information provided in the report card compares last year's academic year, 2012 to 2013, to the previous year, 2011 to 2012, and then compares those two academic school years to the Illinois average.

One of the categories that

sistent for us, (but) it could be any number of issues," Domeracki said. "It could be related to student demographics, student attendance. It could be related to post-secondary goals of students."

Despite lower scores, the school wants to focus on content rather than test scores.

"The thing I think is important is that we don't chase test scores. We shouldn't teach to the test, but to the curriculum. Ideally performance will follow," Domeracki said.

Meanwhile, there are some parts of the report card that might not properly represent the school.

"(Some of the accomplishments) of the school did not get in," Domeracki said. "In transition, as it was developed, there was a gap where things were not entered."

Some aspects that were not included on the report card included athletics, overall awards, and physical education, health and wellness recognition.

Even though there was information missing, there was also emphasis put on other areas, such as academic courses, and career development courses and programs.

*"I would like to think that people have a value in education. It provides opportunities."*

--Superintendent Doug Domeracki

the school was scored on was the graduation rate and student readiness for college.

According to Domeracki, while the numbers can give insight into rates and numbers of the school, it isn't necessarily an accurate representation of the "whys."

"When looking at PSAT we are slightly lower than state average which has been con-

"What got put in (the report card) really highlights the school. The numbers speak for themselves," Domeracki said. "I would like to think that people have a value in education. It provides opportunities, and a sense of community."

The official report card is available for more information on [www.illinoisreportcard.com](http://www.illinoisreportcard.com).

INSIDE

### Stepping up to changes

After having to adjust to several new changes, Creative Writing Club has seen positive responses despite fewer events --see **News**, page 2.



### What is break?

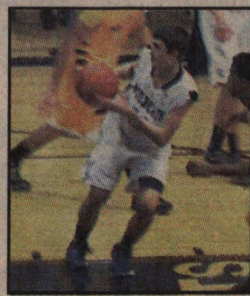
Although winter break is time for family, rest and relaxation, it has evolved into time for teachers to give out work, stress --see **Perspectives** page 3.

### Road to college

Despite advances in research and many campaigns, students still might not be aware how harmful drug use can be --see **Center Spread**, page 4.

### Creating success, new records

Under the guidance of a former winning basketball player, the team has seen success, old records broken --see **Sports**, page 7.





## Challenges pave way to musical triumph

By Alexandra Garibay  
Center Spread Editor

Five students from the music department made it into IMEA.

"The actual district IMEA day started very early on a Saturday morning and we worked on the pieces with a very good choir director all day, and performed along with the IMEA band and orchestra at East Aurora High School," junior Natalie Wagner said.

Students had to prepare difficult music in preparation for their audition.

Band, choir, and orchestra students had the chance to audition.

Four band students auditioned but only senior Natalie Farrell made it.

Senior Josh Delameter qualified for orchestra.

Juniors Natalie Wagner, Marianne Kiel, and senior Gilary Valenzuela made it within choir.

"IMEA is really competitive, and a severe amount of work. To make it is a real honor for our students," band instructor Stephen Govertsen said.

For IMEA, schools are divided up into districts, the school is in district nine.

"We are in district nine which is one of the most, if not the most competitive district, so it's a real honor for these kids," Govertsen said.

Although the participants found out in just a few days about their qualifying for IMEA, they have been preparing since last school year.

"We got our music at the end of last year and I practiced these songs at home and at voice lessons pretty frequently," Wagner said.

After auditions and finding out they made it, the students received music to prepare independently.

For Valenzuela and Farrell, it was not their first time qualifying, but it still came as a surprise.

"It feels really good making it into IMEA. I didn't think I would make it again," Valenzuela said.



Photo courtesy of Tara Deleon

Junior Zandra Starks was one of many students to perform at Barnes and Noble on Dec. 4.

## Embracing changes, success

By Darcy Akins  
Sports Editor

Creative Writing Club members along with the audience participated in the club's first café of the year on Dec. 11.

The club has embraced many changes including fewer café events during the year.

"I think it went really well," co-adviser Tara Deleon said. "I know we hoped for more attendance, but our students brought quality pieces and

that's what we are always looking for. There was a good mix of students from the club with planned pieces and students for open-mic."

Even though the club started out rough, the members are happy with the progress.

"I think (café) went great. More people came than we expected and we had some amazing pieces," senior co-editor in chief Ashely Anderson said. "We also made some money with our bake sale."

Although attendance has become an issue at event and meetings for the club, quality of writing has improved.

"I think their writing is solid," co-adviser Amanda Cordes said. "We're at a point where now we are getting more developed and thoughtful pieces from the start. We are getting pieces that show concretely what abstract feelings look like."

Members and students can participate in the next café on Feb. 5.

## Expectations earn recognition

By Darcy Akins  
Sports Editor

*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 of additional staff members.*

Setting high goals and expectations has led to the titles of Student of the Month for three seniors, Kelsey Windisch (December), Janaki Thakkar (November), and Josué Muñoz (September).

"Although I have been involved in the school, being Student of the Month always seemed out of reach to me," Thakkar said.

For Windisch, the drive to do well in school and beat her siblings pushed her harder.

"I was hoping that my hard work would eventually pay off," Windisch said. "A healthy level of competition between me and my siblings to do well in school, so that pushed me."

Throughout the years, the students have also enjoyed many events and activities.

"My favorite high school memory was the IHSA sec-

tional for drama last year," Muñoz said. "We took first place in both categories. The most exciting part was seeing everyone get recognized as well. The bus ride home was full of prideful people."

Windisch also enjoyed school sporting events.

"Attending sporting events (is my favorite memory), especially football games and also going to all the events clubs have run," Windisch said.

According to Thakkar, she has enjoyed her

time being at school. "Looking back at all the amazing people I've met and all of the opportunities I've received, I can truly say that the four years I've spent at the high school have been amazing," Thakkar said.

Being a Wildcat has provided a sense of community for the Students of the Months. "Being a Wildcat has meant embracing diversity and overcoming obstacles. It means fighting to improve myself against the expectations," Muñoz said.

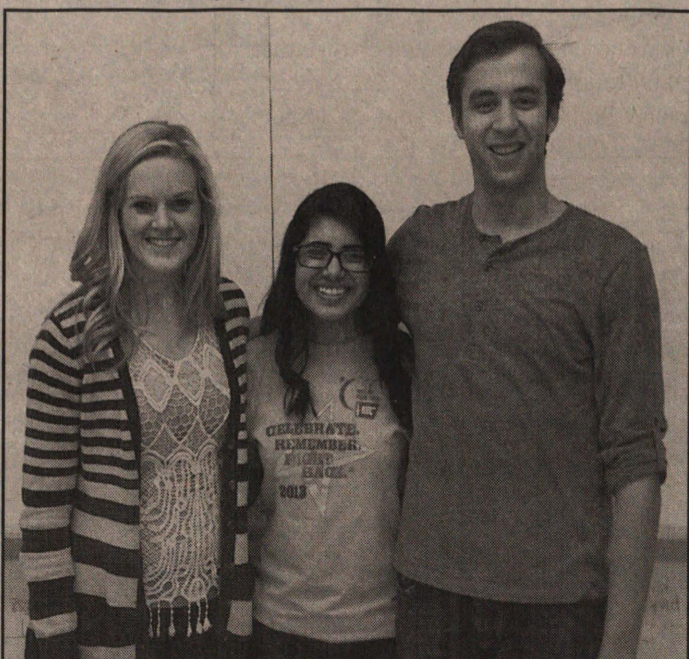


Photo by Darcy Akins

Seniors Kelsey Windisch, left, Janaki Thakkar, and Josué Muñoz have excelled in academics and extracurriculars to earn the recognition of Student of the Month.

## Bringing together old, new members

By Darcy Akins  
Sports Editor

With December being a time of getting the family back together, Creative Writing Club is no different.

The club is having an Alumni Showcase for past members to perform their work on Thursday.

"(Amanda) Cordes and I have been thinking about doing the showcase for years," co-adviser Tara Deleon said. "We thought (about) what we (could) do to bring students back and show them off. We wanted to show our current students what they can be working towards."

According to Deleon, she also wants students to know that the journey of writing doesn't end after high school.

"I think (the performance) will be profound. I hope that it inspires the students who are still here to keep going with creative writing. We want them to see it doesn't end here," Deleon said.

Alumna Alexandra Alva-

rez, is coming back to perform at the showcase.

"(I'm excited to) have the opportunity to come back and perform an old piece that I love and a new piece that I'm really passionate about," Alvarez, who graduated in May said.

While many kids end their creative writing journey in high school, Alvarez has continued to pursue it.

"Being in Creative Writing Club, it's been easier to write things for my English class for college and I'm more confident in my writing," Alvarez said.

Cordes, co-adviser, is also excited about the performances.

"I think it's going to be cool to see how (the alumni) have changed and grown as writers since they were under our wing," Cordes said.

Members of the club are hoping to gain knowledge about maturing in their writing and having fun.

"I am really excited because I'll be seeing some old friends and graduates," senior co-editor in chief Ashely Anderson said.



# Perspectives

Wildcat Chronicle

December 19, 2013

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## Our View

# It's beginning to look a lot like homework

All the glow and glamour of winter break is gone, having been replaced by "free time roasting on an open fire, and homework nipping at our noses."

Although winter break is near, the one thing in the back of every student's mind is the one that defeats the purpose of vacation: homework.

For many, if not all middle school and elementary school students, winter break is still the opportunity to sleep in every single day for two weeks, watch holiday movies, and enjoy a relatively stress-free season of happiness.

For the high school student though, winter break has become synonymous with work.

If it's not reading an English book and putting together a thorough analysis, or spending a good chunk of time going over the Spanish or French vocabulary, then it's working out 50 math problems for the chapter that the teacher insists on cramming in before finals.

All the work that teachers pile on for break is not only stressful for the student, but it also, to an extent, defeats the purpose of "winter break."

What should be a time reserved for spending time with family and having fun is now consumed by trying to get as much work done as possible for fear of being penalized for not doing it when they return to school.

According to [www.opencolleges.edu](http://www.opencolleges.edu), "students spend most of their days at school while their parents are at work...family time is extremely important to achievement and behavior."

If students aren't spending the time that they're allowed with family during winter break, or any break for that matter, how are they supposed to benefit from this crucial aspect of development?

Some might argue that there is truth in the idea that practice and studying help in learning new materials, but those two things are not the only factors that contribute to success in education.

However, according to an article in the Huffington Post, the United States is one of the most homework driven countries in the world, yet less

homework driven nations like Japan and Denmark, have students who score higher when it comes to standardized testing.

In the same article, it is stated that the guidelines endorsed by the National Education Association (NEA), a student should not be assigned more than 10 minutes per grade level per night.

This means that a freshman should have no more than 90 minutes of homework, a sophomore, 100 minutes, a junior, 110 minutes, and a senior, no more than 120 minutes.

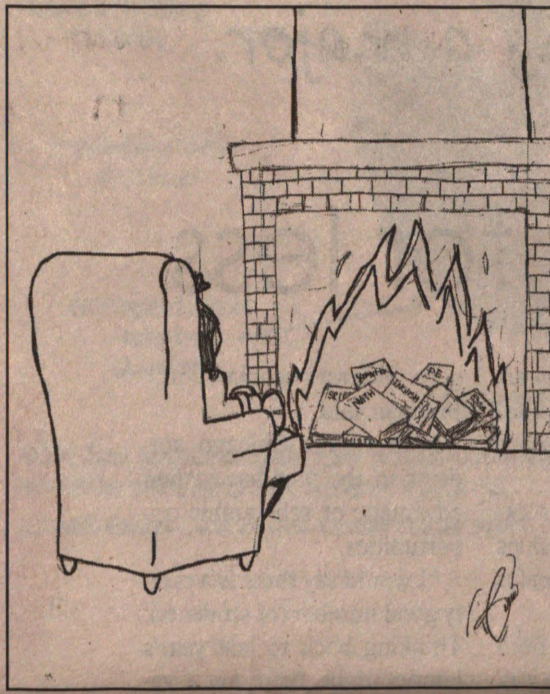
It seems though, that teachers are focusing more on repetition and drilling knowledge into students rather than having the student understand the concept.

Take for example, a student who understands the material, in say, a math class, and one that doesn't get it at all. To the student that gets it right off the bat, the problems are just busy work.

For the one that doesn't understand it, the student could be doing the problem over and over again, but if they do it wrong, they are not more knowledgeable.

Although there are materials that have the focus on deeper-level thinking, when it comes to winter break, there isn't going to be Faulknerian thinking, and thus, its purpose is moot to the student, and to the teacher.

While the intent of homework over winter break, is to help, not hurt the student, it isn't part of the memories that are made during the holidays, nor should it be.



# Drawing limits on social media

Recently, social media has been taking over our society and become an obsession that is corrupting the lives of the public.

Popular websites such as Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, and many others are meant to be easy ways to connect with friends and loved ones and letting them know what is going on in your life.

This issue though is that social media is too free, and gives whoever uses it the permission to do virtually whatever they decide to do.

Whether you decide to be racist, sexist, or just make a fool of yourself, social media allows you to do so with no consequences.

It is all fun and games of course until your future girlfriend, boyfriend, boss, or college administrators find this and start to question the type of person you really are.

People don't always tend to post the most intelligent and thought out posts they can come up with.

As fun as it can be to talk about how much you hate school, your job, or how pretty you think random people are to strangers online, once this infor-

mation gets out to people who actually don't know you and are looking for a good first impression, they aren't going to get exactly what they wanted.

If employers look at your social media and learn about how much "swag" you think you have and how offensive and hurtful you can be, the decision to not hire you becomes so much easier.

The same principle can be applied with relationships with close friends and family, and college admission officers.

Although, according to [www.fsgate.com](http://www.fsgate.com) colleges might not look at social media as much as one would think.

Using the information the website gathered, a graph was put up on their page showing that less than one third of college admission officers actually take the time to look at your social media.

But, does that make it worth the risk?

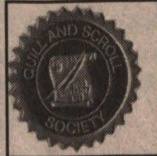
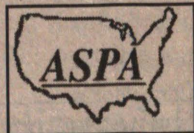
Despite how many people may or may not attempt to look you up, there is always a chance that someone can try to and think that you are a racist or sexist person who likes to make yourself look

like an idiot online.

Why people even act this way at all is a great question to be asked, but the real question is why people would be so willing to give up parts of their lives, just for the purpose of making a few strangers laugh.



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THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE is the student newspaper at Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The Chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making the decisions concerning paper's content. Unsigned editorials represent the views of the majority of the staff.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although 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](mailto:lkuehn@d94.org) or delivered to room 319 before or after school.

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Some students might already be ahead with their future college plans, but here are some ideas for students that might need help choosing the right college, finding scholarships, and selecting a major.

In st

VS.

Community

## Making it in for less

By Kyle Paup  
Perspectives Editor

In some cases, colleges will actually give you a head start when it comes to paying off school debt through scholarships.

"As a senior, students will receive a student newsletter which has our current scholarships that are available," counselor Barbara Brennan said.

You do not need to be skilled in everything to get a scholarship. There are hundreds of scholarship options that have a wide range of skills.

"There are scholarships that range from academic interest all the way to being tall. So the criteria definitely varies," Brennan said. "Some definitely look at grade point average, (like) ACT scores, and others like the art schol-

arships are based on your art ability. A lot of them (also) require community service and volunteerism."

With college being as expensive as it is, scholarships seem to be the best option for getting into one.

"Some (colleges) vary from a couple thousand all the way up to \$40,000 a year. Private schools are going to be more expensive than a local state school, and (in some like) College of DuPage, you pay per class," Brennan said.

Scholarships will gradually keep making college cheaper the more you obtain.

"The more scholarships you get the better. Some students are able to get (college fully paid for), and some have various small ones that add up to a couple thousand dollars.

"It really depends on how diligent the family is to ac-

quire different scholarships," Brennan said.

Many West Chicago students in the past have taken advantage of scholarship opportunities.

"I would say there is a pretty good number (of students). Thinking back to last year's honors night, there are a variety of kids who get scholarships directly from individual schools. There are probably close to 50 or 100 that get from private organizations too," Brennan said.

Even though scholarships usually aren't offered until a student's senior year, it is never too early to start trying.

Underclassmen should start to build their resume and start doing volunteer work so that colleges will acknowledge this when it is time to decide on colleges in the future, according to Brennan.



## Top majors

1. Business Administration
2. Psychology
3. Nursing
4. Biology
5. Education
6. English Language
7. Economics
8. Communications Studies
9. Political Science and Government
10. Computer and informatino Sciences

## Comparisons between i

College Cost	Tuition	Books and supplies
University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign	\$15,258-20,178	\$1,200
Indiana University C.O.D	\$952/CH	\$343.05
	\$327/CH	Varies

\*Source: www.princetonreview.com

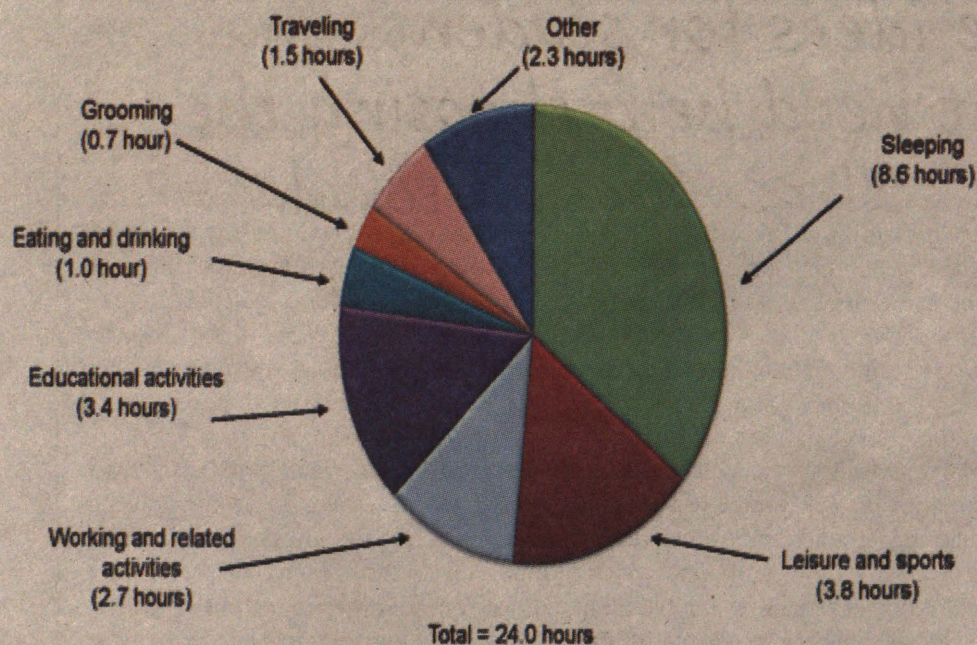
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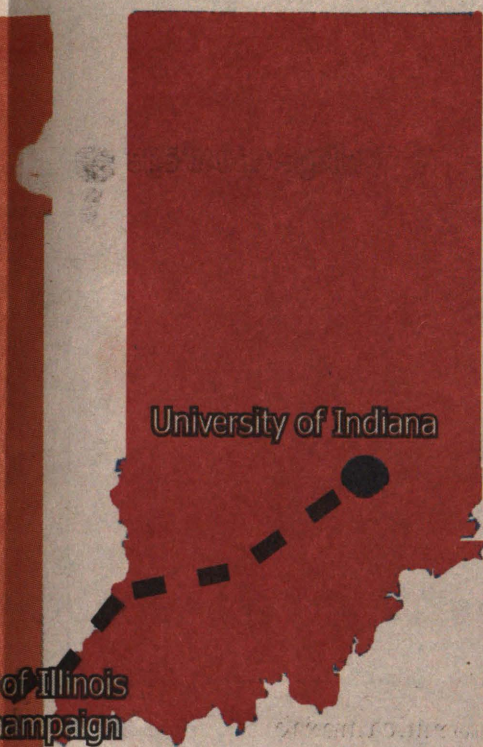
VS.  
Out of state

### Time use on an average weekday for full-time university and college students



NOTE: Data include individuals, ages 15 to 49, who were enrolled full time at a university or college. Data include non-holiday weekdays and are averages for 2008-12.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, American Time Use Survey



## Finding a good fit

By Darcy Akins  
Sports Editor

With winter break approaching fast, students, especially upperclassmen, might start to be stressing about how to find the right college.

According to counselor Barbara Brennan, finding the right college for you is essential.

"It is important that you are comfortable on the campus and in the location of the school. It is always best to go visit a college before attending it. An example I often give students is that you would not buy a car without test driving it, so don't commit to a school without checking it out," Brennan said.

When it comes to majors, now more than ever, students are having a hard time deciding what to go into.

Some reports suggest that

more and more students are going into careers without even having an interest in that field of study.

According to the Daily Illini, University of Illinois' newspaper, "Only about a third of all college freshmen choose a major that aligns with their interests. The others opt for the not-so-unusual money-making majors. Still, about 80 percent of the students here will be undecided about their major even if they've declared one upon admission."

More and more teachers, counselors, and advisors are advising against this newly popular tactic.

"I think it is always good to have an idea of what you are interested in and have a general area of study," Brennan said.

"I encourage (students) to think of the areas that they are strong in and what they

like. For example, if they are strong in math and science they may want to pursue an area of study related to those subjects. The Career Cruising program can help students with this if they really don't know."

According to [www.Careercruising.com](http://www.Careercruising.com), "Everyone has a career dream. At Career Cruising, our mission is to inform those dreams to help bring them to life, by developing innovative career exploration software full of useful real-world career information."

However going straight into college or university with a declared major is not the only path students can go.

"Depending on the student, I may advise them to start at College of DuPage to start taking their general education courses as well as some introduction course to areas that they may be interested in," Brennan said.

in-state, out

Room and board	Other expenses
\$10,636	\$2,500
Varies	\$159.96
None	None



## Keeping busy during break

By **Guadalupe Blanco**  
Editor in Chief

A two week break is plenty of time to relax and recuperate after being in school, but it is also a chance to get out and have fun in and around the city, as well as at home.

In Chicago, Daley Plaza's annual Christkindlmarket is back for the holiday season.

Christkindlmarket was started in 1996 in Chicago, and originates from Christkindlmarket in Nurnberg, Germany, which dates back to 1545.

Some of the entertainment includes German foods such as bratwursts, apple strudel, and hot chocolate, as well as choirs and carolers that will be playing music throughout the market.

The event will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and Sunday through Tuesday, and 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Saturday.

For those who have a closer connection to nature and animals, both Lincoln Park Zoo

and Brookfield Zoo will be hosting festivities.

"ZooLights," at Lincoln Park Zoo is a display lights and decoration throughout the park, in addition to special activities such as visits from Santa Claus.

At Brookfield Zoo, "Holiday Magic" will run Friday and Saturday, as well as Dec. 26 to Dec. 31.

"Holiday Magic" is a holiday lights show, laser light show, magic show, all combined into one event.

For the homebody who would rather sleep in, there's still plenty to do in the comforts of home.

A great way to get something done with minimal effort is to plop down in front of a screen, grab snacks, a comfortable pillow and blanket, and watch a movie marathon.

Anyone looking to reminisce in the big-haired, cheesy glory of the '80s might benefit from a few rounds of films including "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," "The Breakfast Club," and

"Planes, Trains and Automobiles," all courtesy of John Hughes.

For the individual craving a complicated web of truths and lies in an artistic presentation, a Woody Allen marathon, complete with "Annie Hall," "Midnight in Paris," and Allen's most recent venture, "Blue Jasmine" would do the trick.

Of course, no one can go wrong with an easygoing, but fun day of Disney classics.

If all else fails, and a movie marathon or day in the city don't hold any interest, then getting work done is also an option.

One could catch up on reading, or take some practice ACT courses online, check out iTunes University, which is a free way to learn what college courses might be like, or brush up on assignments.

Whatever is in store for these upcoming two weeks of break, the most important thing to remember is that it is a time to recharge.

**MATTHEW BRODERICK**

**FERRIS'S  
BUELLER'S  
DAY OFF**



**BUELLER... BUELLER... EDITION**

Photo courtesy Paramount Studios

For anyone who's not interested in heading out, any movie marathon, such as an 1980s theme, creates a great time.

## Season of giving and getting horrible gifts

While the holidays are a time to think of others and find ways to show appreciation, sometimes those intentions can go awry.

Here is a list of what students and teachers deemed as the worst gifts to receive, as well as some of the worst gifts that they have received.

### What students think

1. Junior Josie Steinbrecher- "Socks (would be the worst gift to get) because they can keep you warm, but I can buy them any day."

2. Junior Morgan Currigan- "Crocs, because they're the ugliest thing on this earth."

3. Junior Edith Munoz- "Baby Alive doll, I got it in seventh grade. I thought 'what would I do with it?'"

4. Senior Marc Cuiriz- "Clothes that you know you would never wear or clothes they got from a thrift store."

5. Senior Joe Sawicki- "That's a tough one, but my grandma always gets me ornaments that I'll never use."

6. Senior Cori Weinrich- "A diet book because it implies that you're fat."

7. Junior Laura Perez - "Coal because it means you've been a bad kid."

8. Junior Kyle Foehner- "Socks and underwear because

I can go to Walmart and get them any day I want."

9. Sophomore Jamara Turner- "An ugly Christmas sweater because no one really likes them, they just tolerate them as if it was the greatest gift of the world."

10. Freshman Tracy Lee- "A gift card because when people get me gift cards, they don't know what I really want, and it also won't be much of a Christmas surprise."

### What teachers think

1. Spanish teacher Susan Junkroski- "A horrible ugly Christmas statue or angel. Because then I would have to put it up when they come over, but then I would take it down again. Or I would 'accidentally' break it."

2. Math teacher Britt Lindahl- "A gift card to Petco, because I don't have a pet."

3. Math teacher Michelle Torres- "I don't want any pets, because I already have two children."

4. Spanish teacher Brittany Blanchard- "Tickets to a Miley Cyrus concert because she is awful."

5. English teacher Shannon Sanchez- "The stupid slippers, Stompies."

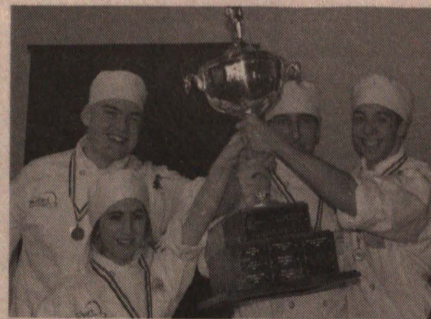
\*Compiled by Chronicle staff

**TCD**  
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OF DUPAGE

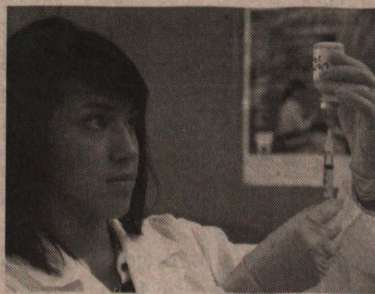
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## Records, recent outcomes set higher

By Kyle Paup  
Perspectives Editor

Boys basketball started out strong with a high place in the conference and a new record being set for the school.

"We are 2-2 in the conference, we started off 2-0 but we have lost the past two games," senior John Konchar said.

After the first two wins, the team was at the top of the conference.

"As a program we have not won a varsity conference game in three years. This year we've won two in a row, so it's a nice starting point," head coach Bill Recchia said.

Despite the strong start that the team has not had in years, there were no surprises to Recchia.

"I had high expectations for us as a group because I've watched them develop as a team over the summer. I've seen them start to mature as basketball players so our start does not surprise me," Recchia said.

Not only is the start of the season going well for the team, but one player has al-

ready broken a school record that was set in 1984.

"John Konchar is averaging 31 points a game and 16 rebounds a game. He just set the school's all-time single game scoring record," Recchia said.

The all-time single game scoring record that was just surpassed by Konchar was previously set and held by Recchia himself when he was a student here.

"It feels great being able to be in the record books for high school basketball," Konchar said.

There is still a chance for Konchar to break another school record that is also still held by Recchia.

"I still have the all-time scoring record here that (I think) he could break," Recchia said.

Konchar is also confident that he can break this record with hard work.

"I really want to break his all-time leading scorer record. I have to keep working hard during basketball and hope for the best," Konchar said.

Even though Konchar is setting records that could stay with this school for a long time, this has not made Recchia forget about his other players in the slightest.

"I'm trying to develop our 11 ball players into a solid basketball team. We're about becoming a team and what that means is that every single player on the team is stepping up and accepting their role and doing the little things right," Recchia said.

## Co-op offers opportunities

### Current swimmers, new members from Batavia join forces, create more chances

By Alexandra Garibay  
Center Spread Editor

Having players advance to state is one of the goals for the boys swim team this year, according to coach Nicole Cleveland.

The only major change the team has done so far is their scheduling, due to the co-op with Batavia.

A goal approaching soon for the team is a meet Sat-

urday at East Leyden High School.

"We have an invite meet and there will be seven other teams," Cleveland said. "We came in third last year and I would like for us to come in first this year."

An aspect that has helped out the team is having more players.

"We doubled the size in team since last year, we now have eight swimmers," Cleve-

land said.

Swimmers have their own goals they hope to achieve.

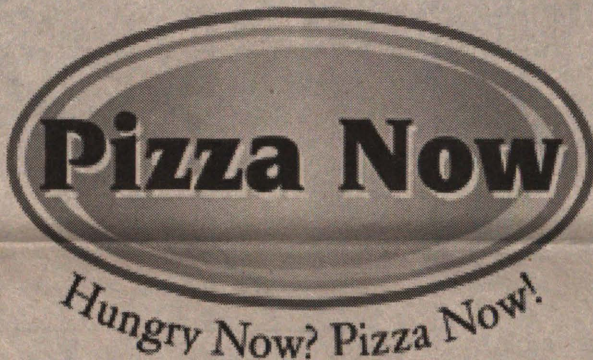
"I want to beat the record 21:59 and work as hard as I can everyday," senior Aiden Culloton said.

Besides working hard, being in a co-op helps provide more opportunities for the swimmers.

"It's a great opportunity for swimmers from both schools, Batavia couldn't compete before," Batavia junior Noah Randall said. "Also it helps the team competition wise."

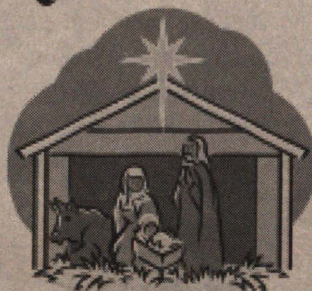
Coming from a different school helps Batavia.

"I want to improve every possible way, try to make a name for Batavia since we're a small group," Randall said.



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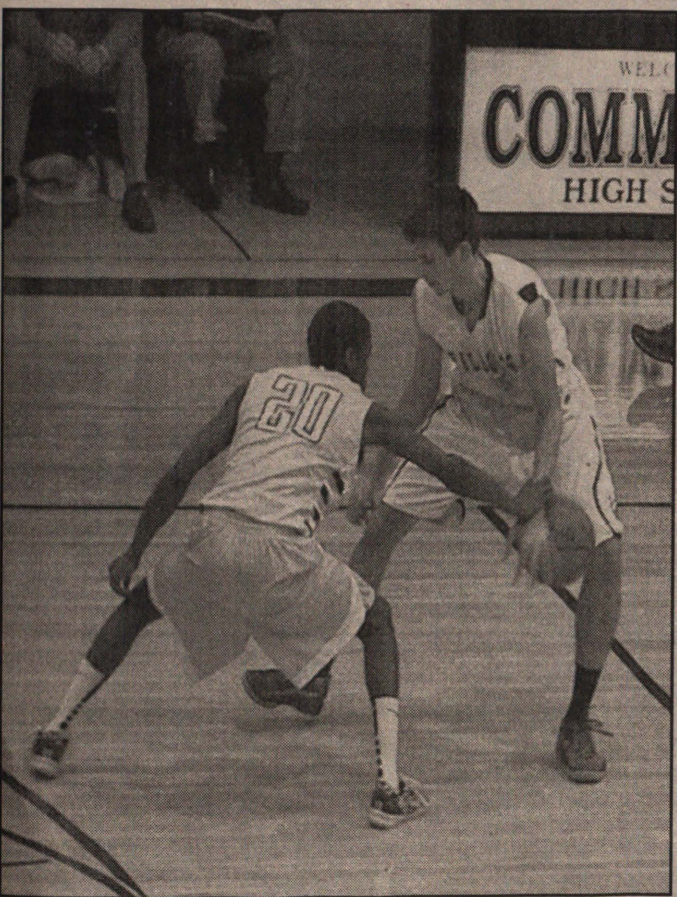


Photo by Kyle Paup

Senior John Konchar, right, has not only helped with the team's high standing in the conference, but has also been breaking school records.



## New setting, new approach

Following a change in affiliation, the Chicago Wolves hockey team has not only managed to regroup, but also bring together old and new talent.

"We have a new partner with St. Louis. We haven't won a championship in a while, so we're really prepared for that. Every year we've been a winning club, and we've been over 500 every year in our existence," general manager Wendell Young said. "It's different. You're dealing with different people, different philosophies, and different parts."

Part of the transition has included working to improve and adjust under the new conditions.

"For improvement, our special teams and power play (need to be worked on). Things that we do well include competing hard every game," right winger Mark Mancari said. "Whether we're winning or losing, we always keep working. There is no quitting."

As well as having the players improving in the game, there is also support and skill coming from head coach John Anderson.

"(Anderson) has brought a lot of history with him. He has won a lot of champion-

ships and has been a coach here for a long time, and has played in the NHL," Mancari said. "He knows what it takes to be a winner and what it takes to get to the next level, and having a great coach like him is something every player wants."

Despite bringing knowledge and experience to the team, Anderson feels that there is room for improvement.

"We didn't really have many returning players, maybe two or three, but basically, we started off with 29

guys who really didn't know each other that well. But if you watch our games from earlier in the year, and then you watch it now, it's like day and night," Anderson said. "We've just gotten so much better. I appreciate how hard the guys are working and putting themselves in a position where we start to move up the ranks."

Overall, the team has been

putting most of their energy on putting all the pieces together.

"You go through ups and downs, you go through different line combinations, and we just figure out what we're working with," Mancari said. "It's just working through it and finding what works."

**Compiled by Chronicle Staff**



Photo by Alexandra Garibay

Right winger Mark Mancari, along with the rest of the Wolves, work and practice to create a strong team dynamic with new players, as well as a new affiliation.

## Overcoming rough patch

**By Sarah Denning**  
Contributing Writer

The boys on the wrestling team have not only learned

from their coaches but have also acquired tips from each other.

With around 50 boys ranging from freshmen to seniors,

the team is well equipped for the season.

Roberto Torres, the new head varsity coach, is pleased with how the team has come

together.

As a wrestling unit coaches, James Philips, Bill Dragone, and Torres have varsity, JV, and freshmen practice at the same time so that the wrestlers can learn together and be a wrestling family.

Varsity wrestling team is doing well despite many wrestlers being out due to injuries.

"Some wrestlers should be coming back this week or next, which will strengthen our line-up," Philips said.

So far the team has been making strides, and trying to be the best they can be

"I want them to be better people in general and for them to learn the value of hard work," Philips said.

This year has been one of the first years that the wrestling team will have new uniforms, head gear, warmers and singlets.

This will enhance the idea of all the boys being a family and equal to one another.

"I want them to feel comfortable and I want them to understand that there is a process to becoming a competitive wrestler and we as staff are here to support them and help them meet their goals," Torres said.

## Final season for coach

**By Darcy Akins**  
Sports Editor

With the Board of Education approval of varsity football coach Bill Bicker's resignation on Nov. 19, team members have been surprised.

"I'm sure it shocked most of the team," senior varsity player Beni Rojas said.

While there are many reactions, Bicker has remained neutral.

"At the moment, I have no comment," Bicker said when asked to comment on his resignation.

Even though it is a surprise, there is understanding of the situation among members of the team.

"He had his reasons," senior varsity player Jesus Carrasco said. "Family is important, and in his case, his children need a father figure."

Since 1997 there have been five head varsity football coaches, and Bicker started coaching the team in the fall of 2012.



Photo by Sarah Denning

At the home meet against East Aurora on Dec. 6, the boys wrestling team has proven that despite several injuries, they are well equipped to compete.