



## COUNSELOR LEAVES CHS, pg. 2

To be sure that everybody gets the service that they're used to, we've got to get somebody in here. I'm one person. But it is what it is; we're just going to have to make it work."

Carolyn Blair  
College Counselor



Courtesy of Elle Jacobs

Senior Elle Jacobs poses with a child in a dentist's office in Cajamarca, Peru, where she worked with a friend. Jacobs enjoyed the experience so much that she will continue to work at a dentist's office in St. Louis.

## 77 Days of SUMMER

By Meredith McMahon

Summer is a time for relaxation and is a perfect opportunity for CHS students to get away from the 'Clayton Bubble' to explore, learn, and have a great time while traveling. Whether they traveled to Fulton, MO to horseback ride or to India to study water levels of contamination, CHS students certainly had very exciting summers.

Some students, like senior Henry Myers, took time to improve their skills at different camps. Myers spent seven weeks of his summer to improve his musical skills playing the cello at Meadowmount Music Camp in upstate New York.

"Meadowmount is essentially a musical boot camp. You go there to take lessons with famous

teachers and practice incredible amounts, causing you to improve dramatically," Myers said. "[There] I figured out how to practice, and when I got back I realized how hard I wanted to work."

Sophomore Leslie Goodman also went to a camp to improve her horseback riding skills. Goodman attended William Woods Summer Riding Program this summer for six days, located in Fulton, Missouri on the William Woods University campus.

"I learned a ton about how to ride my horse better and teach my horse new techniques," Goodman said. "I've taught my horse I ride at home all the new exercises I have learned and use the skills I learned with my teacher to ride courses better."

Summer Travels, pg. 8

## Complications, controversy arise from MO Supreme Court ruling

Ruling requires unaccredited districts to pay tuition for their students to attend accredited schools.

Dawn Androphy  
Co-Editor in Chief

In a 4-3 decision this past summer, the Missouri Supreme Court has made a controversial statement regarding how the public schools in the state of Missouri are to function.

It all began when the Turners, a St. Louis family that had been sending its kids to the Clayton Schools as tuition-paying students, decided to sue for reimbursement when the St. Louis Public Schools became unaccredited. The decision for the Turners to pursue the lawsuit was based on Missouri Statute 167.131, which allows students residing in an unaccredited school to go to a

school in another district.

"It's really quite simple," Jane Turner said. "We understood that we had a statutory right to have our children attend the Clayton Schools and not as tuition students, but under the Missouri statute, as transfer students"

Turner argues that, despite the tuition contracts that they had signed with the Clayton School District, the statute should still apply to her children.

"We really had no choice but to sign a contract," Turner said. "If we didn't sign a contract, then our children would have been forced to attend an unaccredited school."

And, thus, Turner v. School District of Clayton was born.

Both parties initially decided to handle the case without going to trial, but the Supreme Court has sent the case back down to the Circuit courts so that both parties can amend their arguments.

"Details need to be worked out and I think that's what the Supreme Court wants done at the Circuit level," Turner said.

The Supreme Court's July 16 opinion may not have granted the Turners reimbursement for the tuition money that they've already paid, but the long-term effects of this ruling will still affect the Clayton School District.

Supreme Ct. Ruling, pg. 2

**World On Display:**  
Shanghai's 2010 World Expo, pg. 2

55 million dollars  
6 months 190 countries  
80 million visitors 50 international organizations

## Trolley system will connect University City, Forest Park by 2012



Photos courtesy of Joe Edwards

A prototype of the Loop Trolley sits outside the History Museum. The trolley's 2.2-mile route will take it through some of St. Louis' most popular areas.

Jackie Leong  
Managing Editor

St. Louis is soon to experience a novel type of change: the rebirth of its historic trolley system.

The Saint Louis Loop Trolley Project was selected to receive about \$25 million in federal funding in July.

"So many cities were competing for the money," said Joe Edwards, founder of the Loop Trolley Project. "All the cities put in an application, and our application was as strong as or stronger than the others."

Congressman William Lacy Clay, who has supported the project for 10 years, announced the grant on July 8.

"I am so grateful to President Obama and my former colleague, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, for supporting this wonderful project with a major federal investment," Clay said in a release. "I have been pushing the Loop Trolley for almost ten years because it will connect two great neighborhoods that I am proud to represent, the U-City Loop and Forest Park. This exciting new attraction will serve both visitors and local residents, while generating jobs and lots of fun."

The latest estimated cost of the project is \$44 million; according to Edwards, \$38 million of that has been acquired in total, thanks to the recent grant.

"We already had some money raised," Edwards said. "Several years ago, we started taxing ourselves an extra cent, and so we've gotten some revenue from that. Over 97 percent of the eligible voters voted in favor of it. It really shows that citizens support our project."

Edwards, who founded Blueberry Hill, restored the Tivoli, and opened the Pageant, among other attractions, is sometimes referred to as the "loop visionary". He began the venture as his latest project in 1997 in hopes that the trolley system would stimulate development in the area east of Skinker.

"People were saying, 'Let's put flowerpots out, let's put banners on poles'—and those are nice ideas," Edwards said. "But those don't really revitalize an area."

He then hit on the idea of a something simple—to bring back the historic trolley system in hopes of stirring growth.

"I like how people are trying to find new ways of public transportation to move people to 'happenin'' places within St. Louis," junior Jason Riss said. "Obviously, the cost is just in building and maintenance of the trolley, but when it is in use, I know for sure I will use it, mostly so I can park my car in the park and feel safer knowing it is there than in the Loop."

The perks from the project are threefold.

"The beauty of this project is that it'll spur eco-

nomonic development," Edwards said. "Two, it'll increase tourism, and, three, it will help stabilize the neighborhoods around."

The trolley's 2.2 mile route would take it along Delmar, starting at the Lion's Gate in University City, down DeBaliviere Blvd., and lastly, circle around the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park.

Other stops include the Tivoli and the Pageant—there will be nine total. It will intercept two existing MetroLink stations, thereby linking them to both the Loop and Forest Park.

Edwards is especially proud of the fact that the trolley system will not be an "imitation"—that is, use rubber-wheeled trolleys—but run on a track instead. He claims that ridership of trolleys goes up 70 percent when they are built on rails.

"The fixed-track nature of the project worked so well in other cities," Edwards said. "Plus, the Saint Vincent Greenway will be built on DeBaliviere at the same time as the trolley system will be, so that we'll eventually have four unique modes of transportation on that street: automobile, pedestrian, bike and trolley."

Though the route isn't exactly the same as the historic one that gave the Loop its name, Edwards asserts that it is the most logical.

Loop Trolley, pg. 5

### Inside:

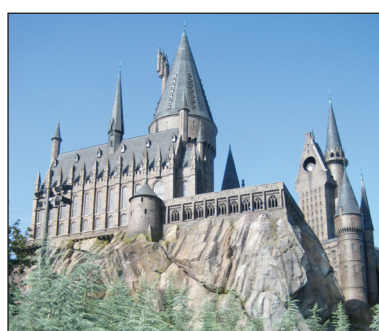
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6 Wizarding World of Harry Potter a magical experience



7 Living in NM back-country proves challenging, rewarding



# The World Expo

Dee Luo  
Graphics Editor

Visitors to Shanghai from May 1 to Oct. 31 have the opportunity to explore the world in a day, see the technological wonders of the future and envision the cities of tomorrow in the 2010 World Expo. With over 190 countries and fifty international organizations, the six-month exposition plans to attract over eighty million visitors, making it the largest world fair in recorded history.

The Expo is filled with the most unique and famed aspects of each country. France sent priceless 19th century artwork on seven different planes; Mexico transferred Mayan ruins as well as a Frida Kahlo self-portrait; and Spain brought a giant, realistic, talking robotic baby.

Despite the impressive nature of these displays, many people, as expressed in the China Daily, question the purpose of spending \$55 million dollars to build architectural wonders that will eventually be razed down.

"The 2010 Expo, like any other Expo, is basically a giant advertisement for new technologies, art, and countries," said Silas Hsu, a junior at Metro High who visited the Expo.

On the surface, the Expo seems to serve only as a temporary, expensive billboard. However, according to the official Expo website, the Expo does have a greater purpose besides just a tourist attraction.

With the theme of "Better city— better life," the World Expo tackles the issue of finding a balance of urban development and environmental conservation by emphasizing the advancement of technology.

The technology displayed at the Expo focuses on improving daily life while aiding environmental conservation by highlighting two main ideas: developing cooperation between countries to invent more efficient green technology and understanding the different cultures of the world to reach that cooperation.



The World Expo includes diverse pavilions from 190 countries worldwide. Each country brought innovative scientific constructions and ideas, as well as cultural artifacts. All photos by Seth Lewis.

One of Hsu's favorite pavilions, the Urban Dwellers pavilion, presented six families from six different continents.

"I really liked how the creators of the pavilion creatively juxtaposed every aspect of the families' lives," Hsu said, "I learned that people in all urban areas share very similar lives."

By bringing pieces of different countries together, the Expo encourages a better understanding, and therefore better cooperation, of different cultures around the world.

Additionally, the Expo also serves to translate the green technology of tomorrow developed by scientists into simpler concepts so that visitors from all corners of the world can understand these

technologies in a day-to-day context and, more importantly, use them as paragons to achieve a cleaner lifestyle.

For instance, Japan's pavilion is nicknamed the "purple silkworm island" because the lavender bubble-like structure 'breathes' as if a living organism. In the pavilion, lightweight steel beams are covered by a double layer membrane implanted with solar energy collection batteries that power the pavilion while the 'caves' collect rainwater that is used to cool the whole structure. Inside, the floor generates energy by absorbing visitor's footsteps, machines turn sewage waste into freshwater, and intelligent robots playing violins serenade passersby. The idea is that the pavilion isn't a building,

but an organism that is a part of nature.

Switzerland's pavilion regulates temperature with a giant curtain made out of soybean extract that degrades in a mere two weeks.

At the Portugal pavilion, there is a similar environmental concept and is made of walls covered with cork, an environmentally friendly, biodegradable, relatively economic material sourced from Portugal. Inside is a replica of a cork house that insulates in the winter and keeps cool in the summer with pictures of working models already utilized in daily life.

Madrid's pavilion is made out of bamboo, which filters sunlight and regulates temperature. Inside the bamboo house, plants water themselves by releasing water from their leaves. The "Air Tree," an artificial sculpture made from recyclable materials that imitates the functions of a tree creates a collective breathing space amidst urban buildings.

Some of the technologies on display even have the potential to be integrated into everyday life. Take, for example, the mist sprays first displayed in Japan's pavilion at the 2005 World Expo in Aichi Japan. Introduced just five years ago, mist sprays have been installed in numerous pavilions as a cooling technique for visitors waiting in line.

According to Huang Chen, a professor at the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, the first civic application of this environmentally friendly cooling system will be installed in Shanghai later this August.

Along with local changes, many dignitaries and scientists from around the world came to observe the new technologies. With an effort to improve cooperation and share ideas, Expo planners have also kicked off a series of six Expo Forums to be held around China in which approximately 600 researchers can discuss problems of rapid urban growth and solutions to rising pollution.

So, as visitors to World Expo 2010 walk among 50 architectural wonders and frolic in expensive imports as each country attempts to show off its unique identity, they are also learning and ab-

## College Counselor departs, letters remain unwritten

NOAH EBY  
Co-Editor in Chief

It was, as PTO Co-President Christy Breckenridge put it, "jaw-dropping". At the Aug. 9 PTO meeting, Principal Louise Losos announced, to the surprise of the parents and students in attendance, that Chat Leonard would not be returning for the 2010-2011 school year after 13 years as a CHS college counselor.

"[Losos] said that we would be receiving a letter in the mail that had just gone out announcing Chat Leonard's resignation, and that technically Ms. Leonard had retired at the end of the year with the expectation that she would be coming back in the fall, and she basically got an offer that she couldn't refuse..." Breckenridge said.

According to Losos, because of fears that experienced teachers were being "forced" to retire by the retirement system, the system was changed several years ago. It now allows teachers to retire at the end of a school year, receive a payment from the retirement system, and be rehired by the District. This is what Leonard was expected to do, but she received a more attractive offer from Metro High School.

"We had sat down and come up with a plan that she would be here for another at least one to three years, very specifically to give time to recruit or to train someone to replace her," College Counselor Carolyn Blair said. "That was the conversation that we had... I was pretty shocked. I felt that we had this settled."

Losos said that Leonard was informed about the position in the spring but that the city's budget was not finalized until early August, when she was actually offered the job. She informed the District of the job offer on Aug. 3 and of her resignation two days later.

"When Dr. Doug Moore, principal at Metro Academic and Classical High School, which is a magnet school in the St. Louis Public School District, called during the last week of July to offer me a position as college counselor, I was both humbled and honored," Blair said in a statement. "However, I was torn... not because of the challenge, but because of the timing. This was a one-time opportunity where I would hopefully stay until I actually retired from education... which will hopefully be five years plus some."

To help students and parents deal with the situation, brown-bag lunches will be held for students and parents, a senior class meeting has been added in early October, and Blair said that she will be setting up a blog that will answer frequently asked questions. She hopes to use more group discussions to address the common questions to avoid individ-

ual meetings where students ask the same thing. "Now is a really anxious time," Blair said. "People are trying to finalize lists, 'Do I need to retake a test?', 'Do I need SAT II's?', 'Which ones should I take?' Those types of questions are all sort of swirling around. So to be able to have someone to talk about that with is my first thought. My second thought is the letters."

Leonard did not write the letters over the summer. Instead, Blair will seek advice from other staff to ensure the letters maintain their characteristic high quality.

"Mr. Gutchewsky and Ms. Smith know the whole class best," Blair said. "They will feed me all of those personal details that go into the letter, and I will in effect craft the letter tailored to the student and their list and that kind of thing."

As far as hiring a replacement, which is undoubtedly necessary, Losos said the process is underway but uncertain.

"It could happen tomorrow or it could take a few more weeks..." Losos said. "We're trying to locate a few recent retirees that she knows and thinks highly of, because once we get that in place, we can start looking for a permanent replacement. NACAC, which is the National Association for College Admission Counseling, is holding their national convention in St. Louis this year, which is convenient. So then we can go out and recruit for the 2011 school year."

Though Blair said she had talked with Leonard about possible replacements, it is difficult for high school and even college counselors to leave their schools at this time of year. For this reason, Blair said they are looking at possibly hiring a retired counselor. In her statement, Leonard said that she feels that her departure will have "very little at all" impact on the current seniors, saying that "counselors do not get students into college, the students get themselves in." She said that CHS students are their own best advocates, and that they will also have "some of the most knowledgeable, caring and professional teachers in the state of Missouri" to help them through the process. As for her new job, Leonard said the administration and PTO at Metro have been supportive and welcoming.

Though Blair said that she is not stressed out—"that wouldn't help me"—and is not concerned that seniors will receive poor or worse than normal counseling, she emphasized the need for finding a replacement.

"To be sure that everybody gets the service that they're used to, we've got to get somebody in here," Blair said. "I'm one person. But it is what it is; we're just going to have to make it work." ☺

**"To be sure that everybody gets the service that they're used to, we've got to get somebody in here. I'm one person. But it is what it is; we're just going to have to make it work."**

**Carolyn Blair  
College Counselor**

## News Briefs *What you need to know.*

- Former Alaska Senator Ted Stevens died Aug. 9 in a plane crash at age 86.
- HP chairman and CEO Mark Hurd resigned on Aug. 6.
- The Senate confirmed Elena Kagan as the newest member of the U.S. Supreme Court on Aug. 5.
- As a result of drought and wildfires that destroyed 20 percent of its wheat crop, Russia placed a ban on grain exports.
- The death toll from landslides in northwestern China has been raised to over 700.
- Approximately 14 million have been affected by the severe flooding in Pakistan.
- Ugandan investigators arrested four men who were behind the World Cup bombings that resulted in over 70 deaths.
- Hip hop artist Wyclef Jean filed to run for the Haitian presidency early this month.
- Iraqi Lieutenant General Babaker Zebari criticized the plan for withdrawing U.S. troops by the end of 2011, voicing concerns about the nation's stability.

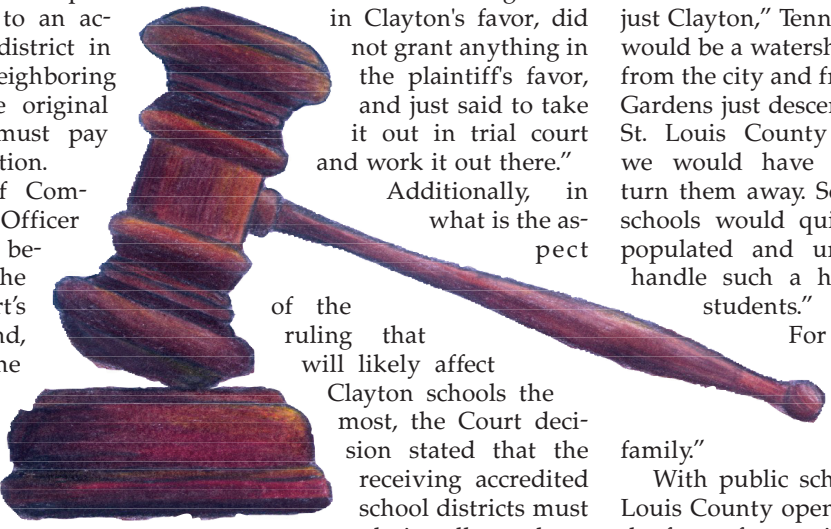
## MO Supreme Court decision stirs controversy among public schools

*Continued from pg. 1*

In the Missouri Supreme Court's non-final action, the Court declared that, if a student in an unaccredited public school transfers to an accredited school district in the same or a neighboring county, then the original school district must pay said student's tuition. Clayton Chief Communications Officer Chris Tennill believes that, were the Supreme Court's decision to stand, it would have the potential to make a dramatic impact. "I think the Supreme Court ruling has the potential to change the educational landscape in St. Louis County if it stands as ruling," Tennill said.

"But, I think the important thing to keep in mind is, while there was a ruling, it was not a final resolution of the case. The ruling just overturned a judgment of a lower court that was granted in Clayton's favor, did not grant anything in the plaintiff's favor, and just said to take it out in trial court and work it out there." Additionally, in what is the aspect of the ruling that will likely affect Clayton schools the most, the Court decision stated that the receiving accredited school districts must admit all students who wish to enroll from these unaccredited school districts. Tennill is concerned about this

aspect of the ruling and believes that, were this aspect of the ruling to stand as is, many schools in St. Louis County would be adversely affected. "It would affect more than just Clayton," Tennill said. "There would be a watershed of students from the city and from Riverview Gardens just descending upon all St. Louis County Schools, and we would have no ability to turn them away. So most county schools would quickly be overpopulated and understaffed to handle such a huge influx of students." For Turner, however, "Our concern is just with our family." With public schools across St. Louis County opening this week, the fates of potential transfer students in failing districts and accredited county schools subject to the ruling are still up in the air. ☺



## Varsity football team works towards a redemptive season

**Sarah Tait**  
Editor

The way the Greyhound football team prepares for a new school year may be slightly different than most students.

While many students spend the week before school savoring their last moments of relaxation, the football team can be found sweating through two-a-days in hopes of fulfilling a promising season.

Two-a-days are a new addition to the team's tough regimen this year.

"Having two-a-days has really helped," sophomore and returning varsity player Tyler Walker said. "They get you in shape and make you work harder."

Head coach Samuel Horrell agrees that two-a-days have benefitted the team.

"Any time you get more time to prepare for games, practice competition, get in some reps, and learn the game you put yourself in a position to be successful," Horrell said.

Two-a-days aren't the only dynamic changes being made to the Greyhounds.

Additions to the coaching staff and a new defensive formation have also been hallmarks of a fresh new season for the team.

Three new coaches have been added to the staff this year: Heath Kent as the special teams coach, Scott Weissman as the defensive coordinator, and Dan McMullin as the linebacker and wide receiver

coach.

Weissman has played an especially essential role on the team, leading the defense in installing the new four-three formation. Nailing down this formation has taken a front seat in practices.

**"Any time you get more time to prepare for games, practice competition, get in some reps, and learn the game you put yourself in a position to be successful"**

**Sam Horrell**  
Head Coach

"Practices so far have focused on learning the new defense we have installed," Horrell said. "Coach Weissman has the defensive guys excited and flying around making plays!"

Thanks to the dedication in practice, the defense seems to be progressing well.

"Our new defense is a strong point of the team," senior and starting quarterback Chase Haslett said. "It does a good job of stopping the run."

Practice doesn't revolve solely around the defense, however. Early practices have been used to get the team in shape and focused on the upcoming season.

"In practice we make sure we're going 100 percent," junior Luke Ulrich said. "We focus on getting out there all day and working hard."

After coming off of a disappointing last season, the team is eager to prove their skill on the field.

With more experienced players and fresh motivation, the Greyhounds look forward to a more successful season this year.

"We have more wide receivers and depth and a more experienced offensive line this year than last year," Haslett said. "I'm looking forward to winning



Nancy Freeman

The football team held two scrimmages this summer in order to prepare for their jamboree to be held on Aug. 20 at 5:30 p.m. The team also added two-a-days this year, which players say has helped the team prepare.

a few games this year." Horrell agrees that the team's experience in many positions is an advantage.

"We are returning four of five starters on the offensive line and returning a good quarterback this year," Horrell said. "We also have some athletic players returning with good speed."

Staying healthy will also be a focus of the team

this year, as injuries constantly impeded last year's team from reaching their full potential.

More than anything else, however, this year's Greyhounds value and take pride in the heart they bring to the field.

"We have a lot of heart and we just have to want it more than the other team," Walker said. "I'm really excited about this season." 🦁

## Fall Sports New Coaches

### The Coaches



Heath Kent  
Assistant Football



Dan McMullin  
Assistant Football



Scott Weissman  
Assistant Football

<b>How many years have you been coaching?</b>	It's my 11th year.	It's my 4th year.	It's my 34th year.
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<b>What was your highest level of athletic play?</b>	Albion College, DB	AFL: Iowa Branstormers, QB/WR/LB	Mizzou, DE
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<b>Who is your favorite pro athlete?</b>	Magic Johnson	Ladainian Tomlinson as a Charger	Bob Gibson
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### The Coaches



Kelsey Chartrai  
Assistant Cheerleading



Ryan King  
Assistant Football



Audrey Lampe  
Assistant Field Hockey

<b>How many years have you been coaching?</b>	It's my 1st year coaching high school.	It's my 1st year.	It's my 1st year.
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<b>What was your highest level of athletic play?</b>	Miami University Shakerettes	Truman University, TE	Cor Jesu, defensive
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<b>Who is your favorite pro athlete?</b>	Kurt Coleman	Emmitt Smith	Marion Jones
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## Does "No-Cut" policy hinder or benefit CHS athletics?

As a student-athlete I have both experienced and observed the effects of Clayton athletics' "no-cut" policy. Unlike nearly all other schools in the area, all students are allowed to participate in sports without the added stress of the possibility of being cut. This unique system, which was established many years ago, has caused a divide in the community.

Those who would argue for the system would most often cite the fact that the system allows students to try new sports without the pressure of being cut. It gives students the opportunity to try new extracurricular activities and broaden their high school experience.

On the other hand, those against would argue that the "no-cut" policy eliminates the competition that results from the threat of being cut. Those more experienced and serious athletes may suffer from the inexperience of new players and lack of competition caused by the policy.

Yet, as a student-athlete who has experienced this policy for the past three years it seems to me that the system falls into the gray area between these two arguments. Clearly the policy allows students to try new things while at the same time it may eliminate the competition caused by the possibility of being cut.

There is a truth to the claim that competition is weakened by the "no-cut" policy. Without the fear of being cut from the team, some players simply go through the motions in practice and lack true dedication. These actions, which may cause the player to be cut in other circumstances, affect the team in multiple ways. This player's attitude may infect other players like a disease causing them to become lazy and unmotivated.

However, the competition is instilled by coaches who are not required to play all players, thus there is no guarantee for playing time. There is also no guarantee that any one player will start in a game. Therefore players must compete in practice in or-

der to earn their spots and their minutes. Coaches are able to encourage a desire for excellence and the will to win by utilizing the almighty power of the bench. If players do not meet the coach's expectations, it is very easy for a coach to get the message across by simply not letting them play.

Although coaches have the tools to encourage players to work harder, it is far more difficult to get players to become more dedicated. This lack of dedication is part of the reason CHS athletic teams are not very successful.

This is not to say that CHS has no talented or dedicated athletes, it certainly does, but most students, fitting into the Clayton standards, are more into the academic aspects of school, which is shown through the continued success of CHS academic teams.

For many students, sports are simply an extracurricular activity either for enjoyment or for the purpose of putting it on a college transcript. Thus, the "no-cut" policy gives these students the perfect opportunities to pursue such activities. It allows students to try new things simply for the fun of it without the pressure caused by a cut policy.

Ultimately, the "no-cut" policy offers benefits to all students, whether they are all-star athletes or simply playing for the enjoyment. The policy is not to blame for a team's failure or the lack of competition and dedication. There are many reasons CHS athletics are not superior and from my experience the biggest culprits are the players on the team. A lack of drive and dedication can be found in all of Clayton athletic teams. It is the simple fact that there are not enough truly dedicated athletes to lead CHS teams to success.

So it seems, CHS athletics is not defined by its victories, but by the opportunities made available to the students to participate. And it is how they choose to participate that dictates the team's success. 🦁



BALLER STATUS

ANAT GROSS

Joins us at a CHS PTO

Meeting in the  
Library

at 7:00 PM

Next Meeting: September 13th

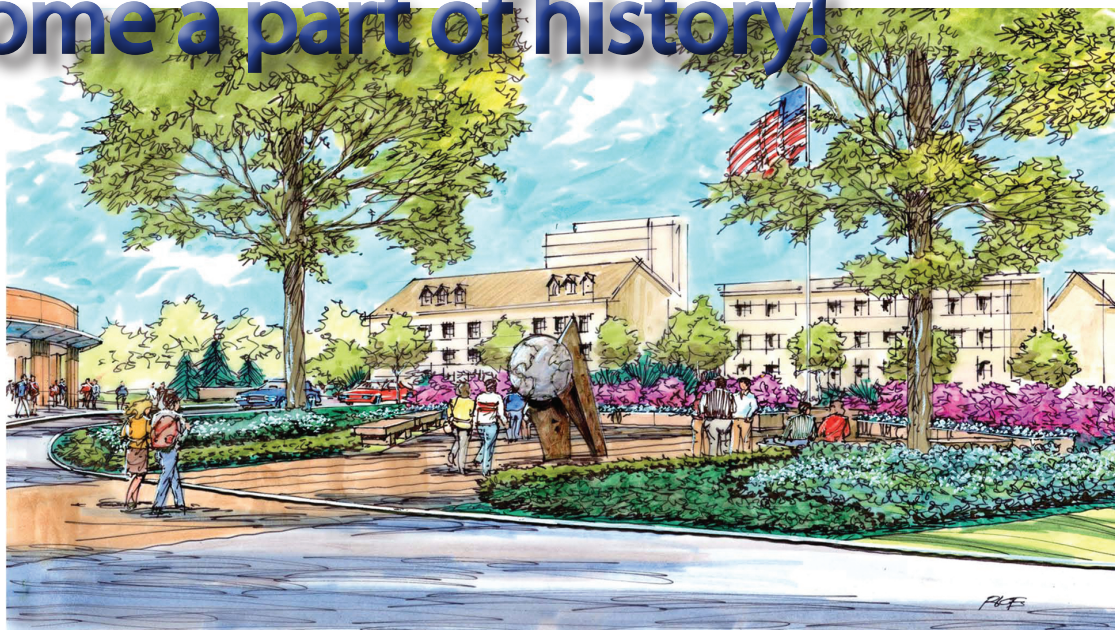
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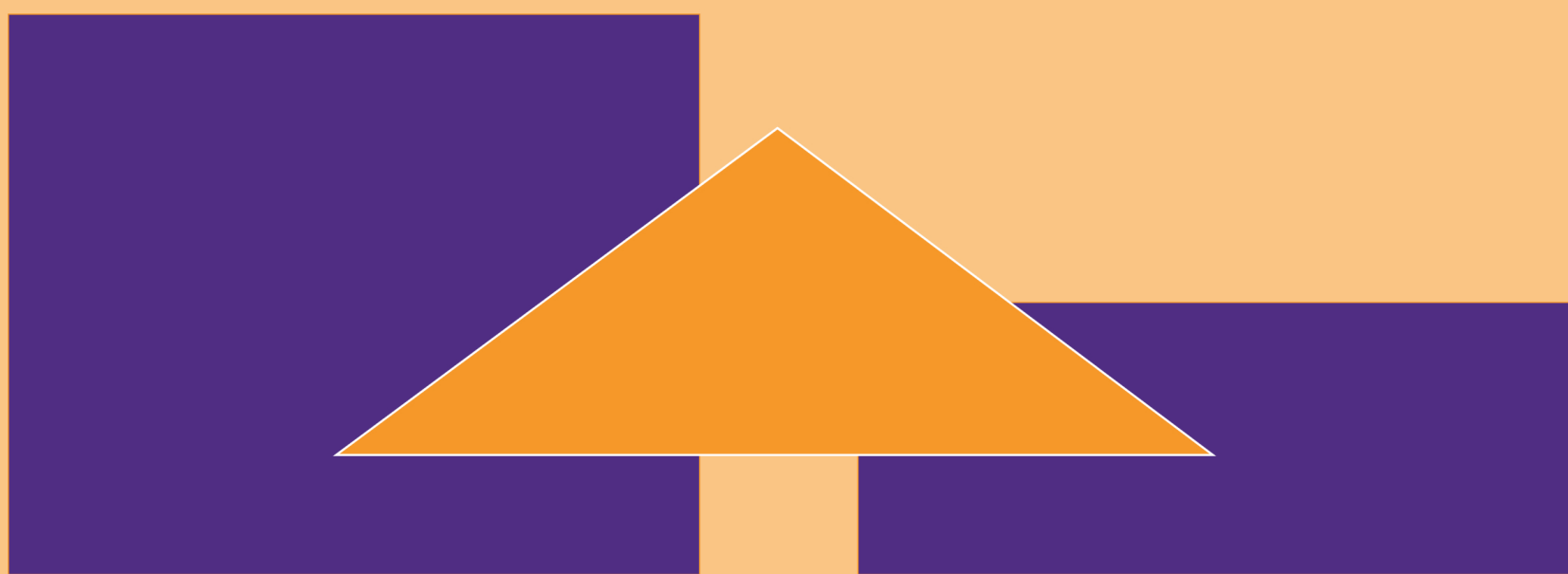
Please join the PTO in celebrating a century of excellence in education at Clayton High School. We are leading a project to build a beautiful outdoor space in which our students can gather. Let your child's name or favorite team live on at CHS by honoring them with an engraved brick.



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# Student musicians experience Europe

Ben Colagiovanni  
Editor

It's 4 a.m. in Paris. Six hours ago, you finished an exhilarating performance at Montessori Park in front of a passionate crowd. Still riding the wave of adrenaline, you floated off to bed.

Now, the alarm clock on your cell phone is blaring, your eyes still haven't adjusted to your bedside lamp, and you're hastily trying to find your suitcase so you can make the bus in 15 minutes.

You hop on the bus, take a quick bite off the breakfast bar in your backpack, and doze off again, half wondering what you were doing here.

Suddenly, you're jolted by your neighbor, and you gasp; not because of the shock of being thrust out of sleep, but due to the breathtaking beauty of the Swiss mountains welcoming you to your next destination.

For 15 days, this was the reality of 150 Missouri musicians, who in cooperation with the Missouri Ambassadors of Music, made their way through seven European countries, touching strangers with their music and learning lessons in the places where they played.

Among the group were CHS brass specialist Jennifer Shenberger, CHS percussion specialist Kim Shelley, and six CHS students.

Shenberger was initially contacted by Bob Altman, music director for the Missouri Ambassadors of Music, and quickly agreed to go on the trip. She extended the invitation to Shelley who brought invaluable percussion expertise.

Students were nominated by their teachers and offered invitations. On the 15-day tour students saw such landmarks as Windsor Castle, St. Mark's Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower, a house once owned by Mozart, and the Medieval Crime Museum in Bavaria.

CHS junior and tenor saxophonist Micah Vriezelaar astutely analyzed the differences in culture in the various countries.

"London is a bustling metropolis full of people with cool accents, and Venice is a maze built on a swamp, Vriezelaar said." Both have cultures that contrast so violently with our own that it makes for a pretty cool experience to be able to walk around and view everything for yourself."

While also taken by the stunning scenery and diverse culture of Europe, Shelley ensured she got a taste of the continent as well.

"The ice cream was awesome!" Shelley said. "I ate ice cream all the way through. It was perfect. It was fresh. You can't beat it."

But Shenberger, Shelley, and the other music directors knew full well that regardless of how often fantasies of sunsets in Paris and mid-morning gondola rides in Venice permeated the minds of these students, the trip was really about music, and as a consequence, this group had a responsibility to uphold.

"As a musician, you are the means of communication from the black and white on the page to the ears of the audience," Shenberger said. "Depending on how well you communicate has a bearing on how well the music is received and how much the audience gets out of it."

The only way to ensure sound communication is to practice.

Thus, this European experience truly began in Rolla, Missouri on a weekend in mid-April where students filled out paper work, ordered commemorative jackets, and, of course, practiced their songs. While the excitement amongst the group was evident and expected, Shelley noticed an attribute of this group which, having toured professionally, she knew would only enhance the quality of their performances.

"Everybody was really open and receptive," Shelley said. "There was no Clayton clique or Lindbergh clique, so everybody got to know each other really quickly. It was awesome to see that camaraderie."

By openly communicating with each other, the musicians ensured that violinists and cellists, sopranos and altos, and trumpeters and clarinetists would play and sing together, united in a mission to share their passion for music with citizens whose pride in musical excellence is a birthright by virtue of their European heritage.

"The audience in Europe is very well educated," Shelley said. "They know more about music than just pop. They're much more educated on choral music and string music because it's part of their history. Our American music didn't kick in until the mid 1800s. We're very young compared to them. So, when we were playing stuff that was familiar to them the heat was on. You really had to step up and play well."

The first set of performances was in London. Numerous great composers ranging from Handel to Andrew Lloyd Webber can trace their

roots to England. These young musicians would be undoubtedly tested, but, as Shenberger found out, not in the way they had expected.

"Speaking for the band specifically, it was interesting because in London they're very pro-American," Shenberger said. "We played a whole slew of American music and they really appreciated that. They got very excited when we played 'Stars and Stripes.' They were waving their American flags; they were very energetic and enthusiastic; they asked for encores. It was exciting to see. I was playing and had trouble focusing because I was so awestruck by the reaction of the audience."

It now seemed the challenge wouldn't be pleasing a Continental audience with technical proficiency while playing the music of esteemed European composers, but rather, maintaining composure while playing American music to animated crowds.

Fortunately, it appears as though all of the musicians were able to deliver sound performances and still admire the impact their music was having on the audience.

"In every country the audiences seemed to like our concerts," CHS junior and xylophone player Micah Iticovici said. "When I took a look into the audience I saw people listening to the music and truly enjoying themselves."

Along the way, the musicians also gained an appreciation for the power of music.

"People cannot appreciate a gesture of humility and peace if they cannot understand it," Vriezelaar said. "People can always appreciate music."

The balance of work and play created a valuable opportunity for the students to learn about European culture, polish their musicianship, and bond with their teachers and fellow musicians.

CHS musicians will have an opportunity to go on a similar trip in 2012. CHS junior Lauren Friedman, who sang soprano in the choir, wholeheartedly endorses the experience.

"I would definitely tell anyone who is thinking about taking this trip that it is an experience of a lifetime," Friedman said. "I am so glad that I went. I met so many people all around Missouri, and I was able to visit so many places that gave me a whole new perspective on how people live around the world."

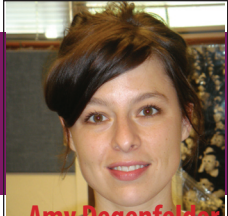
Vriezelaar also recommends the trip, but has a warning for future travelers.

"By all means, take the trip," Vriezelaar said. "It was one of the most fun things I've done in my life. Just don't get pick-pocketed in London or swindled by the gypsies in France, or anything else like that. That will just make you feel silly." ☺

## New faces in the halls



**Kirk Robinson**  
Learning Center



**Amy Degenfelder**  
English



**Jesse Lajie**  
Business



**Laura Sher**  
Art



**Stephanie Keattie**  
French



**Hongling Zhang**  
Chinese

### What are you looking forward to this year?

I really look forward to contributing to a more sustained and thoughtful educational experience for the students at Clayton.

I can't wait to experience learning with students who are hungry for knowledge.

I really look forward to interacting with students and the Clayton family.

I'm most looking forward to seeing students I've taught in the past at Wydown, and I'm excited to meet new CHS students as well.

I'm looking forward to working in a school that has such bright students and teachers and great resources.

I heard a lot of good things about CHS and look forward to working with the very bright CHS students on their Chinese.

### What is your favorite book?

Being a big Cardinal fan, I really enjoyed "Three Nights in August" by Buzz Bissenger.

I marvel in the first chapter of "Geek Love." "Real Ultimate Power" uplifts me. "The Road" was like dark chocolate. And, I could read "Cat's Cradle" once a year for the rest of my life.

My favorite book is "The Raving Fan" by Ken Blanchard and Sheldon Bowles.

I have some favorite books, but mostly favorite paintings. "Red Tree", by Piet Mondrian is absolutely beautiful!

I'm currently obsessed with the Twilight series. I also love "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil", among many others.

Many. But if I have to name one, I would say J. D. Salinger's short story collection "Nine Stories."

### What is an unusual fact about you?

I spent five years as a professional disk jockey in the late '70's and early '80's.

Well, I love the band Weezer; they have supplied lyrics for key moments in my life. In fact, I "made" my husband propose to me with lyrics from the song "Miss Sweeney."

I am involved in martial arts and own a Samurai sword.

I studied Geology before I was an Art major.

I'm so obsessed with France and French that I also work at a second job in a French boutique.

My hobby is writing and literary translation.

## Driver's Ed: Weighing the pros and cons for young drivers

Maria Massad  
Editor

Getting one's driver's license is a rite of passage for teenagers, and the Driver's Education class, or Driver's Ed, can help young adults accomplish it.

The driver's education program, sponsored by Ladue and Clayton School Districts, offered three driving sessions: May 25 to June 4, July 5 to July 30, and Aug. 2 to Sept. 3. Classes included 12 hours of class instruction and discussion, six hours of individual driving time, and six hours of driving observation.

Even though it is offered through the school, students must pay a fee and receive no high school credit for taking the class. Students took the class for various reasons.

"I decided to take Driver's Ed because I heard from a lot of my friends that it made them more confident drivers," sophomore Eudora Olsen said. "I also liked the fact that at the end of the course, they give you an actual practice driving test."

Others, like junior Aaron Dharna, who took the class last year, attended for different reasons.

"I already had my permit, but I took the class because I didn't feel too good about driving on the highway," Dharna said. "Also, taking the class gives one a cut in one's insurance."

Driving instructor Pete Barrett, who is employed at Pattonville High School, has been teaching driving for 24 years. He finds teaching rewarding.

"I've always had a desire to work with young people," Barrett said. "I get a tremendous satisfaction teaching people how to drive, because it is a lifelong skill, and teaching Driver's Ed is coaching someone how to drive. It's something they will have to do every day, hopefully safely and prudently."

Barrett encourages high school students to take the class to improve their driving skills.

"You will have to be a safe driver every day," Barrett said. "You must listen and learn in order to build proper fundamentals, which include knowing the basic functions of the vehicle and controlling it, knowing how to drive in a straight line, and making turns and smooth starts and stops correctly. Students are presented with the nuts and bolts of driving."

The students have found the actual driving experience helpful and instructive.

"I really like driving with the instructor," Ol-

sen said. "This is because I have learned new little details about driving that I hadn't even thought of before."

Junior Shuyang Li agrees, even though he had not had previous driving experience prior to the class.

"I think the driving portion of the Driver's Ed class is pretty nice and informative," Li said.

Dharna, however, disagrees.

"I had been driving for an entire year before taking the class, and I like driving," Dharna said. "I did not really like the way that the driving was carried out, which is a student switching with one other person every 30 minutes for two hours. I would rather have driven until I wanted the other person to take over."

Students found that the theory part of the class was less interesting.

"The actual 'class' is not particularly useful, but that's just because most of the stuff we learn is either somewhat common knowledge or stuff I've already known, like, for instance, nature's laws," Li said. "I think the class is pretty effective, more so with the actual driving portion than the classroom segment. It definitely helped with the written portions of the examination, though."

Olsen agreed, preferring the driving more.

"I think the classroom portion of Driver's Ed is helpful and the material presented important, but some of it can be dry," Olsen said. "The class is definitely effective, even though the material can be really dry at times. The driving itself is fun, though."

Barrett acknowledges the weaknesses of the class.

"A weakness is the shortage of time," Barrett said.

"Even though classes meet over a large time span, the class meets for the theory part only 12 hours, and only 12 hours in the car driving or observing. Therefore, I have to abbreviate basic fundamentals. Also, after the class finishes, the students do not continue driving sometimes."

As the teacher, Barrett praises the strengths of the class, too.

"A strength is that the class helps you take the driving test," Barrett said. "It gives an introduction to driving for beginners as well. Students learn very quickly and improve their driving. They are able to go from driving in a parking lot to driving on an interstate in three to four weeks. It's amazing. One won't be perfect at driving, but students must remember that driving is an attitude." ☺

"I think the classroom portion of Driver's Ed is helpful and the material presented important, but some of it can be dry"

Eudora Olsen  
Sophomore



Courtesy of Joe Edwards and Blueberry Hill

Edwards and the Loop Trolley Company purchased two of the original trolley cars and refurbished them; however, they will most likely use newer, more energy-efficient cars fashioned with what Edwards refers to as the "classic lines" of the old cars.

## Loop Trolley to stimulate growth along East Delmar

Continued from pg. 1

"The Loop was designated 'One of the 10 great streets in America' by the American Planning Association," Edwards said. "So this route makes the most sense—it connects one of America's 10 great streets to Forest Park."

Edwards hopes to one day extend the route to Forest Park's many attractions as well, saying that the trolley system is really a "prototype for other parts of St. Louis."

He hopes to connect different sectors of the city and perhaps eliminate some of the stresses and damages that come with individual automobile transportation.

"Hopefully the trolley could one day save people the stress of a second automobile," Edwards said. "The trolley could serve as their transportation instead."

In addition, the trolley will be what Edwards proudly refers to as "good, clean electric transportation."

"Young people in particular are really aware of

environmental concerns," he said. "We bought two of the old trolleys and refurbished them, and they're ready to run, but we might buy new battery-run cars instead. They'll have the same classic lines as the old ones, but in some parts of the route, we won't have to have overhead wires."

But Edwards doesn't just stop with attracting one demographic; he hopes to extend the trolley's influence throughout the city once the initial system takes off.

"The next step will be through Forest Park and out to Central West End, maybe to Clayton," Edwards said. "Maybe one day we can bring conventions back to St. Louis—maybe someone will be caught between three cities... they'll see that we just recently built this trolley system. I'd love to see [St. Louis] get back again."

Edwards hopes to break ground in the fall of 2011, and to have the trolley up and running in September 2012.

"That's fast for a project this big," Edwards said. "But we've been working long to make sure it happens." ☺

## 'Will Grayson, Will Grayson' full of complex ideas, truthful teen lives

Kara Kratcha  
A&E Editor

Teen literature (or YA novels, as the library calls them) does not have a reputation of tackling hard issues in a stylistically adventurous manner. John Green and David Levithan's latest collaboration challenges the common notion of young adult fiction.

Will Grayson, Will Grayson features two high school boys, both named Will Grayson, who seem to have absolutely nothing in common (this sense is heightened by their separate authors—Green wrote the odd-numbered chapters and Levithan wrote the even). The first Will is a cheery Neutral Milk Hotel fan in search of the perfect concert, while the second Will suffers from depression and cannot bring himself to add the "good" to "goodbye." Predictably, the main characters find common ground over which to bond by the end, leaving the reading with a sense that everything in the characters' world is entirely too feel-good.

But don't judge a book by its cheery ending; the body of the book makes this a worthwhile read. Tiny Cooper, the one character who spans the chapter divide, holds the titles for world's biggest gay boy and world's gayest big boy, both of which provide an excellent vehicle for exploring both teen sexuality and the difficulty of maintaining an honest identity. Green's Will Grayson's rules for survival—shut up and don't care—ring familiar with many a reader, while Levithan manages to expose what drives so many people to confide in a complete stranger on the Internet in a way that earlier authors couldn't and modern adult writers likely won't.

Aside from the novel's content, the structure of the novel makes it a worthwhile read. Green has described the book as being shaped like an X, meaning that the characters begin far away from each other (both spatially and emotionally), come together briefly at the convergence of the X, and drift away diagonally, taking on many of the characteristics of the other Will Grayson.

Despite being written by two authors, the character interaction and plot development is flawless. The alternating chapters are distinct but not jarring. The fact that this book happens to be a collaboration does not seem kitschy, unlike other YA novels of the same nature. And unlike most other teen lit, the novel features boys as the main characters.

The characters are believable to even the most scrupulous critic, and the narrative is incredibly candid. Sure, Will Grayson, Will Grayson is teen lit, but in this case the genre plays right into the beauty of the work. The novel speaks to teens because it is about them but is not contrived. The characters are imperfect. They swear. They quickly fall in and out of love. They exercise their egos. The Will Graysons accidentally meet for the first time in a porn shop. The story is quirky, entertaining, and thought provoking. And hey, the book ends with a musical composed by the infamous Tiny Cooper. Any teen or parent trying to understand their teen should read Will Grayson, Will Grayson. ☞



Zach Praiss

A realistic replication of J. K. Rowling's Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry has been erected at Orlando's Universal Studios in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. Visitors can visit coveted places like the Great Hall and Hogsmeade.

## Harry Potter World stupefies fans with sites from movie franchise

Zach Praiss  
Community Editor

Welcome to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. Prepare yourself. Thousands of muggles have swarmed to this new theme park in the blistering, sticky heat of Florida. Despite the long lines and overpriced merchandise, the park captures your imagination and pulls you into the magical adventure of Harry Potter.

Your journey begins as you pass the Hogwarts Express and through the winding snowy streets of Hogsmeade. Be sure to grab a refreshing drink of the sweet and frothy Butterbeer and wander through the familiar shops of the wizarding world.

If you have time for the wait, visit Ollivander's Wand Shop. Once inside, you will find yourself in a perfect replication of the dusty old shop, which is stacked full with wands from the floor to the ceiling. Ollivander will fit you with a wand in an exciting spectacle of magic where the wand chooses the wizard.

Also, explore the candy shop, Honeydukes, and taste some of their homemade sweets ranging from chocolate frogs to Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans. Next door at Zonko's joke shop, browse through an array of strange magical toys and little, pink Pygmy Puffs. In addition, stroll through Dervish and Banges to see their vast variety of wizard products including broomsticks, class robes, Remembralls, and the Quibbler, complete with Spectrespecs.

The park also features a few landmark restaurants from the Harry Potter series. Enjoy Sheppard's Pie and Cornish pasties with pumpkin juice in the Three Broomsticks or a variety of alcoholic drinks in the Hog's Head. No detail is overlooked in the park; even Moaning Myrtle can be heard in the restrooms.

Next, for those thrill seekers, take a ride on the Dragon Challenge, inspired by the Triwizard Tournament. Climb aboard either the Chinese Fireball or Hungarian Horntail and fly into the sky in a ferocious duel between the

two dragons. On the other hand, for those younger muggles, hop on the Flight of the Hippogriff and soar over Hagrid's Hut and the Forbidden Forest.

Finally, make your way up to the towering Hogwarts Castle for the brand new indoor ride, Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey. Do not worry about the enormous line because the queue weaves through the familiar classrooms and magical corridors of Hogwarts. So, ignore the professors (employees) who are trying to keep the line moving and take your time to soak up the fine details of the instruments, including the pensive, in Dumbledore's office and the moving paintings in the portrait gallery. In addition, tour the Defense Against the Dark Arts classroom and the Gryffindor common room.

The Sorting Hat then explains the safety procedures of the ride while you are hustled into the Great Hall, which serves as the loading station for the ride and features the magic floating candle ceiling.

Then the groundbreaking new ride takes you with Harry Potter and his friends on an unforgettable journey through some of the greatest events of the series. You start off flying with Harry and Hermione on broomsticks over the castle grounds, barely dodging towers and walls. You chase after the snitch in a Quidditch game only to be attacked by dementors over the field and nearly have your soul sucked out by their deadly kiss. After that close encounter, you continue dodging Harry Potter's foes after escaping the whomping willow and barely making it out of Aragog's spider nest.

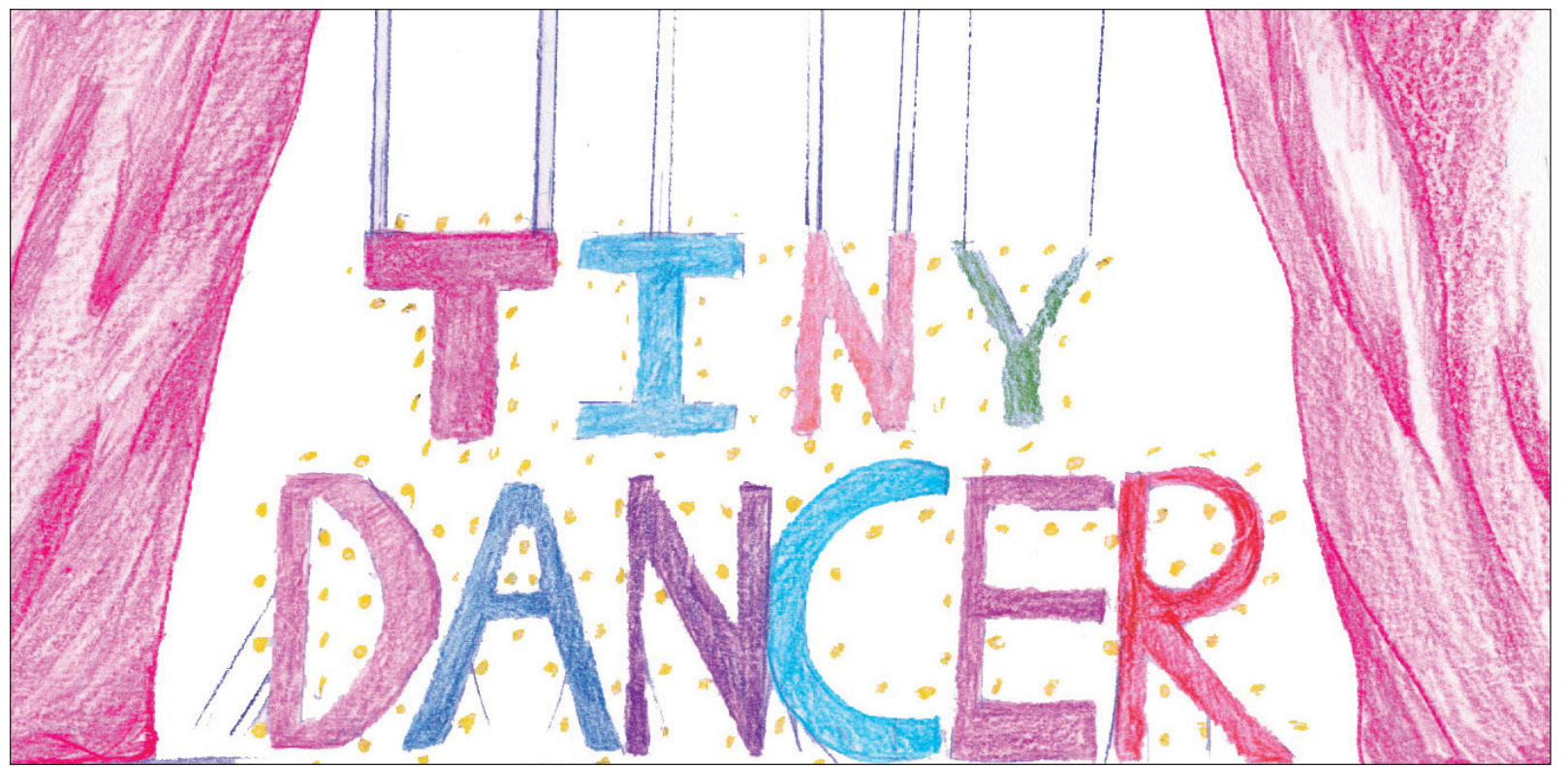
The ride, secretly operated by a robotic arm on a track, immerses you in the action by simulating drops and turns. As a result, the Forbidden Journey is an unreal experience where you are truly pulled into the magical journey of Harry Potter.

In the end, the park provides muggles with a one-of-a-kind experience in the wizarding world that will surely leave you stupefied in wonder. ☞



Zach Praiss

Hungry fans can purchase Butterbeer and pumpkin pasties in Hogsmeade.



Mimi Lu

## Despite less than desirable service, India Palace delivers good food, new tastes

Jake Lee  
Editor

Though most people have experienced the countless number of oriental restaurants, a rare delicacy people often overlook in St. Louis is Indian food. Although people are unfamiliar with the different kinds of spices, India Palace is sure to make Indian food a new favorite.

I had first heard of India Palace from some family friends. They recommended the \$9.95 Monday through Friday and the \$12.95 Saturday through Sunday lunch buffet. A fan of Indian food, I decided to go in the slim time slot of 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

When I first arrived to India Palace, I was not impressed. Already impatient from the elevator ride to the 11th floor, I was further displeased with the service. I was waiting at the "Please be Seated" sign for a waiter to direct me to a table. Though there were several waiters, some occupied and oth-

ers not, they all ignored me and expected another waiter to seat me. After five to ten minutes, a waiter finally decided to come to my stomach's rescue.

Not wanting to wait any further, I walked immediately to the buffet section, where I was once again disappointed by the small selection of foods. Only having around 10 items to choose from, including dessert and salad, I decided to get a little bit of everything and had a seat.

Unhappy with my first impression of the restaurant, I failed to realize the location of the restaurant. At the 11th floor of the Airport Plaza Inn, there was a beautiful view from the surrounding windows of the restaurant. Since the restaurant is located by the airport, I also saw a couple airplanes launch off the airstrip, a very unique form of entertainment.

While looking outside, I finally picked up a fluffy yet crispy piece of nan, the traditional baked

bread, and dipped it into the red chicken tikka masala, a kind of curry made with tomato sauce.

To my surprise, the food was delicious. I quickly grabbed another piece of nan and this time tried the goat curry, which is a famous Kashmiri delicacy. Unfamiliar with goat meat, I hesitated in trying a piece, but did not regret it. It was different, but at the same time similar to beef and it left a pleasant aftertaste in my mouth.

The last dip was the palak channa, which is made up of spinach and garbanzo beans mixed in a mild cream sauce. Though I do not like spinach, in this particular sauce, it did not taste like spinach or garbanzo beans. It was a whole new flavor and was my favorite out of the three sauces. I had completely forgotten about the negative factors and enjoyed my meal.

The great thing about the different sauces was not just the taste but the variety in taste. Being able to switch up the order of

the different tastes, I did not tire of any taste and felt encouraged to consume more.

One last great thing about India Palace lunch buffet is the unlimited amount of rice, nan, and the notorious tandoori chicken. Tandoori chicken is seen in all Indian restaurants, but the red meat broiled over mesquite left a distinguished taste in India Palace. Though other tandoori chicken taste a little plain, this chicken had a particular barbecue flavor to it, leaving the mouth watering for more. The vegetable pakora, which is made up of fresh vegetable slices dipped in garbanzo bean batter, also added a nice balance to the tandoori chicken, grains, and the different curries.

Though the selection of foods is quite small and the service may be a bit unsatisfying, the low price for a buffet made up of delicious delicacies overrules the negative factors. By far, India Palace is the best place for Indian food in St. Louis. ☞

## 'The Other Guys' satisfies

Dylan Schultz  
Editor

The Other Guys is the best comedy of the summer. Will Ferrell and Mark Walberg work together to form a brilliant comedic pair that wins over audiences' hearts across America. With a unique combination of action and humor, this classical police case film is as humorous as it is dramatically entertaining.

Allen Gamble and Terry Hoitz, played by Ferrell and Walberg respectively, are at the bottom of the police force barrel. The full extent of their job is doing paperwork for the more popular and traditional cop pair Danson (Dwayne Johnson) and Highsmith (Samuel L. Jackson).

However, when Danson and Highsmith die on the job it is Gamble and Hoitz's turns to step up. They take on a minor missing permit case that becomes more and more complicated the closer they get to solving it. Through this case, Gamble and Hoitz become better people and better friends.

For this feature film to become

a hit, it needed to fill the criteria for a good action movie as well as a good comedy. Shooting scenes, high speed chases, explosions, and hand-to-hand combat are all well choreographed to be suspenseful as well as funny.

Special effects were not overused, a common issue in many recent motion pictures. The witty dialogue, plot and character development keeps the audience interested without a need for overly dramatic explosions.

The first and foremost reason that The Other Guys is better than any other comedy of its type is that it is not a parody. Many comedies rely on poking fun at classic and popular movies and adopt a similar plot. With an original script, the jokes are hardly necessary to make this movie a hit.

However, writers Adam McKay and Chris Henchy enhance the experience using many different elements of comedy. Despite some use of cruel language and adult content, this movie could be appealing to anyone looking for a fun way to spend an hour and a half. ☞

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# An evolutionary state of mind

"We come from monkeys, don't you see the resemblance?"

I can shamefully recall using this line on countless occasions during heated arguments about evolution. I usually used it right at the point in the debate when I was supposed to explain Darwin's theory, but since I didn't understand the concept myself I threw the "monkey" line out instead; usually the dispute ended at a stalemate.

Since I took my first biology course just last year, I only have really known what evolution actually is for about six months now.

Nonetheless, for the past three years or so, I have been having semi-intelligent arguments with people about how evolution is obviously how humans came to be and the religiously motivated creationism is not.

Do the math; that means I had no idea what I was talking about for over three years!

Sure this phenomenon is due to my overly confident personality and my slight tendency to be a smart aleck, but as I reflect on this tendency, I realize something different.

I didn't accept evolution because of the scientific facts, the archeological evidence, and the finches from the Galapagos. I never sat down and looked at creationism and evolution side by side and compared notes.

Creationism has simply always been wrong in my book, for what I now see as no good reason. I was holding evolution as the answer because I was told it is the correct answer, nothing more.

I was essentially doing exactly what I thought I was avoiding by

accepting evolution and not creationism. I had accepted a story based not on merit, but on the approval of those around me. There is no difference between thinking humans come from monkeys and God creating the world in seven days if you don't understand the ideas behind these theories.

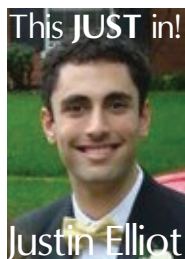
My biology course last year didn't change my opinion on evolution; I simply began to comprehend what evolution is – empowering me to share my new ideas with my friends and family. I was astonished to see how complex and intricate evolution is, something I had perceived to be so simple.

I'm happy to say that I no longer think humans came from monkeys. But, if I had a captive audience I can easily explain how founder's effect, missense gene mutations, and three legged elephants interplay in the world of evolution, and stand as our everyday testament to its process.

Laz's biology course taught me much more than just evolution; I learned that as a teen passionate about his views on the world, what ever those views are, I must understand where my views originate.

Before I share my ideas to the world I need to not only believe in them, but also understand them.

I'm not trying to say that you need to accept evolution. What I am saying is that the choice is yours, but whatever you accept, recognize why it is your belief. Don't become a mere mouthpiece for your family's ideologies. Create your own set of beliefs and then go out preaching your ideas to the world. ☺



Justin Elliot



Junior Laura Bleeke and her older sister, Caroline Bleeke, pose for a photo in the Plaza de España in Barcelona, Spain, while waiting to watch the World Cup Final.

## Spain and America provide different experiences, lifestyles

On July 10 my family packed its bags for our annual family trip. With my sister having just graduated from my college, my brother going into his sophomore year at college, and me still attending high school, the logistics of planning a family trip become increasingly more difficult every year.

But finally, after months of pre-organizing, the train passes, plane tickets, and hotel reservations were set for our two-week adventure through Spain.

We caught the redeye from Philadelphia to Barcelona, arriving in Spain around 8 a.m.

I was keeping a running tally between Spain and the U.S. for things I preferred in the two countries, and it wasn't long before Spain had pulled ahead.

The moment we stepped outside to the taxicab line at the airport I knew Spain had just won a place in my heart. Outside, there was no myriad of old mismatched yellow cars with an array of different cab company names on the sides of them.

Instead, every cab car was new, shiny, and freshly painted. Every car was the exact same shade of bright, cheery yellow, and they all had matching stripes down their sides and nothing else.

The taxi windows were kept open on our ride to our hotel, and the dry heat with a cool breeze off the sea felt good after the oppressive, humid air in St. Louis. We arrived at our hotel exhausted after having been traveling for the past 21 hours with, in my case, no sleep.

We were immediately shown to the café where we ordered espresso drinks to go with our small breakfast sandwiches. The fresh baguette and cured meats with crushed tomato spread on top was a definite step up from the usual cereal and orange juice.

We continued our day by walking around the city and our neighborhood, trying to get a sense of the city.

On almost every block there was a little shop selling just about every kind of soccer paraphernalia you could want. They sold the dark blue and red striped jerseys of FC Barcelona and the bright red jerseys of the Spanish national team.

It would have taken an idiot not to notice something big was happening. Everywhere you went people were wearing the Spanish colors proudly, and there was a sense of excitement in the air. That night it was the World Cup final between Spain

and the Netherlands.

We left for the Plaza de España, where game was to be shown on giant screens, a couple of hours before the match was supposed to start. The subway cars were packed with people from all over the world wearing the red and yellow colors of Spain.

I had been awake for 32 hours and was feeding off the energy from the people around me. In the plaza there were thousands and thousands of people. It seemed as if every person in Barcelona under the age of 30 was there.

By now, Spain was dominating in my tally with the U.S. and I was fairly certain that I would live in Barcelona when I grew up. After the Spanish victory in the World Cup, the country was in an undeniably good mood.

I couldn't imagine why anyone would want to live anywhere else. The perfect weather, delicious food, beautiful people, great soccer team, and gorgeous architecture made me want to stay in Spain forever.

I couldn't understand why anyone would want to live in the U.S. when there were places like in Spain in the world. I reluctantly boarded a plane two weeks later in Seville that was headed back to Philadelphia.

When we got off the plane and went to customs I was amazed at the organization and efficiency of everything. The U.S., to my surprise, had just gained a couple more tally marks on my scoreboard.

They continued to win quite a few more points when we stopped into a sushi restaurant at the airport for some dinner.

When we ordered our food the waitress brought out exactly what we wanted. In Spain, the waiter almost always forgot to bring something or brought something we never ordered. And, to our great surprise, the water was free and just kept coming. We didn't have to wait 30 minutes for our bill and the waitress came to check on us occasionally.

As we paid for our food I realized that I hadn't given the U.S. enough credit back in Spain.

I had finally come to the realization that both countries have their pluses and minuses, and both are amazing places to visit. ☺



## LouFest anticipated by eager music fans

As someone who has bemoaned the lack of a music festival with nationally recognized acts in St. Louis for years, I was obviously excited when a local music festival by the name of LouFest was announced.

Many times, if a band or performer I enjoy is going on tour, they either aren't coming to St. Louis at all, are selling tickets at a very high price, or are performing at an 18+ or 21+ venue. So, naturally, I was happy to see that LouFest is more affordable than many other festivals are in addition to being an all-ages event.

Although the festival's lineup doesn't quite match that of Austin City Limits (the event that LouFest founder Brian Cohen modeled his festival after), LouFest has nonetheless put together a great group of musicians to perform at its first and—hopefully—annual festival.

The band I'm most looking forward to seeing is Broken Social Scene, a Canadian rock collective with an ever-changing lineup of musicians that has, in the past, touted Feist and members of the bands Metric and Stars among its ranks. Broken Social Scene has been releasing amazing indie rock for the last several years and I'm looking forward to hearing music from their new album, Forgiveness Rock Record, in a live setting.

Other stages at the event I'm eager to

visit include She & Him and Titus Andronicus. She & Him, a '60s AM radio-inspired pop group fronted by actress Zooey Deschanel and singer-songwriter M. Ward, recently released a greater summer album called Volume 2 that manages to be accessible without becoming boring. They should be a crowd-pleaser even for those less familiar with the other musical acts at LouFest.

I'm also excited to see New Jersey indie rockers Titus Andronicus because I've really been enjoying their newest album, The Monitor. Even though they were great the last time I saw them live, it was only a 45-minute set at a record store that I'm sure they would improve upon in a festival setting.

The genre diversity at LouFest is also quite impressive. In addition to the aforementioned bands, there will also be a solo performance by Wilco frontman Jeff Tweedy, plenty of prominent local bands, and even a traditional string group.

Forest Park is truly the perfect locale for an outdoor music festival, so I'm glad to see that someone has finally capitalized on the eager audience and ideal location that St. Louis can provide for such a festival. It will be a nice change for St. Louis natives to not have to drive to Chicago, Austin, or even farther to enjoy some live music out in the fresh air. ☺



Dawn Androphy

Highs and Lows

## 12 Days in the back-country of New Mexico

On June 28, I woke up at 4:45 a.m. I was going to Philmont Scout Ranch, a 136,000-acre ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico, and I had no idea what to expect, but first my group had to drive the thousand miles there.

That morning as I met up with the rest of the group going with me, I remember wondering what I had gotten myself into. Here I was going with two other fellow 16-year-olds, three adult leaders, and you guessed it, five 14-year-olds. I had known most of these guys for as long as I could remember, but this was two weeks in a desert, with no internet, no air-conditioning, no food (I'm sorry I don't consider dehydrated food – food that has been frozen and placed in vacuum to get any water out – actual food), no TV to watch the World Cup, and basically no access with the outside modern world. I then reminded myself that I did indeed love the outdoors, and I was to experience what many say is the epitome of a Boy Scout's experience. I

was excited, but not quite yet pumped. As most trips go, we got to our destination: the base camp of Philmont. I can still recall what I saw that first day. In the distance, there were literally hundreds of canvas tents, making me imagine that we were actually in a military camp. But I was not in the army; I was at Philmont Scout Ranch.

As I walked around base camp, I felt like I could see the difference between the people departing on their respective treks and the people going home. The latter seemed to me to be dirty, tanned from the sun, tired, and just ready to go home. The people like me not yet in the backcountry were still clean, ready for an adventure, but perhaps a little scared.

The following day, I finally got out

into the mountains. The first day was easy, only a half-mile hike, but we were still getting acclimated to the thousands of feet difference in elevation from the several hundred feet elevation back in Saint Louis. After that first day, we would hike consistently every day, about six or seven miles on the trail with our 45-pound packs. All I had to deal with were the elements of nature and the occasional desire for civilization.

We woke up generally around 6 a.m., departed by 8 a.m. and got to camps by 2 or 3 p.m. This left us with a great deal of time for exploring around the campsites and bouldering.

We did this on several occasions, but did especially well on one afternoon. In this place, we were able to rise several hundred feet, climbing from boulder

to boulder, and we were able to see far above the tree line and watch the sunset. That is an experience that you don't forget.

The beauty of nature is indescribable in the English language, only to be understood by seeing it for oneself—the cascading mountain streams, the aspens and pines rising into the sky, the brilliant colors found in the sky throughout the course of the day, and the views from the various mountains that we summited while being there. To finally come to the top of a mountain after a full day of waiting for the moment to actually be there, and place the pack on the ground, take a swig of water, and then look in awe at the great enveloping mountains and plains is I feel one of the greatest experiences a person can know.

My time at Philmont is one that will always be in my memory. It is not the kind of thing that people are generally given the opportunity to do. It was a learning experience, one that taught me

much, regardless of the short time I was able to spend there. To be in the back-country for an extended period of time allowed me to reflect on my life, and hopefully not take everything so much for granted.

Many of my ancestors helped settle different areas of the West such as Wyoming, Utah, Arizona and the Dakotas. Although I felt that I know a little about their histories, and the difficulties they had to overcome, being on this experience gave me more understanding and a gratitude for what they had done, dealing with not only the elements of nature that I saw, but having to gain a resolve to settle a place and make the best of it.

That is something I know I can learn from. Philmont is a place to which I want to return one day. I will remember you, Philmont, a place that I will also be able to relate to and recall when I wish to be away from the city and be again in the place where humans first dwelt, in the wilderness. ☺

the globe

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Clayton High School Globe  
1 Mark Twain Circle  
Clayton, MO 63105  
(314) 854-6668  
Fax: 854-6734  
globe@clayton.k12.mo.us

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# SUMMER TRAVELS

Continued from pg. 1



Some students used time in their summer to visit colleges, like senior Becca Steinberg. Steinberg visited Harvard, MIT, Yale, Columbia, Swarthmore and Princeton. In addition to visiting colleges, Steinberg enjoyed visiting tourism sites such as the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and seeing "West Side Story" on Broadway.

"Harvard was more exciting than I expected it to be—there were lots of people everywhere and I enjoyed the urban atmosphere... [Yale] was beautiful, and New Haven really isn't as bad as everybody says it is," Steinberg said.

Sophomore Meredith Joseph went to Costa Rica on an Eco Quest called Passport to the World with the Bnai Brith Youth Organization. The purpose of the program was to explore Costa Rica and learn about eco-friendliness and sustainability.

Joseph had a great time exploring the country and meeting kids from all around the country who went on the program. Her group enjoyed different tourism sites, including a place called Rancho Margot and visiting an organic farm adjacent to a volcano.

"My favorite experience was probably the zip line," Joseph said. "We did a zip line over the treetops of Costa Rica and it was such a beautiful view."

Some students, like senior Elle Jacobs, found themselves taking multiple trips during the summer.

Jacobs went to New York City, volunteered to work at an orphanage and a dentist office for a week and a half in Peru and then vacationed in Italy for two weeks with her family.

Jacobs found that she learned the most in Peru because she was able to practice her Spanish there as well as learned a lot about medicine. Not only was it an educational trip, but it also related to her life back in St. Louis.

Students like senior Ali Meyer and senior Helen Wiley immersed themselves in languages by living abroad. Meyer participated in a homestay in France for about six weeks with the program "Experiment International Living" in order to improve her language skills.

"I spent my days exploring Paris, hiking and canoeing in St. Rome, taking classes at a language school, and taking courses at a cooking school," Meyers said. "Most importantly, my days were spent listening... Soaking up the language and the culture. I've never slept more soundly in my life after an entire day in French."

Wiley immersed herself in Spanish by traveling to Nicaragua for a month. Wiley traveled to a rural area outside of the city Esteli and stayed with a school teacher and her six year old daughter during the weekdays for the beginning of the trip. She also stayed with friends of her father's.

"During the week I volunteered in one of the local high schools and later in one of the local elementary schools in the morning," Wiley said. "In the afternoon I would take Spanish classes for four hours in town with a teacher... The idea was total immersion."

Wiley would spend weekends traveling to other parts of the country, so she got a feel for the culture of Nicaragua. One of her favorite experiences was hiking up to the top of volcano Momcacho, a no longer active volcano that has rainforest growing atop it.

"The rural farm area where I was living was one of the prettiest places I've been," Wiley said. Other students, like senior Sarah McAfee, found beautiful landscapes here within the U.S.

McAfee went to the AMK Research Ranch in the Teton Mountain Range in Wyoming. She was accompanied by CHS teachers Mr. Collis, Mrs. Storms and CHS students senior Alex Breckenridge, senior Lily Gage and senior Tanner Schertler.

"I decided to go because Mr. Collis came into my bio class to recruit applicants," McAfee said. "He explained what we would be doing and where, and it sounded really exciting. I really like the outdoors and environmental sciences, so this seemed like a great learning opportunity since it was almost entirely field research."

While McAfee and other CHS students were helping a team of scientists study the Sagebrush cricket, senior Sagar Yadama also helped conduct research, but on the other side of the globe.

Yadama went to India to participate in his internship with a Non-Government Organization called the Foundation for Ecological Security for six weeks, starting June 8 and ending July 20.

"My project itself dealt with surveying the water quality in the different wells in the village of Salri," Yadama said. "Every day I commuted to the village at five or six in the morning and then traveled to each well to get water samples and test the water."

To test the water Yadama had a briefcase with test kits that would test the water for pH, nitrate concentration, dissolved oxygen content, and total dissolved solids, among other substances.

"My main focus was on nitrate concentration because the fertilizers used by the villagers have high nitrate concentrations that could contaminate the wells nearby," Yadama said. "Nitrate in water is unhealthy and leads to many different diseases, especially in infants."

After Yadama collected the water and conducted tests, he sent the water back to labs in Udaipur, a city in Rajasthan. The lab sent him back the results.

"Generally, the water quality is pretty bad," Yadama said. "Nitrate was not very high but it was at a critical level and could become dangerous. Iron and copper were at critical levels as well. Phosphorus on the other hand was huge. This leads to eutrophication, and algal blooms in the water that is a major cause of diarrhea and sometimes paralysis."

In India, especially villages like Salri, diarrhea is a major cause of death. People become dehydrated because of it and this coupled with the lack of medication and intense heat is lethal."

Overall, Yadama found that even though his summer work wasn't revolutionary, he could still effect change in a small community and aid the FES in its goal to improve people's water conditions.

"I am not going to say that my work changed the world and that I changed Salri forever," Sagar said. "I found out what is wrong with their water and what can be done to decrease mortality rates in Salri. I do believe that I made a difference in that village by identifying which wells are polluted and which should be used for drinking. Additionally, FES will use this research to improve the livelihoods of not only people in Salri but in other villages."

The poor water conditions in Salri inspired Yadama to take a further step. "Through this internship I made the decision to pursue engineering in college," Yadama said.

Other CHS travelers also agree that their trips had incredible influence on them. Goodman thought that her camp experience would improve her horseback riding skills at home.

"While I was at camp I was able to better understand my goals in the horseback riding show world," Goodman said. "This has helped me to now decide and better understand the steps I need to take to reach my goals."

Myers agreed that what he learned would be very influential in the long run. "I learned an incredible amount this summer, but if anything stands out it's that I learned how to practice efficiently, which is the most important thing you can possibly learn how to do in the long term," Myers said.

Meyer's homestay in France taught her even more than what she expected. "In the end, my trip to France taught me so much more than just language," Meyer said. "I had to learn very quickly to stop fearing being incorrect. There's no time when you're there to learn. I feel that this not only applies to learning another language, but to all aspects of life."

Many CHS students were fortunate enough to travel, explore and learn this summer, and hopefully they will be able to take that summer of new experience and apply it to what they learn and do here at CHS.

"Being there has changed me. It's amazing to feel that in touch with nature, and to be that way for a whole two weeks was exhilarating," McAfee said. "We lost track of the days and the time and were just so involved in the research and being in such a beautiful place. I'll never forget it."

**"In the end, my trip to France taught me so much more than just language."**

**Ali Meyer  
Senior**

**B u t**

*Meredith McMahon*



**Elle Jacobs  
Senior**

Peru was a huge influence on my life because I have a lot of new friends from Peru and because I worked in a dentist office which I really enjoyed. Because I enjoyed it so much, I will continue working in a dentist office here in St. Louis.



**Meredith Joseph  
Sophomore**

I met so many wonderful people that I feel like are my best friends and I will keep in touch with. I'm a lot more aware of the environment around me, and Costa Rica has shown me a different way to live that I hope to pass on to other people here in America.



**Sarah McAfee  
Senior**

We were helping in multiple studies with acclaimed scientists and professors who treated us like adults, and actually going out in the field. It was incredible.