



PEDALING THE CAUSE, pg. 3

I want to give Jake and kids like him a chance to live life to its fullest, just like I have been able to.

Jocelyn Cooper
Junior

Here today, gone tomorrow

Pre-engineering teacher Greg Kramer's sudden departure has led to confusion and frustration.

Shuyang Li
Reporter

On September 29, 2010, the Clayton High School board accepted the resignation of Gregory Kramer. Kramer, engineering teacher at Clayton and a 6-year veteran of public school teaching, had been suspended without pay for a week beforehand.

But why did Kramer resign? And more importantly, how does this affect Clayton engineering students?

"I thought he was a great teacher," senior Sam Whitney, who takes Principles of Engineering and Architecture, said. "His unconventional ways of teaching made the subject matter more interesting and a heck of a lot more fun to learn."

Junior Aaron Dharna, who takes Introduction to Engineering Design, agreed.

"He was certainly one of a kind," Dharna said. "But he knew his material."

Dharna and Whitney both said they are confused about Kramer's resignation.

"I'm totally taken aback," Whitney said. "I find it hard to believe that he willingly resigned, considering the fact that he showed so much passion in his teaching. I'm also puzzled by

the fact that he would have been able to take advantage of the new addition to CHS. Why would you want to give that up?"

Junior Oscar G.M., who took Introduction to Engineering Design his freshman year, said he is skeptical of the resignation.

"The Board (of Education) gave the most talented and free-spirited engineering teacher that the school could have had so little choice," he said. "It's a shame that Clayton lost such a popular and influential teacher."

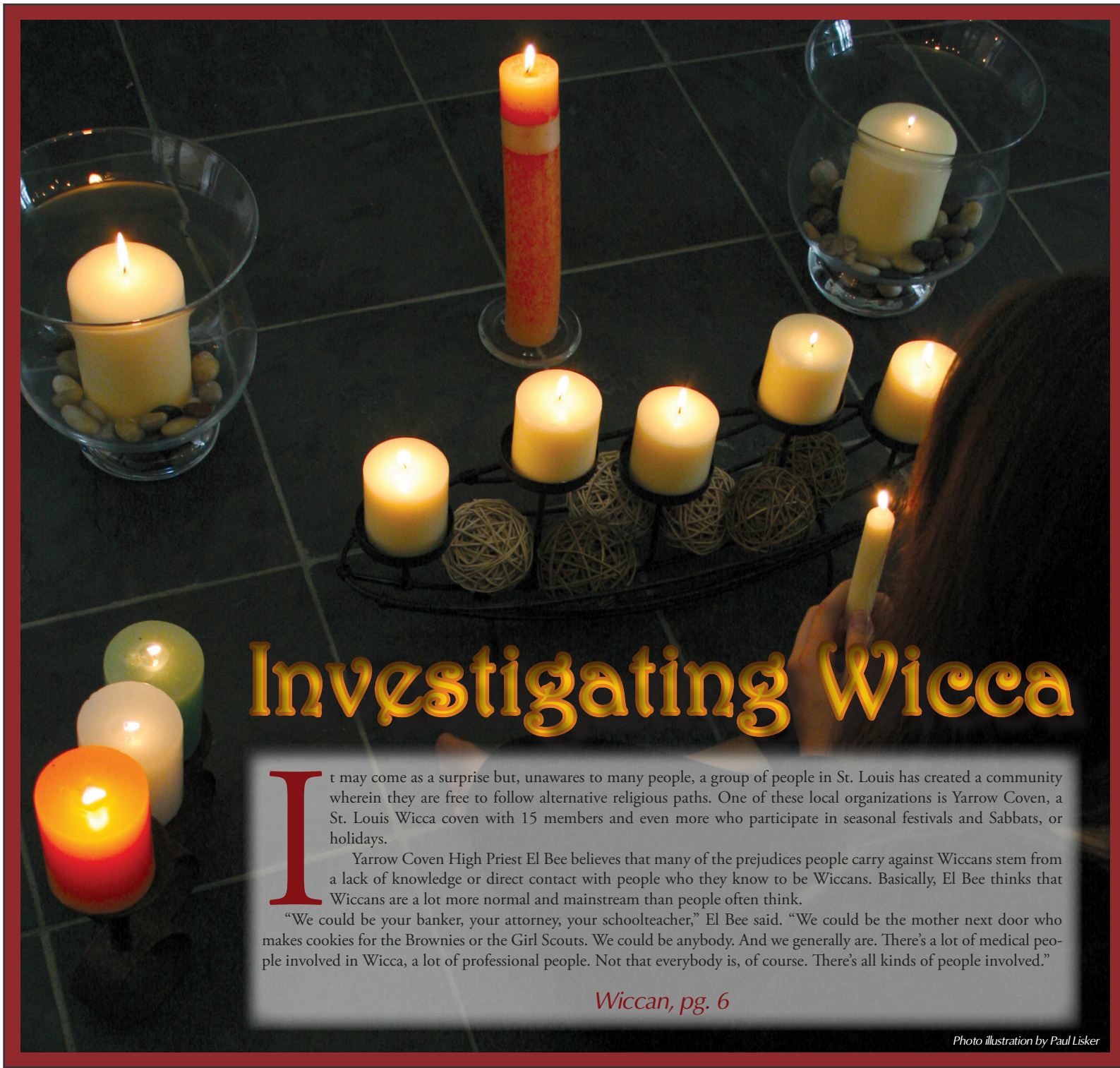
Dharna also said that he finds it inconvenient that Kramer resigned this early in the year.

"If he was going to resign he should have at least waited until, say, the end of the quarter," Dharna said. "That way he could have at least left at a point where it would be easy to break from the class."

A common concern of students, however, is the lack of substance in the engineering classes now that Kramer is gone. All students will receive credit for the classes they are taking, but the absence of normal material is bothersome to many.

"Both classes have just been study hall for the last few weeks," Whitney said. "It's getting pretty old."

Kramer, pg. 5



Investigating Wicca

It may come as a surprise but, unawares to many people, a group of people in St. Louis has created a community wherein they are free to follow alternative religious paths. One of these local organizations is Yarrow Coven, a St. Louis Wicca coven with 15 members and even more who participate in seasonal festivals and Sabbats, or holidays.

Yarrow Coven High Priest El Bee believes that many of the prejudices people carry against Wiccans stem from a lack of knowledge or direct contact with people who they know to be Wiccans. Basically, El Bee thinks that Wiccans are a lot more normal and mainstream than people often think.

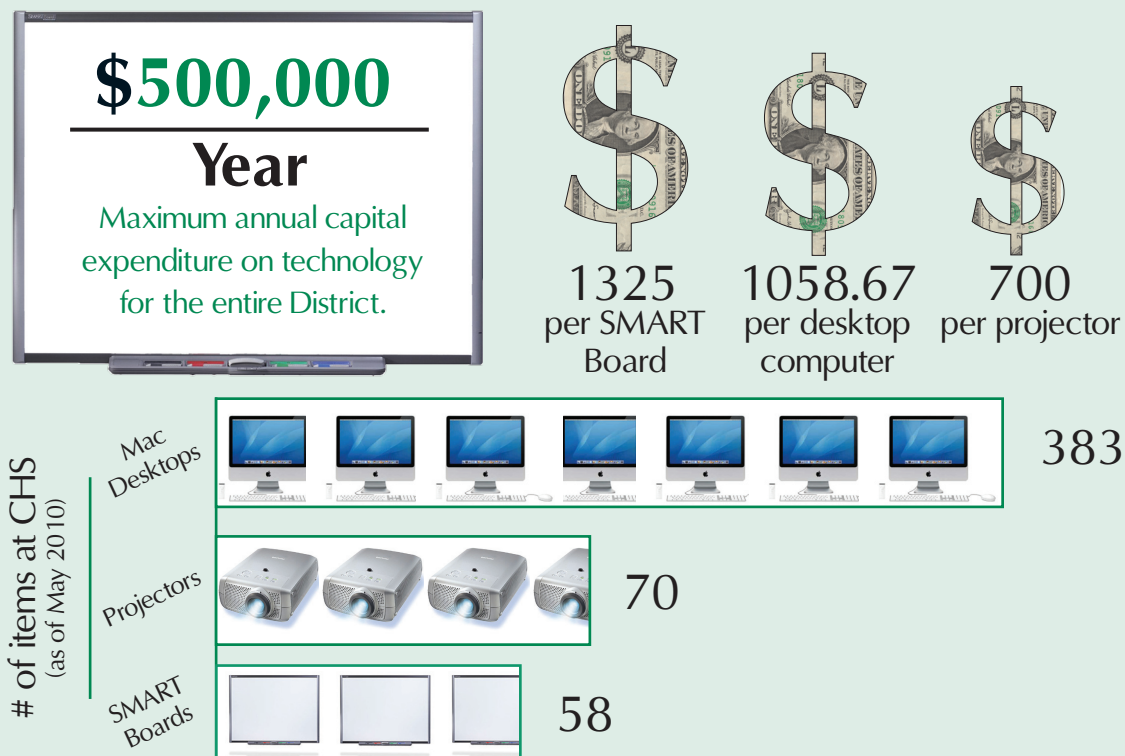
"We could be your banker, your attorney, your schoolteacher," El Bee said. "We could be the mother next door who makes cookies for the Brownies or the Girl Scouts. We could be anybody. And we generally are. There's a lot of medical people involved in Wicca, a lot of professional people. Not that everybody is, of course. There's all kinds of people involved."

Wiccan, pg. 6

Photo illustration by Paul Lisker

Coming next month:

The Globe takes a look at Clayton's technology spending*



Dustin Kessler

Children play on the jungle gym at the recently opened Tree Top Playground in Shaw Park. The \$587,500 Tree Top is an inclusion playground, meaning that it accommodates children with disabilities.

A playful approach to equality

Ben Colagiovanni
Editor

Over the course of our country's history, no concept has so transfixed our society and transformed its customs than that of equality. It was discussed in the Declaration of Independence. Its meaning sparked a Civil War. It led to the formation of suffrage leagues, bus boycotts and sit ins, pride parades and legislative reform.

However, equality's latest triumph takes the form of a playground, just a short walk away from the high school.

Tree Top Playground, located in the northwest part of Shaw Park adjacent to CHS, was designed with fun in mind. Complete with a swing set, slides and a tree house, Tree Top has all the amenities a curious kid could want.

But take a close observer will discover that several of the swings are larger and rounder than most, the slides are metal instead of plastic, and the peak of the tree house can be accessed by traversing a

concrete ramp.

It's these details that distinguish Tree Top from most other playgrounds. It's these details that classify Tree Top as an inclusion playground, allowing able-bodied and disabled children to frolic in unison, to share together a shiny new playground, a glorious sunny day and the joy that comes from unbridled play.

With the help of an organization called Unlimited Play, the city of Clayton is not just strongly supporting but actively creating equality for children with disabilities; they are doing so not with wordy legislation but with the simple and cherished American tradition that is the spirit of recreation.

Tree Top's roots can be traced back to Natalie and Todd Blakemore. The Blakemores are the proud parents of three wonderful children. The eldest, Zachary, suffers from Pelizaeus Merzbacher, a genetic central nervous system disease that has confined him to a wheelchair.

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Jack Holts

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17 Exploring The Hill's ethnic and cultural diversity



LEFT: Glenridge students, parents, and teachers gather at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the renovated library on Oct. 10, 2010. RIGHT: Glenridge students take a moment to explore the library's new technology and laptops.



Photos courtesy of Zach Praiss

Renovated library generates community enthusiasm

Zach Praiss
Community Editor

As if coming to life from the pages of a fairy tale, the Glenridge Elementary School Library has been transformed into a magical new space.

Over the past several months, the Glenridge Library Renovation Project has brought the community together to renovate and restore the nearly 50-year-old library to its traditional beauty and create a more inviting space for students to immerse themselves in the enchanted world of literature.

"The Glenridge Library Renovation Project served as a venue to highlight the many attributes found within the Glenridge community," Glenridge Principal Beth Scott said. "I feel honored to have had the opportunity to work alongside our talented parents as they worked cooperatively together to raise money, craft a design, and execute the design while overseeing every fine detail of its completion. I am humbled by the countless hours of volunteer service that parents dedicat-

ed; the amount of money raised within a short period of time; and the support and enthusiasm students and teachers displayed throughout the project."

The renovation project garnered tremendous community support. In the end, the Glenridge PTO raised over \$150,000 to update the library. Glenridge parents and PTO members, Judy Glik and Sole Van Emden, were instrumental in organizing the fundraising and leading the renovation project.

"This was a great experience," Van Emden said. "We are so lucky to be a part of such an amazing community of families, teachers and staff. Everyone pulled together to make this happen."

The goal of the new library renovations was two-fold: to incorporate new technologies that expand the informational boundaries of the library and foster a child's love for reading.

"First, we wanted to create the heart of our school by providing a space that everyone in our school community would be excited to spend time in, a sort of information hub and social cen-

ter," Van Emden said. "Secondly, we wanted to inspire in the children a passion for learning. By creating a fabulous space we sent the message to the children and teachers that this community truly values the work that is taking place in our school."

The library now features two multipurpose teaching stations, each with a large interactive Smartboard. In the center of the library, students can work at one of 24 laptops on massive tables. The use of laptops not only provides enhanced flexibility but also, allows for students to expand their exploration and research to online resources. Recently, the State of Missouri adopted new Grade Level Expectations for Information & Communication Technology Skills to promote a greater emphasis on using these online resources and applications.

"Having 24 laptops will make teaching and learning this new curriculum easier," Glenridge Librarian Jude Hagene said. "Whole classes will be able to publish writing pieces more efficiently, learn about websites, search online databases, [and] create power

point presentations."

In addition, there are new cozy places to curl up with a great book in window seats, cushy benches, and elegant comfy chairs. The library's original stained-glass windows have been refurbished.

Beautiful artwork including silhouettes of famous Missourians and characters from children's literature, as well as stenciled quotes, now decorate the walls. Flags from countries across the world line the back wall and a beautiful new circulation desk was installed at the head of the library.

"We wanted to definitely inspire the children as well as attract families that are looking at the district, but inspire them to love reading," Glik said. "We wanted to cut down on the fluorescent lighting, get in more natural lighting and make it a warmer more inviting place for the children to learn and read." All the old weathered shelving was replaced with dark satin shelves and four new hanging circular light fixtures were mounted from the ceiling.

"I am amazed at how lucky we

all are to work and learn in such a gorgeous space," said Hagene. "My vision of the library is that it will be filled with people – students learning on the computers, students curled up reading, students checking out books, and students doing research. As the future unfolds, my hope is that our Glenridge Library stays on the cutting edge and can provide for the information needs of all its patrons."

Students, teachers, and parents have all been astonished by the magical transformation. In some aspects, the newly renovated space has the feel of a college library.

"I think the library [now] really feels like the heart of the school and the heart of our community," Van Endem said. "I was amazed at the number of people that attended our grand opening... There was so much enthusiasm, it was amazing."

About one hundred people attended the library's ribbon cutting ceremony. Glenridge students eagerly showed their parents around the new library, point-

ing out their favorite little details. James Thach, a well-known children's author and Glenridge graduate, dedicated a poem for the new library.

"I want to say how much I appreciate the parents and staff who worked so diligently to create this wonderful space, from all the design work, fundraising, actual construction, to all the planning and attention to detail at every step of the process," Hagene said. "Respect for reading and learning was the heart and soul of this entire project and it sends a meaningful message to our children."

Ultimately, the Glenridge Library Renovation Project revitalized the beauty of the elementary school library, making it a more inviting and innovative space for generations of students to come.

"Enter its space to understand that its beauty reflects the strengths of wonderful people – parents, students, staff, alumni, etc. – connected to the excellence found at Glenridge," Scott said. "This library is a gift that will keep on giving for years to come." ☺

Math Department aligning curriculum to match new state standards

After several years of controversy, math teachers to combine best practices with community expectations.

Sarah Tait
Editor

Missouri has recently adopted the Common Core State Standards, a layout for primary and secondary education that attempts to transform the subpar United States educational system into a system that is world-class.

Clayton High School Math Department head David Kohmetscher is currently reviewing the new program.

"Academics have come out with what's called the Common Core Standards, which is a list of standards in mathematics education broken down both by specific topic and by grade level," Kohmetscher said.

The Common Core State Standards for English-language arts and mathematics were released June 2, 2010 and adopted by Missouri June 15, 2010, making Missouri the tenth state to adopt the program.

Before the program, Missouri implemented grade-level and course-level expectations curriculum in its schools. Students' progress was tested by end of course exams. With the new system, however, both of these old models will be thrown out.

The Common Core State Standards Initiative effort was coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The goal of the initiative was to create a uniform educational system for the United States that could compete with the first-class educational systems of other countries such as Finland, Japan, and China.

Director of Assessment Heidi Shepard is working to review the new program and determine its context in Clayton curriculum.

"The goal of the Common Core Standards was to narrow the span of mathematic; to try and make math more coherent, clearer, and not so spread out," Shepard said. "What we have found is the countries that are doing well, like Singapore and Hong Kong, have very specific standards that they map out for their students. It's much easier for teachers and students both to have a clear focus."

Currently, 36 states have adopted the Common Core Standards and many more are in the midst of reviewing the initiative.

The Common Core Standards for mathematics emphasize problem solving, making connections, understanding a variety of representations of the same mathematical concept, and justifying the reasoning behind a problem.

While the program has effectively been initiated in Missouri, new tests that reflect the changed cur-

riculum will not be in use until the 2012-2013 school year at the earliest. This gives school districts, like Clayton, time to adjust to the changed standards. The math curriculum committee is now in the process of doing just that: examining the Clayton curriculum to find mismatches with the new standards or weaknesses in general.

"For Clayton, the change won't be as great as it would be for other districts," Shepard said. "We've always looked at the state standards as a minimal."

The official deadline for the examination is the first week of November, but this deadline is just a small part of Clayton's ongoing struggle to find a math curriculum that fits best.

"We're trying to align our current curriculum with several different standards," Kohmetscher said. "Right now we're trying to match what we currently do against the Common Core Standards. With the Common Core Standards, certain topics get pushed from senior year to junior year. We're also going to have to pick a new textbook series. It's a fairly daunting task."

Because the Common Core State Standards have only just been finalized, few texts and math books have been created that follow up with the newly set curriculum. The Curriculum Committee now faces the task of finding a textbook on their own that is appropriate for the new curriculum. An already challenging job may seem even more impressive given the controversy the ever-changing math curriculum has caused in the past.

Currently, CHS is implementing both traditional and integrated sequences. The integrated sequence evolved as a result of goals shared by the current Clayton curriculum and the Common Core State Standards. Both programs strive to bring U.S. education up to par with the educational programs of different countries.

"The math committee is looking to see what the best pieces are of good programs in mathematics and which ones we have to help keep our program as competitive as all the other programs out there," Shepard said.

The Program for International Student Assessment, or PISA exam, compares the abilities of students from all of the principal industrialized countries in reading, mathematics, and science. The PISA exam is a fairly new creation, and its results have spurred leaders of education in the U.S. into action. On the 2006 exam, American students ranked 21st out of 30 countries in science and 25th out of 30 countries in math.

This disappointing performance caused many to consider how the U.S. could improve its scores to



Hannah Feagans

Math teacher Kurt Kleinberg instructs students. The CHS Math Department is currently under review.

become more competitive. The integrated program was created as a result of such considerations.

"When it became apparent that U.S. schools weren't doing as well on international math exams as other schools, we started looking at what other countries do to prepare their students," Kohmetscher said. "These other countries don't teach classes like geometry, algebra I, and algebra II, they teach classes Math 1, Math 2, Math 3, and Math 4."

Whereas traditional math sequences teach by subject, integrated math sequences combine subjects so that multiple subjects are visited per year.

Math teacher Barbara Dobbert has taught at CHS for 17 years and witnessed the creation and growth of the integrated program.

"The integrated math curriculum is different in that there is a different order in which subjects are taught and subjects are revisited throughout the years," Dobbert said. "In integrated, math is more embedded in context and it problem solving is encouraged."

Though the integrated curriculum is also supported by the Common Core State Standards, it has found some opposition in the Clayton School District. Junior Martha Burke takes precalculus and finds the different curricular back-

grounds of students in the class to be a challenge.

"I think the tracks in the math curriculum need to be more consistent," said Burke. "Right now, the integrated track just ends and the people who were in integrated are funneled into precalculus."

The wide variety of classes provided for in the math curriculum also places extra stress on the staff.

"Because there are so many classes, teachers are spread really thin," Dobbert said. "Given the size of Clayton, we may benefit from a more singular curriculum."

Though aspects of the integrated system present difficulties for some, others benefit from the more practical approach to mathematics.

Sophomore Abigail Copilevitz is now taking the Integrated II class. "I like the math curriculum as it is now," Copilevitz said. "We've learned about several different subjects so far, and I feel pretty comfortable."

Despite inconsistencies over how to best teach students, Clayton does well at reaching its goal and the goal of the Common Core State Standards: to prepare students for life and schooling after 12th grade. Senior Alison Bayly has taken the honors track throughout high school and is now in AB Calculus.

"I'm satisfied with what I've learned in math and the ways in which I've learned it throughout high school," Bayly said. "I've always done well in my math classes, and I performed well on the math portion of the ACT."

The math department has received plenty of criticism in recent years, but Bayly is just one example of the many students that smoothly and successfully transition through the curriculum.

"By any measurement our math curriculum has ever been measured by, we've done a good job," Kohmetscher said. "There are very few public schools that do better than us on the ACT and SAT."

The success of the Clayton curriculum is supported by Clayton's success in testing. While the average national composite score on the ACT in 2010 was 21, the Clayton average composite score was 25.

This accomplishment cannot be attributed solely to curriculum, however. No matter what changes in math curriculum are made by the state or by Clayton itself, the true power of the department lies in its teachers and students.

"Our program has a lot to do with the teaching and extra work done in class," Dobbert said. "I'm a firm believer that what you put into the program is what you get out of it. There's a lot more to it than just curriculum." ☺

Community

Equality Club advocates for acceptance, tolerance

Maria Massad
Editor

What is the difference between a gay doughnut and a straight doughnut? There isn't any! In fact, at CHS Equality Club meetings, according to the club announcement, both gay and straight doughnuts will be provided.

At CHS, the Equality Club embraces the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender, or LGBT, community and encourages other students to do so as well. The club supports events that accept the LGBT population, such as Coming Out Day and the Day of Silence. Equality Club meets twice a month before school in the library. This year, the club changed its name from Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) to Equality Club, in an effort to reach out to everybody.

"We felt the acronym did not encompass everything we wanted to say about the club," senior co-president Marin Klostermeier said. "Still, we are trying to make CHS more aware about how discrimination against the LGBT community is more than just a gay thing; it is an equality and human rights issue. We are continuing the work of those who came before us and trying to make the words of equality as loud and clear as possible. We want to make the high school a place where people can be themselves and not have to worry about being tormented."

The mission of the club is to help CHS become a more welcoming environment to the LGBT community.

"Right now we are building support," senior co-president Justin Elliot said. "We hope to change issues at CHS pertinent to the LGBT population."

In fact, members believe wholeheartedly that equality for all is important. Students such as senior co-president Cooper Minnis believe that it is of the utmost importance to spread the message of equality throughout the school.

"I'm a member of Equality Club because I believe in its message with every fiber of my being," Min-

nis said. "It is extremely important to me that all CHS students, gay or straight, are made aware that it is okay to be who you are, and no one else can tell them otherwise."

Other members agree. Junior Andrea Hermann is a strong believer in equality and acceptance.

"I have been active throughout high school," Hermann said. "I feel like so many people are misinformed about sexuality. First, you do not have to be gay to be in Equality Club. I know many people feel that this is the case, but everyone is welcome. Many people believe that it is a choice of whether one is gay, lesbian, straight, or bisexual. The fact of the matter is, though, that one is born that way. I decided to join because I feel if more people knew and understood the facts, they would not judge others as much."

Klostermeier followed in her sister's footsteps by joining the club. She stayed a member, however, due to her beliefs in equality.

"My parents raised me to love everybody without bias," Klostermeier said. "My family has been friends with gay and lesbian couples for as long as I can remember, and, as a young child, I remember just seeing two people who love each other. When I learned that they were having rights denied to them, I was outraged; I wanted to help the people."

Junior Amanda Wagner is an active member of the club, due to the fact that she wants to make a difference in an issue that she cares about.

"It all starts at school, and then hopefully we can branch out into the Clayton community," Wagner said. "I personally have been enraged by the intolerance of the American society. Now that I am more aware of the feelings of the opposing side, including anti-gay and - marriage, I am even more driven to

take action. It just blows my mind that the United States is so intolerant."

So far, Equality Club has spent most of the time in their meetings discussing and brainstorming prospective events for this upcoming year as well as creating advertisement for the club.

"Soon, we will be shifting our focus to engaging in actual discussion about issues relevant to the LGBT community," Minnis said.

Last year, the club presented a new nondiscrimination policy to the school board that includes nondiscrimination of sexuality for the board to pass in order to create a more equal environment at CHS.

"We presented this issue to them in April," Elliot said. "Hopefully, by the end of the year, we will be the first district in Missouri to have a nondiscrimination policy that includes sexuality."

Equality Club encourages students to participate in a variety of events to support their cause by encouraging students to participate in Coming Out Day, Spirit Day, and the Day of Silence. Spirit Day is a new institution, and the

first one will take place on October 21, 2010.

"The purpose of Coming Out Day was to highlight the LGBT community at CHS," Elliot said. "The day is about giving national rights to people coming out. Spirit Day is a new event, which will happen monthly. It is our goal for students to participate in Spirit Day. Everyone is encouraged to wear purple. The Day of Silence, which takes place in the spring, emphasizes bullying and hate crimes, as well as students and their silence about their sexuality."

Also, Equality Club and Politics Club will combine on November 3 so that students may be able to see Shane Cohn, the first openly gay St. Louis alder-

man, come to speak with students about his life as a gay man in politics.

In recent national news, five (non-Clayton) students made headlines when they committed suicide because of bullying for their sexuality.

"Two of these boys were only 13 years old, but others were our age, around 18," Hermann said. "These kids barely got a chance to live. It's heart-breaking that whatever was said to these boys had such an impact on their self-image that they felt the need to take their own lives. If something this tragic ever happened at Clayton, I would be devastated. Everyone's life is a gift, and nobody should ever be bullied, especially about something, like sexuality, that they cannot control."

Hermann is not the only member of the club who feels this way about the current events; Klostermeier also is shocked by the recent suicides.

"It really makes me sick to think that people are capable of being so horrible, that they can bully someone long enough to where the victim thinks that the only way to solve the problem is to commit suicide," Klostermeier said. "If anything good can come from these tragedies, I hope that if someone is being a bully, they might think twice before they hurt someone, and maybe try to repair the damage that they caused."

Although the Equality Club has not heard of anyone being bullied at CHS, there are many other schools nationwide where that is common, according to Wagner.

"Though we cannot directly be involved in other schools' intolerances, we hope to make people aware of what is going on and try to have others take a stand as well," Wagner said.

Equality Club wants to create a safe environment for all people at school by improving students' attitudes on the LGBT community.

"The club is a real opportunity to make change," Elliot said. "Although CHS is very open-minded, things are not the way they should be and we can still make change by not discriminating." ☺



Courtesy of Melissa Shapiro

The CHS team gathers at the Pedal the Cause bike race in downtown St. Louis to support cancer research efforts.

Pedaling towards a cure

CHS students participated in 25-mile Pedal the Cause bike ride to raise over \$13,000 for local cancer research.

Jake Bernstein
Editor

In just two months, Clayton students have raised over \$13,000 for cancer research. The first Pedal the Cause race has been a success for CHS and St. Louis.

The Pedal the Cause event consisted of a pre-race dinner, breakfast and then the race on the weekend of Oct. 9. Junior Jocelyn Cooper organized a Clayton team for Pedal the Cause and led the fundraising efforts.

"The event was a huge success," Cooper said. "I'm so proud and happy that we reached and surpassed our goal of \$10,000."

This was the first Pedal the Cause bike challenge, which is planned to be an annual event.

Jay Indovino, the Co-Executive Director of PTC, gave some background on the event. According to Indovino, The Cancer Frontier Fund was developed with the goal of raising \$50 million over 10 years to fund cancer research at Siteman Cancer Center. Pedal the Cause, the cycling fundraising event, was designed to be a significant part of that goal. The goal for this year's bike challenge was \$1 million.

Planning for the event started in January for Indovino and August for Cooper. Both of their efforts have paid off, as the first-time bike race garnered close to 800 riders and the CHS team consisted of 20 students.

CHS students honored three-year-old Jake Bartola when fundraising. When he was 2 years old, Bartola was diagnosed with brain cancer. After brain surgery, a bone marrow transplant, and chemotherapy, Jake is now working on regaining the strength which he had lost throughout his fight with cancer.

"Cancer is such an important cause to me because I have lost many family members and close friends to cancer," Cooper said. "I feel great sympathy to Jake and his family. He has already gone through so much more than I ever have in my life. I want to give Jake and kids like him a chance to live life to its fullest, just like I have been able to."

Unique to Pedal the Cause, 100 percent of the organization's proceeds stay in St. Louis. For this reason, Junior Nicole Indovino especially supports Pedal the Cause. She called the organization "great for our community."

Eight CHS students rode the 25 mile bike loop

which started and finished downtown. Junior David Rhodes, an avid biker, rode in Pedal the Cause.

"The course wasn't too bad compared to what I have done in the past in the Adirondacks, but it was definitely more challenging than I expected," Rhodes said. "Also, the fact that we were raising money for cancer research only helped my effort in biking."

Nicole Indovino, who volunteered at the event, enjoyed watching the bike challenge.

"My favorite part of the event was watching everyone come through the finish, especially the 60-mile riders after their ride," Nicole Indovino said. "There was a cool band playing and it was fun to see everyone so excited about their contribution to the cause."

From a logistics standpoint, the ride itself was a success. As Co-Executive Director of Pedal the Cause, Jay Indovino focused on ride logistics which included course design, volunteer recruitment and coordination, aid stations, material procurement, safety and cycling community involvement.

"The ride itself ran as smoothly as possible for a first year event," Jay Indovino said. "We had police help from seven different municipalities and more than 100 course marshals helping riders along the way."

After a successful event this year, planners are looking to build off this year's event in the future.

"So far, the response to our inaugural ride has been overwhelmingly positive," Jay Indovino said. "We have not set official goals for 2011 yet, but we are confident that our event will grow, and we will be able to significantly increase our fundraising efforts for cancer research in St. Louis."

Though MICDS had a larger team this year, students are confident Clayton can catch them next year.

"I would definitely consider biking in it again, it was a fun ride, and more kids from Clayton should definitely be involved next year, because we got beat out by MICDS," Rhodes said.

"I am very glad I participated in Pedal the Cause," Nicole Indovino said. "After hearing the survivor's stories and seeing MICDS's 80 kid team, I cannot wait to get started for next year, it was a lot of fun."

Pedal the Cause allowed students to enjoy themselves and contribute to our community at the same time. ☺

Caitlin Kropp
Features Editor

The CHS community has long awaited its new additions to the school. Since ground was broken early last school year, students and teachers alike have watched as the new science/technology wing has risen from the bare foundation to the iron scaffolding and partial walls that can be glimpsed today. Slated to be finished in fall of 2011, the school community will have a bit more to wait until the biggest addition is finalized. However, the new wing isn't the only construction project going on at CHS, nor will it be the first to finish.

Recently completed, the new athletic offices and locker rooms are a much appreciated improvement to the CHS athletic department. Two new sets of team locker rooms have been installed in the same locations as the older men's locker rooms, and the old women's locker room has been converted to a new training room for athletes. In addition, new offices for coaches and health teachers alike have been carved into a space off the main hallway to Stuber gym.

The renovations were called for after problems had arisen with the previous placement of some of the athletic facilities.

"The reason we began talking about moving the offices was because the old athletic offices blocked the hallway, so that you couldn't get to the boys' bathroom," Bob Bone, the CHS Athletic Director, said. "In addition, the training room was tucked away behind the old team locker rooms and some of the coaches' offices, and that just wasn't working for our athletes. The new locations are much more accessible."

While the construction was going on, the athletic department was forced to make do with whatever facilities they could find. Many started using the Clayton Center for the locker room facilities for the gym classes.

"The people at the Center were very helpful," Bone said. "They understood that we were in a tough spot, what with all the construction, and they helped us figure out a way for the students to use their facilities."

As with any ongoing construction project, the new additions had their share of problems. Miscommunication and a general crunch for time delayed the opening by a few weeks.

"We wanted to have the locker rooms ready for the fall sports season which, as you know, didn't exactly happen on time," CHS Principal Louise Losos said. "The construction had its share of minor problems: pipes in the wrong



Photos by Regina Rosas

TOP: A new addition branching off the main hallway connecting the high school and the Center of Clayton provides needed office space for the Athletic Department. **BOTTOM:** The former location of the old Stuber gym lockers has been transformed into two new sets of team locker rooms allowing for the expansion of the training room.

places, showers with drains that didn't function, etc. Overall, however, I feel that the construction went pretty well."

Now that the offices are complete, the hope is that it will foster a new sense of community within the department. As both the coaches' and the health teachers' offices are finally situated in the same space, the department can function as a more cohesive unit.

"One of the real benefits of these new spaces is the connectedness that the department now has," Bone said. "Before, we were all kind of scattered all over the place. Now, we're all together in one, centralized location, and that will really help us work together better."

Another added benefit of the new space is that it serves as learning point for the aesthetic development of the new science and technology wing, which is still in progress.

"The great thing about the new spaces is that we can use it as a sort of trial run for the science wing, for what kind of furnishings will work in the space," Losos said. "For example, I know

that a lot of people, particularly Bob Bone, weren't very happy with the new carpet that was placed in the Athletics Office. So, we probably won't use that in the science wing."

However, despite the new locations, the old spaces of the offices will not go to waste either.

"We are going to expand the snack bar that is already in that area, and the rest of it will be knocked down and converted into storage space," Bone said. "So, no, the area won't go to waste."

All in all, the reactions to the new space has been positive, another step in the process of renovating CHS.

"People are very pleased with the new spaces," Losos said. "The Athletic Offices are much nicer, especially when compared to the previous ones. They also don't smell like locker rooms, which is an added plus. The locker rooms are great new spaces, and our athletes will be very happy in them. And the training room is now about three times its original size, and in a more centralized location. I think the community is very happy with the new additions." ☺

Speech and debate team opens season with great showing

The team’s preparation paid off when the team traveled to Springfield, MO to open the season. They surpassed expectations with great performances and had a bonding experience for everyone to remember.

Katherine Ren
Reporter

Packets of articles dense with vibrant lines of highlighting are scattered among cafeteria tables. High school students high on adrenaline thumb frantically through cases that have been exhausted by hours of review. If you listen closely, the tapping of anxious heels almost seem to synchronize with the constant hum of articulate voices.

To the foreign ear, one can’t possibly imagine what would be responsible for such a sound. But to the CHS Speech and Debate team, these sounds all add up to one thing—a debate tournament.

Recently, the CHS Speech and Debate team attended the Glendale/Kickapoo Speech and Debate Tournament in Springfield, MO. Team members took advantage of the four-hour bus ride by completing final preparation protocols, bonding with fellow members, and when all was done--- belting out show tunes.

In addition to the varied level of singing voices the team had, the methods taken in preparation for the tournament also differed drastically throughout the team.

“We had everything down about a week beforehand,” sophomore Ian Tarr said. “The extent of it involved writing our cases and researching, which was a gradual process.”

Tarr participated in Public Forum, in which the resolution debated varies each month, along with his partner sophomore Noam Kantor. The two debated on the resolution resolved, “NATO presence improves the lives of Afghan Citizens”.

With the sides taken of each round determined

by a coin toss, Tarr and Kantor had to prepare cases arguing for both pro and con. Although this highlights the basic routine of debaters, those who participated in other events such as humorous/dramatic interpretation and original oratory took a path much different from Tarr’s.

“After finding a satisfying piece, I copied the piece in writing,” said junior Jasmin Singh, a second year speech and debate team member. “I find that this process helps me memorize my story as well as get the rhythm of the piece.”

Singh participated in Duo Interpretation with her partner Josh Howsmon, a first time participant of the event. They performed “Kafka on the Shore” by Haruki Murakami. Although the two did not place in finals, they walked away with smiling, confident faces.

“I wasn’t really expecting much,” Signh said. “It was the first time me and my duo partner actually got to practice in front of a group of people. I think we did much better than I thought we would. Overall, it was a really fun experience!”

Likewise, the addition of a great number of novices this year had the team motivated, yet with little idea of what to expect.

“I think the novices this year add a lot of talent to this team and they bring a lot of different perspective to the team,” senior Ikshu Neithalath said. “I think there is a reciprocal relationship between varsity and novice; we learn through helping them and we enjoy watching them grown and improve.”

Going in, the team expected this tournament to be a learning experience and a chance for team building.

“The first tournament of the year is always un-

predictable,” Speech and Debate Coach Brenda Bollinger said. “At this point in the season, my expectations are that the students prepare as much as possible, do their best in competition, present themselves with confidence, and make a good impression on all with whom they come in contact.”

Furthermore, this expectation was commonly shared among all the team members.

“I was expecting to gain my first experience as a debater,” senior Tyler Markham said. “I wanted to learn what actually went down in a round, how I would respond under pressure, and how well my preparation would prepare me for the actual debate.”

The CHS Speech and Debate team, however, greatly surpassed their goals. Everyone returned home at 2 a.m. on Sunday with something they gained from the experience, whether it was improved debate skills, new friends, or even a big shiny trophy.

“I was incredibly proud of everybody,” said senior Becca Steinberg, president of the CHS Speech and Debate team. “It was a huge tournament—just to give some examples, there were 50 teams in novice public forum and over a hundred in varsity Lincoln Douglass and public forum. However despite the huge numbers we definitely kicked butt!”

Even those who did not place were very professional and represented the CHS team well.

“What this tournament has shown is the potential strength of the Clayton team for the 2010-2011 Season,” Bollinger said. “As the season progresses, our students will continue to be impressive and worthy contenders. My expectations [for the Glendale/Kickapoo tournament] were met and exceeded.”

AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

From the Glendale Novice tournament:

- Katherine Ren and Arya Yadama got 4th place in Novice Public Forum
- Noam Kantor got 2nd place in Novice US Extemporary Speech
- Ian Tarr got 1st place in Novice US Extemporary Speech
- Noam Kantor and Ian Tarr got 1st place in Novice Public Forum.

From the Glendale Varsity tournament:

- Marquise Griffin and Megan Niemann were finalists in Open Public Forum
- Micah Goodman was a semifinalist in US Extemporary Speech
- Becca Steinberg was a semifinalist in US Extemporary Speech
- Ikshu Neithalath got 5th place in Foreign Extemporary Speech
- Becca Steinberg got 4th place in Original Oratory
- Gabrielle Lachtrup got 3rd place in US Extemporary Speech
- Sagar Yadama got 3rd place in Championship Lincoln Douglass
- Becca Steinberg and Ikshu Neithalath got 2nd Place in Championship Public Forum
- Gabrielle Lachtrup got 1st place in Championship Lincoln Douglas (beating last year’s state champion)



Though the Center of Clayton (above) is an asset for the CHS, it does not allow for high school aquatic programs. The old CHS Natatorium offered scuba diving, canoeing and more swimming class options for students.

Lack of high school pool means fewer student aquatic programs

Jonathan Shumway
Editor

One thing that was held dear by many Clayton students for several decades was the aquatics programs offered at the old CHS Natatorium.

Swimming Coach and Water-Polo Coach, Wally Lundt, remembers the days before CHS had the Center of Clayton.

“There was a full aquatics program, where we did not share the pool with anybody,” Lundt said. “Every fourth grade came for eight swimming classes. Sixth graders came for canoeing classes, and freshman took a swimming class for a whole quarter where they perfected the crawl, back, breast, and side strokes. Sophomores took a quarter of life-saving skills. Juniors could elect to take a scuba diving class, life-guard training, or have water games, such as water-basketball or water-polo.”

Former CHS student, swimmer, and water-polo player, Rick Bliss recalls the popularity of the scuba-diving class while at CHS and how people had great enjoyment in taking the scuba-diving class.

Although Clayton school district gave these opportunities to Clayton students for many years, many of these former classes are now virtually nonexistent after CHS lost its own pool.

Now third graders come to the Center of Clayton to get a few days of swimming instruction. To graduate, CHS students must have the ability to swim 25 yards. Freshmen must prove that they can swim the set yardage.

If they lack this swimming capability, they then take a class to gain swimming instruction. When CHS had its own pool, Clayton students were required to be able to swim 200 yards to graduate.

Lundt feels that as result of discontinuing the Clayton aquatics program, Clayton students do not have the same swimming skills as prior CHS students had.

“Clayton students are not drown-proof,” Lundt said.

Senior Charlie Beard, who has been on the swim-

ming team and water-polo team for all four years, considers swimming an important skill.

“Swimming is an important way to use your body,” Beard said. “It is a low-impact way to become stronger. You are able to work all the parts of the body in swimming. As the joke goes, once the global warming melts the polar ice caps, and the ocean water levels rise, swimmers will rule the world.”

Beard feels that although it would be nice for CHS to have their own pool-house, there are several benefits to sharing the pool with the Clayton of Center.

“We have a full-time maintenance staff, and it is cool to interact with the community, such as the swimming regulars, some of which were former swimmers for CHS,” Beard said. “The hot-tub and towel service are luxuries which comes with the Center of Clayton.”

Athletic Director Bob Bone understands there are sometimes difficulties that arise with CHS sharing the pools with Center of Clayton, but feels that overall, the current situation is positive.

“In joint use, there are challenges, as it is not the same as having your own facilities,” Bone said. “In the shared use though, we are not the only ones responsible for maintenance of the pools.”

Although CHS has the rights to use the pools throughout the school day, there is currently no aquatics class offered to CHS students. CHS students can use the pools throughout the school day, until 6pm.

“The pool (CHS Natatorium) facilitated greatly a team and participation in sports,” said Bliss. “In the couple of schools that did not have their own pool, it was more disruptive to their swimming.”

Many students do indeed remember the days when CHS had their own swimming house and offered several aquatics programs.

“Hundreds of Clayton alumni have told me how much the aquatics program meant to them, although they never were on the water-polo or swimming team,” Lundt said. “As Socrates once said, a man is not educated if he cannot read, write, or swim.”

Community Service Club Expands

Eudora Olsen
Reporter

Many CHS students are getting involved in their community. The Community Service Club at CHS is off to a great start this year with 15 members. Students have not only discovered the academic benefits of volunteering, but also the personal gratification that comes with helping the community.

“Just knowing that I made a small contribution to someone’s day makes me feel good,” senior Erin Sternberg said.

Sternberg is the president of Community Service Club. She helps to organize all of the community service events for the club. Sternberg also volunteers outside of school with her church.

Many students, like Sternberg, have found a balance between schoolwork and helping the community.

“Volunteering takes time and effort,” sophomore Sarah Lerwick said. “But if you manage your time wisely it’s fun!”

Lerwick volunteers regularly for Girls on the Run. She helps

hand out water to the runners and keep the runs organized. But Lerwick also understands why some students might be hesitant to get involved.

“It’s a commitment,” Lerwick said. “You should find something you really enjoy doing.”

The Community Service Club helps students find volunteer opportunities. The club gathers after school.

One of Sternberg’s favorite volunteer opportunities is the CHS Arts Fair.

This day is dedicated to students from several special education districts around the St. Louis area who buddy up with CHS students and participate in activities such as making picture frames and beading necklaces.

The CHS Arts Fair is also one of sophomore Jessie Massey’s favorites, and Massey is also involved in many programs in the community.

She volunteers for a program through the sorority Delta Gamma that helps blind children learn how to read brail. Massey works with children under the age of 6 one on one, going through activi-

ties to help them read. She graduated a program on how brail is taught.

“Even though Delta Gamma is a long drive,” Massey said. “It’s so worth it. I always feel great after I volunteer.”

Many students share this same satisfaction after volunteering, even if it may have a slight downside.

“It is time and energy with no physical reward,” Massey said. “But it really does shape your character.”


Students who work at paying jobs may find it not worth their time to volunteer if there is no money involved, but Sternberg insists volunteering is worth the time.

“My favorite thing about being involved in community service is probably knowing that someone benefits from the time I have given up,” Sternberg said.

The Community Service Club is cleaning up a highway on October 23 and will also be “adopting” a family this winter. The adoption involves buying things on a wish list and donating them to the family.



Nicole Indovino



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New secretary brings joy, experience to CHS

Shiori Tomatsu
Reporter

A woman with an upbeat attitude came in to start a new life at CHS on July 1. Principal Louise Losos' new administrative assistant Debbie Garozzo-Hughes has brought her experience and her friendliness to the staff.

Before coming to CHS, she worked for Edward Jones in the financial industry. A friend of Garozzo-Hughes then encouraged her to work at a school, so she decided to try out the job.

For eight years, she worked at Parkway West High School as the print room secretary and then an assistant principal secretary.

When she first came here, it took some adjusting to get used to CHS.

"It was quite an adjustment to go from that big world out there to the small enclave that Clayton is," Garozzo-Hughes said. "There's at least a one year learning curve. You have to do everything at least once."

However, Losos believes Garozzo-Hughes is doing well regarding her adjustment to the job.

"I'm sure she sees the bumps that I'm not seeing, but she's do-

ing remarkably well," Losos said.

As an administrative assistant, Garozzo-Hughes must have many skills. Her main job is to support Losos by handling the organizational tasks, such as managing her schedules and putting her newsletter together.

"She has to be able to multitask because she has a lot of different things going on," Losos said.

Garozzo-Hughes does indeed have many tasks to handle. She also interacts with teachers, students, parents, and members of the community who wish to speak to Losos.

"It's kind of like being a gatekeeper for Dr. Losos," Garozzo-Hughes said. "I have to keep things running smoothly."

Not only does Garozzo-Hughes need the skills of multitasking, but she also needs the qualities of an administrative assistant.

"I was looking for someone who had a positive attitude, a calm demeanor, someone who can problem solve, someone with good writing skills, and someone who was very organized and could help me be more organized," Losos said.

An important part of being an administrative assistant is to enjoy working at schools.

"She loves working with both teachers and kids," Losos said. "You can feel that, and it's important."

Garozzo-Hughes says her favorite part of her job is the kids of CHS.

"They keep us young," Garozzo-Hughes said. "I'm looking forward to get to know the kids. That's always fun."

Garozzo-Hughes also enjoys being at Clayton because she is able to work with Losos.

"I have a great amount of respect for Dr. Losos," Garozzo-Hughes said. "I've always wanted to work for her, and I am now thrilled to be doing so at Clayton."

Garozzo-Hughes does have some dislikes with discipline issues.

"Discipline in a school is always difficult," Garozzo-Hughes said. "If there is anything I dislike, it's discipline issues. They're always disappointing."

Outside of school, she has many hobbies that she enjoys.

"I like to travel," Garozzo-Hughes said. "I have a vacation coming up on Thanksgiving that I'm looking forward to. We're going on a cruise, down on the Caribbean. Also, I like to run. It's a



Sarah O'Brien

Principal Louise Losos' new secretary Debbie Garozzo-Hughes poses for a snapshot. As of now, she has been enjoying working with Losos and other administrators, as well as interacting with various students at CHS.

good way to escape."

Garozzo-Hughes also likes to read books.

"I don't have any favorites per say," Garozzo-Hughes said. "Usually, I read mysteries. I'm thinking about jumping on the 'Hunger Games' wagon."

Garozzo-Hughes was raised in St. Louis with three siblings.

Garozzo-Hughes is a woman with great personality, and many administrators enjoy being with her.

"She's great," Losos said. "She has a very upbeat attitude, she

laughs a lot, she's funny, and she's very likeable."

Front desk receptionist Mary Fran Jurkovich also believes that Garozzo-Hughes is a wonderful addition to the staff.

"Debbie's very outgoing and friendly," Jurkovich said. ☺



Junior Sara Garkinkel (right) and fellow dancer perform with COCA's ballet company, Ballet Eclectica. They presented a dance called "Tempo and Beat," which was choreographed by Antonio Douthit and Kirven Boid.

Dancing in Streets festival proves to be a crowd-pleaser

Lauren Friedman
Reporter

On a beautiful fall day in St. Louis, adults and children of all ages congregated at Grand Center to watch many dance studios and companies in St. Louis combine their unique styles and talents to perform one show.

The dances performed were widely diverse, including everything from classical ballet, musical theatre, African, hip-hop, tap, modern, Bollywood, to lyrical, contemporary, clogging, Hawaiian, classical Indian, salsa and flamenco.

This year, the event took place on Sept. 27. It required no entry fee and was open to anyone with a love of dance, attracting a variety of people. There were musicians, choreographers, teachers, fitness trainers, parents, and friends of several ethnicities and cultures all united to enjoy the festivities.

In addition to providing the public with a day full of professional-looking entertainment, Dancing in the Streets was also a remarkable opportunity for its performers. Dance can sometimes become competitive within a studio or company, but the festival gave dancers the chance to mix with other dancers from all over the area as they all performed side-by-side.

As a performer in the show this year, junior Sara

Garfinkel shares her thoughts about being apart of the special event.

"It is an amazing feeling to know that you're passing the wonderful sport of dance on to people who could have never seen it before," Garfinkel said. "The whole show is inspiring to kids, mind-blowing to adults, and fulfilling to all dancers."

This year's Dancing in the Streets festival was a memorable event for both its performers and observers.

After attending this year's festival, sophomore Claudia Hoffmann shares why she believes this festival is rewarding for everyone involved.

"This event is really like nothing else," Hoffmann said. "The fact that all of the stages are out in the open, literally in the middle of the streets, brings such a cool twist to performing and watching. It is also amazing to see how many dancers there are in the St. Louis area and how many people love to see them perform."

Christine Kardell, a devoted jazz, modern, fitness, ballet, and hip-hop instructor at COCA, believes that the festival impacts performers in numerous, positive ways.

"Sometimes in the arts, dancers and/or artists can feel very isolated and very much not appreciated," Kardell said. "However, seeing all the people coming to support dance at the festival gives performers a sense of belonging and a very real connection to the community in which they live." ☺

"The whole show is so inspiring to kids, mind-blowing to adults, and fulfilling to dancers."

Sara Garfinkel
Junior

Kramer's sudden leave surprises students

Continued from pg. 1

Dharna concurred. He said that his class has been doing "absolutely nothing" since Kramer left beyond watching a few movies.

"The class has come to a halt for a couple of weeks now," CHS Principal Louise Losos said. "We regret that this occurred and we will do our best to get a qualified individual in front of these classes as soon as possible."

A job listing for the position has been posted for several weeks in the human resources section of the CHS website. However, it is difficult to find qualified teachers who are willing to accept the

job especially in the middle of the year.

"We had a candidate in the final stages of hiring when he pulled out," Losos said. "We are looking at other individuals and are close to making a decision."

Whitney insisted that Kramer should never have resigned in the first place.

"It's quite apparent that nobody is benefiting from Kramer's resignation," he said. "It's safe to say there is nobody else out there that can bring what he brought to the classroom. Even if our new teacher has all of the knowledge in the world, the classes will never be the same."

Senior Tyler Markham, who took Architecture and Civil Engineering with Kramer freshman year, agreed with Whitney.

"The engineering classes and department were Mr. Kramer," Markham said. "He ran, directed, taught, and defined those classes. In light of this, the Engineering Department has ceased to exist as we once knew it and is now something entirely different."

Whoever replaces Kramer, one thing is certain.

He or she will have to take upon themselves an awesome responsibility: to step into the shoes of an undeniably talented, if eccentric, teacher. ☺

StuGo hopes Halloween dance will top students' expectations

Aidan Hayward
Reporter

Since over 600 students attended this year's Homecoming dance, StuGo is expecting a great turn out for the Halloween dance.

Being one of the most anticipated dances for students at CHS, the Halloween dance will include music, food, decorations, and plenty of interesting costumes.

"The dance will be returning to the auditorium, which I think a lot of students will be excited about," StuGo sponsor Kurt Kleinberg said. "We are always trying to go bigger and better with decorations, special effects, and the overall arrangement of the dance floor. Expect a top-notch combination of effects, lights, stage set-up, and overall mood."

Lots of students are anticipating a good time as well. Many of them are partial to the Halloween dance, describing it as the best dance of the year.

"I had so much fun at the [Halloween] dance last year," sophomore Sydney Smith said. "My friends and I like to dress up in groups, and it is just an overall fun experience. I'm definitely going to be attending this year."

Students who did not attend last year are considering going this year as well.

"I didn't go last year because I'd had enough of dances for a while after Homecoming," sophomore Stone Ellis said. "I'll probably go this year. Everyone said that it was the best dance, and, now that lots of my friends can drive, it will be more fun."

For the students who are thinking about skipping out on



Staff Archives

At the 2009 Halloween dance, many students dance the night away in costume. The hope for the 2010 year was that the numbers of students will exceed the amount of people that attended the Homecoming dance.

the dance this year, Kleinberg had some words of wisdom.

"For any student that thinks the dance is lame, they need to think again," Kleinberg said. "A few negative attitudes, unfortunately, have the ability to overshadow how great the dances have been in the past few years. Look around, ask your friends: Students look forward to going to school dances. You only have so much time in high school and even fewer opportunities to attend dances and similar events. I say you enjoy these dances while you can."

Planning for the dance is in process right now.

"I think the last two years of the dance have been great," StuGo co-sponsor Mike Nelke said. "StuGo has always done a great

job with the dance in the past, with planning, decorating, and music. I don't expect anything less this year."

With a dance this big, music is a crucial aspect. Some students in the past have complained about the music choices, but the music ideas for this year's dance are still up in the air.

"We are still trying to figure out the music this year," Nelke said. "We have thrown around a couple ideas and are still trying to decide what we want."

While nothing is set in stone for the music this year, other information is ready: tickets will cost \$7 and the dance will be held on Oct. 29, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., in the auditorium.

Remember to dress up accordingly, and be safe. ☺

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Something Wicca

Going beyond

By Dawn Androphy

Struggles with public perceptions, stereotypes

El Bee considers himself to be resilient to many of the judgments people pass on Wiccans for their religious beliefs.

He attributes a lot of the ignorance he faces to a human tendency to distrust what we don't understand.

"People want to ridicule things they don't understand," El Bee said.

El Bee believes that, if people were to just take time to learn about his religion on a basic level and develop an understanding of what Wicca actually is, that Wiccans would achieve a lot more respect.

"As far as being disrespected, I think that most of that has to do with... people don't know who we are," El Bee said. "They don't know what the religion is. They don't even want to look at it or they just aren't aware. Or they belittle it thinking that it's fat chicks with acne, which it's not. That's a general impression you get sometimes on the Internet."

In spite of the difficulties that Wiccans can face in getting others to respect their religious beliefs, El Bee believes that most Wiccans are resilient enough to withstand the criticism as irrelevant.

"Most of us just let the ridicule wash across our back and we just try to forget it," El Bee said. "It's ignorance,

for the most part."

Essentially, El Bee believes that, just as the Wiccans in Yarrow Coven respect the beliefs of Christians and don't mock them for practicing religion differently, people of religions that aren't Wiccan should make an effort to return the favor and give Wiccans their due respect.

"We're pretty tolerant," El Bee said. "We are. So we let people do whatever they want to as far as their spirituality is concerned. We just ask that people respect us and our spirituality. It's a give-and-take, pretty

simple." ☸

Comparisons to other religions prove difficult

El Bee, who has been a Pagan all of his life, was initially raised as an Irish Ozark Pagan by his parents and grandparents. However, he became a Wiccan in 1989 and helped to found Yarrow Coven, which celebrates its 21st anniversary this month.

Despite his Pagan background, El Bee still has other traditional religious experiences to contrast with his religious experiences today.

"I was never a Christian," El Bee said. "My parents were Pagans... They'd go to Baptist Church every Sunday because, back then, that's what you did. You went to Church. It didn't make them Christian."

When asked if he could conjure any comparisons between Yarrow Coven and the Baptist Church he attended as a child, El Bee met a blank.

"There's no comparison," El Bee said. "It's entirely different. There isn't any comparison. That would be like comparing an apple to an orange because they're

not the same thing."

El Bee particularly enjoys feeling a hands-on connection to his religion when practicing Wicca. This participatory nature of Wicca is something that he sees as being absent from Christianity.

"There's no comparison. It's entirely different. There isn't any comparison. That would be like, comparing an apple to an orange. They're not the same thing"

El Bee
Wiccan

"We don't have a lot of rules," El Bee said. "Rules are real limiting; they hold you back. Probably the biggest thing we have is our guidelines. Some people like to think of them as rules, but I like to think of them as guidelines."

El Bee also believes that Wiccans tend to be more careful not to intrude on others' spiritu-

ality. Members of Yarrow Coven place a strong emphasis on respecting others' spirituality.

"The Christians, they lay on hands, they do healing," El Bee said. "The Pagans, they cast spells, they lay on hands, and they do healing. Now, the difference is that we try not to do that without the permission of the person that we're healing. It's against their free will."

Wiccans choose to not incorporate concepts like "hell" into their religious beliefs.

This is indirect opposition to the tendency of many more traditional religions to focus on the after-life.

"There's no salvation in Wicca; we don't believe in that," El Bee said. "There's no Satan; we don't believe in that. There's no hell, fire, and brimstones in Wicca. We don't try to put guilt trips on anybody." ☸

Typical Practices and Ceremonies of Wicca

Unlike most religions, Wicca does not have its ceremonies indoors because of the religion's strong emphasis on human relationships with nature.

"Nature is a real important aspect of Wicca," El Bee said. "We revere nature. We don't worship nature, but we revere nature. We enjoy all aspects of nature because it's the creation of the Goddess, and it's a reflection of our gods and goddesses. I mean, they're nature, so it's important to us."

Yarrow Coven likes to precede their ceremonies with opportunities for members of the coven to bond.

"We'll meet, we'll sit around, and we'll have a social time," El Bee said. "You know, with drinks and food and conversation. It depends on what time of year it is. We might swim; we might do all kinds of things. Then we have a call to ritual, we have our Sabbat ritual, and we go back and have more social time."

To begin the Sabbat ritual, they partake in grounding, a method by which Wiccans release energy to prepare themselves for blessings.

"We do a bit of grounding, centering ourselves and getting our thought process into a more spiritual zone," El Bee said. "Something that gets us way from the mundane, everyday life: thinking of bills, family, the jerk on the highway, and all that kind of stuff. It just gets us into a spiritual frame of mind."

After they have reached a more spiritual state of mind, Wiccans will do a blessing. Because Wiccans don't have standard text, the blessings will vary from coven to coven.

After the blessing, Wiccans cast a circle to create a sacred space. The circle can be

cast in the ground with candles or other implements contributing to the ambiance. Once the sacred space has been created, Wiccans will bring down spirits by "calling the quarters."

"We call the quarters in the circle," El Bee said. "Some people call them quarters, some people call them watchtowers, some call them elements. Whatever you call them, we call down the spirits of each quarter: north, south, east, and west. And then we bring the gods and goddess down to the circle."

The actual ceremony that follows varies depending upon the Sabbat or Esbat being celebrated.

There are eight Sabbats in a year, with the other covens rituals being called Esbats.

The actual ceremony will depend on the nature of the holiday. For example, on harvest holidays, Wiccans will bless the harvest of the grains.

"We bless the harvest of the kicks and the harvest of the grains and we pass them around to each person saying something similar to 'may you never hunger' or 'may you never thirst.'" ☸

Wicca in this Way Comes

the stereotypes

Co-Editor in Chief

Typical use of 'magick' in ceremonies, life

Of all of the elements of Wicca, El Bee has found the practice of using "magick" to be the most beneficial. El Bee defines magick as the ability to "change your environment, your world, and your conditions through your own will.

Wiccans incorporate magick, spelled in its Early Modern English from to differentiate the term from other presentations of magic.

"Magick is real," El Bee said. "We have the capability to change our circumstances through our own will and most people can't fathom that, they can't understand it. They will say there's no such thing as magick, [that I'm] deluding myself, it doesn't exist, that kind of thing."

Although El Bee believes

strongly in the use of magick, he acknowledges that most people don't believe in it until they believe that they've experienced it.

"There are even Wiccans who don't practice magic because they don't believe it," El Bee said. "They've never had a magical experience."

El Bee views developing abilities pertaining to magick to be a gradual process that takes years of experience and patience.

"It's something that you just have to learn," El Bee said. "It's a craft. It takes a lot of years to make it work right for you. But, through a lot of work, visualization, and the power of wanting something, desiring it to such a degree that it you think about it all the time, it creates an energy where the thing that your desiring becomes real."

However, El Bee believes strongly that Wiccans should only practice magick responsibly by following the Wiccan Read, which is defined by the central idea of: "Do as you will, but harm none."

El Bee appreciates the freedom to interpret this

guideline and says that it is primarily used to help Wiccans determine when it is appropriate to practice magic.

"It's an edit to not harm anyone in the process of doing magic," El Bee said. "This essentially says, 'Hey, you're free to do whatever you do, but don't harm anyone in the process.'"

El Bee believes that it is important to practice magick ethically because he thinks that magick can have substantive effects.

"You understand, philosophically, every action you do has repercussions," El Bee said. "Whether it be good repercussions or bad repercussions, it affects somebody somewhere in some fashion." ☞

"Magick is real. We have the capability to change our circumstances through our own will and most people can't fathom that, they can't understand it."

El Bee
Wiccan

The scholarly view of Wicca as religion

Many religious studies scholars dispute the disregard that many people have for Wicca as a religion.

Frank Flinn, an adjunct professor of religious studies at Washington University in St. Louis, believes that Wicca and many other new religious movements are labeled as "deviant" and "cults" by society and, thus, the people who practice these religions are ostracized. From his observations, Flinn believes that Wiccan practices are misrepresented in mainstream society.

"Most Wiccans identify in some way with all religious movements, including the Amerindians, that maintain and promote nature spirituality," Flinn said.

"Contrary to much propaganda, the Wiccan communities are not Satanists and do not engage in anti-Christian sentiments in any form or fashion. They see themselves as pre-Christian and post-Christian, not anti-Christian."

Flinn has studied the Wiccan movement since the mid 1970s, has attended various Wiccan ceremonies, and interviewed dozens of Wiccan believers. From his studies, he has concluded that Wicca is, in fact, a religion. In a 1996 court affidavit regarding Wicca, his definition of a religion is that it must "possess a system of beliefs," have a set of religious practices, and unite a "body of believers" into "an identifiable community."

Based on these criteria, Flinn believes that Wicca is, indeed, a religion.

Roshan Abraham, an assistant professor of classics and religious studies at Washington University in St. Louis, agrees with Flinn on the count that Wicca is a religion.

"I would say it is a religion," Abraham said.

"Wicca is a religion insofar as it self-identifies as a religion. They have a belief in higher spiritual beings; they have rituals and rites."

Abraham, who specializes in the study of religion in ancient Greece and Rome, believes that the exclusion of Pagan practices dates back to the emergence of Christianity. Abraham cites instances in the New Testament wherein spell books are burned and states that one of the main criticisms of Jesus was that he was a magician and not a holy man.

"Christianity fought very hard to distinguish itself from Pagan practices," Abraham said. "One of the ways they did this was by labeling Pagan practices as magic."

Once Pagan practices were labeled as magic, Paganism was viewed as a separate entity from religion. Before Christianity began to distance itself from Paganism, magic existed in tandem with magic. Abraham defines religion as what is sanctioned by society and magic as practices done in secret, typically for personal benefit.

"What we call magic now was part of everyday life back in antiquity. Jews, Christians, and Pagans all performed what we would call magical rites," Abraham said. "It's just, when these texts were discovered, and they were discovered in the nineteenth century, the people who discovered them said, 'Wow, these look a lot like what we think is religion, but there's all these differences.' Like, the way it was secretive, the way it was about personal benefit as opposed to greater spiritual benefit. So, all of these things got labeled as 'magic.'"

Although modern Wicca did not exist as it is known today during the Greco-Roman period, many modern Wiccans take inspiration from Pagan practices of this time.

"A lot of modern Wiccans look to the ancient period as a source of information and rituals because we have a lot of information about what the Greeks and the Romans practiced and their religious rituals," Abraham said. "Both the sanctioned religious rituals, like cults, festivals, sacrifices, and mystery religions, and also the unsanctioned rituals, which we would call magic."

Abraham specifically cites the typical inclusion of Greek gods such as Demeter in modern Wiccan religion, the modern use of recovered Greek spells, as well as the commonality in their shared initiation programs.

"Those [modern Wiccan] initiations have the same structure as the initiations of the ancient world in that they're secretive, they put you in a personal relationship with a deity, and promise you a better life," Abraham said. "That's exactly what we think initiations were like in the ancient world."

Although these practices may seem foreign to most people, Abraham believes that people should try to view Wicca objectively and not judge it based on their individual religious convictions.

"When you ask if something's a religion, you have to ask yourself, well, how do we define religion?" Abraham said. "If it is a religion to those people that practice it, then who are we to say it's not? If you want to keep a very secular definition of religion, then you can't base it upon the qualms of another religion." ☞

Helen Wiley

Helen Wiley



Andrea Stiffelman

ABOVE: Terri Lawrence, camp director, enjoys the product of her hard work planning a fun and unique week for sixth graders. Lawrence has been the camp director for several years. **RIGHT:** A group of campers show their team spirit in the intense quest to win the spirit stick.



Andrea Stiffelman

Sixth Grade Camp counselors share life-changing experience

Anna Williams
Reporter

Over a month ago, a group of CHS students left their friends, beds, and schoolwork behind to travel two hours on a bus to Sherwood Forest, all of them ready for a week's worth of fun activities and lasting memories as 6th grade camp counselors.

Since 1951 CHS has been taking students to Camp Sherwood in order for them to lead and to get to know the many 6th grade campers. However, counselors did not just pack their bags and walk out.

The trip required a great deal of planning and responsibility since each cabin ranged from 12 to 17 campers with only two counselors.

Before the campers even got to camp, the counselors arrived to ponder the weekly activities with their co-counselors.

"I definitely had to think about what cheers we should do," junior Jonathan Matheny said. "We also had to go through things that should and shouldn't happen at camp and overall just learning about the camp itself and what activities to do with the kids. It's more about getting the kids on board than anything else."

Junior Isabella Jacobs added that doing team-building activities and focusing on including everyone during camp were both vital aspects of the before-camp preparations. Once the counselors got to camp, the fun began.

Trips through the cave, climbing the infamous Tango Tower, and wading through the river are just a few fun activities that happened, not to mention the champion cabin winning the spirit stick as well as the hard work that is put in to win Carter's white gloves. Missing out on camp would be a great misfortune for counselor and camper alike.

Though going to camp is a fun experience, being a counselor does have its pros and cons.

"It's going to sound like there are so many more cons than pros, but I wouldn't change anything," Jacobs said. "I have so much work to make up, I'm still behind and I feel so overwhelmed, but everything was so worth it in the end. Camp made me feel like a kid again. I was hanging out with those little kids and I felt like a real role model to them."

Senior Carter Ellston shared the positive reflection of his sixth grade camp experience.

"You get to miss school for a week and do camp activities which are really fun," Ellston said. "But you don't get very much sleep because the kids keep you up. Sometimes it's hard managing all of the kids for a week. You can lose your temper at times."

Matheny echoes Carters opinion adding that the kids were beginning to wear on his patience.

"My worst experience at camp was the food," senior Grace Brumley said. "I am the pickiest eater ever and I snack a lot. It was weird having set meal times and having to eat really weird, artificial camp food. I'm totally not used to that."

However, no matter how bad the food was, how stressful the campers might have been, or how much work one has to make up, overall, camp is an unforgettable experience.

In fact, most students decide to go – not because they get a week of vacation, but because they want to help make a difference in the lives of the campers.

"The reason I wanted to be a counselor was because when I was a camper I looked up to all of the counselors so much," Jacobs said. "I saw how they dressed, how they would socialize, and how they would be so sweet to everybody. They were really cool. As a sixth grader I really wanted to do that. For me sixth grade camp was life-changing. I know that sounds crazy, but I always used to get homesick and that helped me so much with that. It gave me a lot more confidence. The fact that camp has helped me to overcome obstacles has made me want to be that person for them."

Even though students may be somewhat hesitant to sign up for various reasons, once they actually get to camp, they find that it is a very valuable experience where they can lose themselves for a week in the spirit of Sherwood Forest.

"Most students find when they get there that it is an unbelievable leadership experience where they are given more responsibility than they ever have been given before," Coach Ryan Lunning said. "They do a ton of work, but find that the reward and the experience are worth all the time they put in."

In order to prevent students from feeling too overwhelmed and stressed, one should at least attempt to get a majority of schoolwork done beforehand.

"The teachers are pretty lenient about it, but still it's just better if you get it done early," Matheny said. "It's definitely worth it to go, though, as long as you're patient and positive with the kids. I'm planning on going next year."

Although it is unfortunate for Grace Brumley, Carter Ellston, and all other seniors like them because this was their final year at camp.

"I definitely would go back if I could," Brumley said. "Last year I was new to things and didn't really know what I was doing, but this year it was a lot easier for me to get the hang of things, and for that reason it made me a much better counselor. But going to camp is really good for multiple reasons. You get a week off of school and you get to hang out with all of your friends and do campy, outdoorsy stuff for a week. Plus you do a service to the community by going. It's really rewarding and really fun."

Ellston stated that his parting with Sherwood Forest was somewhat bittersweet.

"I'm glad I did it, and I don't have any regrets, but I can't go back," Ellston said. "That's just reality, but I'm glad I did it for at least two years."

He added that it is a very memorable experience and that more people should try it out. ☺



Andrea Stiffelman

Campers and counselors alike climb Tango Tower, an intense 55-foot team-building challenge. In addition to being exciting and fun, the tower is meant to teach teamwork and build self-confidence.

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MO Primary Election Results		
Will the numbers in the primaries have any bearing on the election outcomes next Tuesday?		
U.S. Senate:		
D-Robin Carnahan	266,349 votes	83.9% of votes
R-Roy Blunt	411,040 votes	70.9% votes
State Rep. - District 73:		
D-Stacey Newman	2,500 votes	69.5% of votes
R-Daniel F. O'Sullivan, Jr.	1,655 votes	100% of votes
State Senate - District 24:		
D-Barbara Fraser	8965 votes	61.5% of votes
R- John T. Lamping	9707 votes	100% of votes
State Auditor:		
D-Susan Montee	267,960 votes	90.1% of votes
R-Tom Schweich	315,658 votes	58.6% of votes
U.S. Rep. - District 1		
D- Lacy Clay	37,041 votes	81.3% of votes
R-Robyn Hamlin	10,305 votes	63.2% of votes
U.S. Rep. - District 3		
D-Russ Carnahan	36,976 votes	80.1% of votes
R-Ed Martin	22,266 votes	63.4% of votes

News Briefs*What you need to know.*

A federal appeals court temporarily allowed the government to reinstate the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on Oct. 20.

The Obama administration recently announced that it plans to sell \$60 billion worth of arms to Saudi Arabia.

France's public transportation and gas stations have suffered strikes protesting the nation's pension system.

North Korea introduced Kim Jong Un, its next leader, to the public. A huge military parade took place in honor of the occasion.

A cholera outbreak has struck Haiti and killed over 250 people.

All 33 of the trapped Chilean miners were rescued after 69 days underground. The miners were raised by a capsule to the surface where they were greeted by family and friends.

Two American hikers are scheduled to be tried in court on Nov. 6 after being held in Iranian custody for 15 months.



Emma Riley

What you think about the protests...

"It's tacky, uncivilized, distasteful, and all around grotesque in behavior. It's legally right, but that doesn't mean you should do it."

Nia Charrington
Junior

"I think that it's morally not right, but it is in their Amendments to have a right to protest. It's kind of messed up but there's nothing you can do about it."

Isaac Curtis
Senior

"I don't think those people hold any right to [protest]. They could do it somewhere else, but I think that at a funeral, it's just wrong."

Olivia MacDougal
Freshman

Controversial 1st Amendment case reaches Supreme Court

Protesters at a military funeral argue for protection under the Constitution, while the family of a fallen soldier sues. Now the nation's highest court must decide the limits of the First Amendment.

Connor Flood
Reporter

The U.S. Supreme Court is currently reviewing an emotional and controversial case that pits human decency and the rights of a family to grieve a fallen soldier against the rights to free speech guaranteed under the First Amendment.

In 2006, Albert Snyder's son died in Iraq where he was serving as a Marine.

Members of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, picketed at the funeral. They used the funeral to make their point that U.S. deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq are punishment for Americans' immorality.

They expressed objections to U.S. tolerance of homosexuality and abortion. They held signs saying,

"Thank God for dead soldiers" and "God Hates the USA," but stood a distance from the funeral itself.

Snyder sued the church for causing him emotional distress at a private event.

According to CBS News, Snyder won an \$11 million verdict against the church for intentional infliction of emotional distress, among other claims.

A judge reduced the award to \$5 million before the federal appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, overturned the ruling stating that First Amendment rights protected the protesters.

Now in the Supreme Court, the justices are struggling to come to a decision: rule in favor of First Amendment rights or limit those rights in order to protect those who lost their sons.

According to The New York Times, Margie Phelps, the attorney for the protesters and daughter

of the church pastor, said she expects the Supreme Court to uphold the federal appeals court decision.

"They're going to uphold the law of the land that you may express a contrary view in a public forum without being sued," Phelps said in The New York Times.

The CBS News website stated that 48 states, 42 U.S. senators, and veteran groups have sided with the Snyders and asked the high court to rule against the protesters for "psychological terrorism."

The protestors argue that they are protected by the First Amendment and that they abided by local ordinances by standing a specified distance from the procession.

"No American should ever be required to apologize for following his or her conscience," Phelps said, according to CBS News.

People around CHS have mixed reactions to the protesters' actions.

"It's not designed to educate, it's not designed to inform, it's purely designed to upset this family," psychology teacher David Aiello said.

While many people find the content of the speech repulsive, some of them question whether the government should suppress it.

History teacher Rick Kordenbrock believes that although the speech is offensive, the right to say it is protected by the government.

"I don't like [what they say]," Kordenbrock said.

"It's distasteful, but as a matter of First Amendment rights, should the government in the form of police be out there arresting these people and putting them in jail because they did it? No, I don't think so because after all it's speech." 🗣️

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CARLY CASSITY



Lori Schuman

athlete of the month

Arya Yadama
Reporter

She slowly positions her feet, alters her grip, and bends her knees as she pulls her racquet back in anticipation of the next second: when the racquet meets the ball.

Tennis can be a very individual sport; just you the racquet and the ball. However, at CHS, tennis is as much about the team as it is about any one player.

Sophomore Carly Cassity has successfully lived up to the role of "Number One" on the girls tennis team, but she has also been a great leader and contributor to the team.

"Carly has a positive and upbeat attitude, is nice to everyone and fights hard for every point," girls' Varsity Tennis coach Susie Luten said. "She never, ever gives up."

Also, Cassity had to face a new team and a new school along with her responsibility. Cassity transferred from MICDS just this year into the welcoming hands of CHS.

"The girls on the tennis team were all so nice to me and I was so happy," Cassity said.

"Carly is so much fun to play with," Varsity Tennis player Isabella Jacobs said. "She is positive and always cheers for her teammates."

Cassity's positive and energetic attitude and the teams welcoming reaction made the perfect environment for her to adjust into a new environment, helping her play her best.

Being a good team sport is extremely important, but so is being a good leader, handling the responsibilities of a high position.

"Carly set the tone for the team. Because of her, everyone became a lot more energetic," Luten said.

Having a good attitude during a match is one of the most important as-

pects that can gain even the respect of the opponent.

"Tennis is such a mental sport so being down in a match is really hard to come back from," Cassity said. "I usually take a deep breath because I realize I am losing because I have gotten too worked up. I tell myself to go one point at a time because looking at the match as a big picture is way too overwhelming."

Because of her outlook on matches and enthusiasm, Cassity's teammates respect her as well.

"She sets a great example because of her mind-set on the court," said Jacobs. "She really shows her spirit for her team."

Being a great tennis player, is also a lot about handling one's emotions and one's physical condition.

"Carly takes her fitness very seriously and is in great shape," Luten said.

To stay in shape, this summer, Carly played six hours a day, including 30 minutes of conditioning.

"Tennis has always been a big part of my life," Cassity said. "It means a lot to me because it is something I put so much time and effort into."

Because Carly loves the sport so much, she is able to help boost the enthusiasm of her team as well. This year, Carly has helped lead the team to victory in many matches.

"We had a really strong team this year," Cassity said. "My doubles partner Caroline Greenberg and I definitely surprised ourselves. We had never played together before, and we really ended being a good fit together."

While Carly was very excited to be "Number One" singles her first year, something else made her more excited.

"Our team was so strong all the way through," Cassity said. "We were really hard to beat and that was what I was most excited about over anything. We have had an awesome season." ☺

New diver makes a splash, restarts boys' diving

Zach Praiss
Community Editor

Water is no soft cushion. It is a hard, cold, defying surface that shatters like glass. Nevertheless, sophomore William Wyssession is making a splash into the CHS boys' swimming and diving team as the team's first diver in several years.

This past summer, Wyssession developed his interest in diving at Shaw Park Pool where he experimented on the diving boards, attempting basic flips. Wally

Lundt, the coach of the boys' swimming and diving team, who has been searching for a diver for quite some time, quickly recognized his potential. Within a short time, Wyssession agreed to be the team's new diver.

"I played lacrosse last year, but you cannot really compare the two," William Wyssession said. "They are totally different."

Now coming to the end of the season, Wyssession has fondly enjoyed spending time with the team and diving, fulfilled by his tremendous improvement and prospect for the future.

"It's pretty awesome," Wyssession said. "I would have done the play or something else instead, but I've enjoyed diving. It's been a fun challenge."

Unlike most sports, diving requires immense mental concentration and perfect execution of complicated maneuvers: twists, tucks, and flips.

"Diving is arguably the most difficult sport in the world," Rob Hoffman, Wyssession's private diving instructor, said. "It combines speed, hand-eye-coordination, skill, speed, and power, but it also has to be graceful. You're asking your body to do incredibly ridiculous things

"If you think of what it takes to do any kind of dive...your brain is rapid-firing orders to your muscles and everything has to be in perfect sync."

Rob Hoffman
Wyssession's diving instructor

in a very short notice. If you think of what it takes to do any kind of dive... your brain is rapid-firing orders to your muscles and everything has to be in perfect sync."

Hoffman has also been keen to notice Wyssession's talent and passion for diving.

"Willy is a raw talent," Hoffman said. "He has great natural physical abilities and now we're just trying to harness them."

Wyssession explained how at the beginning of the season, he could only do a front flip and now, he can do nearly a dozen dives including more advanced dives such as an inward 1 and a half with a difficulty of 2.2 points. As a result, with 11 dives mastered, Wyssession will be able to compete in the conference diving meet at the end of the season.

In the end, one word encapsulates Wyssession's goal for the future - state. However, to qualify

for the state diving competition, a diver must score 210 points at a meet. At a recent meet against Parkway West High School, Wyssession scored 141 points; however, both Lundt and Hoffman agree that he has the potential to qualify for the state competition in the future.

"If he continues to improve as he has, he should get enough points to qualify for state in the coming years," Lundt said. "And he has three years so who knows, by the time he is a senior, he might even score points at State."

Hoffman emphasized how with a thorough off-season training session, hard work, and commitment, Wyssession should certainly make state in the coming years.

"If he wants to make it to state, he



Dustin Kessler

William Wyssession performs an inward one and a half somersault dive.

will," Hoffman said. "He's got the brain, he's got the body, and he's the physical talent, so there's no reason for him not to qualify for state."

At the same time, having an advanced diver on the team will prove to be an asset in competitive meets, where the points from diving can determine the outcome of the scores.

"So far it hasn't helped us specifically win a single meet yet, but I know so many meets we lost last year when we

didn't have a diver," Lundt said. "So, I'm sure he's going to help in some meet this year. He might give us a win where we would've gotten a loss."

Ultimately, Lundt is pleased with the performance of the team this season, for both the swimmers and the diver.

"This season has gone really great," Lundt said. "It's a real great team effort. Everybody is contributing. We've got a 7-3 record, which is the best we've had in a long time." ☺

Lack of fan support permeates girls' athletics

CHS athletics. There is no denying that boys' sports get far more attention than the girls' teams.

Some may argue that girls' sports are just not as exciting. However, I think the

crowd is in control of making a game exciting. If there were groups like the Clayton Crazies, a group of students who lead chants during the boys' basketball games, for every sport the atmosphere of games would be far more exciting for members of the crowd as well as the players themselves.

The Clayton Crazies are a prime example of the impact a crowd can have on the game atmosphere.

They are able to get the rest of the crowd excited and in turn pump up the players on the court.

During my time playing basketball, very rarely has there been a crowd at the

games. However, when a few students attended and were cheering for our team, it truly changed my mentality going into the game. It made me want to do better. While self-motivation is important, having someone in the crowd gives you even more to play for.

Perhaps it's not just a question about how exciting the games are; perhaps it's simply just about school spirit. It seems to me that very few people, aside from those on the team, are truly concerned about how well CHS athletic teams perform.

The term "home field advantage" loses its meaning when applied to CHS sports; the advantage of it being that more of our fans can come out and support the team.

But how can we consider it home field when our opponent's fans far out-

number our own fans?

The most gruesome case of this for girls' sports occurs during Clayton and Ladue games. Considering that Ladue is our school rival, you would expect every-

one to come out to the games to not only support our athletes, but to also out-cheer Ladue in the stands.

Yet, it seems that not even a rival game can fill the stands at girls' sport games. In fact, only when the girls' basketball game vs. Ladue was ending did people start to show up

because the boys' game which followed.

As an athlete I encourage and hope that all students would try to attend at least home games to support their fellow students as they fight to represent our school. ☺

"The term 'home field advantage' loses its meaning when applied to CHS sports... But how can we consider it home field when our opponent's fans far outnumber our own fans?"

Girls' golf makes improvements during building year



Emily Dierler

Senior Tierney Rodgers putts during a tournament against Webster. She had a good season and played in state.

Philip Zhang
Editor

The girls' golf season ended last week with a remarkable record of having three of its nine team members played in districts and one in state.

The makeup of this year's team was quite different from that of last year's.

"This year we had a much bigger team," girls' golf coach Melissa Hobick said. "Last year we only had five players total on the team and this year we had nine."

The experience level of this year's team also varied widely. "We had many new freshman players come out," Hobick said. "It was another building year trying to get them to learn the game before we can work on their skills."

Such difference did not prevent the team from achieving its goal this season.

Senior Tierney Rodgers, junior Lauren Hogan, and junior Leslie Davis played in districts. Rodgers also played in sectionals and state.

"Our team really grew together, and there were four freshmen and three juniors that will be back for another season," senior Tierney Rodgers said. "One of our major goals as a team was to win at least one match and we did."

Hobick said that her goal this year was for the team to improve from last year.

"Leadership of Tierney Rodgers was very helpful," Hobick said. "She took on that leadership role really well."

Senior Sasha Vine has been a part of the team since her freshman year and played with Rodgers as the only two seniors this year.

"Our team's performance has improved a lot since last year," Vine said. "As seniors, Tierney and I really wanted to win a meet. Also, having more girls on the team definitely helped."

Junior Lauren Hogan also has been playing since her freshman year.

"There were a lot of new players who never played before joining the team, so this year was somewhat a learning year," Hogan said. "Next year people will return knowing the basics so I expect us to improve a lot."

The players attribute much of their success this season to the coaching.

"Coach Hobick always does an amazing job," Rodgers said. "We all love her so much and she teaches us so much and gets along with everyone really well."

The team also faced many challenges this season, one of them being the varying experience level of the players.

"Golf is not one of those sports that are really easy for someone to come out and learn," Hobick said. "It is a very difficult sport."

Unfortunately, the team does not have enough players to form separate JV and varsity teams.

"Having all those different experience levels is very hard as a coach," Hobick said. "It is hard to work on the skills of the better players when you take the time to teach the lower players."

The challenges are unlikely to dampen the players' passion for the game.

"I have been playing golf almost my whole life," Rodgers said. "My Uncle John actually got me and my two older sisters into golf when we were little."

Vine appreciates golf for the lessons that the game has to offer.

"I love that golf teaches you a lot about patience," Vine said. "Even if you're playing terribly you still have to finish nine holes."

Rodgers shares similar reflections as she talks about her favorite part of the game.

"I love golf because it is a very hard and mental game," Rodgers said. "I always have to stay calm and swing slow. My favorite part is walking the 18 holes with the girls I have played with since freshman year. It gives us a chance to catch up, have fun, and play a game we all love." ☺

Student perspective

Even with Bradford’s help, Rams face an uphill battle for a winning season

Dylan Schutz
Editor

Following an optimistic 2-2 start, the St. Louis Rams faced their first taste of true adversity in the 44-6 beat down they received from the previously winless Detroit Lions. In addition to the heartache from the tough defeat, St. Louis fans are in for more trouble than they could have imagined.

The Rams lost more than the game on Sunday, Oct. 10. Mark Clayton, a late pick up at wide receiver on Sept. 6, will be out for the rest of the season after suffering a torn patellar tendon in his right knee. This is a devastating loss to the up-and-coming team.

Clayton had led the Rams in TDs (2), receiving yards (306), and was a major deep threat that kept some field open for star running back Stephen Jackson. Previously, the Rams were serious contenders for the NFC West division title, but with this major dent in their already shaky offense, Rams fans should lower any postseason expectations.

Although the Rams pulled off a stunning 20-17 victory over the San Diego Chargers in week six, playoff hopes remain bleak as the Seattle Seahawks continue their winning ways against the Chicago Bears, and the Arizona Cardinals rest up after a shocking win over the defending Super Bowl champions, the New Orleans Saints.

So what do fans do when their team is out of contention? Just ask St. Louis fans from the last four years. Since 2006, the Rams, Cardinals, and Blues have combined for two playoff appearances and zero postseason wins. The Cardinals were swept in a best of five series by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2009, and the Blues followed suit against the Vancouver Canucks in a best of seven games set in 2009.

The best way to take one’s mind off a dismal team is to focus on individual highpoints. For instance, Albert Pujols has won two NL MVP awards with astonishing numbers in just about every category known to baseball. Stephen Jackson has been among the top five running backs in the NFL despite a supporting cast that is weak to say the least.

Fortunately, St. Louisans have a new star to gaze at by the name of Sam Bradford. Bradford looks to be the savior of the Rams. The number one draft choice in the 2010 NFL Draft has jumped right into the speed of the NFL and looks as comfortable under pressure as Peyton Manning.

Bradford’s success became apparent after he won the Pepsi Rookie of the Week for his performance in a 20-3 Rams’ win over the Seattle Seahawks. In his

award winning performance, Bradford completed 23 of 41 pass attempts for 289 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception.

Currently, Bradford is ranked 13th out of 32 starting QBs in the NFL. Despite his overall ranking, Bradford has one of the worst passer ratings at 69.3. Passer rating is a statistic that evaluates a quarterback’s performance using a complex calculation taking into account the completions per attempt, yards per attempt, TDs per attempt, and interceptions per attempt.

Certain modifications are imposed to these numbers based on their individual value, and a palpable number is created to represent a very intangible idea. To put Bradford’s 69.3 into perspective, a perfect passer rating is 158.3, and the best passer rating in professional football, owned by Michael Vick of the Philadelphia Eagles, is 109.0.

The keys to Bradford’s low rating are his eight interceptions and his 28th ranked completion percentage at 56.8. Even with these seemingly terrible stats, Bradford ascends the list by having six TD passes and a superior 3rd down efficiency that stands with perennial QB greats such as Tom Brady and Peyton Manning.

Besides any impressive numbers Bradford may put up, the two wins the Rams already have tell the tale of an improved team. Old quarterback Marc Bulger was among the worst quarterbacks in football, finishing 24th of 32 last year. The only reason Bulger avoided landing in dead last was his injury that denied him the chance to continue on his path of losing and poor football.

Bradford’s seven TDs in six games already pass Bulger’s five TDs from the entire 2009 season. Bradford has quickly broken the 14-game home losing streak with a win over the Washington Redskins and the 10-game losing streak to the Seahawks, doubling Bulger’s win total.

With 10 games remaining, Rams fans can look forward to watching the young rookie progress on his sure path to superstardom. A couple more wins should be expected from home games against the struggling Carolina Panthers in week eight and against the currently 0-5 San Francisco 49ers in week 16.

Following the 2010-11 NFL season, the Rams should utilize their draft to pick up a dominant wide receiver and perhaps some reinforced protection for Bradford up front. With a superb draft, the Rams could be in serious contention for the NFC West title and on the path to becoming a true Super Bowl contender.

Statistics compiled from www.nfl.com



Elizabeth Skora

During the game against Burroughs, senior Beau Haydon fights for the ball while teammate Aloshe Lowery looks on. The game ended in a 1-1 tie.

Soccer Hounds head into districts still fighting for winning season

Jon Knohl
Reporter

The CHS varsity soccer team has had a superb season for the most part. With a few ups and downs, the team has still managed to maintain a winning record of 10-7-2.

“It’s been a shaky season,” junior Joe Peebles said. “We win a few games and then lose a few games.”

The team has not seemed to find a consistent style of play. One thing that hasn’t helped the Hound’s season is losses to teams with losing records such as Ritenour, DuBourg, and McCluer.

On the other hand they have had a couple of big wins against Ladue and Borgia.

Injuries have also hindered the Hounds this season. Withkey players Beau Haydon, Will Hayes, and Charlie Harned returning to the starting lineup the

Hounds look to do some damage in the very competitive Class 2, District 5.

This district is one of the most competitive in the state with M.I.C.D.S., Westminster, University City, and Clayton.

“Our district is probably the hardest in the state,” junior Maamoun Hossarayami said. “But it’s just going to make things a little more interesting. I think we can make it far.”

Leading the Hounds in scoring this season are Charlie Harned and Kevin Matheny.

The Hounds have a couple of tough games ahead of them against rival Whitfield and Hazelwood Central before they enter district play.

“Our ultimate goal is to win our district and eventually state,” sophomore Sebastian Juhl said. “Anything less will be an absolute disappointment.”

District play starts on Oct. 30 at M.I.C.D.S.

Field hockey hopes to bounce back after rough season start

David Androphy
Reporter

Despite the loss of two division 1-bound players, the girls’ varsity field hockey team is hoping to continue where they left off.

Izzy Fratt (’10) and Anna Krane (’10) both are moving forward with their field hockey careers at Cornell University and the University of Vermont.

These teammates were not only great players, but they also provided the team with tremendous leadership.

“These players were team leaders last year,” senior Lily Gage said. “So, they left a lot of leadership roles as well.”

Part of the team’s success this year was being able to find players willing to step up and take these roles.

“We have a great group of underclassmen that have helped fill these gaps,” Gage said. “We also have an awesome group of seniors that have really stepped it up this year.”

Several of these players include sophomore Christina DiFelice and freshman Zoe Marquis-Kelley.

“Zoe Marquis-Kelley is a freshman who made varsity this year and has really helped us out starting on defense,” senior Monica Gierada said. “Christina DiFelice is a starting mid who helps out so much on offense and defense, and has scored a lot of goals for us.”

However, the team hasn’t been exactly “lights out” throughout the year. In the beginning of the

season, the team played hesitantly on defense and it had little success offensively.

“At the beginning of the season we played a lot more defensively,” Gierada said, “but as the season has gone on, we’ve gotten used to playing as a team and our offense has really stepped up and started scoring way more than at the beginning of the season.”

This is a good sign for the field hockey team as districts started Monday, Oct. 18. In order for them to win games at the district level, both the offense and defense must work together and show consistency week after week.

“With districts starting on Monday I think we really want to continue to come together as a team,” senior Helen Wiley said,

Their team has done just that as they won all three of their games in the week prior to district play. Wiley said the win streak could be mainly attributed to two key players.

“Maddy Bullard has done a really good job leading the forward line and setting an example for the rest of the team,” Wiley said. “Jaclyn Poe has also been really important for the team. She works so hard every game in the midfield and helps pull it all together.”

Their three-game win streak will surely help their team look ahead to the rest of the schedule and be able to move on from the disappointing losses earlier in the season.

“We have had a rough season,” Wiley said. “But we are finally learning how to play together and work off of people’s strengths on the field,”



Laura Kratcha

During the game against Webster Oct. 1, sophomore Christina DiFelice goes after the ball. Clayton won the game, 7-0.

CHARLIE HARNED



athlete of the month

Anat Gross
Sports Editor

Returning varsity soccer player, junior Charlie Harned currently leads the Hounds on the field with nine goals thus far in the season. Harned’s 12 years of experience and strong work ethic allow him to be a more flexible player and a great asset to the team.

According to Head Coach Tom Redmond, despite primarily being a forward Harned is able to step up to challenge at any position due to his experience.

“He is one of our more versatile players and he can play several positions,” Redmond said. “Most of the time he plays forward, but we have used him in the midfield and even in the backfield for a game, when we had several players out with injuries.”

Senior Christian Wolfgram what separates Harned from his teammates is “grit and determination. As he chants before every game, ‘Anything is Possible.’”

Harned prepared for the season by working in the offseason, in the weight room, and making an investment in protein powder.

“Working hard at practice and games sets a standard for me to work hard at other things in life,” Harned said.

Redmond notes Harned’s strong work ethic as well as his likable and positive attitude.

“Charlie has a high work rate and he seems to know where to position himself on the field, to get into goal scoring situations,” Redmond said. “He has a very good attitude about practice and the games, and he is very popular among his teammates.”

Wolfgram also attests to Harned’s positive presence both in games and practice.

“He never complains about a call or foul, he just keeps on playing,” Wolfgram said. “He also keeps us laughing during practice.”

According to Harned, it is work ethic that determines the success of most teams and athletes.

“At the high school level its one part athleticism and one part ‘who wants it,’” Harned said. “You’d be surprised how many opportunities arise for players who work hard. As a team we have to work real hard always keep one goal in mind, winning.”

A three-year varsity player, Harned adds experience as well as a strong drive to be excellent to the team.

“He already is one of our team leaders even as a junior,” Redmond said. “I look for him to be one of our captains next season and provide even more leadership.”

“My goal is to win state,” Harned said. “I plan on meeting this goal, because if you don’t plan on winning then you won’t win.”

“Districts start at the end of October, so I want to see everyone in the stands,” Harned said.

GO, FIGHT, WIN!



1. The bonfire blazes after the addition of the juniors' Roman column. The freshman theme was Vikings; the sophomore theme, Mayans; the junior theme, Roman; the senior theme, Egyptian. 2. The senior powderpuff football team poses after their stunning victory. The victorious group of seniors included Monica Gierada, Lily Gage, Erica Hill, Jaclyn Poe, Kyleigh Smith, Jessica Merrick, Maddy Bullard, Leah Staenberg, Erin Bax, Leah Johnson, Bree Northern, and Elle Jacobs. The athletes were coached by Cody Peck, Sam Muslin, and Dominic Mena. 3. Head Coach Sam Horrel and players Kameron Stewart, Tyler Walker, Brad Puricelli and Chase Haslett walk across the football field at the homecoming game. The Hounds triumphed over Normandy 24-15. 4. Junior Class President Drake Pinkston cheers atop the Roman-themed float during the Homecoming Parade. 5. Seniors Erica Hill and Jaclyn Poe celebrate at the Homecoming Dance. Hill was crowned Homecoming Queen at the dance. 6. A football player takes a powerful kick during the Homecoming game on Saturday, October 2. 7. Cheerleaders perform a dance at the Pep Rally. The Pep Rally has recently become a Clayton tradition, taking place during the last hour of school on the Friday before Homecoming. 8. Freshmen and sophomores brimming with school spirit fill the stands at the Pep Rally.



Then and now: Class of 1928 alumnus reflects on changes of life in and around CHS.

Jackie Leong
Managing Editor

Out on the remaining half of the CHS quad are two sugar maple trees—but these are no ordinary trees. Donated by the class of 1928, they have since aged alongside countless graduating classes. And one of the original students who planted the trees is currently a cause for celebration.

Carl Rogge, now one of the oldest surviving CHS graduates, recently celebrated his hundredth birthday.

Rogge attended the Homecoming parade and football game, as well as last year’s graduation of the hundredth CHS class, and has watched his former high school—as well as hometown—change over the years. Both, he claims, have changed “a thousand percent”, starting with—but certainly not limited to—the fact that the CHS that Rogge knew didn’t have a Homecoming to go to.

However, CHS was still quite involved in sports—much as it is now.

“We had tennis courts on the east side of the building,” Rogge said, “and behind the school we had a field, but with no seats, and a sort of track—you couldn’t actually run races on it, but you could practice.”

CHS has undergone numerous changes over the years, and though its core course matter has stayed roughly the same over the decades—Rogge particularly enjoyed history and geometry classes, among a list of others—its facilities have not. The change that has impressed itself upon Rogge the most, however, is the CHS library.

“Several years ago, I was talking to the [CHS] librarian,” Rogge said. “And she said the library now has 25,000 books—and maybe 35 to 36 of them are checked out. Our library was the back wall of the study hall, maybe 35 feet wide, and we had maybe 500 books. And maybe we checked 2-3 of them out.”

Of course, the list doesn’t stop there—Rogge cites the auditorium and the gym, even the lunch counter, which he refers to as ‘unbelievable’, among others—and for good reason; decades after Rogge’s graduation, CHS itself moved in 1954 to its current

location.

Before the move, CHS was located across the street from the grade school and in front of a small café-type house where children could buy food for lunch—all CHS had to offer in terms of sustenance, according to Rogge, was a drinking fountain.

Rogge’s experience in Clayton was one of a different lifestyle: Clayton, much younger and still developing in places, was less complex than it is now.

Transportation across Clayton, as Rogge noted, has changed drastically over years—as Clayton has grown, so have the ways of traversing it. The Wydown streetcar (affectionately referred to as the ‘Wydown Dinky’ because of its size), used to run down Wydown Boulevard’s now-grassy median. Until Skinker was a common mode of travel, though, Rogge admits he didn’t use the streetcar much.

Hitchhiking, it turns out, was also popular among schoolchildren.

“There were some apartments on Skinker, and children had to walk down Wydown to school,” Rogge said. “And sometimes people might pick you up and drive you as far as they were going, and then of course you’d have to walk the rest of the way.”

As is the case currently, there was no busing system, and so tuition-paying children coming in from out-of-district areas would often pay farmers to give them a lift to school and back.

Clayton itself has progressed as well, and the products are seen in both what has been built up as well as what is no longer there. When Rogge was in school, he would often work in one of his family’s grocery stores, of which there were seven. Those stores—Jim Remly Markets—as Rogge said, “are long gone”.

However, in terms of entertainment, Clayton has come a long way.

“There wasn’t anything to do in Clayton,” Rogge said. “It was a dull town.”

Though bowling was just starting to come out, which Rogge would sometimes try with friends, and there were a few movie houses on Grand street—where one could trade 50 cents for a show complete with an orchestral overture, news briefing, a chorus show, and then finally the feature—there wasn’t much else to do.



Carl Rogge, a CHS alumnus, attended last years Homecoming game. As his 100th birthday approaches, he reminisces on his time as a student at CHS.

Rogge also notes that most of the “good” clothing stores were downtown. And in 1928, clothing was a different deal.

“We used to wear suits all the time, and we were never without a tie,” Rogge said. “We didn’t care how hot it was—sometimes we’d wear straw hats.”

In addition, jeans were for “garbage people”—or anyone whose job required heavy labor, but they were not for everyday wear, a sentiment that Rogge harbors till this day.

“Nowadays, people wear jeans all the time, and they say it’s okay,” Rogge says. “I don’t care. I still don’t own a pair.”

Clayton has in itself been the site of steady change, but memories of its bygone days are planted firmly in a seat of esteem: in addition to the preserved class

portraits from each year, those in Rogge’s class—the class of 1928—hang in a place of tribute near the principal’s office.

Rogge’s class—which had about 60 graduates, of the 290 total CHS students—was one of many firsts: the first to give anything back to the school, namely the trees. It was also the first to have a class reunion, another of which Rogge plans to hold for just him and his other remaining classmate, Betty Weinert, who resides in Arizona.

For Rogge has never stopped being a part of CHS. He still visits it periodically—especially the one thing that still grabs his attention the most: the library.

“I try to stop by,” Rogge said. “I go in, and am amazed.” ☺

Sorting muggles from magic folk

Steven Zou
Reporter

About two years ago, the popular Harry Potter Club was disbanded. All hope was lost since no one wanted to be in charge of it. Recently, Junior Maria Massad has brought the Harry Potter Club back to life.

Massad, the president of the club, restarted the club for many reasons.

“I have always been passionate about the Harry Potter books, and I knew others at school love Harry Potter as well,” said Massad.

Learning Center teacher Laurie Schulte, and also the sponsor of the Harry Potter Club, said Massad began asking friends if they were interested in restarting the club.

“There was so much positive feedback that she decided to go ahead and start the club for real,” Schulte said.

Schulte wanted to sponsor the club because it sounded like a fun opportunity.

“I jumped at the opportunity to be sponsor for this club because it sounded like a fun group that couldn’t possibly take itself too seriously,” Schulte said. “It’s just a cool way to get to know students in a non-academic setting while sharing a common passion: a passion for Potter.”

Massad and Schulte all agree that the first few meetings of the club have been a success.

First, students were sorted into one of the houses: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, or Slytherin. They have watched the first Harry Potter movie and played the Harry Potter Scene-It game. The club has meets almost every Wednesday after school until 4 p.m., in room 10.

“A lot of people have shown up to the meetings,” Massad said. “I hope students will continue to come to the meetings, since the more people that we have the more fun the club could be.”

The club has approximately 10 to 15 students attending the meetings.

“I didn’t really know how many fellow muggles were here at Clayton until that first meeting,” Schulte said.

Members have a variety of reasons to join the club.

“I started reading the Harry Potter books in Kindergarten, and I’ve been keeping up with the series ever since,” junior Caitlin Kropp said. “The Harry

Potter series is such a defining aspect of our generation, I think it would be hard to find anyone who actually didn’t know about the books or the movies. It’s just too large to not to know and love.”

Caitlin Kropp said her favorite thing so far was playing Harry Potter Scene-It.

“I love any Scene-It games, and a lot of people showed up that day, so we actually had a legitimate competition going,” Caitlin Kropp said.

Caitlin Kropp’s sister, freshman Chandler Kropp, is also in the club.

“I’ve enjoyed watching the movies and discussing the aspects of the book,” Chandler Kropp said.

Massad said she doesn’t really have a favorite aspect.

“Basically, this is just because anything about Harry Potter is ridiculously and equally spectacular,” Massad said. “Everything we have done has been great.”

Members have various reasons for thinking the club is unique.

“Harry Potter club is a unique place where ordinary, non-wizard humans (Muggles) can pretend to be magically endowed wizarding geniuses,”

Schulte said. “It’s a place for friends to pretend and to have fun.”

Massad said Harry Potter Club is unique because they talk only about Harry Potter.

“No other club really does it as in depth as we will, I don’t think any other club is going to play a Quidditch match any time soon,” Massad said.

Caitlin Kropp said the club has a wide variety of activities.

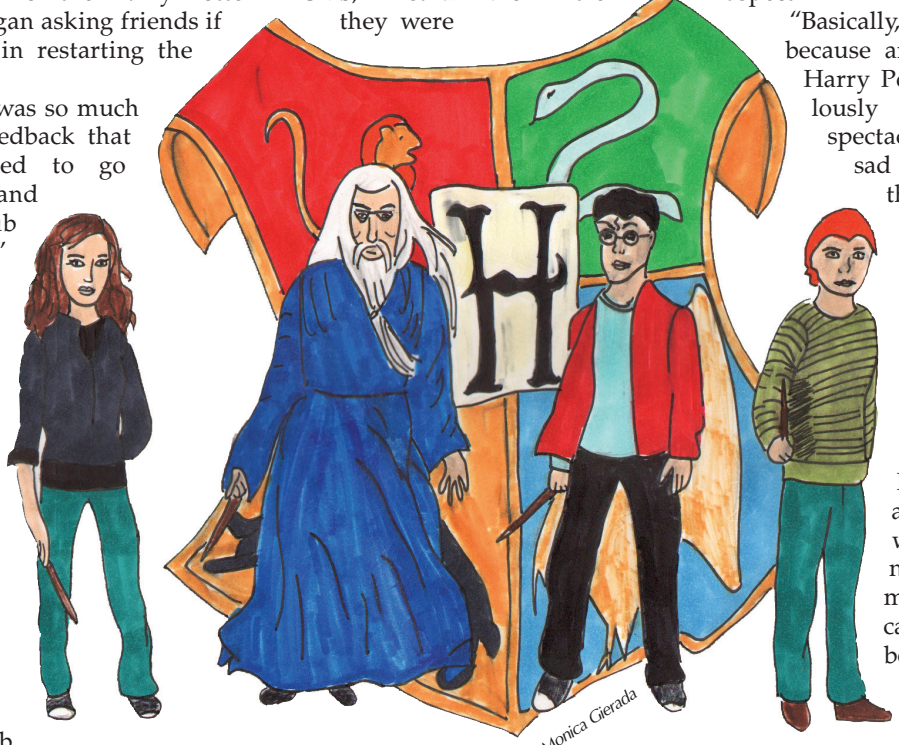
“There are so many Harry Potter spin-offs, games and events; I seriously doubt that we will ever run out of new things to do,” she said. “With people who come to the meetings, the people who are really invested in this series, it’s impossible to not have a good time. We’ll always find something to do.”

Schulte said the purpose of the group is to simply socialize and share.

The club now is planning their own big Harry Potter inspired Halloween costume contest and party. Also, they plan their own trip to see the movie “Harry Potter and Deathly Hallows Part I.”

Schulte is looking forward to one event in particular.

“I’m really looking forward to our own Quidditch match,” Schulte said. “Even though we can’t fly around on brooms, we’ll do our best to pass the ball around on the ground.” ☺



Filling in the blanks...

Getting to know AP World teacher Donna Rogers-Beard.

Noah Eby
Co-Editor in Chief



I became a teacher because... I was always picked as the kid to play the teacher. From the time I would play outside with other kids and we would play school, I was always the one picked to play teacher.

History is just as important as math or science because... it’s a subject that you use to decode the world that you live in, to understand the formula for what’s happening around you and to have a better handle even on the future. It’s something that I definitely believe you use, just as you use math.

When I was in high school, I loved to... read. Read, read, read, read, read. I read primarily historical fiction, biographies and the classics – Robert Louis Stevenson, Victor Hugo, Faulkner, Steinbeck.

If I could get on a plane right now and go anywhere... well, see, it’s unfortunate you’re asking a grandmother, so I would go to see my grandchildren. And then get on a plane with them off to a fun place.... I went to Istanbul over spring break. I’ve been to a couple of places and it truly was the most fascinating city I’ve ever been in. An incredible number of layers of history, still there, and it’s just everywhere.

My greatest fear is... that the Tea Partiers are going to get control of America, and you can put that down! Whoa! That’s my greatest fear, yes. I think for the most part they’re selling fear. They have an extremely superficial understanding of what it means to be a citizen of a country and what this country is all about, and the world, and the interconnectedness of people. They remind me of any extremely, extremely conservative group throughout history that’s been in

the way of progress.

The last song that was stuck in my head was... because of Phoebe Raileanu. It was “Life is Coming Up Roses,” which is the music from “The Sophie Tucker Story.” She’s got a part in the play, and I loved Sophie Tucker when I was a kid, and she and I went off on that tune and it took me several hours to get it out of my head.

The most important lesson that I’ve ever learned... is that life is hard. Life got hard. After having had a very easy, predictable life, in my early thirties life took an unexpected turn. And I read a book called “The Road Less Traveled,” by Peck, and it begins with “Life is hard.” And if you understand that, and accept it, then whatever you’re going through, just know that, “Hey, I’m supposed to be that way sometimes, and I’ll get over to the other side of whatever’s going on,” and it did [for me], it happened. Life is hard.

When I stop teaching... I’m going to be teaching until I die. I’m going to donate my body to science, and hopefully there will be a lot to learn from examining it. So I’ll never stop teaching. ☺

Coming Up

October 27, 7:30 p.m.: CHS Orchestra Halloween Concert	November 8: First day of winter sports
October 29, 7:30 p.m.: CHS Halloween Dance	November 9, 7:30 p.m.: CHS Choir Concert



David Aiello



David Aiello

Junior Challenge '10: More than just fun and games

Caroline Greenberg
Reporter

Junior Challenge has been a tradition in which juniors get to leave school and bond with their classmates. David Aiello ran this year's Junior Challenge. The event was at Tower Grove Park, on October 17.

"The idea of Junior Challenge is for juniors to get out of the building and do some team bonding in groups created to join them together," Aiello said.

The groups were made by Aiello to bring together different people who don't usually hang out.

"We didn't get to request anyone," Junior Martha Burke said. "I thought that would affect if I would have fun on the day, but it actually made it better. It took me out of the same group I'm always with."

Each group contained about twelve to fifteen students, and each would go to different stations to do activities. Participating seniors ran the stations.

"For my station, the team had to cross from one side of the field to the other by throwing Frisbees on the ground to make a bridge," Senior Emily Holtzman said.

Having the seniors run the activities, instead of the teachers, helped provide a fun aspect of the day.

"It was nice to have seniors run it, as opposed to teachers. They would have been less enthusiastic," Junior Maddie Kirschner said.

Senior Ruthie Polinsky also ran a station and felt the same way.

"It gave some seniors the opportunity to participate since we didn't get to last year," Polinsky said, "and it allowed for all the juniors to participate at the same level."

Last year the Junior Challenge was cancelled due to a rainy day. It was never rescheduled.

"I'm glad I got to participate, but watching the juniors do it [the Challenge] really made me wish we got to do it as a class as well," Holtzman said.

This full day of fun is spent outside, joining together people who normally don't get to be together.

However, some people say having a full day away from school is too hard to catch up with.

"It was okay having Junior Challenge have a full day to itself," Junior Gabe Wolf said. "Most of my classes are junior classes, so everyone was gone, too. I think having this day benefited my classes, though, because when I went back to my classes the next day, I was ready to begin again."

For Junior Challenge, students are gone all day, with buses leaving when school starts and getting back at three. Even the seniors didn't have trouble catching up.

"A lot of my classes have juniors, so most of my teachers planned work days," Holtzman said.

The question on everyone's minds, though, is why have the Challenge junior year instead of as a freshman?

"Twenty years ago there was a day for each grade, and, although all the other grades have stopped doing it, I have been keeping it up with the juniors," Aiello said.

The day is filled with silly and creative games that help bond the class together. Many think that this is more suited for juniors than for freshmen.

"I think we appreciated it more as a junior class since we have been together longer, and the day off school was definitely much more needed," Kirschner said.

Having the freshman do the Challenge as well is another idea, but having it for both years could be too much.

"I think that it would be a good way to bring the freshman together, but I also think it's a good idea for the students to have had experienced more of high school," Polinsky said.

Another idea is to have something like Junior Challenge all four years, but to have variations for each year.

"Having something like Junior Challenge each year could be a little of an overkill," Burke said. "I'm not saying it wasn't fun, but having it each year would take away the originality of the event."

The idea of having Junior Challenge be all four years is up to debate.

But for now, the students only know now that the Challenge is a great way to get the Junior class to bond and be together for a full day in the sun. ☀



David Aiello



David Aiello



Madeline Fleming



David Aiello

CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: A Junior Challenge team attempts to jump in sync during the jump rope activity. Juniors Taylor Kloha and Corrine Yap try to help each other keep their cones balanced during the "Conehead" challenge. Montel Harris thinks about his next move in a game of Ninja. Alexis McClanahan listens to her teammates' directions during the blind stuffed animal fight. Juniors get as close as possible while trying to flip a tarp to the other side. Jasmine Singh gives Jillian Sandler a helping hand in the "Conehead" challenge. **CENTER:** Maddie Kirschner smiles as Carol Clay completes the perfect pyramid.



David Aiello

New Clayton playground for disabled children completed

Continued from pg. 1

Upon meeting them it becomes obvious that Natalie and Todd are deeply invested in the wellbeing of their children. To the Blakemores, play is an essential way to stay healthy and happy. However, the traditional playground presented numerous obstacles for Zachary, who had difficulty utilizing the equipment and consequently found it challenging to interact with the other children.

For the Blakemores, it was becoming increasingly apparent that the All-American recreation staple was anything but all-inclusive. So after a rewarding family experience at a progressive playground on the East coast, they decided to renovate St. Louis's idea of what a playground could be not just for their son Zachary but for the benefit of all children who need equal play.

So in 2007, the Blakemores opened their first inclusion playground in Lake Saint Louis, Missouri. A crowning achievement, the entire St. Louis region could take pride in the playground's existence and the statement it was making about our area's commitment to disabled individuals. But the city of Clayton didn't just want to admire the feat, it wanted to expand upon it. That's when Clayton's

Director of Parks and Recreation, Patty DeForrest, sprung into action.

"In 2005, I began having conversations with Natalie about the project they were doing in Lake St. Louis," DeForrest said. "We talked about the possibilities for Clayton and the need for this type of playground and, while I would have thought we might get it done sooner, it took the next four years to go through design, get the funding in place and then get it on the city's capital plan."

Part of what makes any service project admirable is the amount of effort required to make the plan a success. What makes Tree Top inspirational is the combined determination of the city of Clayton and the Blakemores to make the playground a reality. Everything started with the search for an ideal location.

"The first step we took was to identify a location that included sufficient space and parking," DeForrest said. "To build a playground like this one, we needed about an acre of relatively

flat space that could accommodate the ramping necessary to make the play structures accessible. It was clear that this location in Shaw Park was a perfect fit. Not only was it close to parking, but there were also ramps into the park along with accessible restrooms on site."

Upon choosing a location, the city needed funding, and lots of it. But fortunately, generosity and a city tax pulled through.

"The total cost was \$587,500," DeForrest said. "Funding was provided through a St. Louis County Municipal Park Grant of \$297,500, a Department of Natural Resource Land and Water Conservation Grant of \$75,000, private donations from the Clayton Century Foundation totaling \$5,000, and a donation from the Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue of \$2,500. The City of Clayton funded the remainder from the Recreation and Stormwater Tax which is a half-cent sales tax earmarked for recreation and Stormwater projects in the City of Clayton."

Once the essentials were taken care of, it was

time to focus on, yes, the details. In addition to the specialized swings and slides, a splash pad would be added to aid those children with difficulty controlling their body temperature. A sensory garden would be installed to help those with visual disabilities. Musical instruments would be available to aid auditory development, and the tree house would be designed based on bark samples from Shaw Park trees.

A meticulous design procedure and a carefully supervised construction process culminated with the grand opening on October 17, 2010. It was a glorious, festive day. Some may view the playground as a refuge for those frustrated by the limitations traditional playgrounds have placed on the ability of disabled children to utilize them.

Some may view the playground as a strong supporting statement of the rights of disabled individuals by the city. But ultimately the playground will be defined and remembered by those who enjoy its abundant possibilities for play. DeForrest is confident the playground's legacy will be a wonderful one.

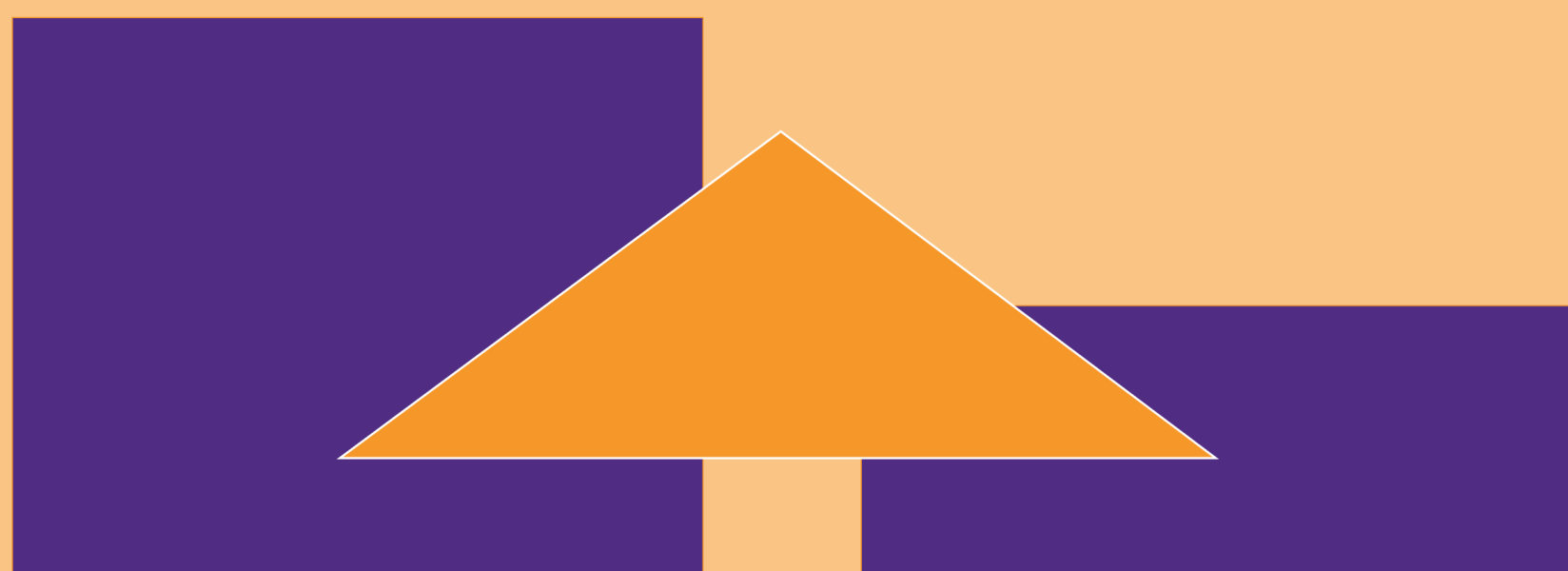
"I know this playground will be enjoyed by children for years to come and will add to the health and wellness of the community," DeForrest said. ☀

"I know this playground will be enjoyed by children for years to come and will add to the health and wellness of the community."

Patty DeForrest
Clayton Director of Parks and Recreation

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Parker Schultz
Reporter

The Learning Centers and library tables fill up as busy students try to find more time for their work. Lauran DeRigne, the head librarian at CHS, sees lots of students come into the library to get work done.

"Depending on the hour we have anywhere between 50 to 75 students in here [the library] and most of them are doing their homework," DeRigne said.

The students have the option of working at tables or in the computer labs. Groups of friends often work together during their free periods.

DeRigne feels that many of the students are catching up on work they haven't had time to finish.

"In the mornings I definitely feel like it's catch up," DeRigne said, "Like, 'I didn't do this last night and I have to get it done.'"

DeRigne added that as the day went on, more students were getting new assignments done in advance.

Although DeRigne is supportive of students doing homework in the library, she has a few concerns.

"I feel bad at lunch hour because I can see a lot of people are trying to get their work done instead of maybe having that hour free to relax and eat," DeRigne said.

It's a school policy that no food is allowed in the library. This means that some students may be paying the price of lunch to get a paper turned in on time.

The library isn't the only place students are working.

Learning Center is now widely used by many. Students sign up for it just like a class, and it provides a period for them to get work done.

Lately, the number of students who have enrolled in Learning Center has grown.

"We actually added a third session to our eighth period on A days because we've had so many people come," Learning Center Director Joyce Bell said.

Learning Center provides a valuable wedge of time for students. Being able to work on any assignment allows for students to get a head start on their workloads.

"This extra 46 minutes a day is vital to some students," Bell said. "We have students that are juniors and seniors who are choosing learning center over free periods because they know that this is a place



Mimi Liu

where we will force them to work."

Junior Michael Buse, who plays two sports and piano, feels that it can sometimes be difficult to get his work done on time.

"I try to have some time to myself, which is not allowed," Buse said. "They want school to be the only thing in your life which is unreasonable and unhealthy."

Fellow Freshman Griffin Reed echoes Buse's sentiments.

"There isn't really a problem completing homework from most classes," Reed said. "But sometimes I choose sleep and food over finishing homework right away."

To many students, finishing their homework is only the first step. Many are involved in activities both inside and outside of school.

One such student is senior Kelsey McFarland.

"I'm a figure skater," said McFarland. "I also

work at the rink. Last year I was practicing five to six days a week. This year I've cut it down to about two or three because it's a lot to do and I work three to four days a week."

On some nights, she does not get home until 10:00 p.m. McFarland finds time at the rink to get work done. When she's not at the rink, you can pretty much expect her to be doing work.

"If I have nothing to do fourth hour I work on homework," said McFarland. "If I can get to school early or come home I work on homework. Basically it (homework) eats up all of my free time."

Despite the time students spend on work, very few disagree with the amount teachers are giving out. Freshman Jack Lehmann is not surprised by the amount of work he gets in 9th grade.

"It's a lot more and a lot harder than middle school, but it's expected because it's high school and there are higher expectations," Lehmann said.

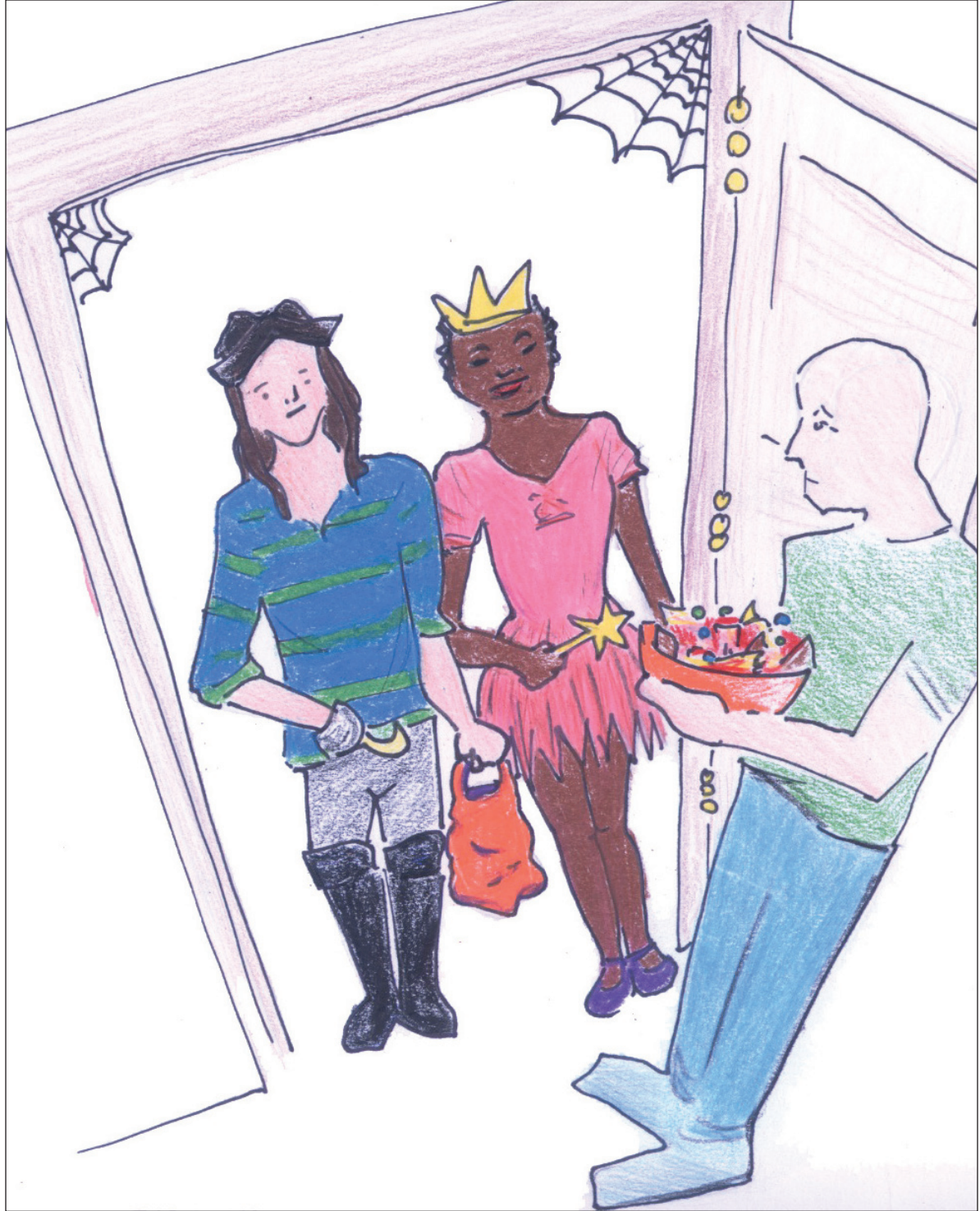
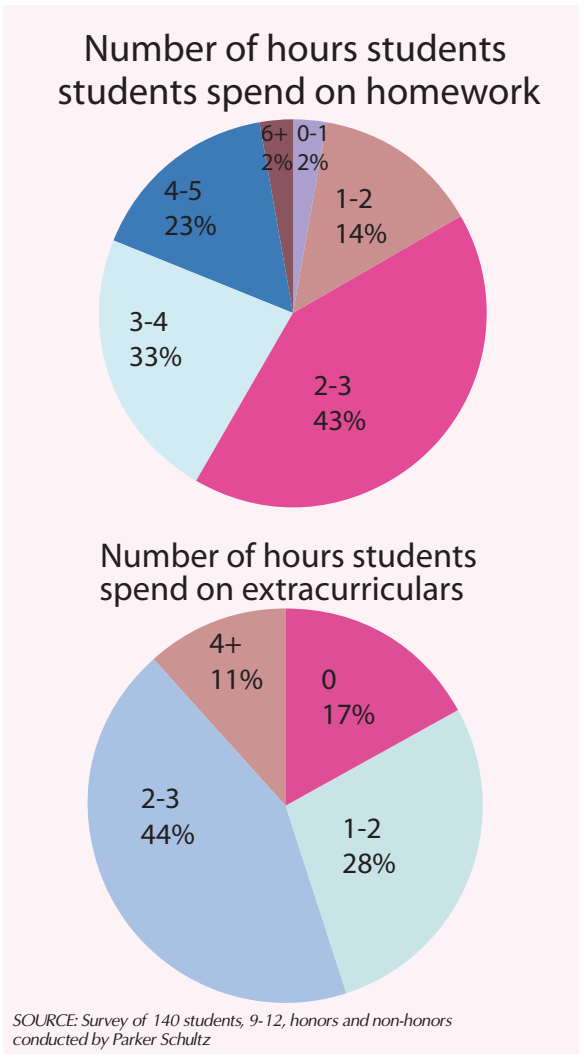
However, Lehmann did not believe any classes should be giving more work. Neither did Freshman Carly Beard.

"I understand why teachers give it out, but I wish they would give out less," Beard said.

Beard spends a minimum of 15 hours a week on extra curricular activities. Among these include dancing, theater, and a fife and drum core that has biweekly performances. These activities add more strain to Beard's schedule, but she says they help her stay focused in school.

"Because I do these activities, I know that I have to be on top of my homework, so I use class time well," Beard said.

Beard was unable to attend a fife and drum performance that day because of her homework. ☹



Sarah Blackwell

Excitement grows as Halloween nears

Random poll shows 1 in 5 CHS students still trick or treat.

Nina Murov
Reporter

It's about to be that time of year again. It's about to be that time when the jack-o-lanterns are carved, and the orange and black emerge. It's about to be Halloween.

Students around CHS are excited not only for the school sponsored celebratory dance, but also the actual holiday.

Although Halloween falls on a Sunday this year, the looming school week won't stop students from going out and having fun.

"It's my favorite holiday, so I'm going out anyways," Junior Tess

Prince said.

Sophomore, Ali Hunter loves celebrating the holiday as well.

"It's one of my favorite holidays, plus I love the candy," Hunter said.

Of course it's not Halloween without the candy.

"My favorite candy bars to get on Halloween are Snickers, and Twix, anything chocolate really," Hunter said.

So what about trick-or-treating? A few CHS students won't ever stop partaking in the popular tradition—no matter how old they may be. A survey showed that of 100 students, 20 percent will be going trick-or-treating

this year, 14 percent are still undecided, and 66 percent won't.

Junior Max Diekneite is choosing not to go trick-or-treating this year.

"I'll probably end up going to a party," Diekneite said.

School, or no school, it seems that absolutely nothing is going to stop CHS students from having some fun on Halloween this year.

Sophomore Meg Sutter is especially excited.

"I love everything about Halloween, the fact that it's at night, all of the candy, and seeing all of the different costumes, it's just really fun." ☹

Jeanie Cate the Great

Chef brings culinary passion and experience to CHS.

Noah Eby
Co-Editor in Chief

Jeanie Cate is not who you think she is. Handing out pasta or tacos from behind the counter of her prepared food line in the commons, with her black-rimmed glasses, diminutive stature and soft-spoken voice, she seems all too ordinary.

But that is one thing that Jeanie is not.

Despite her Chartwells hat and apron, the title "school cook" does not adequately describe her. She is a baker extraordinaire, cake-decorator, caterer and food activist who is trying to change the way we think about cafeteria food.

This is Jeanie's first year working at Clayton, but she is far from new to the culinary business. A professional baker and cake-decorator, she has spent the last three decades cooking.

For the past 20 years she traveled around the nation, three weeks on the road for every one week home, opening up bakeries.

"I went in and taught the people how to bake and decorate and get a store ready to go," Jeanie said. "I loved it. I've been around the United States, probably four times, in every state. I've been to Alaska, I've been to Hawaii. I was just getting ready to have the international account, and so one of my last jobs was starting to train Australians."

After a brief hiatus from cooking a few years ago, two of Jeanie's sisters who work for Chartwells, the company that handles Clayton's food services, convinced her to get back in the game as a school cook.

Jeanie works hard. Not only does she cook for the high school, she provides for the grade schools too. As we spoke, she was making 600 servings of vegetarian chili to send off to the grade schools by 9:30 a.m.

Jeanie gets to school at 7 every morning to begin cooking and usually leaves by 2:30, but her work doesn't end there. She has a side business of sorts, baking and catering for other customers.

"I do catering, and I do wedding cakes, and I do birthday cakes, and I do all kinds of things," she said. "So on the weekends at home I'm doing wedding cakes and birthday cakes; I do the cakes for Kirkwood School District – they order all their cakes through me – so I pretty well stay busy."

Yet it is clear that Jeanie doesn't mind the heavy workload inherent in her profession. Extensive prepping, "like getting ready to have a test," is key, and having good coworkers certainly doesn't hurt.

Most importantly, Jeanie genuinely enjoys her work. She has loved baking since she was a kid, and she said she has a blast doing her job.

"I love to cook, I love to bake, because, to me, it makes people happy," Jeanie said. "When they have a good meal it satisfies them, they have a good day and it makes them happy."

And to make people happy, Jeanie has embarked on a mission. She hopes to bring home-style, made-from-scratch cooking back to the lunch lines – "for the kids." With 30 years' worth of recipes in her head, she has started incorporating more fresh meats into her cooking.

"I go through Shelley Long (Director of Food Services), and I give her my ideas," Jeanie said, picking up the monthly menu that sits on the stainless steel counter and beginning to scan the calendar, pointing out October's from-scratch meals. "This month, let's see, homemade enchiladas, pasta con broccoli,



Noah Eby

Cook Jeanie Cate brings a wealth of experience and lots of new ideas for made-from-scratch recipes to improve the lunch experience.

meatloaf burgers, chicken quesadillas, pulled pork, winter soup, and beef lasagna."

In addition to being determined to freshen up the daily meals in the commons, Jeanie wants to use her baking skills to start a dessert line that would feature seasonal dishes.

Pumpkin and pecan pies and pumpkin-spice cookies were just a few of her ideas, which seem to be never-ending.

Even with a dessert line, Jeanie does not neglect nutrition. She hopes healthy foods will also make a comeback to school lunchrooms.

"I love hamburgers too, and fried food and everything like that, but we're also trying to bring back healthy food," she said. "Healthy food that's got a good taste, that doesn't come out of a box, that is actually cooked from scratch, and that the kids enjoy. If the kids tell me what they want to eat, I guarantee I'll get it out there."

From the way she said it, I don't doubt for a second her sincerity.

As an added bonus, Jeanie said that, though more labor-intensive, making food such as pie from scratch is actually less expensive than buying frozen and prepackaged dishes from a supplier.

"Believe it or not, it's so much cheaper than ordering," she said. "You make a pie crust up, you're talking two cups of flour, a little bit of baking powder, baking soda, salt, some water – you've got a pie shell. You pay a dollar-forty-eight for a five-pound bag of flour – you know how many pies shells you can get out of a five-pound bag of flour?"

Personally, I have no idea. But I am certain that, if you asked, Jeanie Cate could tell you. ☹



Hannah Feagans

Kara Kratcha
A&E Editor

Only in a neighborhood like the Hill can you drive around small residential streets in an obvious state of confusion and have people wave cheerily at you from their front yards rather than glare at the teenagers apparently joyriding in an aged Oldsmobile.

Yet wave the residents of the Hill did when photographer Hannah and I, with some difficulty, navigated the neighborhood. Despite our apparent knack for getting lost, we enjoyed the rows of thin, deep-set houses and the friendly people inhabiting them. Of course, about every third house had an Italian flag flying, and ivy covered many of the facades.

Once we found our way to an open pizzeria (a word to the wise: Sunday is not the best day to visit the Hill since most places are closed then), we were pleased to discover that Rizzo's Station Pizzeria is a small, privately-owned restaurant humbly proclaiming "Cash And Debit Only."

We ordered a vegetarian pizza (although tasty-looking options for the meat-loving were also available), which arrived at our outdoor table promptly and heaping with cheese and toppings. The thin-crust pizza was delicious and cost effective, coming to under 20 dollars with drinks and plenty to take home, although customers are advised to bring cash since there was a service charge for using the debit machine.

Hungry for some Italian dessert, we asked our waitress to direct us to a gelato shop. She happily recommended Gelato Riso, and we were not disappointed. Their selection of Gelato (which, a quick

Google search on Hannah's iPhone taught us, is distinct from ice cream because of its richness and lower fat content) was excellent.

The toasted almond was particularly unique and scrumptious. We were also tickled to witness a pair of nuns in full habits from the Catholic church across the street walk in to have some Gelato themselves.

If you're looking for a more upscale eating experience, we recommend Gain-Tony's Ristorante. The menu's offerings are vast, and the service is prompt. Their traditional Italian pasta dishes are delicious, but we do not recommend the lamb. The restaurant's Sunday dinner hours are, however, a redeeming quality.

Although most shops were closed on Sunday, we found a variety of interesting stores for window-shopping. Skif offers a variety of knitted garments, and its windows feature a spread of huge black and white high-fashion photos. You can have your hair done like an Italian at salons such as one with the irresistible name of Salono Milano, which featured two mannequin heads with pink wigs and dark sunglasses.

Amighetti's Bakery looked like a prime place to purchase Italian baked goods, like cannoli. Finally, check out the Italian-American Bocce Club, founded, as their plaque proudly declares, July of 1975.

Overall, our experience in the Hill was a good one. The neighborhood has the potential to provide a venue for a fun afternoon with friends or an impressive venture out of Clayton with a member of the opposite sex.

Either way, you will enjoy your trip outside the bubble because of this neighborhood's unique cultural flavor. ☺



Hannah Feagans

TOP: A curbside arrangement of brightly colored florals adds character to the St. Louis area referred to as The Hill, which is known for its prominent Italian heritage, which is displayed everywhere-- in signs, color schemes, and, of course, the copious number of flags.

MIDDLE RIGHT: The Hill is home to the headquarters of Skif International, a fashion label based in St. Louis which sells unique machine-knitted sweaters and clothing. Check out the panorama of black and white fashion photos the store has displayed outside for an extra treat.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The gelato shop Gelato Riso is officially CHS Globe taste-tested and approved. Order this richer version of ice cream in true Italian style-- Piccolo, Medio, or Grande.



Hannah Feagans

Don't Miss...

Rizzo's Station Pizzeria
Gelato Riso
Gian-Tony's Ristorante
Amighetti's Bakery

...for a bite to eat

Once upon a time...

The fall play "Secret in the Wings" captivates viewers with a series of obscure, chilling fairytales.

Sarah Blackwell
Editor

The word "fairy tale" has many connotations. Images of singing birds, dancing women, and colorful dresses come to mind. These days, fairytales are all about the happy ending. But traditionally, it was not so.

"Secret in the Wings," this year's fall play, took place in the Black Box Theater. It is a play filled with short fairytales. But these stories are new to the audience. They are old stories, dark and disturbing: a princess who killed all her suitors, three blind queens who eat their children, and a prince trapped in the tomb of his late wife. Each skit lasts around 10 minutes, long enough to make it meaningful, but short enough to keep the viewers' attention.

"Secret in the Wings" features songs composed by senior Ian Miller. The prince in the tomb sings to his princess a song so melancholy and dark that it sends chills through the audience. Miller himself plays piano in the background, adding to the effect. It was a great complement to the acting and the plot.

As for his acting, it may have been even better than the music. In fact, almost everyone played their part really well. Along with Miller, senior John Holland, junior Fergus Inder, senior Traci Clapper, and junior Ruth Polinsky, were all great actors.

As disturbing as the fairytales are, they are equally as funny. The actors do a great job of being both funny and also creepy. Humor is woven into even the most disturbing scenes. A moody princess kills all the men that fail to make her laugh. The audience finds it funny; a bouncy ball represents

their severed heads when she has them executed. Even their deaths are humorous. The play had a sort of twisted charm to it.

However, the most captivating scene was a scary one. It starts with a funny introduction of three kings who send for three wives. But when they are married, war breaks out. The kings go off to fight, leaving their pregnant wives in the hands of a power-hungry maid. She orders them to be killed, and needs their eyes for proof. So they gouge out their eyes, and live on the streets with their children. The scene ends with two wives stealing the other's child to eat.

Another great scene involves a princess whose father has forgotten her. When he finally notices her, he asks her to marry him. She is forced to run away and hide in the forest. The best part of this scene, though, is the costumes. The princess wears a red apron, while the rest of the girls wear yellow ones. Though simple, their dresses and aprons fit perfectly into the plot. The same goes for the rest of the stories, although they could have been a little more elaborate.

The material was great, and kept everyone's attention, but what really topped it off was the set. There is an amazing display of lights hanging from the ceiling, which gives off a kaleidoscope effect on the walls. Besides that, the set is minimal and simple, as it acts as a home, castle, forest, and even a desert.

Overall, "Secret in the Wings" was captivating. Although parts may not have been kid-friendly, everyone in the family would enjoy watching it. Everything works together in harmony to form one fantastic show. 🧙



Corrine Yap takes center stage in the scene titled "Alleleira", along with Allison Goldfarb, Alexis Atkinson, Nadia Diamond, Roz Cuneo, Amanda Wagner, and Ruthie Polinsky. The play featured a number of loosely connected acts, each of which showcase a different, lesser-known fairytales.

Madeleine Fleming



Junior Roz Cuneo plays a grumpy princess who refuses to laugh. Here, she sits with Traci Clapper, Amanda Wagner, Alexis Atkinson, Sara McAfee, Allison Goldfarb, Emily Erblach and Ruthie Polinsky, watching the throng of suitors that appear before her, hoping to make her smile in exchange for her hand in marriage. If the suitors fail, however, they are beheaded. Ian Miller plays the piano in the background.

Madeleine Fleming

Freshman-sophomore play impresses all

Meredith McMahon
Editor

There once was play, a play so incredibly happy that it rejoiced in its own name—I think that this would be a most suitable beginning to the CHS freshmen-sophomore play 'Haroun and the Sea of Stories'. This CHS production was, hands down, a great success.

The play "Haroun and the Sea of Stories," directed by John Armstrong, was adapted from the novel "Haroun and the Sea of Stories" by Salman Rushdie. The storyline is about a boy named Haroun has a father, Rashid. Rashid is a famous storyteller, until one day his wife leaves and he cannot speak long stories in front of crowds. Rashid and Haroun travel to tell stories for political leaders, and one night when away from home Haroun finds a water genie named Iff. Haroun then travels to the planet of Kahani, which is waging a war between the side of light, words and goodness, and darkness, silence and evil. He helps defeat the evil leader Khattam-Shud and restores the magic of talking to his father. In the end the mother returns and the family is reunited.

The complex storyline made it

especially hard to put on in the form of a play, and I think that the cast depicted the storyline relatively clearly, with only minimal confusion in some parts. The script follows very closely to the plot of the book, and director Armstrong was able to accurately portray almost all the complexity the rich book has to offer.

A very striking part of this play was the way language was used. The way words are used in the novel is very similar to the way they are used in the play as well. The acting was especially impressive because the actors and actresses were able to rattle off long and tongue twisting lines like "skinny, scrawny, sniveling, driveling, mingy, stingy, measly, weasly clerk".

Not only did the confusing wordplay make it impressive, but acting (especially for a freshman-sophomore play) was exceptional. Parts like Haroun, played by sophomore Laura Townsend, Soraya played by sophomore Shaina Crall, Khattam-Shud played by junior Luke Layden, Blabbermouth played by freshman Claire Lisker, and Iff the Water Genie played by sophomore Emma Riley made the cast exceptionally funny and uplifting.



Paul Lisker

Sophomores Laura Markham and Emma Riley "fly" with Freshman Adam Zoll, who plays a mechanical bird in this year's freshman-sophomore play.

The set of the play was also, although at times could have had more in the way of costumes, was very well organized and well done. The lighting during the play was very good, especially in parts such as when the "source" of all the stories is revealed and Dull Lake reveals its moodiness. The dramatic lighting was emphasized by the location of the Black Box Theater at CHS, which creates a more hands on feel for the audience. Also, the musical

background, composed by junior Ben Colagiovanni, gave it more depth and more emotional range, and I thought it was a good addition to the overall play. "Haroun and the Sea of Stories" was very well done and gave a fabulous and accurate spin on the novel. The cast's skills were great, the lighting and set was superb and directing was very well done. The play went without a hitch and CHS looks forward to more astounding plays to come! 🧙



Paul Lisker

Sophomore Caroline Kidwell does a convincing southern accent as Mali the gardener in the freshman-sophomore play, "Haroun and the Sea of Stories."

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Vampire Weekend meets audience expectations with fun performance

Dawn Androphy
Co-Editor in Chief

Do you remember when you were a kid, just short of a growth spurt, and were given a T-shirt that was clearly meant to fit you, but was just a bit too big? It fit awkwardly, and its oversized nature only exaggerated your small size.

If you apply this metaphor to the Oct. 3 Vampire Weekend concert's location at the Chaifetz Arena, you'll kind of get an idea of what a bad fit the arena was for the New England rockers. What could have easily been a sold-out Pageant crowd instead barely filled the standing area by the stage and only translated to scattered clumps of people in the first level of the seating area.

Make no mistake, the acoustics at the stadium were mostly quite impressive and the three bands that night all sounded rather excellent, but the emptiness of the arena screamed of false delusions and the energy of the crowd was affected.

I found the crowd to be more receptive and energetic when I

saw the band perform in 2008 to a sold-out crowd at the Pageant, but that may just be exposing my own bias against arena concerts.

Openers the Very Best went on and performed what very well could have been a high-energy set of dance and hip-hop beats in the style of Malawi music.

The crowd was, in a word, un-receptive to the majority of the set with only a few stragglers in the standing area dancing to the very danceable music sung in Malawi-born singer Esau Mwamwaya's native Chichewa.

In fact, it wasn't until the Very Best covered M.I.A.'s "Paper Planes" that they received any response from the crowd at all. Throughout the set, Mwamwaya would shout, "Where you at St. Louis?" I wasn't sure, either.

A quick set change later and glorious dream-pop duo Beach House were onstage. Admittedly, openers Beach House were the band I was most looking forward to seeing that night and they completely exceeded my expectations. Perched over her keyboard at center stage, singer Victoria Legrand filled the stadium with

her soaring alto.

Beach House's 2010 album, "Teen Dream," may not be the sort of album one would expect to please a stadium crowd, but it worked. Tracks like "Zebra," "Norway," and "Take Care" all enchanted the audience with beautiful melodies over slow, contemplative tunes.

I couldn't help but notice that many of the audience members around me had their mouths agape. Beach House's musicianship and live presence were undeniable.

After a comparably long wait, Vampire Weekend took the stage; greeted by the screams of a small, but remarkably enthused group of girls in the audience. My friend and I couldn't help but roll our eyes. The previously dormant crowd immediately awakened and danced its way through the majority of Vampire Weekend's set.

The set included just about every song from Vampire Weekend's two-album catalogue. The first half of the set was mostly compromised of favorites from their first album with high-energy

singles from "Contra," their newest album, such as "Holiday" and "Cousins" thrown in between.

I was continually impressed by multi-instrumentalist and producer Rostam Batmanglij's prowess in skillfully switching between various instruments.

Lead singer Ezra Koenig introduced the second half of Vampire Weekend's set as more high-energy and started off the madness with the band's most successful and energetic song off their first album, "A-Punk."

The crowd seemed to perfectly balance demonstrating that they knew the words and were familiar with the music, while also not overshadowing Koenig's impressive live vocals.

When the band left the stage prior to their encore, the crowd shouted a refrain of "Vampire Vampire, Vampire..." until the band returned to the stage to play three more songs, including the ridiculously worded "Contra" single "Horchata."

All in all, it was a fun night with a solid three hours of great music. What else could I have asked for? ☺



ABOVE: Beach House's Victoria Legrand opening the show at The Chaifetz Arena. BELOW: Vampire Weekend performs for adoring fans.



'It's Kind of a Funny Story' unlikely but entertaining, endearing

Caroline Greenberg
Reporter

"It's Kind of a Funny Story" will make you leave the theater thinking, "Could that actually happen?" This dark comedy mixes reality with fiction. Taken from the book by Ned Vizzini, It's Kind of a Funny Story, this movie challenges the complex story from the book.

The movie is about Craig (Keir Gilchrist) a depressed 16-year-old, teen who checks himself voluntarily into a mental hospital thinking he will be able to escape the pressures he is feeling. Once there, he realizes the extent of what he did and wants out. Of course, the child is not allowed to leave and actually learns to cope. He meets his love interest Noel (Emma Roberts), and makes new friends such as Bobby (Zach Galifianakis).

Bobby is a depressed adult who becomes Craig's guide through the hospital and mentor. Bobby, played by the funny man himself, shows a different side to his acting career. Galifianakis, usually the comedian, finally shows a character that cares and is serious.

Also, finally stepping out of the shadow of her aunt Julia, Roberts plays a deeply confused child. Her acting stays strong throughout and evolves from being mean one minute to funny or sad the next. Her outfits make you laugh and make give her an air of innocence.

This movie can make you laugh

then be affected by the deeper twist of having the characters in a mental hospital. Having the setting of the movie be in an adult wing full of people with different problems makes this movie stay within the dramatic ideals.

The music in the movie provides a special aspect that makes the enhance the movie and makes the viewer want to dance along with the dramatic scenes. The soundtrack includes songs from Broken Social Scene, Method Man, and Mayer Hawthorne.

A little bit of music is involved with the movie when Craig performs in his music class and sings "Under Pressure" while wearing a jacket with no shirt underneath and jumping about.

This movie reminds me of one of my favorites "Girl, Interrupted," which includes the same ideas as this movie, although it is told from the view of an adult woman in an adult insane asylum.

While this connection is somewhat of a stretch, both movies are about thinking you don't belong and then realizing you can.

Both of these movies bring in the idea that even if you run from the world and go to a hide away it will still catch up to you.

Craig is only in the hospital for a week, and yet in this week it seems that his view on life changes.

This movie fully proves the thought of even when you think something is wrong with you, there is always something worse going on with someone else. ☹

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I would be humbled to have your vote on November 2nd.

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‘Boardwalk Empire’ fails to exceed ‘Mad Men’ precedent

Andie Glik
Reporter

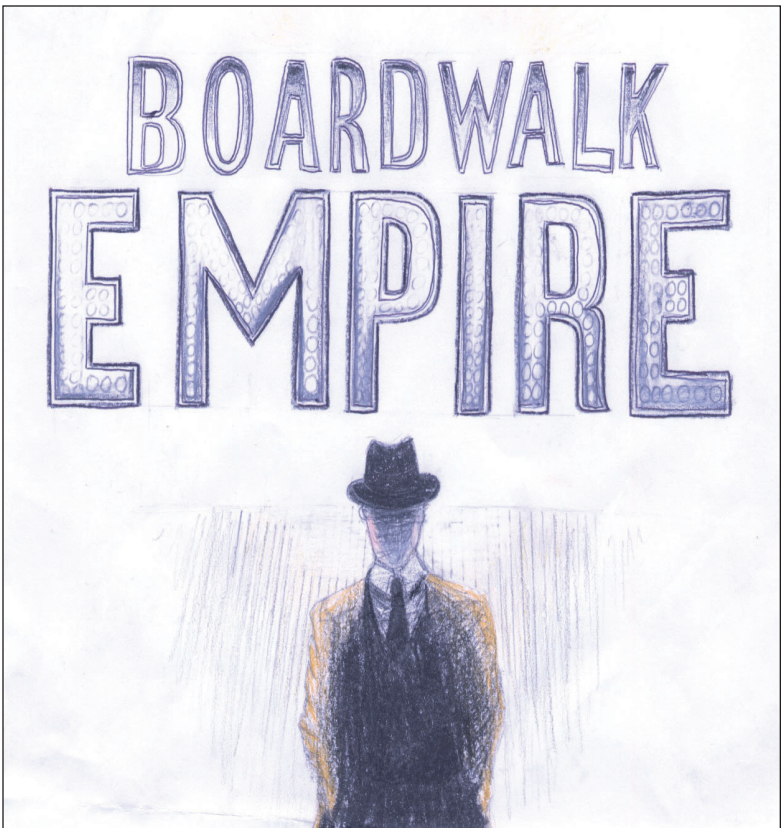
AMC’s “Mad Men” is a flawless account of the advertising business in New York City during the ‘50s and ‘60s. In the show John Hamm plays the main character, Don Draper, who runs the creative department of Sterling Cooper Draper Price. He is a mysterious, complex character who goes around drinking scotch and breaking the hearts of beautiful women.

The show is riddled with symbolism hidden so well that the show is not only entertaining but also artistic. “Mad Men” portrays the time in which it is set so well because it leaves no room for mistakes. All of the clothing and furniture is actually from that time period and even the cocktails the women order were popular at the time.

The viewer feels a connection to the characters because they are real and believable.

This fall, HBO came out with their new show, directed by Martin Scorsese (today’s king of gangster movies), called “Boardwalk Empire”. The show follows Enoch “Nucky” Thompson, played by Steve Buscemi. Nucky Thompson is the treasurer of Atlantic City in the 1920s and also a gangster on the side.

To keep the town running,



Taylor Gold

Nucky sells alcohol, which at this time, is an illegal substance. This show is on HBO, which means that it has no limits of language, violence and sexuality. One would think that with such a renowned director who is know for this talent in portraying gangsters, that this show would be the next “The Sopranos”. It is not.

This show is trying to do what “Mad Men” did, except instead of the main character being a sexy ad man, he is a corrupt treasurer. Buscemi, who is an extremely talented actor, was cast completely incorrectly for this role. He is a weak character but the role demands a strong, powerful man. Buscemi has symbolic and womanizing moments like Don Draper, but he kills it since he is too obvious and unbelievable.

The set looks low budget, and most of the other actors are equally miscast. Scorsese tries to make

up for what the show is missing with awkward sex scenes and an unnecessary amount of violence.

Scorsese was given the chance to do something that no one has done before.

The time period Boardwalk Empire is set in was a very important decade in America. Women were about to gain their right to vote, Atlantic City was just being established and Prohibition was taking place.

Instead, he mimics “The Sopranos” and “Mad Men”, two shows that take place in less interesting times and aren’t based on real people and real events like Boardwalk Empire is. When you have characters like Al Capone, greatness is expected.

Unfortunately, “Boardwalk Empire” does not live up to what people were expecting and just settles for doing something old with a new idea. ☹

Megahit explores the minds that created cyber phenomena

Payton Sciaratta
Reporter

The new movie “The Social Network” is a number one hit. Many active Facebook users are going out of their way to see what all the hype is about.

“The Social Network” is a movie about the creator of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, played by Jesse Eisenberg, and how his website affected relationships of active Internet users all over the world.

This movie is depicted as if we are watching the trial of Mark Zuckerberg as he tries to defend the fact that he came up with Facebook, not the Winklevoss brothers, who claim they had.

Zuckerberg was an avid blogger who wrote about everything in his life, including his ex-girlfriend Erica Albright (Rooney Mara).

Through their breakup, a new website is created called Facemash, which becomes popular. On this website, students can rank their peers based merely on their appearances.

The Winklevoss brothers decide to come up with a website very similar to Facebook but limited to just Harvard students. They include Zuckerberg in this idea because he is the only one capable of creating the actual website.

Zuckerberg then takes this idea, transforms it into his own site called “The Facebook,” and includes his best friend Eduardo Saverin (Andrew Garfield) to handle finance.

This site becomes something where you can post pictures of yourself, write personal information about yourself, post comments, add friends, but most importantly keep a relationship status. This establishes, “The Facebook,” which later changes to simply, “Facebook.”

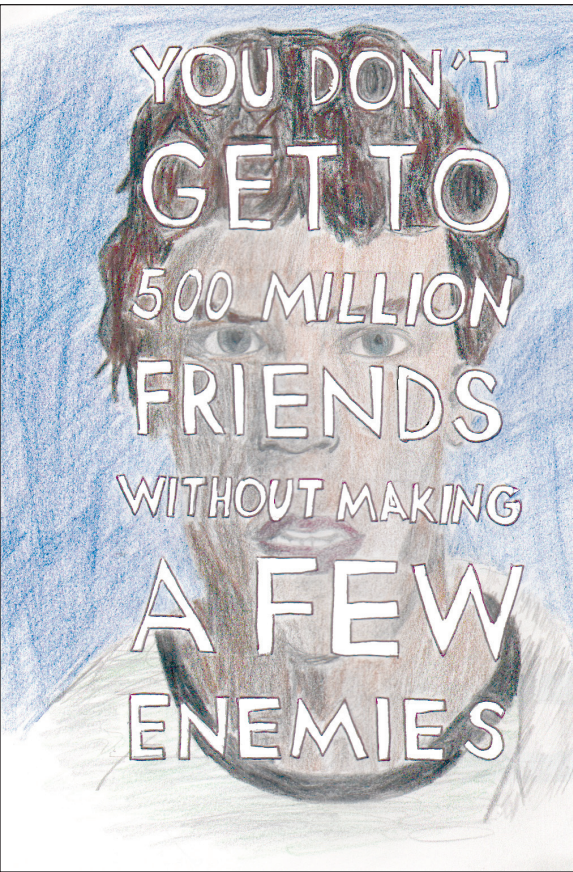
Through all this though, Zuckerberg battles his relationship with his ex. When he approaches her to apologize for everything, Albright has quite a lot to say. She begins by accusing Zuckerberg of calling her nasty names on the Internet.

He tries to apologize, when she cuts him off saying, “The internet’s not written in pencil Mark, it’s written in ink. And you published [it] right before you made some ignorant crack about my family’s name, my bra size, and then rated women based on their hotness.”

This is a very significant quote because it is a current issue escalating in teens today. Students have begun to write malicious comments to their peers, resulting in one of the worst scenarios...suicide.

Zuckerberg may not have realized what he was doing at the time in creating this website. However, over the course of the past six to eight years, teen suicide has become a rising problem because of just the Internet alone.

Facebook has begun to affect the relationships that peers have with other, but also the relationships between families.



Taylor Gold

At the time, people may not know the effect their words may be having on another person, but it is turning into a serious problem. The Internet has given students an even larger opportunity to criticize and bully others.

“Facebook” alone has severely increased cyberbullying due to its “Honesty Box,” where anyone can write in another user’s “Honesty Box” while staying anonymous.

It brings up a controversial argument: should the Winklevoss brothers be suing for stealing their idea, or should families be suing for causing such an increase in teen suicide?

The movie brought entertainment to cities all over America through the extraordinary acting of the main characters.

Everything presented in this movie is very believable. The actors chosen to play these specific roles were by far the best selection that the director, David Fincher, could have made.

The actors were similar, not only in the way that they presented themselves throughout the movie, but for some, in their appearances as well.

Although “The Social Network” needed to be spiced up a little bit, throughout its plot, it did a remarkable job of capturing the story it was trying to tell. ☹

Fall offers wealth of movie hits



PROJECTED BOX OFFICE HIT

■ “Unstoppable”

(Nov. 12): Denzel Washington and Chris Pine star in a film by Tony Scott (“Man on Fire”) about an unstoppable train. That reads like a recipe for box office success!



Denzel Washington

■ “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part One” (Nov. 19): The “Potter” franchise is getting darker as it nears the finish line, but audiences of all ages should make this the most successful film of the year.

COMIC RELIEF



WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT

Robert Downey Jr. and Zach Galifianakis star in “Due Date.”

■ “Due Date” (Nov. 5): If trailers count for anything, then we’re in for a treat when Robert Downey Jr. and Zach Galifianakis team up for a new spin on the classic road trip movie.

POTENTIAL DISASTER

■ “Burlesque” (Nov. 24): Speaking of trailers, this might be the worst effort released this year. The old adage is “If they couldn’t find any decent footage to show in the trailer, how do you think the movie will turn out?”

ACADEMY AWARD CONTENDERS

■ “127 Hours” (Nov. 5): Danny Boyle, only one year removed from his Best Director run, returns with this “based on real events” tale of a trapped hiker. Reviews out of the festival circuit have been largely positive.

■ “Love and Other Drugs” (Nov. 24): Anne Hathaway is looking for her second nomination for this Edward Zwick (“Blood Diamond”) dramedy that also stars Jake Gyllenhaal.



DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.

Jeff Bridges stars in sci-fi sequel “Tron: Legacy.”

PROJECTED BOX OFFICE HIT

■ “Tron: Legacy” (Dec. 17): The momentum for the “Tron” sequel has been building for three years. Look for audiences to flock to the original CGI concept.

COMIC RELIEF

■ “How Do You Know” (Dec. 17): Comedy all-stars Paul Rudd, Reese Witherspoon and Owen Wilson team up for this December laughter. The bonus? Jack Nicholson!

POTENTIAL DISASTER

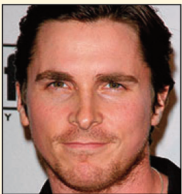
■ “Little Fockers” (Dec. 22): The “Fockers” franchise enters its “Three Men and a Little Lady” phase.

ACADEMY AWARD CONTENDERS

■ “Black Swan” (Dec. 1): Darren Aronofsky (“The Wrestler”) brings Natalie Portman to the big screen in a reimagining of “Swan Lake.” Or perhaps the film is the story of the musical “Swan Lake” as Portman plays a ballerina. Whatever the case, you can expect plenty of hardware to head this direction come late February.

■ “The Fighter”

(Dec. 10): David O. Russell (“Three Kings”) directs Christian Bale and Mark Wahlberg in a boxing movie. Given the release date, it’s “Raging Bull” all over again. Early buzz has Bale as a frontrunner in the supporting actor category.



Christian Bale

■ “True Grit” (Dec. 22): This is a remake of the 1969 classic that starred John Wayne. The Coen Brothers are directing, and Jeff Bridges is attempting to fill John Wayne’s shoes. It doesn’t get more Academy than that.

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Talking Points: BAGELS VS. DONUTS

The ultimate battle between bagels and donuts has begun.

Bagels are versatile, nutritious

Marilyn Gund
Reporter

There are only a few types of foods that you can eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Obviously the most tasty, filling, and versatile of these foods is the bagel. The bagel is a great snack for any time of the day.

So what is the bagel? The easy answer is that it is a tasty ring-shaped bread product that comes in many varieties. According to legend, the bagel was originally a tribute to the King of Poland from a local baker after the King cleared the land of Turkish invaders in 1783. The King was a great horseman, so the baker shaped the bread in the form of his stirrup, and called it the Austrian word for stirrup, 'beugal'. However, this most likely did not happen. Other accounts say that the bagel was invented in Poland as a competitor to bublik, a similar bread product that was chewier and had a bigger hole in the middle. The bagel became popular among Jewish families because it could be made quickly after the Sabbath was over. Immigrants brought bagels to America and they soon became very popular. Bagels especially became popular after automated production was implemented which let bakers make more bagels in less time. Today the bagel is a very popular and healthy food that is very present during mealtime in America.

The bagel is one of the most versatile foods out there. You can eat it plain or add multiple ingredients. Stack plain bagel with ham and cheese and can have a sandwich. Spread a blueberry bagel with cream cheese and you have a delicious snack. Eat a cinnamon crunch bagel from St. Louis Bread Company and get your sugar fix. You can't do that to a donut. Any way you eat a bagel, it's a tasty and filling treat. Bagels come in many flavors, too, so you can always get a different one. Popular flavors include chocolate chip, sesame seed, cinnamon crunch, asiago cheese, "everything", cinnamon raisin, whole wheat, or just plain. Also, you can get a bagel almost anywhere. Go into downtown Clayton for St. Louis Bread Company, hop on over to Clayton Road for Einstein Bros. Bagels or just run in to your own local bakery.

Health wise, if you compare a plain bagel from the St. Louis Bread Co with an old fashioned cake donut from Dunkin' Donuts, the donut has 320 calories, while the bagel has 290. Also, the donut has 22 grams of fat and 10 grams of saturated fat while the bagel has just 1.5 grams of fat and no saturated fat. The bagel also has only three grams of sugar, while the donut has nine. In conclusion, if you are looking for a more healthy option, stick with the bagel. Not only that, but the bagel's unique shape makes it up for any activity besides chow down. Wear an edible ring! Play Frisbee with your dog! Have a bagel ring toss! Whatever you can think of, the bagel will probably be able to do it.

The donut has many negative contributing factors, such as its unhealthy sweet glaze and its gooey texture. But the bagel? It's a yummy and filling meal that goes with just about anything, and it doesn't even make your fingers sticky. 🍞

Donuts are sweet, delicious

Chris Cho
Reporter

Americans eat close to 10 billion donuts every year. That's an average of 35 donuts per person. These sugary, savory, and sweet treats are admired every day by Americans all over the country.

Donuts are not just a commodity; they have become a necessity for everyone around the world. With over one millions stores across America, companies like Dunkin' Donuts and Krispy Kreme catch the eyes of hungry people every day.

Donuts are definitely a "staple" product of our everyday lives. The certain origins are unknown, but according to a theory they were introduced to North America by Dutch settlers. Hansen Gregory claimed that he invented the hole in the donut by punching a hole in the center of the dough for a less raw center.

Dunkin' Donuts was started 60 years ago, and of 2010, 97% of U.S. residents recognized the Dunkin Donut brand, while only 57% recognized Einstein Bros. Bagels brand.

Not only are residents aware of Dunkin' Donuts, but these donuts also deliver their savory taste to a vast range of income levels and all ages. Dunkin' Donuts stated 24% of donuts were sold to people earning \$45,000 to \$75,000 a year, 30% to those earning \$0-\$35,000 per year, and 46% to those earning \$75,000 or more per year. Donuts from Dunkin are easily accessible for everyone no matter how much they earn.

After a night of sleep, many consumers want a nice hot cup of coffee. Whether it's at home or at a local store, people not only want coffee, but a delicious piece of bread to go alongside this caffeinated drink. This bread is what we call a donut.

Ranging from different tastes, breads, fillings, and frosting the perfect breakfast combo includes a coffee and a donut.

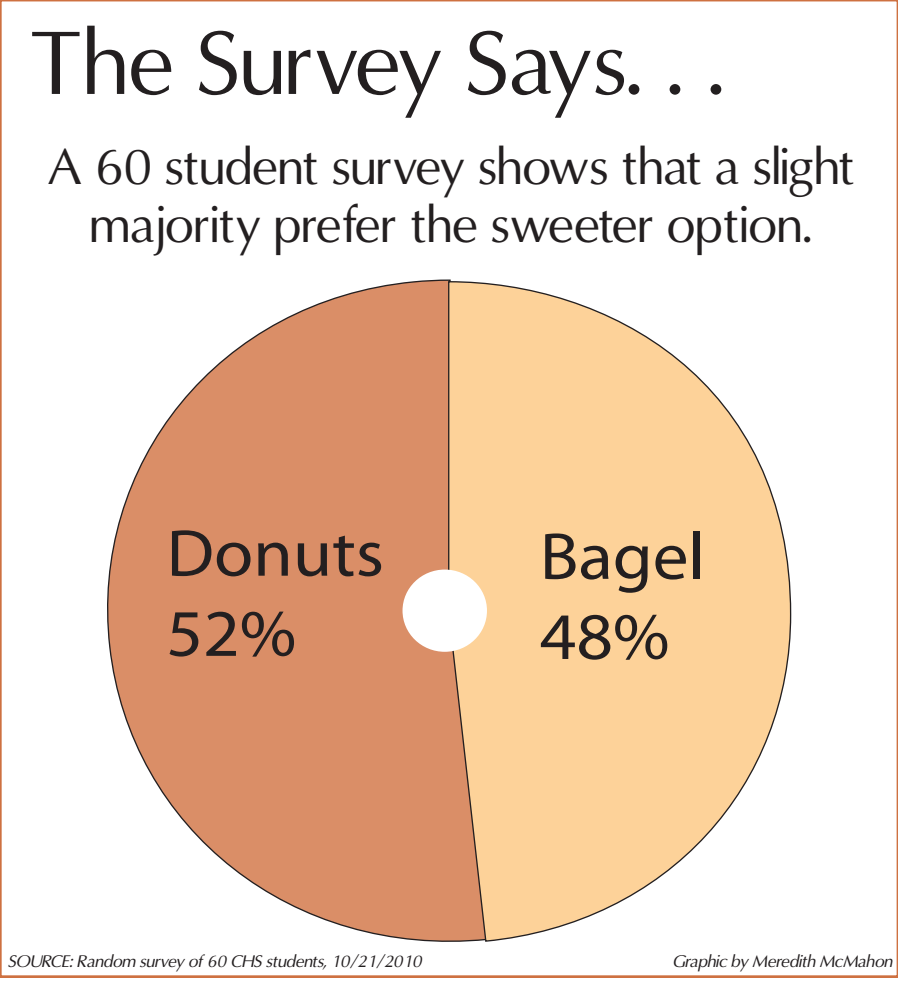
What makes these delicious deserts treats so favorable? Some may say it is the sweet-tasting sensation of the frosting and others may say it is the variety that donuts can offer.

Chocolate coconut cake donut, chocolate frosted cake donut, chocolate frosted donut, chocolate glazed cake donut, chocolate kreme filled donut, cinnamon cake donut, double chocolate cake donut, and glazed cake donut are just some types of donuts.

Not only is the donut amazingly delicious, but it is healthier than most breakfast meals. If we compare one glazed donut to a bagel, the nutrition facts lean to the donuts without question. Dunkin' Donuts not only offers donuts, but other foods such as coffee and, coincidentally, bagels.

On its nutrition site online, the plain bagel has 320 calories while the glazed donut has 260. Of course, who only eats a plain bagel? When plain cream cheese is added, that bagel may be a whopping 470 calories. With the donut, you do not need to take the time of spreading the bagel with cream cheese.

It's healthier, sweeter, and easier to access. What more can you want in a piece of bread? 🍩



Not all donuts & bagels are created equal...

Place	Type	Calories	Fat
Panera	Plain Bagel*	290	1.5g
	Whole Grain*	370	3.5g
	Chocolate Chip*	370	6g
	Cinnamon Crunch*	430	8g
Lamar's	Plain Glaze	220	10g
	Chocolate Glaze	290	11g
	Long Chocolate Iced	540	22g
	Choc, Iced, Choc Filled	800	35g

*1 oz. of Panera Plain cream cheese adds 90 calories and 9 grams of fat.

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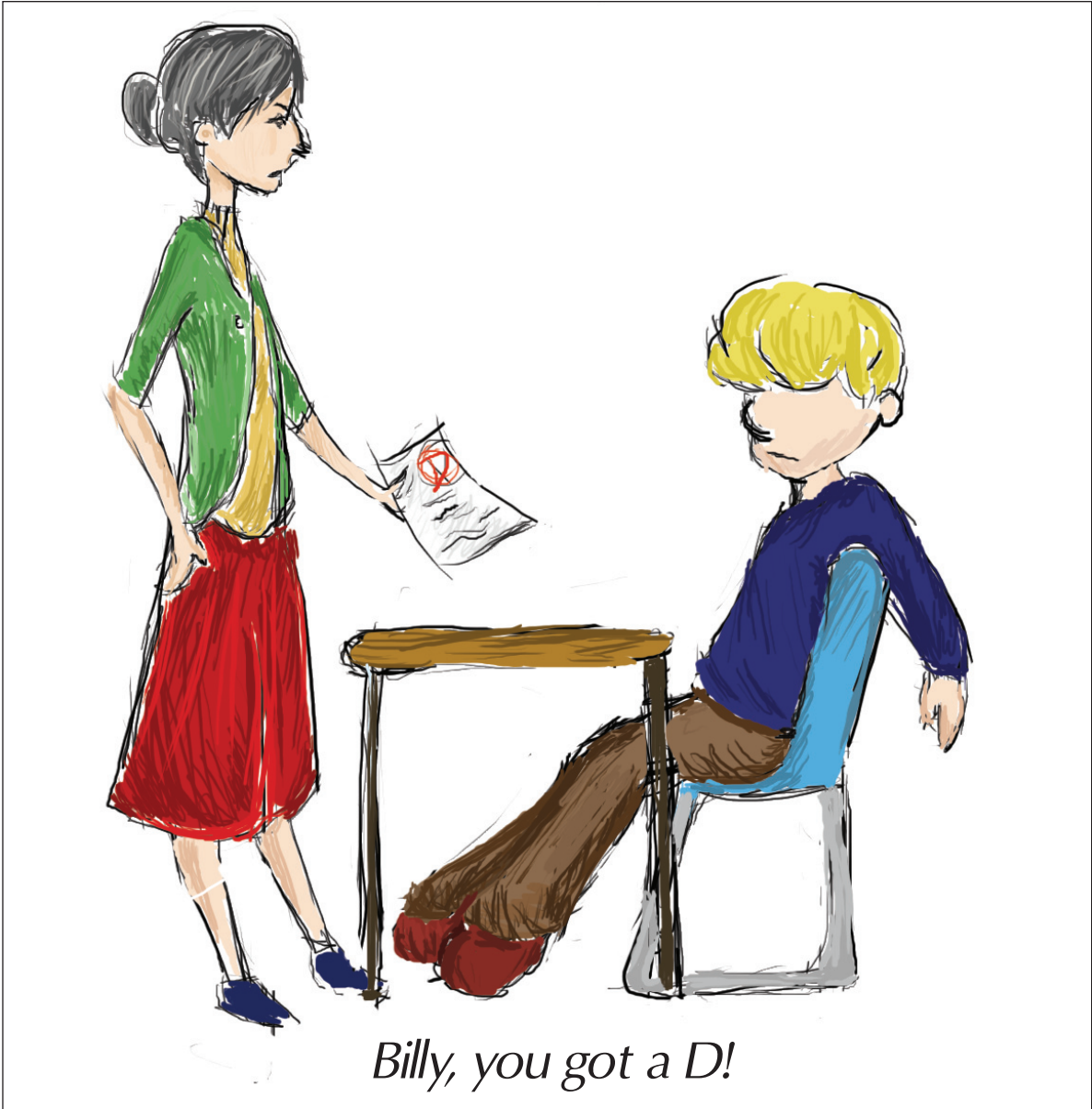
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The extinction of the D

Schools should ensure that students master at least 70 percent of the work in a class.

Every stressed-out student has dreamed about failing an unexpected but vital exam. At Clayton, failure is an ever-looming possibility in students' minds. But what if it was impossible to fail? What if failure was no longer an option?

New Jersey's Mount Olive school district has recently instated a policy that changed the meaning of 'pass.' From now on, all students in middle and high school will have to earn a C or higher in every class, eliminating D as a passing grade and F as an option.

When a student earns a D in a class, he has mastered only 60 percent of that class's material. Yet a D is a pass. By this standard, students can earn their high school diplomas by earning D's in any of their core classes, the classes meant to prepare them most for life after high school.

Out of all the grades received at CHS in 2008-09, only 7 percent were D's and F's, but nearly 30 percent of the student population had one. This number is unacceptable and probably surprising to many members of the CHS community. Why were so many Clayton students receiving grades below 60 percent? Perhaps because the current grading system is so unforgiving to struggling students, such students just give up when they feel they cannot possibly grasp the material in time for the big test.

The wonderful thing about the grading system the New Jersey school district has adopted is that it holds students to a higher level of accountability for their own learning.

It caters to learning rather than high-stakes test taking. Students who would have failed or received a D in a class are given the opportunity to redo assignments and retake tests until they earn a 70 percent or better. So rather than penalize students who

might learn more slowly than their peers, this system would allow struggling students to take a little longer to learn material they otherwise would not have mastered.

In a school known for its excellence in education, every student should be able to master his or her classes' material to earn at least 70 percent. As of now, most students do earn C's or better in all of their classes, so this change in grading policy would not have much of an effect the majority of CHS students. For students who do not earn at least a C in their classes, eliminating the D and F can only be of benefit. If a student fails, then he works harder and does the assignment again to earn an acceptable grade.

Of course, this policy would also help students who normally earn A's, B's and C's. With the opportunity to retake failed tests, every student's level of learning and GPA should increase with extra support, peer tutoring and added time to process material.

Mount Olive School District is also making changes that will keep parents aware of their students' educational struggles by sending automated email every time a student receives below a 70 percent on an assignment so that the pressure to master material extends to parents.

The adoption of Mount Olive's grade policy would cause students to focus more sharply on their school work in order to avoid having to redo assignments and tests deemed not up to par but would not impose the threat of failure beyond redemption. Considering its academic makeup and potential to ensure that every student master material up to and beyond 70 percent, Clayton should consider eliminating D and F as options on its grading scaling scale. ☺

Staff Editorial

Agree 83%
Disagree 17%

Rediscovery of downtown St. Louis brings hope for the future

For one weekend this September, downtown St. Louis was alive. Over Labor Day weekend, the Cardinals played a series with the Reds, which at the time was of the utmost importance, the Missouri Tigers opened their football season versus Illinois with their annual arch rivalry game and the Big Muddy Blues Festival featured nationally known artists at Laclede's Landing.

Mix these activities with some great weather and this was a very memorable weekend by St. Louis standards.

I acted as a tourist for the weekend, going to a Cardinals game, playing Frisbee on the arch grounds, checking out the recently built Schnucks market, the Culinaria, and staying overnight at a hotel on the riverfront.

Unfortunately, the Cardinals lost the game. It was ugly. But uglier was the view from our nosebleed seats. The stadium overlooks a parking lot on two sides.

Sure, Citygarden was a nice addition, but the original Ballpark Village plan needs to be at least partially reconsidered.

Playing Frisbee on the arch grounds gave me a new appreciation for the size and majesty of the arch. The 2015 City-Arch-River Project will highlight the arch and give it the true surrounding it needs.

The Culinaria was a great dining experience. Seemingly out of place, this market is a gem for downtown St. Louis. Not only was my turkey sandwich delightful, but it was great to see how many people utilized the store. The Culinaria should be used as a precedent for any other grocery store being built in downtown St. Louis.

I acted as a tourist, but also as a guide. Never before in my life had I been asked which way was the arch. The streets were not quite bustling, but still full of people. The scene was not quite reminiscent of a destination like Chicago, but was similar to my visits to Kansas City. This convinced me that downtown St. Louis should

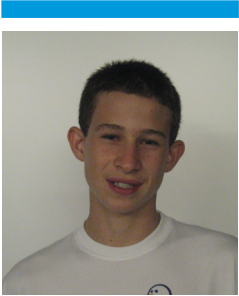
and will become a much more tourist friendly place.

The goal of expanding the tourist industry is of course to help the local economy recover and move forward. The Kansas City Power & Light District has received rave reviews since its completion in 2007. With this and other developments, Kansas City is now considered a top inexpensive tourist destination.

Having visited many other mid-sized cities nearby, namely Indianapolis, Louisville and Little Rock, I can attest that they have much better centralized entertainment districts. However, St. Louis has a couple of assets which these cities don't: the arch and a downtown baseball stadium.

The arch will be much better utilized after the 2015 City-Arch-River Project. The next step is to make the area surrounding Busch stadium more tourist friendly and better connected to the arch grounds.

Having visited downtown St. Louis from the point of a tourist and looking at the projects in the planning stages, I believe that the perception of downtown St. Louis will soon change for the better. ☺



Jake Bernstein



Dustin Kessler

The newest addition to the Demun Neighborhood: Oh Lolli Lolli candy shop.

Candy shop sweetens Demun area flavor

I swing open the door and I'm a seven-year-old again. I spot Snickers, Pop Rocks, Tootsie Roll Pops, and about a million other candies all in a glance. Stepping up to the counter, I ask for two small bags. One with chocolate-covered peanut butter pretzels and the other with Gummi bears, please. I pay the cashier, take one last look around – already brainstorming for what I will get next time – and step outside. Mission accomplished for the night.

Lately, I've been finding myself making increasingly frequent homework breaks to this store. Called Oh Lolli Lolli, it is the newest addition to a small strip of attractions sprouting up along Demun Avenue. I can't quite say it is the greatest (Kaldi's is hard to beat), but it makes a good second best.

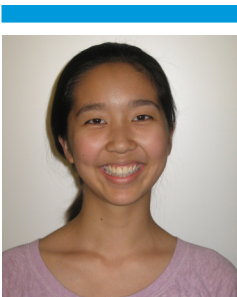
However, it is not just the candy that is worth the walk from my house. As strange as it may sound, I look forward to making my way down the two or so blocks to reach Oh Lolli Lolli just about as much as I look forward to the candy itself.

When I walk down the sidewalk, I subconsciously slow my pace. Kaldi's Coffee, Jimmy's on the Park, and Sasha's Wine Bar sit side by side, each attracting a slightly different type of crowd. I always people-watch as I pass

by, while overhearing snatches of conversation. Dot Dot Dash Boutique is somewhat easy to miss, because it's on a street just off of Demun, but it, too, has brought new character to the neighborhood. Among other businesses, there is a salon, a Laundromat, and a Tae Kwon Do studio.

The small strip, although not spectacular or particularly impressive, has a special significance to the surrounding areas. It serves as a sort of merging point or middle ground for the separate surrounding neighborhoods. Concordia Seminary is directly across the street, and streets lined with apartment buildings branch off from Demun. On both ends of the "Demun strip," as I call it, are Clayton neighborhoods. In addition, Captain Elementary lies just beside Kaldi's. The result is a blend of kids, families, professors, teenagers, and college students.

Currently, a boarded up storefront sits on a corner right in the center of the growing number of restaurants and businesses. I have heard it will become a new restaurant. A pizza place, my friends and I hope. Whatever it is, I look forward to it. I am eager to see this street getting busy, bringing people together in one place. Of course, it also wouldn't hurt if it gave me yet another excuse to take a break from homework.



Jocelyn Lee

Connections to author enhances reading pleasure

It was pretty much all I could talk about for days. I flipped through memory-laden books and tried to imagine what events would transpire.

I was about to see Jonathan Safran Foer, my favorite living author, speak at a Wash U chapel.

In my everyday conversations, I'd refer to Foer on a first-name basis, saying things like, "I wonder what excerpts Jonathan will read from his new book."

It may seem a bit silly to be so excited about a talk by an author and getting a few books signed, but there's something special about the experience of meeting the person who has created so much literature that has had an impact on you.

One book at a time, I've exhausted just about everything Foer has written in his relatively short career. It all started with his debut novel, "Everything is Illuminated." Admittedly, I was not grabbed at first, but, within a few chapters, my eyes were glued to the pages. A few weeks later, I found myself returning to the book. The impact was even stronger the second time. When I was halfway through my second turn at "Illuminated," I ordered his next novel from the library. I digested the next novel in a single day, spending my Sunday alternating between reading the book curled up on a couch and reading it while soaking in the summer sun at Shaw Park with friend. Let's just say that my friend wasn't very happy that I was completely neglecting her for the allure of a new book. Once I'd finished both of his

novels, at first I was sad that there was nothing of his left to read. I'd become entranced by his poetic style, enchanting characters, and somber, yet, optimistic themes.

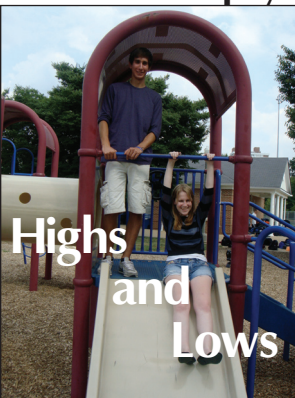
And then I remembered the Internet. A few short days later, I was scouring the web for his short stories in the online archives of publications like The New Yorker.

Obviously, when his third book was released earlier this year, I jumped at the opportunity to bring it along with me on my Spring Break vacation to read on the beach.

As someone who has always been passionate about books and literature, it's not uncommon for me to become enthralled with a new book or read a few books from the catalogue of a newly discovered author. But, with Foer, I approached his work with a zeal with which I have approached very few other authors.

Part of this was, obviously, because of his literary talent and the creativity that bursts from his work. However, I think a lot of it has to do with my admitted jealousy of the life that Jonathan lives. How could I possibly not want to be a writer in New York with two brilliant, successful novels under my belt before the age of 30? Authors have a medium through which to connect to their readers that neither a movie nor a television program could ever achieve. That's why the night I met Foer was special for me, if a bit awkward when an attendee reminded me to stop holding up the line during my brief conversation with Foer. I guess he just didn't get it. ☺

Dawn Androphy



Highs and Lows

Target vs. Walmart: Two mega retailers go head-to-head

Though the superstores Target and Walmart may seem similar, small differences set the two apart.

Walmart’s dominance in the retailing world has been fading for quite some time now. When the mega-company was incorporated in 1969 and constructed in small cities throughout the Midwest, it was one of the few mainstreamed retail stores where people could efficiently shop.

However, it later started to receive competition after the mainstreaming of other retail stores such as Costco, Walgreen’s, and of course, its biggest rival, Target.

Target (after undergoing some upgrades, of course) has been able to attract more customers and rack up an exponential amount of revenue per year. According to an informal survey among students and teachers at Clayton High School, many prefer going to Target because of its “nice ambience” and “more upscale merchandise”.

Many survey respondents said that they scorned Walmart due to its exploitation of customers and mistreatment of employees. Locals clearly favor Target over Walmart, but is Target really that much better than Walmart?

Based on the survey, Target edges out Walmart in numerous fields such as ambience, cleanliness, high quality goods, and even customer service.

Many respondents complained that due to Walmart’s gargantuan size, employees are hard to find in times of need. Some said they were troubled by Walmart’s questionable environment.

The one thing many of the respondents did agree on was that Walmart was significantly cheaper than Target. Though this is a commonly held belief, a recent test done by a Robert Buchanan, a St. Louis University professor (who compared prices of 48 common items for five retail stores including Walmart and Target) showed that Target is actually 1.1 percent cheaper than Walmart. The common items included things like milk, eggs, and certain clothes, among other items.

Of course, Target has its fair share of negatives as well. There are 8,100 Walmarts in 15 countries while there are just 1,684 Targets in the world and they’re all in the U.S.

Though it has made lots of revenue in the past few years, Target is infamous for being an inconsistent market (as their stocks were down 60 percent last year, and suddenly surged again this year).

Target will never beat Walmart in terms of profits (Walmart is a much larger chain), but it definitely dominates Walmart in many other areas. Plus, it has been able to create more of a friendly, comfortable environment while Walmart is constantly hampered for having a more chaotic ambience.

Many people’s perceptions about Target are positive as well, in comparison to Walmart. If Walmart doesn’t work to lose its stigma, it will continue to be on everyone’s hate list (and its profits will take a dip too).



Srijesh Panth



Photos by Regine Rosas

What do YOU think...?

“Target has better clothes than Walmart—their T-shirts are really cool.”

“Walmart’s workers are really awkward and strange, I like Target a lot better”

“Walmart has really great prices and a wide variety of everything they sell.”

“Target has better prices than Walmart and it’s easier to get around in.”

Weather effects mood profoundly

When I was 11, I was convinced that one day I would find a decently sized, sturdy yet weathered, letter in my mailbox from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. After years of clinging onto that hope, I finally conceded, when the last Harry Potter book was published in 2007, that no such letter would ever arrive.

However, a new fantastical and completely irrational illusion has since taken its place. Now, my daily routine consists not of checking the mailbox, but of dialing Weather Hotline (314-321-2222, speed dial number 5) and listening to the weather predictions.

Why such an odd habit? Because I watched Men in Black and was seduced by the idea that the sky rains because the Princess’s daughter is sad. Based on that one science fiction concept, I am now convinced that moods control the weather. By logical conclusion, I also believe that weather forecasts can generally predict the moods of the day. Hence, the ritual dialing of speed dial 5.

Accept my theory or not, it is hard to deny a connection between the weather and people’s moods. When it’s rainy, the air is heavy and the sky is gray, people generally appear unenthusiastic and are more likely to be sleepy.

When the sun is bright, the air is crisp and the sky is baby-blue, people have a better temperament and higher energy level.

Although scientists have yet to provide conclusive evidence for, or against, the existence the subconscious-mind-controls-nature theory, it has been proven that sunlight has a direct impact on people’s happiness.

According to the website for the American Psychiatric Association, some people suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). SAD is most likely caused by the changing levels of sunlight from summer and spring seasons to the fall and winter seasons. This change in sunlight triggers a biochemical imbalance in the brain, throwing off our natural circadian rhythm, and causing us to feel less happy.

In addition to throwing off our sense of rhythm, increased darkness during the winter months causes increased production of melatonin, a sleep-related hormone that may cause depression. When the days become shorter and darkness arrives earlier, the lack of sunlight can biologically change people’s moods.

Scientific research aside, it may be the connotations of different weather that provoke different mood responses. Sunlight is often associated with happiness and young children frolicking in the meadows, while grey skies are the symbol of unrest and dreariness. Because we have established such connotations, we may unconsciously conform to these stereotypes and become sad or happy by the power of suggestion.

And just from personal experience, when I wake up at 7 a.m. to a completely dark room with rain pattering my window, I feel much less inclined to drag my sleep-deprived butt out of the comfort of my bed and to school. However, when I wake up to bright sunlight streaming in from the blinds, I am more energized and willing to get up. So when the day is gloomy, and you feel gloomy, I believe that it is not merely coincidence.

When the skies open up and rain pours down, I am often sitting by my window, drinking steaming hot tea with a book perched on my knee, glancing out, wondering who is so incredibly sad.

When I am so incredibly sad, and the weather is likewise overcast, I find a certain amount of comfort that nature reflects my mood so perfectly, almost justifying and sharing my emotions.

When teachers take one look at a bunch of slumped and sleepy teenagers, asking why such a drained mood, the answer at the tip of my tongue is always, very simply, “the weather.”

I am convinced that Men in Black holds some truth (excluding extraterrestrial parts). Silly as it seems, I cannot be torn away from the theory that there is truly a connection between the mind and nature. As Agent Kay would say, “It rains because you’re sad, baby.”



Dee Luo

Fighting bullying, one smile at a time

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle” – Plato

With the multiple headline suicides in the recent months due to bullying, I recall an event that happened to my brother several years ago.

My brother, Marc, attended Parkway Central as a freshman. During the middle of the year in one of his classes he noticed a new girl sitting by herself. Being friendly, Marc waved, smiled and introduced himself. Only the basics, then he quickly moved to his normal seat.

For the remainder of the year there was no ongoing friendship, no in-depth conversations, just the superficial greetings. After freshman year Marc came to Clayton and remained only in contact with his close friends from Parkway (this was a time before Facebook).

However, Marc’s senior year he visited his old high school and saw the same girl, they again shared the cordial greetings and a simple conversation. However, after their reunion the girl sent Marc a letter.

It said that her sophomore year, after Marc had switched schools, she attempted to commit suicide. In the bathtub, with razors in hand, she stopped herself because she thought of that day Marc introduced himself when she was new to school.

Every time I think of this story chills run down my back. The thought that a simple smile can have such an impact in someone’s life is astonishing. But it is also a weary reminder that just in the way a smile can leave a lasting impact in someone’s memory, a charged comment, a racial slur or something you think is a joke but really is a derogatory comment can also stay with someone forever.

My mom at dinner recently asked me if there

was bullying at CHS. I didn’t quite know how to answer. Sure I would like to think there is no bullying at Clayton – no there aren’t any beatings or Slushies being thrown in people’s faces, but I know there is bullying at our school.

Some of it might even be unintentional. On the outside the victim of teasing might laugh, but inside they feel the same as being pushed up against a locker.

As I think about this at the dinner table I start to feel helpless in face of this crisis facing high school students. How can I stop a problem that some people don’t even know exists? I may even be propagating bullying at times, without even knowing it.

I guess we all just have to face the facts; it is nearly impossible to create a high school without bullying. No matter how many “bully free zone” signs we put up, no matter how long we talk about it in health class, it is just an evil of high school.

Nonetheless, that doesn’t mean I can’t make my own impact.

The recent suicides serve as a testament, especially in the high school setting, that everyone is truly fighting their own battle. As I walk the halls of CHS I am trying to keep that in the back of my head.

Every rude comment I make can make someone’s day that much worse. But every time I give an unwarranted smile, a wave in the hall, a hug to a friend in need – I may have just made a world of difference.

At the end of the day, how much does it take to just give a smile? You never know, it might just save someone’s life.



This JUST in!

Justin Elliot

Fear of ‘failure’ is unreasonable

“Oh my God. I’m going to fail.”

How many times have I heard that phrase issuing from the mouths of Clayton High School students? Far too many times to count. In fact, those four words—I’m going to fail—have lost their meaning, have been worn out from overuse.

It seems to me that “failure” is quite relative. Many CHS students have differing notions of what it means to fail. To some, it means quite literally, getting an F on an assignment or in a class. I applaud these realists; they have maintained a level view of academic success.

However, to many students, “failing” can mean getting a grade in the B- or C range. For some extreme cases, “failing” can mean getting anything below a 90%.

In fact, this phenomenon has a name itself: the Asian fail. Many students—some Asian, some not—are convinced that not garnering A’s in every class is a symptom of academic failure.

When I find myself uttering those words, I try to consider what I really mean. What I really mean is, “I’m concerned that I’m not going to get the grade I want on this test.” But instead, I find myself a victim of the very heinous exaggeration that I wish would be eliminated from teenagers’ vernacular. I’m unable to control it.

My friends always reassure me, give me confidence, and commiserate. They know what I mean by “fail”. We all know it’s just an exaggeration.

An exaggeration though it may be, I find that everything I say—even sarcastic comments or exaggerations—have some grain of truth to them. So I wonder,

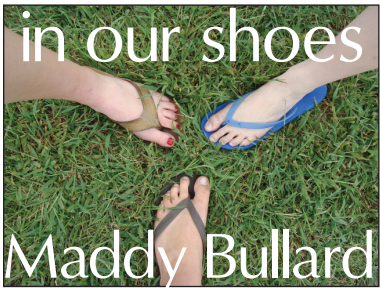
other to work hard and do well. In some ways this competitive spirit is good—it creates an environment in which academics are highly valued.

However, it can be taken to an extreme. When I find myself wondering whether my grade in one class or even on one test would impact a college admissions decision, that’s when I know I’ve let it go too far.

Sometimes at Clayton I feel surrounded by geniuses, people who can understand difficult material with little or no study. When I say, “I’m going to fail,” what I truly fear is that I won’t measure up to my fellow students.

I would encourage students (myself included) to consider what we really mean by failure. In terms of grades, the cut-and-dry definition is that an F is a failing grade, while D’s, C’s, B’s, and A’s are all passing grades. Chances are those tests you’re studying for, that paper you’re writing, won’t come back with an F. Chances are, you won’t actually fail.

Clayton students are intellectually inquisitive, hardworking and dedicated, diverse and creative. We should have more confidence in our abilities, and stop worrying so much. We should be conscious of what “failing” actually means, and use the term accordingly.



Maddy Bullard

GO FIGURE



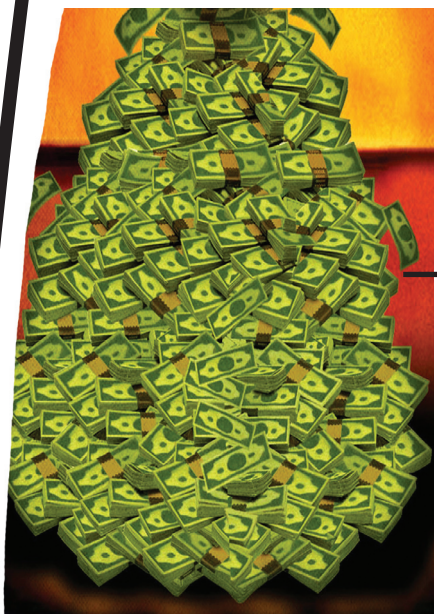
MCT

9
milligrams

A 1.5 oz. Hershey's milk chocolate bar has approximately 9 mg of caffeine. An equivalent Hershey's dark chocolate bar, on the other hand, contains about 30 mg caffeine, approximately the same as a cup of instant tea.

30
percent

All M&Ms are not created equal. The typical distribution of M&M colors are: Blue: 10 percent, Green: 10 percent, Yellow: 20 percent, Red: 20 percent, and Brown: 30 percent, give or take 1-2 percent.



MCT

35
million

35 million pounds of candy corn will be produced this year. That's around 9 billion pieces, enough to circle the moon nearly 21 times laid end-to-end. (candyusa.com)



MCT



MCT

40
dollars

According to Gallup.com, families with children under 18 spend \$40 more (\$82) than families without children over 18 (\$42) for Halloween.

Thumbs Down

Cavities
Black licorice
Bad jokes
Leaving the bowl outside
Getting your house egged

Thumbs Up

Dark Chocolate
Leftover candy
Swedish Fish
Candy sales up
Oh Lolly Lolly

The songs we crave...

Lollipop ~ The Chordettes
I Want Candy ~ Aaron Carter
Candy Shop ~ 50 Cent
Laffy Taffy ~ D4L

- Harry B. Reese was a farmer who worked on Hershey's dairy farm. He was inspired to start his own candy company to support his 16 children.
- Reese's Pieces is E.T.'s favorite candy.
- There is a myth that Lifesavers are named so because if one becomes lodged in your throat, you can still breathe through the hole. This is not true.
- There are approximately 16 peanuts in one Snickers bar.
- The Snickers bar was supposedly named after the Mars family's favorite horse.
- Three Musketeers were originally packaged with three different fillings: vanilla, chocolate and strawberry. Hence, THREE musketeers.
- Eight Kit-Kat bars are eaten in Ireland every second.
- The Kit-Kat wrapper used to be blue.
- In Europe, Skittles are both kosher and vegetarian. In the United States, there is a Skittles gum. Chew the rainbow?
- Hershey's Kisses got their name from the kissing motion of the machine depositing chocolate onto a conveyor belt.

Wake Up Call

Parents spend 364 days of the year preaching to their children, "Don't talk to strangers. Don't accept candy from strangers. Don't go out dressed like that." And yet, one day each year, children are encouraged to go against these rules and accept sweet treats from strangers. Although most like to think of this Halloween tradition as "safe," Tulane County in California has called attention to the potential dangers of sex offenders handing out candy to children. The county supervisor issued an ordinance forcing pedophiles to turn off outside lights from 5 p.m. to midnight and banning them from decorating their house and answering the door on Halloween.

It's not only the safety of children that should be considered. One of the most common dangers to dogs is chocolate. One medium sized chocolate bar can make a 10-pound dog very ill. Even more dangerous to dogs is Xylitol, usually found in gum or sugar-free candy. One small stick of gum—packing approximately one to two milligrams of Xylitol—is enough to cause serious illness in a 20-pound dog.

Zoom In

This picture is a close-up of an object. What is it? Go to chsglobe.com/zoomout for the answer!