

TOP: Honors Physics teacher Gabe De La Paz uses the SMART Board during his freshman class. The SMART Board has made the whiteboard almost obsolete in his class. **BELOW RIGHT:** Senteo clickers allow De La Paz to supplement his curriculum with increased student interaction during class. Students can answer questions anonymously on the clickers, allowing De La Paz to more easily see how the students are understanding the material. **ABOVE RIGHT:** New iMacs in the computer lab are faster and hold more data than the computers they replaced.



Wired for success

From SMART Boards to Senteo clickers to an upgraded computer lab, technology spending around the school is allowing teachers to structure class time more effectively.

Ken Zheng
Editor

The SMART Board, a helpful tool to teachers at Clayton who deal with graphics and simulations, along with other technological perks that the district offers, are vital to a well-rounded teacher such as Gabe De La Paz. Since he recently had a SMART Board installed in his classroom along with a set of Senteo "clickers" from the science department last year, De La Paz rarely writes on whiteboards anymore.

The Senteo clickers can send data about the students' responses to questions and can compile the data to anonymously show the results to the class.

"You're more likely to get an honest answer from them," De La Paz said. "A lot of the time with the whole 'raise your hand thing,' kids don't participate because they're afraid to be wrong, but this will allow me to see who knows what. I keep it anonymous in the classroom but I can actually keep track of who answers what. You can actually export that to a spreadsheet and take some data and be more in tune with what students understand in class."

The clickers allow De La Paz to do true-false, yes-no questions and multiple choice questions. In conjunction with the SMART Board, the whiteboard has almost become completely obsolete.

"If someone is absent it's easier for me to get them the notes, and it's easier to show things to the whole class with the SMART Board," De La Paz said. "The clickers are definitely becoming more integrated, and I'm probably better with the clickers since the kids still tell me what to do with the SMART Board."

De La Paz said that he likes having a SMART Board in the room.

"I started using the clickers before I had a SMART Board, and they're considerably clunkier to use when you don't have a data projector," De La Paz said.

The problem is, there is a hefty learning curve in learning to using the SMART Board.

"Because of the different dimensions of the SMART Board," De La Paz said, "you have to learn to reconfigure all the stuff you've been doing for years. There's a learning curve both in how you use the machine and how to use it well to convey concepts. The SMART Board is a powerful asset used to supplement the teaching of the curriculum."

De La Paz is just one of many teachers who continue to benefit from the district's spending on technology.

Cathleen Fogarty, District Coordinator and Instructional Technologist, said that the SMART Board and projector sets found throughout the building costs roughly \$ 2400.

The maintenance system at CHS helps save \$500 to \$2000 per installation. The maintenance crew expertly wires the building's infrastructure. Until they are all mounted, SMART Boards in classrooms that are on stands have to be constantly realigned and waste valuable time.

"We are definitely going to have projectors in every class-

room by the end of this year," Fogarty said. "SMART Boards have been our goal, as well as the district's goal, and depends on the teacher's needs. The goal is not cut-and-dry and it's not like the set is mandated. It's just a goal that the district has and what we are recommending as part of an ideal 21st century classroom."

Instructional Technologist David Hoffman adds that the set comes from the building budget. The benefit of this goal is that all rooms would be equipped for multimedia equipped regardless of the subject which would help in terms of teachers who have to teach in multiple rooms in a regular school day.

Departments like the math department have also made contributions through the personal incentive funds which are given to all tenured teachers. Each tenured teacher gets \$600 a year to spend on professional development or items for the classroom.

The technological devices that are on the system's network, such as desktops and laptops are funded by the district as well. Desktops are on a five-year replacement cycle and teacher laptops are on a four-year replacement cycle.

"Four years is probably pushing it, but I'd rather them replace it every four years than not at all," De La Paz said, "If your laptop has a problem, it's not like they're going to leave you without a laptop. You won't be left totally stranded. I think there's a lot the district has to do in terms of budget and I just live with what they give me."

Clayton has one of the best public school computer-to-student ratios in the state. We also have more internet bandwidth per student than any other School District in the state of Missouri.

Devin Davis
Chief Information Officer

Chief Information Officer Devin Davis agrees that CHS teachers and students have access to an wide array of technology.

"Clayton has one of the best public school computer-to-student ratios in the state," Davis said. "We also have more internet bandwidth per student than any other School District in the state of Missouri. We are always looking for opportunities to give teachers and students more and better technical tools to use in the classroom. A good example is Google Apps which will give all students 6-12 and teachers email accounts, online access to documents and file share."

Google Apps will also supplement the MS Office package and increase the effectiveness of communication. The point of the Apps is to allow easier sharing of information and ideas.

According to Davis, the 2008 - 2009 Operations and Capital budget that does not include salaries or debt payments for, is \$771,000. Of that, \$450,000 is used for hardware replacement and \$146,000 is used for software license fees. Though he thinks this a reasonable amount, he says the district could always use more technicians.

From terms of technological proficiency, the entire district is improving.

"The use of technology by teachers over the last three years has increased dramatically and continues to increase exponentially," Davis said. "A lot of the credit has to be given to the building Instructional Technologists who are constantly working with teachers and looking for new ways to integrate technology in the classroom."

Clayton feels squeeze of tightening economy

Nicholas Andriole
Editor

Many consumers are more aware than ever that an undesirable economic climate can pose prominent challenges to individuals and businesses alike. School districts are not immune to the problems of our financial system in the midst of a credit crisis, rising energy costs, and the national currency value at historic lows.

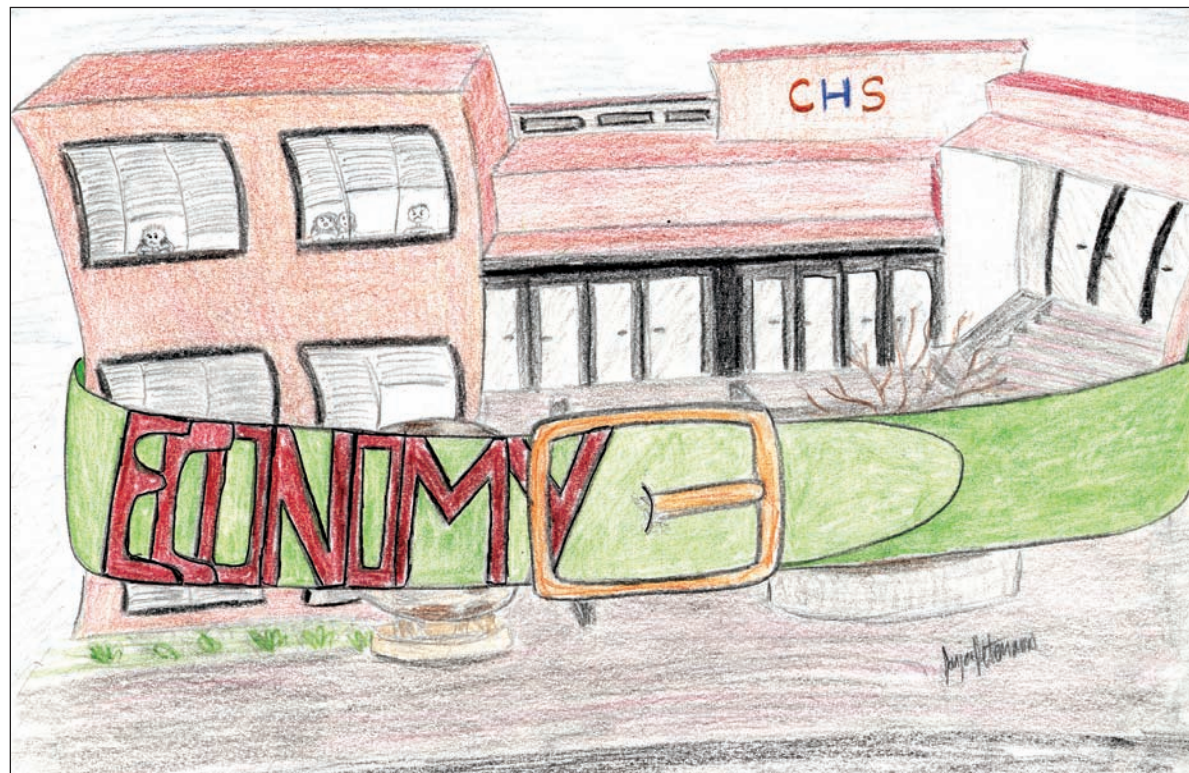
Declining home values have been a concern for many communities, particularly those in coastal states. Home values are important since school districts receive the majority of their funding from local property tax assessments. However, District officials believe Clayton is in a better position.

"We are fortunate that property values in Clayton have been pretty stable," Chief Financial Officer Mark Stockwell said.

The Blueprint for Tomorrow project is a multi-million dollar master facilities plan aimed at modernizing and modifying facilities to better serve the needs of the district. The project was officially launched in the fourth quarter of 2007 and has since conducted various town hall meetings to identify facility needs and project goals.

Rising construction costs appear to be a concern for the Blueprint for Tomorrow project.

"We're all feeling the impact of the rising cost of construction," Stockwell



said. "Regarding the impact on the Blueprint for Tomorrow plans, the architect's cost estimator is currently pricing out several identified ideas and projects for consideration and possible inclusion in the final facility master plan. These higher costs will likely limit the number and type of projects that make the cut."

In addition to rising construction

costs, the district facilities department must cope with rising utility costs in eight buildings throughout the city limits. Recently, utility providers have filed for rate increases. Ameren UE which provides electrical service to district facilities has filed for a rate increase of 12.1 percent to take effect in the fourth quarter of 2008.

"Higher utility costs impact the entire maintenance budget," said Tim Wonish, head of the district's facility services. "This requires us to make choices and prioritize the district's needs based on necessity."

Given rising utility costs for facilities, a component of the district facilities project includes replacing aging building

equipment with more modern and efficient machinery. Several possible 'green' features are being considered as well.

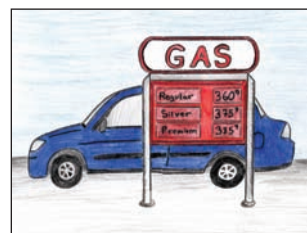
"The architect conducting the Blueprint for Tomorrow process has been directed to incorporate infrastructure improvements related to replacement of inefficient HVAC equipment, lighting, and windows," Stockwell said. "Incorporating the principles of sustainable or 'green' design is one of the goals of the facility master plan."

Many area school districts have been troubled by unprecedented fuel costs associated with operating buses. Since Clayton does not provide transportation for its resident students, the pinch of rising fuel costs has not been felt quite yet.

"As small district that is not required to provide transportation to and from school, the high fuel costs have impacted us to a much smaller degree than a geographically larger district," Stockwell said "We have essentially absorbed the increased costs for field trips within our current budget allocations."

Changes in the economic environment are becoming increasingly visible to students. Recently, Chartwells', the operator of food services for the district has cut its hours of operation during breakfast service in response to an increase in food costs.

By modernizing facilities, cutting costs and increasing efficiency, the district hopes to account for rising costs and prevailing economic conditions.



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Vice presidential nominees differ in experience, policies

Jonathan Shumway
Staff Writer

If there has been a surprise in the presidential campaign in the past few weeks, what would most likely come first to people's minds is Republican nominee John McCain's choice of a running mate: Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. Barack Obama's choice of Sen. Joe Biden seems tame by comparison.

Now supporters of both parties are wondering how the vice presidential candidates will affect the outcome of the election in November.

Palin has been the center of attention in the weeks following her announcement, as potential voters try to find out more about her, her qualifications, and her record. Critics cite Palin's experience as a small-town mayor and two-year stint as governor as too limited and claim that it negates McCain's attack against Obama's lack of experience.

Palin's defenders hope that she will appeal to women voters, many of whom were upset about Hilary Clinton not getting the presidential nomination.

"[The Republicans] were playing the gender card," senior Caitlin Bladt said. "[They hope to be] more strategic in the election."

"I hope that women voters understand Palin is not as liberal as Hilary Clinton," Clayton High School Librarian Betsy Wilson said.

Though Palin may not be Hillary, she could bring the white working-class women voters that gave Hillary their dedicated support a women in the White House. According to the New Republic, there are "Eighteen million cracks, and one crackpot." The "eighteen million cracks," refers to the number of

women votes that Hillary had during the primaries that could go in either direction.

It is not for sure at this point the degree of difference that Palin could make with her appeal to white working-class women; most analysts, however, think it will make a difference.

"It was expected for someone [the vice presidential nominee] more popular, but he chose someone who has never been on national stage," junior Chi Zeng said. "It shows McCain's maverick ability. It also shows that McCain is trying to show that can take undertake ambitious moves, for the betterment of the country."

Some people, such as Zeng, think the decision of having Palin as McCain's running mate showed McCain's flexibility. This could be true since Palin was never considered to be a possible running mate for McCain. Most people would consider the talk about Biden as more positive in comparison to Palin in this election.

"[Biden is] a safe pick because of his Senate experience," Freshman Ben Colagiavanni. Biden has served as a senator for 35 years, which is even longer than the 25 years that McCain has spent in Washington. Many think that Biden was a good choice for Obama, since Obama has served for only two years in the Senate. He seems to fill in the experience that some pundits say Obama lacks.

Dee Luo "He [Obama] is not experienced enough to be president," Zeng said. "When one adds Biden, it brings the experience needed for the Democratic campaign."

"Biden is very knowledgeable, and has the ability to know the system," Wilson said. It is possible that Biden has experience that in many ways is essential to the Democratic cam-

paign.

Though Biden has received mainly good publicity, one thing that has concerned voters is that as late as June, Biden said that Obama didn't have enough experience to be President, even saying he would rather be a running mate for McCain than Obama.

While some dismiss this as nothing more than campaign rhetoric while Biden was running against Obama, others have expressed concern that Biden's opinion changed very rapidly since Biden still held grudges towards Obama, even after his campaign.

Besides the running mates, one of the biggest issues that will be cussed in this election is the

Of the economic issue, the 'energy crisis,' is a big of a future economy. It is place where much investment and growth can be made, creating potential jobs and energy independence. For Wes Sine, a professor of Organizational Behavior at Cornell University, Obama and Biden's energy plan is a "new energy focus" while McCain and Palin's energy plan has an "old focus," on fossil fuel energies. As both campaigns have largely concentrated on 'energy independence,' their energy plans have been made more distinct.

The McCain/Palin campaign has largely shown its interest in investment in fossil fuels. Palin has shown a lot of interest in development of more fossil fuels. Though this may be controversial since her husband works for British Petroleum, Palin may bring experience about energy that no one else has. Critics say this implies a vested interest in oil companies, which isn't necessarily the desire of most voters.

According to Robert Coleman, a team leader for Pipe Renewal in Alaska for British Petroleum and Alaskan resident, Palin's plan is a \$40 billion dollar investment in a pipeline for

oil and natural gas connecting the North Slope to the lower 48 states.

"[The plan is] a state perspective to develop a state's resources since 80 percent of tax revenue [in Alaska] comes from royalties paid by oil companies," Coleman said.

Coleman has reservations about this plan. "We will never be able to drill out of energy independence since there is not enough state resources," Coleman said.

"[There aren't] enough resources for energy independence." Even so, the pipeline could economically create jobs and lessen energy demand from foreign countries.

Obama and Biden have pledged a 150 billion dollar investment in alternative and renewable energies.

"Wind and solar power bring a larger distribution of wealth," Sine said.

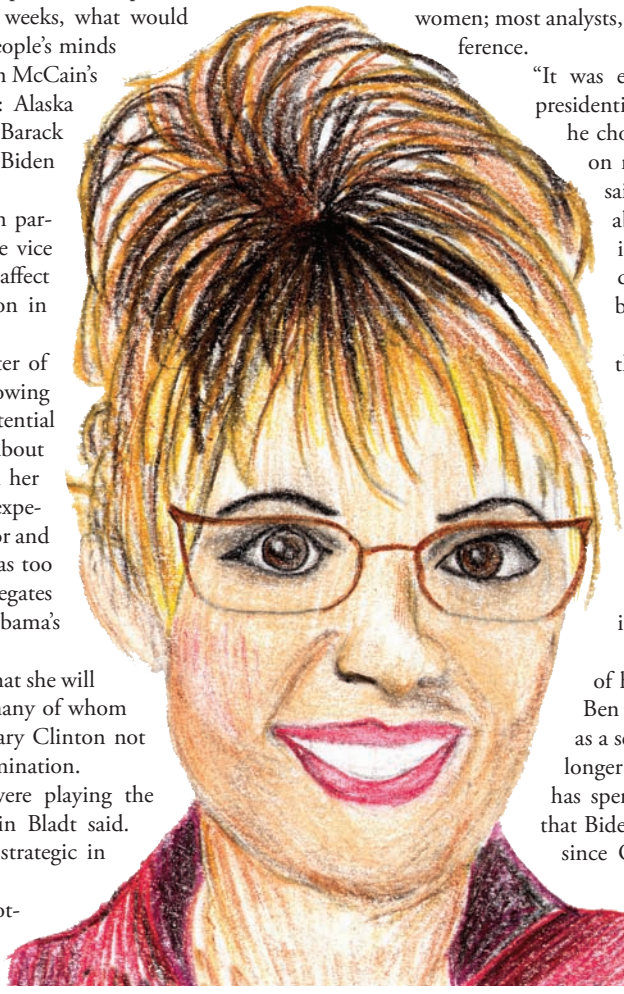
This may be true because if homeowners were able to bring in renewable energy, which is increasingly happening. It could bring money to homeowners who are helping to provide energy for the power-grid.

Coleman said he thinks Obama's plan may be ambitious, but doubts it is achievable.

"He has no energy plan; he is dreaming," Coleman said. "It is energy that will help out, but wouldn't make that much of a difference."

One thing is certain for most analysts: this will be a close election. The advantages and disadvantages of each running mate and what they bring to the campaign is not completely understood.

"We're at a crossroads for the nation's history," Bladt said. Hopefully the best candidate is picked out of the two, the one who will make the most positive change for the U.S. As Caitlin Bladt said, "every vote counts," so get out there and vote. ☺



Dee Luo



Dee Luo

Reflections on conflict

Despite U.S. support, the Russia-Georgia dispute proves to be two-sided.

Gabrielle Lachtrup
Staff Writer

On the morning of Aug 8, 2008, President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia launched a military offense on Tskhinvali, capital of the Republic of South Ossetia.

South Ossetia is a separatist state that has claimed semi-sovereignty from Georgia since the beginning of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict in 1989. Its sovereignty has since been recognized by several nations since the conflict's end three years later.

Saakashvili's actions prompted a heavy retaliation on the part of Russia, who claimed it violated the terms of a ceasefire agreement between the two states in 1992.

According to Russian news reports, nearly 2,000 South Ossetians were killed in the shelling from the Georgian military. Additionally, the reports also stated that over 10 Russian peacekeepers were killed when Georgian troops crossed the security zone into the city itself.

In response, the Russian government ordered troops to enter Georgia via South Ossetia, later sinking a missile boat off the coastline in response to an action off the Black Sea by Georgian

forces. A second military offensive was then launched in the separatist province of Abkhazia.

Conflicts between Georgia and Russia over the sovereignty of both Abkhazia and South Ossetia have occurred since Georgia's secession from the Soviet Union in 1990.

"I think it was almost like a natural process; that after wartime all republics should have their independence," Slava Solomatov, a professor of earth and planetary sciences at Washington University, said. Solomatov was born in the Russian city of Solchi, about 100 miles from the Georgian border.

Soon after Georgia declared its independence, both South Ossetia and the province of Abkhazia claimed semi-sovereignty, as well.

"After the Cold War, when the Soviet Union broke up, many people supported Georgia's autonomy and right to make decisions," history teacher Paul Hoelscher said. "In terms of Ossetia, on the one hand, I think they had right to their independence, and I think the question is how to allow people to voice their own self-determination."

"[I see politics] as a chess game between two different governments," Solomatov said. "I think he [Saakashvili] is

probably the most of insane of players. What kind of person would create such a provocation? It ended up being a poor move for everybody."

"He certainly has the ear of the Western media. Most United States citizens only have his side of the story," Hoelscher said. "There have been reports of Georgia denying rights and freedoms to the people of South Ossetia, and I don't believe he's given much voice to their concerns—or at least not to the Western media."

By Aug. 9, both the European Union and the United States expressed their desire for the conflict's speedy resolution and offered to provide a joint delegation to aid in negotiating a ceasefire.

However, Russia refused to consider withdrawing until all Georgian troops had withdrawn from South Ossetia and the government had signed a pact renouncing the use of force on either Abkhazia or South Ossetia. Finally, on Aug 13, all Georgian troops had retreated past the security zone back into Georgia.

Conflicts, however, continued for over a week, with the Russian government capturing 21 Georgian troops on Aug 19 near Poti, a Georgian sea port. On the same day, both sides conducted an exchange of war prisoners.



Shashank Bengali/MCT

People wave U.S. and Georgian flags in Batumi, Georgia, as they watch the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Dallas deliver humanitarian aid, Wednesday, August 27, 2008.

The United States executive branch has since taken a strong pro-Georgian stance on the conflict. On Aug 16, President Bush made a statement warning the Russian government that both Abkhazia and South Ossetia belong to Georgia. "There is no room for debate on this matter," Bush said.

"Russian aggression must not go unanswered," Vice President Dick Cheney

said on Aug 10. "Its continuation would have serious consequences for its relations with the United States, as well as with the broader international community."

"The Russians would say that they defended these people and helped the reclaim sovereignty," said Hoelscher.

Saakashvili has repeatedly expressed his desire to join NATO, and, eventually,

the European Union, seeing the move as providing greater stability for Georgia as a nation.

"If Saakashvili wanted join NATO, I think it would be most counterproductive," Solomatov said. "He has not been reliable partner to either Russia or the United States. It is up to NATO, but I think their chances have now significantly dropped." ☺

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Enrollment rises with more freshmen, new students

An increase in scheduling difficulties strains the counseling department, but overall CHS takes fluctuating enrollment numbers in stride.

Mary Blackwell
Editor

If it seems like the halls of CHS are swarming, the Commons packed, and classrooms filled, this observation is somewhat valid. CHS has experienced an increase in enrollment of freshmen and new students compared to recent years.

The average freshmen class has traditionally been about 200 students, and this year is 233. In addition to more freshmen, 55 new students enrolled this year; two of the 55 are returning students.

"We always have a fair number of students come in, usually at the freshman level," CHS counseling department chair Carolyn Blair said. "This year we had a pretty even surge at all levels, except seniors. Which was not normal, especially at the upper levels."

Despite the unexpected number of new students, fluctuation of numbers is not a new problem in education, and the district can predict and prepare for the issues that go along with increase of students.

"Two years ago, in 2007, we had a very large senior class graduate and we had a small eighth to ninth grade class coming in so we went down about 50 to 60 kids," Principal Louise Losos said. "But we also knew the reverse was going to happen the next year. Last year a very small senior class graduated and a very large freshman class came in. But we knew that."

In order to prepare, the district had to make some adjustments.

"If there's a situation where we need to increase staffing we have done so," Losos said. "Like we added a freshman physics section at the very beginning of the year. So the district has always been very good about providing us additional staffing if we can show that there is need for it."

New student junior Anjuli Dharna transferred from MICDS and hasn't found the number of students to be an issue.

"The class sizes; they're maybe one or two people bigger, but pretty much it's the same," Dharna said.

One problem the district had, before the school year started, was a shortage of desks.

"There had to have been desks that disappeared on us," Losos said. "We were short desks but my best guess is that last



Students gather in congested math hallway in between periods. While some of the halls get crowded at certain times of the day, CHS is coping well with a slightly increased enrollment.

Staff Photo

year they culled a bunch of desks. We bought a classroom set. It was frustrating because we knew these students were coming back."

The start of the school year was met with more scheduling problems and changes than usual.

"I had two third period classes," Dharna said. "It was messed up. I changed my schedule like three times since school started."

The increase in scheduling difficulties correlates with the number of new students because new students have to register with counselors. Also, freshmen usually need to edit their schedules more often than upperclassmen.

The counselors expect the normal chaos of scheduling at the beginning of the year because CHS offers so many singletons, or classes that are only offered one period. But some of the other issues were unexpected.

"Over the summer we learned that the state required a record of every minute of a student's day," Blair said. "If a student had a free period we had to create a class called open campus, even for the half of a lab period."

In addition, problems with Power School last year continued into the start of this year, causing counselors to have limited time to complete schedules.

"It was sort of like the perfect storm with the master scheduling not being finished, and the state requirements, lots of new students requiring registration, and lots of placement changes from several departments," Blair said. "It was a combination of all those things happening at the same time."

The start of next year should go more smoothly as the high school adjusts to its current numbers and enrollment holds steady at approximately 850 students.

"One of the things that drew me to Clayton initially was its size," Losos said. "I liked that it is a small high school. I think that one of the hallmarks of CHS is the relationship that we build with teachers. Every student knows a larger percentage of the entire student body."

CHS is not likely to become overcrowded because although public schools are required to take all students who live in the area, CHS does control the number of tuition students that transfer. ☺



NHS Officer Rebecca Katz, Class of 2006, lights a candle during the 2005 NHS Induction Ceremony. The honor society, which is steeped in tradition, is making some major changes this year, including having both a fall and a spring induction.

Staff Photo

NHS plans two ceremonies

Ijeoma Onyema
Editor

The secret society of CHS scholars may be a little different this year.

According to sponsor Emily Grady, the National Honor Society will be going through some changes this year in order to accommodate both prospective junior and senior members.

"We used to have one nomination period and ceremony per year," Grady said. "Now, students can now enter in junior or senior year, so they can be SEEN for eligibility in both the fall and the spring. Because of this, there will be two induction ceremonies."

Now entering second year of being an NHS sponsor, Grady, an NHS alumna, observes students' grades, character—both in and out of the classroom—and their acts of community service to decide who's eligible.

"For academic traits, I believe that one must engage in learning, enchanted by what happens in the classroom, and not focused on just getting good grades but open to embracing ideas while accepting the challenges required to achieve," Grady said.

The junior invitations have been moved to 2009 in order for the teachers to be able to know the students better.

"However that's no good for seniors because they need this to look good for their early decisions college application so they can be eligible earlier," Grady said.

The NHS sponsors look for leadership in not just clubs, but outside of school as well.

"I look for people who are proud to be where they are, being the way they are and who are able to set standards for others," Grady said.

One prominent change in the organization is the acceptable GPA. In order to meet the NHS criteria, a student would have to achieve a 3.5 GPA; now students cannot be eligible unless they maintain a 3.7 GPA.

"We published this information a year and a half ago,"

Grady said. "However the new criteria has been established in the fall."

CHS was one of the few schools that allowed students to be eligible with a GPA below 3.7.

"We changed [the GPA] because as we were looking at other schools and their criteria and their GPAs were higher than ours, also, the official regulations state that the GPA should be higher than 3.5," Grady said. "During the discussion among sponsors we reviewed the standards and realized that CHS was out of sync; we were below the national standard and needed to pull up to that."

Though it may frustrate some that the GPA required has been raised, there are some positive aspects to the new system. For starters, this does not make NHS any more exclusive. Also, colleges will view students' activities in NHS more respectively.

"Because when the students apply to college, an assumption will be made that they have GPA of 3.7 or higher and once colleges see that it's lower, the colleges won't have the same respect they have for others," Grady said. "Besides, CHS has too many kids in there."

Some current members may not have the GPA needed to be eligible; however, the question of current members being kicked out for not continuing to obtain the approved GPA is unknown because there is no monitoring of grade.

Though NHS is known for being the "secret society of CHS", the organization is trying to break out and participate more in community service.

"We're trying to make less of an honor society and more of an active community," Grady said. "That way, we can show that being an NHS member is not just a title, but a responsibility; this way it enhances the role of being a member of NHS."

The process of choosing reduced the number of eligible applicants, but not by much. Sponsors encourage students to not worry about meeting the criteria, but just to work hard and enjoy learning. ☺



Meng Wang

Karen Hales-Mecham's English Language Learner class is one of the many classes in the school that combines various grade levels.

Mixed classes build community

Jocelyn Lee
Staff Reporter

There are four freshmen, 10 sophomores, and three juniors in the second period Art I - Design Studio class. At the same time, several more classes with a similar range of students are taking place throughout the CHS building. However, do classes like these always have positive results?

Classes with mixed grade levels have been taking place at CHS for years partly because of the options given to students about when they can fulfill their credit for graduation. Many of the art and language classes, extracurricular activities, and some core classes have more than one grade level in them.

Art teacher Russell Vanecek currently teaches four classes with mixed grade levels and only one class of exclusively senior students. He enjoys his classes with wide age ranges and believes that the learning environment is enhanced when there are different grade levels in a classroom.

"The mixture of ages and skills adds to the classes in a very positive way," Vanecek said. "Students are more cooperative and can learn new things. Also, when you have a diverse classroom, you have a situation more like the regular world."

Some students agree, but their outlooks are slightly different. Freshman Emma Vierod has three classes with at least two grade levels in each

of them. Vierod believes that although it can sometimes be a more constructive learning environment with different grade levels, there are downsides.

"When you're with your grade it's more of a homey environment, and when you're with older students it's a little more intimidating," Vierod said. "I think I learn better when I'm with my grade, because the teacher knows what pace you work at."

With added grade levels comes added tension between older and younger students.

"I wouldn't say there are any more conflicts, but when you're with upper classmen you get the feeling that they don't want to talk to you sometimes," Vierod said.

The age difference in classes also affects the way these classrooms function and the way students work with each other.

"It changes the environment," journalism teacher Christine Stricker said. "There's a rookie-veteran hierarchy which can be a good thing, because the younger kids will work at a higher level. However, I wish there was less of an initiation mentality."

When it comes to which students benefit more from classes with combined grade levels, it seems that everyone ends

up gaining.

"There's equal benefit for older and younger kids because the rookies eventually become veterans," Stricker said. "But the older students do have to step it up."

Although older students will take on the extra load of responsibility in class, freshmen one year will return the next year ready to take on the extra load of responsibility. This is more likely to be true in classes that require a great deal of collaboration, such as Broadcast News Production.

So are mixed grade level classes better or worse than single grade classes? Vanecek believes they both have positive, but different results. Of his class of only senior students, there is a more comfortable environment and that the seniors are all on the same page.

Whether or not mixed grade levels improve the learning environment, Stricker agrees that there are definitely other benefits.

"It's a chance for people to get to know each other, which builds community," Stricker said. ☺

It's a chance for people to get to know each other, which builds community..

Christine Stricker
Teacher

Rising gas prices a challenge for businesses, consumers

Sneha Viswanathan
Editor

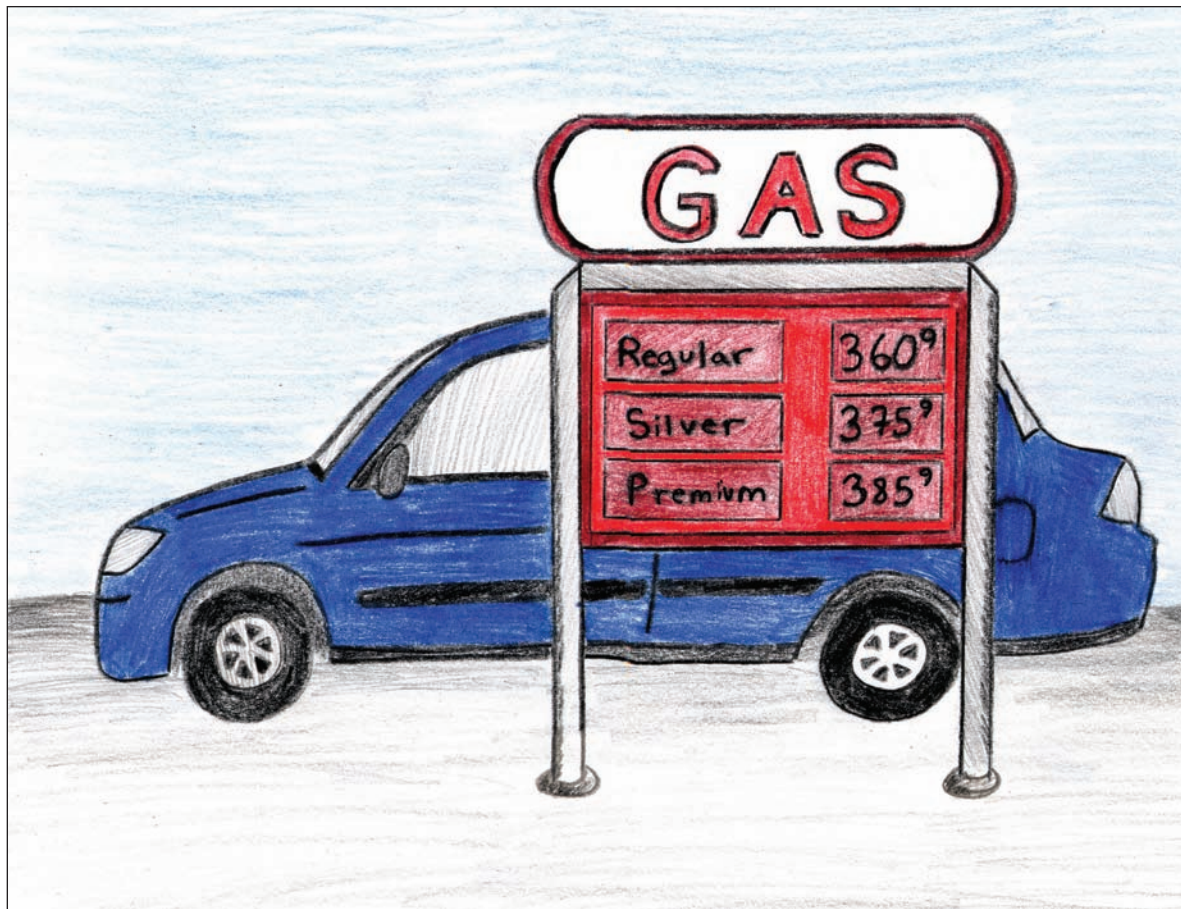
After recent drops in costs, gas prices are once again climbing, as the possibility of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike destroying southern oil refineries adds to speculations that they could soon skyrocket. Despite the worrisome economics of oil and gas prices, people in St. Louis have recognized and found solutions to the problem it presents to their daily lives.

Gas prices have had the greatest impact on small businesses in the area. Steve Pupillo, the owner of Superior Lawn and Home Care, a lawn care business based in Florissant that caters to several customers in Clayton, said that the cost of gas has had a big impact on his profit margins.

"Gas prices are affecting me in many ways, I have less income coming into the house," Pupillo said. "My income is less because I'm spending more money on gasoline to trim grass and bushes, etc, which makes me raise my prices to offset the difference between the high gas prices and my prices. I need to raise my prices to cover the costs, so that I have the same income as I did last year."

Pupillo also said that he has taken other measures to prevent raising some of his fees.

"I have a second car which has better gas mileage than my truck does, so I'm able to use that car to go on to give quotes for landscaping and other things and do different errands for the business



Helen Wiley

instead of using my truck, which uses more gas," Pupillo said. "I don't use my truck as much as I have in years before, but I use the car more often do errands

and short runs. When I have my equipment with me I have to use the truck, because the car isn't equipped to haul all that equipment around."

Pupillo also sees a direct link between rising gas prices and rising food prices. "Gas prices not only affect me, but it's definitely affecting farmers too, be-

cause of the cost of transportation to bring goods back to St. Louis. When the gas prices go up, it raises the produce prices too," Pupillo said.

Other people in St. Louis have foreseen the rising costs of gas and the environmental costs of using gasoline. Although the rising costs didn't have a direct effect on them, they have adopted more fuel-efficient habits.

"My husband and I tried to conserve gas before the high gas prices, so it hasn't affected us very much," English teacher Jennifer Sellenriek said. "My husband carools to work so he only drives one week out of the month. On the weekends we usually leave one car parked, and we walk to the grocery store as much as we can, and the library and post office; we live close to all of those things."

Some students at CHS who drive between school and other activities feel the unexpected effects of gas prices.

"It [less driving] becomes incompatible with everything that I need to do and it's just really inconvenient, so I'm more dependent on my mother," junior Anjali Dharna said.

While gas prices are affecting the bus systems of some schools, they haven't had any effect on Clayton School District buses.

By conserving fuel and finding new methods of transportation, people are gradually moving away from their dependence on gasoline and the need to pay more for it.

Math department welcomes four new teachers

Bianca Vannucci
Reporter

This year four new teachers were added to the math department, a very unusual event.

Jane Glenn, Alexandra Nagel, Jonathan Crane and Angela Caracciolo come from a variety of different backgrounds, but three of them already knew each other before coming to work at CHS.

The math department seems to be coping well with getting so many new teachers at once. Each new teacher has been assigned a "buddy" teacher to answer any question he or she might have. Janet Crewes, a teaching coach from central office, meets with the new teachers once a month and they've been getting some help also from the "technology people," as Glenn calls them.

"Everyone, from the custodians to the head principal, have made us feel like they are here to help us and have welcomed us to the 'Clayton family,'" Glenn, a former IRS tax auditor, said.

Math teacher Barb Dobbert, who has worked at CHS for 15 years, thinks the department is doing very well with the new additions.

"These are very strong teachers both in their way of teaching and their mathematical concepts," Dobbert said. "Everyone in the department is helping the new teachers acclimate to the culture of Clayton and the curriculum. It is taking a lot of time because there are so many new teachers, but it's worth it."

Glenn, who is teaching two classes of Honors Geometry,

one hour of math learning center, and two classes of Intermediate Algebra, finds CHS "wonderful, calming, welcoming and caring." Glenn then said, "I do this job because I love students." She points to Nagel, who was once her student. "She's my success story."

“Everyone, from the custodians to the head principal, have made us feel like they are here to help us and have welcomed us to the 'Clayton family.'”

Jane Glenn
Math teacher

Nagel, Glenn's former student, agrees that CHS is "energizing." She also said it is "fast-paced in a relaxed way." Nagel is teaching Trigonometry and Discrete Math, a class of Integrated Math I and a class of Algebra II. This is her first teaching job.

Crane, an ex-computer consultant with two engineering degrees has his own opinion of CHS, remarking that so far it has been "very fattening" with the math department having an over abundance of doughnuts, cookies and cake from a variety of sources. Crane, who hates Mac computers and loves jokes, teaches Integrated Math II and III and Informal Algebra II.

Caracciolo, also an addition to CHS this year is teaching Integrated I, Integrated I Support and Geometry. Caracciolo comes from Ohio and graduated from the University of Dayton.

She moved to St. Louis four years ago. "I'm enjoying CHS," she said, she then added, "I'm excited about working with a group of students and teachers who have such a passion for education."

Despite their disagreements on how to best describe CHS, everything is running smoothly so far. The veteran math teachers are filling the new ones in and so far it is all adding up.



Tom Maxin

Street law class teaches more than constitution

Katie Lefton
Reporter

Street Law: the new American Government. This class, taught by history teacher Mark Bayles, is the third option for a government credit.

Other classes for this credit are American Government and AP US Government and Politics.

Senior Olivia Hayes is enrolled in the street law class, as a substitute for American Government.

"I really enjoy the class as an alternative to American government," Hayes said.

"It teaches the legal side of government," Bayles said. "The constitution part is still nuts and bolts, the checks and balances, but we have things like case law."

The class teaches family law and civil law. The constitution is a part of government class that is required to be in the class by Missouri law.

"Some examples of family law would be marriage and divorce," Bayles said. "Criminal law is criminal law, and case studies are what they say"

Street law also touches on a juvenile law and a little criminal law as well. Stu-

dents study cases including constitutional landmark cases, roots of western law and local laws.

"To study case law we study the Supreme Court and case results, but we work backwards to understand it better," Bayles

To pass street law, students must pass both exams given over the semester.

"AP history is, of course, the hardest, but street law is still a challenge," Bayles said.

Bayles wanted the students to know that this does not mean that American government is an easy class. All classes junior year are challenging.

"It's a great class for people with specific interests," Bayles said. "I would recommend it for any student interested in law."

Street law is offered sixth hour for juniors and seniors only. Students seem to be enjoying the class, so it will stick around for a few more years.

"I think [Street law] is more focused on the legal system than simply on the constitution. The course allows me to link our topics to court cases and how they changed the constitution today," Hayes said.

Women's show choir returns

After a hiatus of many years, an all-girls show choir will join the regular Show Choir at CHS events.

Caitlin Kropp
Reporter

On a typical Wednesday morning at 7:45 a.m. the music wing is empty and quiet, the air undisturbed. Suddenly, a sound breaks the silence, a sound that hasn't been heard in CHS for a very long time: the sound of a Women's Show Choir practicing.

For at least 15 years, CHS has hosted a Show Choir, comprised of boys and girls, who perform show tunes together. Being a member of regular choir is a requirement in order to join Show Choir, and due to the lack of boys in regular choir, there aren't many in Show Choir.

To compensate for this, only a limited number of girls can be taken on. This has been a well-kept tradition over the years, and one that choir director Alice Fasman recently decided to expand upon.

"There are many qualified women for Mixed Show Choir but not enough openings," Fasman said. "I thought it would be fun to see if there would be enough women to make a Women's Show Choir."

The idea of a Women's Show Choir has certainly gone over well with the



Andrew Dowd

Senior Rebecca Singer demonstrates a dance move to members of show choir. New this year, the Show Choir has a dedicated girls chorus.

members of the choir. It gives the girls more time to practice singing, as well as meet with friends.

"I like singing, and I wanted to sing more than just once a day in Choir Class," freshman Georgina Kluser in the Women's Show Choir said.

The girls in Women's Show Choir meet every Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 a.m. to practice. Musically, the women will sing a wide range of songs.

"We are going to sing some songs from musicals, as well as pop and jazz," Fasman said, "and we're going to add a little choreography if we can."

It sounds ambitious, but Fasman seems to be an old pro at this. She's been directing the Show Choir for seven years, and even had a Women's Show Choir when she first arrived at CHS. As for the

girls, Women's Show Choir isn't all about performing.

"We typically warm up vocally and then sing through a couple of songs while learning the notes," Fasman said. "We work on style and tone production as well."

Finally, Fasman has extended an open invitation to anyone who would like to join Women's Show Choir.

"If anyone is interested in singing with us," said Fasman, "they should come see me!"

Backing her up is Kluser, who encourages anyone with a passion for singing to join.

"Girls who like to sing should think about joining Women's Show Choir," Kluser said, "because it's really fun and doesn't matter what grade you're in."

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Club News

Black Student Union:

BSU was organized to replace 4As, which was an organization for African American girls. BSU is a coed organization and open to all students. The organization was created to service the needs and interests of Black students here at CHS. BSU sponsors the Spring Talent Show as a scholarship fundraiser. The Talent Show will be April 3, 2009. In addition, in the spring, BSU hopes to sponsor a college tour of several historically Black universities.

The organization meets on Wednesdays, after school, in the Greyhound room. Science teacher Mike Sankey, history teacher Donna Rogers-Bear, college counselor Caroline Blair and history department assistant Byron Lee are the faculty sponsors.

Peers Protecting Peers:

Mission: Peers Protecting Peers will promote responsible decisions among peers by setting positive examples and raising safety awareness.

The club meets during lunch periods in the Activities Office and has some of the best food. New members are always welcome. Our meetings are in the announcements and on flyers around the school. Contact a sponsor and get on our e-mail list.

In the past our goals have centered around seat belt safety and eliminating underage drinking. Activities have included creating safety messages at school dances, PSAs and video announcements, a film for Clayton's Town Hall on Underage Drinking, and student run assemblies as well as working at the Arts Fair. The club won the St. Louis County Battle of the Belt for having the most students wearing their seat belts as they left school.

This year's activities will be decided by our members and supported by our sponsors Anne Wilding and Erik Hamylak.

Amnesty International

The club focuses on letter-writing and special projects to promote human rights globally. It meets every Wednesday any time before school in Room 110A within the Learning Center to write letters, and the 2nd and 4th Wed. mornings each month to plan actions. Past successes include benefit concerts, special speaker and panel assemblies, teach-ins, war memorials, and Human Rights Day recognitions, on issues in Tibet, Iraq-Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Jena, Louisiana.

Model United Nations

Students in this club research, strategize, and compete in multi-school St. Louis Area Model UN network. Each student represents a different country, drafts a one-page resolution on a given set of issues, and debates and votes on the most interesting proposals at the 2-3 all-day conferences with the collaborating schools.

The club meets biweekly as the conferences approach, usually there is one in fall, one in winter, and sometimes one in spring in Room 110A within the Learning Center.

Opera Club

This club attends and appreciates live, broadcast, and DVD performances of opera.

Listen to the announcements about when this group will meet in Room 110A within the Learning Center.



LAYTON HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL

This year, CHS celebrates its one hundredth anniversary, honoring the teachers, students, and Clayton community that have contributed to a century of excellence.

CHS celebrates 100 years of excellence

Leah Eby
Senior Managing Editor

This year in Clayton history marks the one hundredth anniversary of CHS. In 1909, Clayton High School was introduced and soon became a prominent school in the St. Louis area. The next year, the first graduating class marched across the stage to receive their diplomas as the Class of 1910.

Throughout the past one hundred years, CHS has transformed from a small school in suburbia into a bustling center of academic, extracurricular, and social leadership. CHS consistently ranks among the top schools in both Missouri and the United States, and Principal Louise Losos said she believes that the history of Clayton excellence is due to the combination of great teachers, great parents, and a supportive community.

"I feel honored to be a part of the legacy of Clayton High School," Losos said.

Assistant Principal Dan Gutchewsky agrees with Losos and believes that being a part of the Clayton community and the outstanding excellence of CHS is something to aspire to.

"I'm very proud to say I'm associated with the high school," Gutchewsky said. "When I came to Clayton it was almost surprising to me because everybody you meet - from the custodians to the superintendents to the teachers to the kids - everybody is pretty amazing, and I enjoy working with everyone. It's cool to be part of a team where everybody is very good at what they do."

Though centennial celebrations to honor CHS and the school's legacy of academic and social excellence have not yet been finalized, district members are anticipating numerous activities and events aimed to glorify the past one hundred years of Clayton excellence.

Chris Tennill, Director of Communications for the School District of Clayton, has been spearheading the campaign for the centennial celebrations and said that the district has decided to stretch the anniversary celebrations over two years in order to commemorate both the one hundredth year of CHS and the one hundredth graduating class. Gutchewsky added that this fall, the school district will begin advertising the coming festivities.

"We're marking this homecoming as a kickoff of two years of celebrations," Gutchewsky said. "We'll have various celebrations continuing through the graduating class of next year."

Though Tennill insisted that centennial celebration plans are merely rough ideas at this point, he said that a Clayton Hall of Fame, including an introductory gala and annual inductions, was one proposal that would bring back many alumni and respectfully honor the past one hundred years of CHS.

Though many in the Clayton community are excitedly anticipating the proposed centennial celebrations, Tennill believes that the prestige of CHS is enough of a reward for one hundred years of excellence.

"Whether or not there's a celebration going on, people are always interested in being a part of the district," Tennill said. "It's a pretty neat thing, and the centennial celebration is just the icing on the cake."



Photos clockwise from left: James P. David, poses with his 1936 varsity football squad. A group of CHS band members pose outside of the old high school on Maryland. Members of the class of 1916 listen attentively in a classroom. A group of girls from the class of 1944 pose outside the Dump, a popular lunch hangout for students. The beginning of a race showing Gay Field in its near infancy in the 1930s. The completion of the new school after 1954.



1954
Clayton High School moved from Maryland Ave. to 1 Mark Twain Circle. The district also began mandatory desegregation of schools.



1964
On Feb. 10, the Clayton Board of Education voted unanimously to prohibit smoking at the high school, except in places designated for smoking.



1985
A new track made of Durasport was installed at Gay Field that cost approximately a quarter of a million dollars.

1994
CHS earned a spot on a list of twenty six exemplary public high schools in the nation.

2000
Construction of the Center of Clayton, the Commons, the math wing, and the music wing was completed.

2006
The construction of Centene Stadium at Gay Field was completed.



1909
Clayton High School was established.

1963-64
The Missouri Division of Public Schools awarded CHS a AAA rating, the highest rating available.

1981
Clayton agreed to adopt participate in a voluntary interdistrict transfer program.

1989
The CLAMO Newspaper was renamed The Globe after the globe statue was installed at the school entrance.

1996
The School District of Clayton became wired to the internet.



Photos courtesy of the School District of Clayton



Alumni grateful for time at CHS

Fontasha Powell
Senior Managing Editor

With the CHS celebrating its hundredth anniversary this school year, ninety-nine previous CHS classes are out in the real world and feel prepared for their future. Not only do many CHS alumni have fond memories of their times at CHS, but they also feel that the energetic, supportive environment of the high school positively impacted their futures.

"I have no doubt that Clayton High School prepares its graduates and affords them every opportunity to excel once they move beyond its walls," said a CHS graduate of 1993. "I was never more sure of my education. The scope of my knowledge and the depth of my abilities far surpassed that of my classmates in college. Never once during my college years did I work as hard nor was I challenged as much as I was at Clayton."

Judith Aronson was the first CHS graduate elected to the school board in the 1960s. Not only did she believe that the high school taught her, but she also believed it to be magical.

"It was Camelot," said Aronson. "It was a district full of average geniuses and everyone believed in the magic of education."

Alumnus Steven Westbrook, class of 1998, not only appreciates Clayton for the academic preparation that it provided, but also enjoyed the relaxed social environment that was maintained.

"I loved the environment at Clayton because it was so laid back," Westbrook said. "When I was there, for the most part, everyone was friends with everyone. It was like a big school full of friends."

Clare Harding Sanford, class of 1952, attended CHS during World War II. She thinks that despite the panicked atmosphere in the country during these times, the district remained joyous.

"Even though our parents had suffered from the Depression and our elementary school days were scarred by WWII, it seems like a remarkably happy, innocent time," said Sanford in the 1950s. "Even now, we are grounded in an optimistic sense of our own worth and a conviction that events in our lives, even the most dire, can be woven into a positive world view. Our teachers taught us a lot more than reading, writing and arithmetic."

A graduate of 1944 said that he thought that Clayton High was always technologically forward and innovative in its teaching methods.

"I have always felt that the Clayton School system during the years I attended was the most progressive," a graduate from the class of 1944 said. "I became even more aware of this as I grew older and read 'innovations' in other schools which I had enjoyed in my school years."

Lastly, CHS alumni find that they incorporate teachings from the high school into their everyday lives. Jeri I. Hochman, class of 1970, not only loved the teachings of Clayton High School but also followed their patterns.

"We were so fortunate to have had the best [teachers]," Hochman said. "They knew us, they cared about us, and they taught us well. And I find that I plan and teach from their modeling."



Photos clockwise from left: Bystanders watch the ground breaking of the site for Clayton High School's new location in 1954. Students walk to class through the CHS quad before the Commons was built. Cheerleaders and students prep for the homecoming parade. Teachers and students dine in the old cafeteria that was remodeled in 1998 to create the math wing. The previous CHS library was much smaller than it is today.



A trip down memory lane

Three alumni remember
their times at Clayton
High School.

My fondest memories were of my friends and I at 'the dump'- the hangout right across the street from the school.

Betty Oberman
Class of 1948



Courtesy of Betty Oberman

"We used to go to Pevely fountain and bring our lunches to eat there. I met my boyfriend, now my husband, there."



Joan Waldman
Class of 1945

Courtesy of Joan Waldman

"When you walked in the front door you could go back outside to an open area where your commons are now."

Sherry Eisenberg
Class of 1974



Courtesy of Sherry Eisenberg

Soccer hounds 'Do work' in hope of a winning season

Fontasha Powell
Senior Managing Editor

Although the boys soccer team started their season 0-5, they last few games have really turned it around, bringing their current record 2-5. Although the hounds lost 12 seniors from the district winning team that advanced to state last year, senior captain

David Schlessman said that the team is learning to deal with the losses.

"Losing the graduating players is something that we have to deal with," Schlessman said. "This year we don't have our talent concentrated in a few power players, but rather, dispersed throughout the team."

Sophomore Josh Goldstein, the team's sweeper, agreed with Schlessman.

"This year, because we lost 12 seniors, our team is a lot younger and we don't have as much experience in tough games," Goldstein said. "Without Parker [Rawdon] and Scott [Belsky] setting up goals, we've had to work harder and find new ways to score goals."

Schlessman thinks that despite the loss of last year's tremendous talent, this year's team has a considerable amount of younger talent and everyone is working together to achieve success.

"This year, everyone has stepped up," Schlessman said. "The current sophomores who were freshmen last year have grown in size and talent and stepped up as ball

handlers. Even though we only have a few returning seniors from last year's varsity team, everyone is making a difference."

Charlie Harned is part of the young talent that the soccer hounds have gained. Harned, a wing midfielder is one of the two freshmen on varsity and also is working hard, despite some obstacles.

"Being on varsity is sometimes sort of a challenge and I have to carry the water around," Harned said. "Everyone else is more advanced and more mature, stronger and more skilled. But we have manage to keep up."



Defensive player and Co-Captain David Schlessman makes a run up the line during a game against Ritenour in mid September. The Hounds lost 1-0 because of a penalty kick due to a questionable foul committed by sweeper Josh Goldstein in the first half. This game marked their fifth loss of the season. However, the Hounds managed to win the two subsequent games.

Harned and Goldstein believe that the team's strong senior leadership helps make up for this year's younger roster.

"I admire and respect David Schlessman and Matt Reznick," Goldstein said. "Last year they weren't big leaders, but this year they've really stepped it up and they're both captains. They play good defense with me and are good leaders."

Harned agreed. "I respect Matt Reznick and David Schlessman because they don't mess around," Harned said. "They're vocal on

the field and they tell us where we need to be. When we need someone to step up, they always step it up."

Despite the current losing record, the team has been working hard to turn that around.

"Our record doesn't reflect how we play," Goldstein said. "We got off on a slow start, being 0-5, but we've really focused and worked hard, and since then we've been 2-0."

Schlessman agreed with Goldstein. "Especially this year, because of

MSSHA rules, we had to start pre-season a week late," Schlessman said. "We've put in a lot of conditioning so that we can play an 80 minute game. We've also been building team spirit and unity. We do that just by running together and working together. We support each other because we're working hard and give each other a shoulder to lean on."

Although still early in the season, the team has had a series of highs and lows. Harned thinks that losing to McCluer was the lowest point of the season so far.

"Losing to McCluer 1-0 was a big disappointment," Harned said. "We had a bunch of scoring opportunities but we couldn't finish."

For Goldstein, the lowest point of the season was losing to Ritenour. In the Ritenour game, the hounds lost 1-0 because of a penalty kick that was given for a questionable foul that was called in the first half.

"Our fifth loss to Ritenour was a disappointment because we were already 0-4, then we lost another game," Gold-

stein said.

Regardless of disappointments, the hounds have had season highs. Harned thinks that the high of the season so far was beating Webster.

"Winning against Webster was great because it was the first win of the season," Harned said. "We played really strong defense and scored a really great goal."

Goldstein is looking forward to the Ladue game in addition to districts.

"I'm looking forward to playing Ladue and seeing how we do in districts," Goldstein said. "Ladue is always a big rivalry and districts will be fun because we're a young team that wants to have fun and we don't have very much to lose."

Schlessman agreed with Goldstein. He thinks that the record is not the priority, but rather executing good soccer at districts.

"We're not worried about our record," Schlessman said. "When districts come around, the record really won't matter, so we're focusing all of our efforts on districts."

Harned is also looking forward to districts and doesn't believe that the success of last year's team will negatively affect how districts go this year.

"I don't think that there is an unfair expectation for us to win districts this year because last year's team did, but I do think there's a good chance for us to win," Harned said. "We aren't the best team that Clayton's ever had, but we work hard and play good soccer."

Schlessman was in agreement with both Goldstein and Harned. Not only does he hope to win districts but he also fairly optimistic that the team is capable of doing so.

"I hope to go as least as far as we did last year and win districts because I think we can," Schlessman said. "Any given team can win on any day and I think we can take this program as far as we want it to. As a senior it would be great to go farther than we did last year, and that's what I'm aiming for. Go Hounds." ☺

Greyhound football striving for intense, successful season

Evan Green
Editor

The Clayton Greyhound football team hit the ground running this year with a big 47-22 win over the visiting Lutheran North Crusaders. The season started with a bang as the score was 20-14 in favor Clayton with seven minutes into the quarter.

The game was exactly how the Hounds wanted to start the season as they came out in the third quarter strong to take the lead for good and put the game away.

"We still need to improve our intensity and our focus at times," junior wide receiver Devonte Bell said.

Bell had four catches for 131 yards and a touchdown in the game as he made his varsity football debut. As well, senior wide receiver Alex Hill picked up from where he left off last year, having seven receptions for 120 yards and an amazing three touchdown catches.

But the biggest headline of the game was not the amazing receiving stats, but the stats that the player throwing those receivers put up.

Senior quarterback Adam Banks started the season on an exceptional note, as he completed 14 of his 17 pass attempts for 273 yards and no interceptions. What is more amazing is that Banks threw for four touchdowns (therefore he had more touchdown passes than incompletions) and rushed for two more for a total of six touchdowns in roughly three quarters of work.

"I've really been working on my decision making, but being able to look people off is another key to any success I have on the field," Banks said.

After the Lutheran North game, the football Hounds went on the road to St. Francis Borgia to take on the Knights. While that game did not go as planned for the Hounds (losing 27-7), the team still took several positives out of the experience.

"We learned that we just need to continue to get better day in and day out

at practice as it relates to each individual player," varsity head coach Sam Horrell said.

Nothing in the game went particularly well for the team after the first drive in which Banks found Bell for a 77-yard touchdown pass. While the field was wet, which detracted from the team's good speed, the Hounds don't wish to make excuses for the loss.

"The field conditions weren't ideal, but we still shouldn't have made some of the mistakes that we did," senior safety and captain Hal Lewis said.

In the Hounds' third game, they faced the misplaced Ladue Rams at home for the second year in a row. Because the Rams' football field is being renovated, they are having their home games at Gay Field, which was still essentially a home game for the Hounds.

In the game, the team stumbled out of the gate, falling behind 14-0 in the first quarter before eventually righting the ship. The team cut the lead in half with 41 seconds remaining in the second quarter on a four-yard pass from Banks to senior running back Lamar Cotton.

Banks finished the game 10 for 22 for 150 yards and a touchdown with no interceptions yet again.

In the second half, the Hounds came out of the gate strong as they took control of the game, tying the score with three seconds left in the third quarter on a Banks 36-yard touchdown run.

"I worked on improving my speed over the summer and it really came in handy there," Banks said.

With the defense essentially shutting down the Ram offense, the Hounds began to win the battle of field possession before finally capitalizing two minutes into the final quarter of play. Banks gave the Hounds the lead on a 30-yard scamper that ignited the crowd into a frenzy.

The rest of the game, the defense held the Rams, finishing off the victory.

On the defensive side of the ball, Lewis led the team with 12 total tackles,



The CHS Varsity Football Hounds faced rivals the Ladue Rams on Sept. 12. Photos clockwise from left: The Hounds complete a play against Ladue. The Hounds face off against the Ladue Rams. Teammates watch as the CHS Hounds tie up the game in the third quarter. Banks prepares to throw a pass down the field.

while Cotton contributed 10 solo tackles and junior linebacker Graham Gold added eight tackles.

The Hounds feel that they really gained valuable knowledge from the game.

"That game taught us that we need to play the whole game with the intensity we came out with in the second half," Banks said.

Horrell believes that the Hounds

should take several positives from the game.

"Our character, perseverance and ability to never give up and keep working together played a big key to the victory," Horrell said.

Looking to the future, the Hounds are at Berkeley on Sept. 20, before returning home for the big Homecoming game against the Chaminade Red Devils.



Jessica Shen

"We are already focusing on the next game, and really trying to take the season one game at a time and not get ahead of ourselves," Banks said.

As for the rest of the season, some Hounds have set personal goals for themselves.

"I would really just like to catch six or seven touchdown passes," Bell said.

In the bigger picture, however, the team set goals for everyone before the

season started.

"We want to win our conference and district titles," Banks said.

All of that and more are expected of a team so filled with talent, and thus far, they appear to be lead by players with the right mentality. And that is the type of mentality that builds up to bigger and bigger achievements, such achievements that the Hounds are striving for this season. ☺

2008 Varsity Boys' Soccer Schedule

Sept. 27 - 12 p.m. vs. Chaminade - Homecoming game

Oct. 3 - 7 p.m. @ EH Lyle

Oct. 10 - 7 p.m. vs. Affton

Oct. 18 - 12 p.m. @ U-City

Oct. 25 - 2 p.m. @ Normandy

Oct. 30 - 7 p.m. vs. Jennings

2008 Varsity Football Schedule

Oct. 2 - 4:15 p.m. @ Lutheran North

Oct. 3 - 4:15 p.m. @ Westminster

Oct. 6 - 4:15 p.m. vs. Parkway North

Oct. 7 - 5:30 p.m. @ Affton

Oct. 13 - 4:15 p.m. @ U-City

Oct. 15 - 6 p.m. @ Kirkwood

Down for the count: Sports injuries deplete rosters

Tom Evashwick
Reporter

Down for the Count
Every day, thousands of people enjoy the "Snap, Crackle, Pop" of Rice Krispie treats.

In any given sports season, hundreds of teenagers hear that same sound, and then it is the dread that hits their stomachs. All around the world, teams ranging from local little leagues to the New England Patriots suffer from the gap left by injured players. CHS sports teams are no exception. About three athletes are injured for every one thousand that participate in any kind of team activity.

Boys' football comes in with the highest rate of injury – about five of one thousand high school athletes are injured, followed by boys' soccer at 2.5 injuries per thousand exposures. Because they are statistically the two most risky sports, it is no surprise that they are the two Clayton teams that have been affected the most.

The injury bug seems to have hurt the boys' soccer team more than football, though.

On the varsity soccer team, 10 out of the 27 players have missed practices or games due to injuries. Midfielders Colton Smith (senior) and Josh Few (junior) have more significant injuries and will be out for the entire season.

"[The injuries] shortened our bench of available players," varsity head coach Matt Balossi said.

Balossi cites the loss of a week during the preseason as a major cause of the injuries.

"Our fitness just isn't what it should be," Balossi said.

Because of the lack of fitness and the list of active players shrinking, Balossi said the preparation for games has been focused more on fitness than in the past.

Junior forward Casey Lawlor was on that injured list. He sprained his ankle multiple times in the first game of the season. Lawlor missed a few weeks, but has since returned. Due to his injury, he now has to wear a brace for the upcoming weeks. However, he admits that while he can now play, the effects will be felt for a while.

"Playing with the injury could hinder my ability," Lawlor said.

While the varsity football team hasn't been affected in the same ways as the soccer team, they have lost some important



Trainer Carrie Sickmann attends to sophomore soccer player Josh Goldstein's ankle during the Hounds' game against Ritenour. Goldstein was injured making a slide tackle that resulted in him receiving a red card.

players for long periods of time. Juniors Claude Keaton, Nick Van Almsick, and senior Ben Stamp are all athletes who

“There is occasionally someone who gets knocked in the knee, but we play through it, we're tough.”

Izzy Fratt
Junior

were returning to a starting position or in contention for one before getting hurt. Varsity head coach Sam Horrell said the injuries hurt the team, but the game plan hasn't been altered to accommodate for the hurt players.

"Everyone on the team is more than capable of stepping in at any time," Horrell said.

Ben Stamp, a senior tight end, has recently returned from injury. Stamp broke his finger diving for a ball during practice.

"Drew Hall (the tight end while Stamp was out) is doing a great job," Stamp said, but Stamp fully intends to

regain his starting job. Stamp believes that he will make a full recovery and still be a major part of the team this season.

"I think I'll be fine once I get the little cast off," Stamp said.

Stamp missed about a month of the season, and cannot play until he has 14 days of practices according to MSHSAA regulations. This rule is in place for all school-sponsored sports to try to prevent injuries and for the athlete to have ample opportunity to get into shape. Even some professional sports have begun to institute measure to further ensure the safety of their players.

In professional football, the "horse collar" tackle has been outlawed since Dallas Cowboys receiver Terrell Owens broken his leg being tackled in such a way. A horse collar tackle is when the ball carrier is dragged down by the "collar" of his pads from behind, and a number of injuries have occurred from such tackles.

This season, college football is also implementing the same rule as the pros,



but in high school football, the tackle is still legal. Horrell said that there have been no such rule changes in the high school game in the recent years.

A few years ago, a new soccer rule was implemented to try to prevent injury. The slide tackle from behind now warrants at least a yellow card, but more commonly a red card, which immediately expels the player for the rest of the game and the next game as well, not to

mention that the team must then finish the game with one less player on the field.

The girls' field hockey team has mostly avoided the injury plague. Junior Izzy Fratt has been one of the few to miss any time at all, but has fully recovered from a minor knee injury.

"There is occasionally someone who gets knocked in the knee, but we play through it, we're tough," Fratt said.

Turf Tales



Evan Green

Century for CHS

Clayton High School. The school with such high academic and athletic standards. The school where merely getting B's is considered below average. The long and rich tradition is one that continues to go on, from generation to generation.

As the 100th school year has begun, it feels only proper to go through the many ways that CHS has excelled throughout the past century. Whether that is the TEAMS competitors that annually places first nationally or the mock trial team that seemingly always goes to state.

Or the debate team that always excels in several categories at the state competition. Not to mention the recent DECA and Math Club successes. Or even the many, many national awards that our very own Globe newspaper has won. The very same Globe that is in the National Newspaper Hall of Fame, a great honor for any high school newspaper, and a strong list of other awards that have been won and cherished by each generation of students, achievements that need to be continued.

The rich tradition traditions hail from Clayton's profound excellence in so many sports.

From our gridiron dominance to our recent soccer district title, and to our tennis and newfound softball superiority, to our basketball court dominance, to our recent state title game run in lacrosse, and even onto the baseball diamond, Clayton has truly become an all-around great school to play for. And what student will ever forget the state championship win in the 2004 state football title game?

The giant rush that an athlete feels as they slip into the jersey with their schools name on it is one that cannot be put into words. For it is finally a jersey to play for the name on the front and not on the back.

Clayton High School is much different than most.

We are proud of our sports teams, proud of our open campus policy, proud of having the highest test scores of all public schools in the state, proud of our outstanding showings on AP tests, proud of our sports rivalries and chants, and especially proud of our long-standing traditions.

Those traditions range from the Bonfire to the C-L-A chant; from the Penny War to decorating the commons; from reading the Globe in the commons to watching GNN every Friday; from the Impact Soccer tournament to the Dodgeball Tournament; from Powderpuff football the weekend before Homecoming to the Arts Fair every spring; and knowing that come the end of May, there will always be a senior prank. These are all built in traditions in CHS history, 100 years of history.

As we enter this century mark at Clayton High, remember our traditions, keep these special traditions going, because in a world of change after high school, these are the little things that will make you long for your days back at CHS, the days that go by much too fast as we as high school students are often reminded.

So go to the Bonfire, shout as loud as you can at sporting events, and remember to always strive to make CHS proud, in any way possible.

So, as the great Ron Burgundy would say, "Stay classy CHS."

New districts, new problems

Kevin Matheny
Reporter

This year, the districts have changed, somewhat for the worse. A district is the group of teams that any given team goes on to play in the first round of the post-season before going to the state playoffs. A team may or may not play all the teams in its district during the regular season but once the season ends, the district playoffs start. The winner of each district goes on to play in the state tournament, a huge honor in itself. Among the teams with realigned districts are boys' varsity soccer and girls' varsity tennis.

The Missouri State High School Athletic Association (MSHSAA), the governing body for all Missouri high school sports, is the sole entity responsible for district assignments.

Districts are changed every two years by MSHSAA, no exceptions. This system allows the state to compensate for the dynamic changes in high school sports.

The criteria for the district assignments, as stated by MSHSAA, are geographic proximity and approximate numerical balance. This means that MSHSAA tries to put teams in districts together that are close to each other and have comparable enrollment numbers. Enrollments change quickly, so MSHSAA compensates by changing the districts accordingly every two years.

One criterion that MSHSAA doesn't consider is past success, but this is something every school cares about. Districts greatly affect the outcome of Clayton teams in the postseason.

"The fallacy is that the state controls who goes where, and district assignments

have a huge impact on the success of our teams in the postseason," Athletic Director Bob Bone said. "It's nearly impossible to keep everyone happy."

An example of the possible fallacy is the soccer Hounds' new district. Clayton's district includes class two powerhouses Westminster, MICDS and Priory, teams that have had great success historically and recently. If the soccer Hounds would have stayed in the same district, they would have a new addition of St. Mary's, giving the old district three competitive teams in Affton, Lutheran South and St. Mary's, leading varsity head soccer coach Matt Balossi to have a different take on the matter.

"In either district we would have three strong teams to compete with,"

Balossi said. "In terms of our level of competition in the post-season, not much has changed."

Varsity tennis has changes this year also. Rival and strong competitor John Burroughs has moved out of the Hounds' district and Nerinx has moved in. With MICDS also entering the district, the tennis Hounds have a tougher district than last year.

"Although districts have changed," varsity tennis player Katherine Greenberg said, "We're not sure if it will have effects on our run at state. We're going to have to take what we get and play our best."

The only way a district can be changed is if the school perceives a mistake in its location based on the other schools in its district. MSHSAA reviews and makes changes accordingly. Overall individual schools have little power, making schools adjust and take the changes in stride.

"We have no control and we have to take what we get," Bone said.



Mark your calendar for the upcoming PTO dates:

**Sept. 26 - Homecoming Bonfire at fire pit
by Ice Rink In Sahw Park**

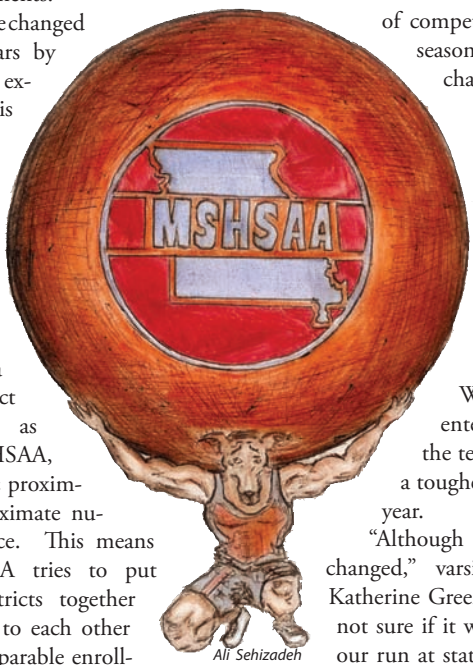
**Sept. 27 - Homecoming Parade, Football
Game, Dance**

Oct. 6 - PTO Meeting in CHS Library, 7 p.m.

Oct. 25 - Halloween Dance

Nov. 3 - PTO Meeting in CHS Library, 7 p.m.

**Check our website for complete information,
www.clayton.k12.mo.us/chspto**



Ali Sehzadeh

Hard work pays off for varsity Hounds

Evan Green
Editor

Adam Banks' entire football career has led to this season. The senior quarterback has made sure that it will be a memorable one already. Banks has started for the varsity team since he was a sophomore and his experience has helped him to be in the position he is in now. That position is to make a deep run into the playoffs as the starting quarterback. Banks led the season off for the Hounds with a bang. In passing for four touchdowns and running for two more, Banks led the team to a 47-22 victory over the visiting Lutheran North Crusaders. In the game, Banks was 14-17 for 273 yards, not to mention the zero interceptions, a trend Banks wants to continue. In the Hounds' first three games, Banks has not thrown a single interception. This is something that Banks has been striving to improve.

"I still feel that I need to better my decision making in terms of knowing when to throw the ball away instead of trying to force it," Banks said.

In the Hounds' second win, Banks lit up the Ladue defense on the ground, rushing for 147 yards on 15 carries. While the passing game was not as it usually was, Banks made the offense work for the Hounds, rushing for two touchdowns and throwing for another to lead the team to a comeback win over the rival Rams.

With the team down 14-0, Banks slowly but surely took over the game, leading the Hounds to the 21-14 win. While the victory was definitely a team effort, Banks played a crucial part in

making sure that the senior class did not go out on a low note in the rivalry.

Over the off-season, Banks made great improvements in his game.

"I ran with Coach [Barry] Ford and lifted with Coach [Sam] Horrell," Banks said.

His work ethic has helped him get to another level with his game, and several colleges are now scouting Banks as part of the reward.

"Some Division III schools are looking at me, as well as Yale and Penn," Banks said.

Playing college football is what most high school athletes that take the field every Friday night dream of, but for Banks, this has always been a goal.

Banks is 29-56 for 550 yards (a 117.2 passer rating through three games), as well as six touchdown passes and no interceptions. He believes this is because of parts of his game that he has bettered.

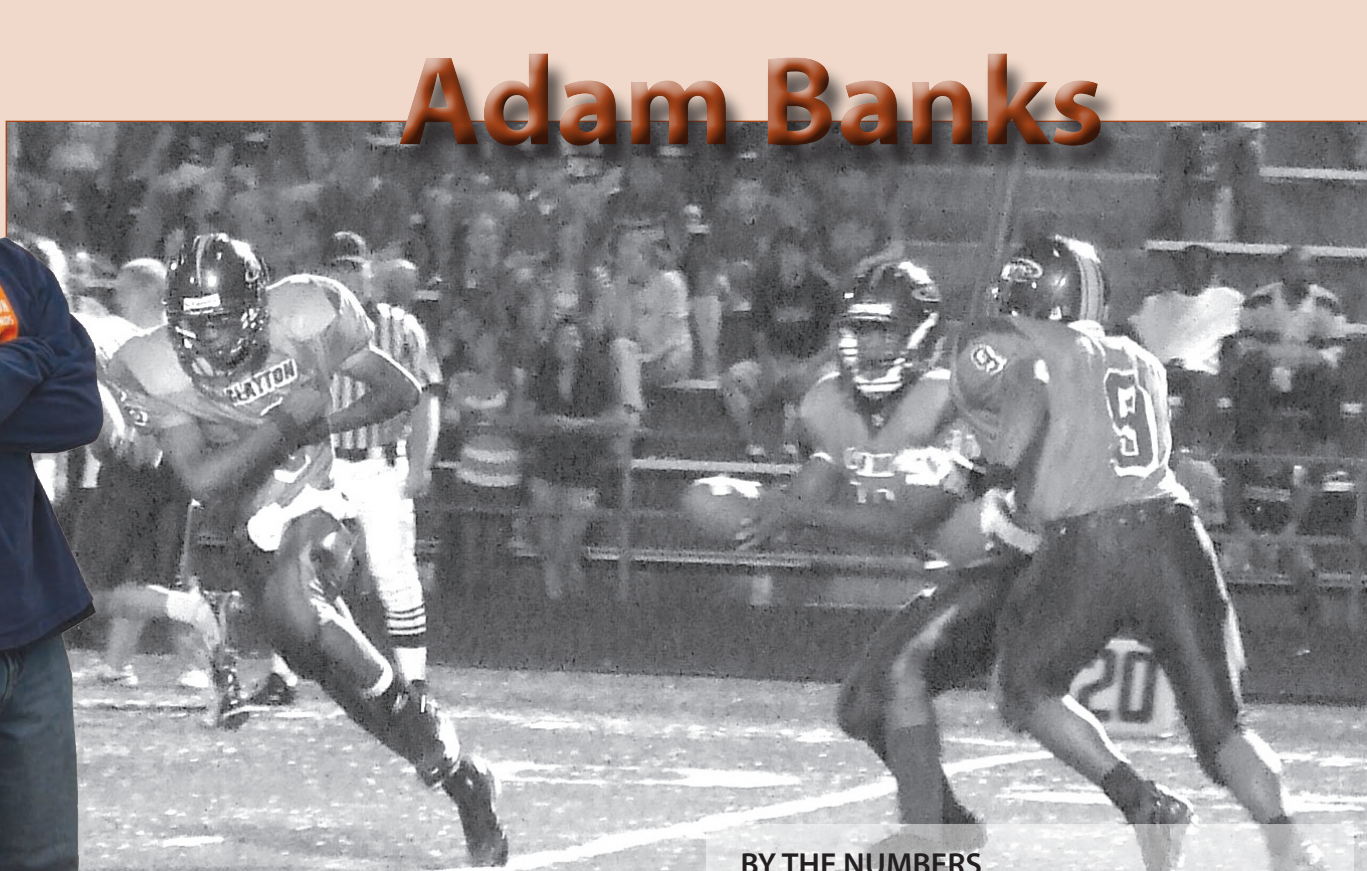
"I've improved my speed and my footwork for this season," Banks said.

Banks' speed has indeed been on display on Friday nights thus far this season. The senior quarterback has rushed for 230 yards and four touchdowns on just 28 carries.

With the team off to a great start, Banks still has goals for the rest of the season.

"I still want to make first team all-conference and to throw for 2,000 yards," Banks said.

With the way that the season has gone so far, those goals may not be so far out of reach for the third year starter as he continues to lead the Hounds to gridiron glory. ☺



Adam Banks

BY THE NUMBERS

Completions: 31 of 63 for 565 yards	Quarterback Rating: 108.6
Touchdowns: 6 TD, 0 INT	Rushing Touchdowns: 4

Any time you have a player that works as hard and puts in as much time as Adam does to be successful, he is only going to get better. He has matured and grown as all athletes do from their junior to senior year.

--Coach Sam Horrell

FOOTBALL

QUARTERBACK



The varsity cross country Hounds with Coach Kurtis Werner break before their race at the Forest Park Cross Country Festival.

X country team trying to find its stride

Christian Thomas
Reporter

With the new fall sports season underway, many cross country runners, along with their coaches, are enthusiastic about the team's potential this year.

"Overall, I think we have a good team on the girls' side," senior co-captain Katie Poplawski said.

Some new assistant coaches are rounding out the help available to the Hounds.

"Coach [Kurtis] Werner provides the discipline, Coach [Erin] Sucher provides a lot of running know-how, while Coach [Mike] Nelke provides moral support," sophomore Jack Hodapp said.

This is Hodapp's second season on the cross country team. Poplawski's expectations for the team are very high.

"I am looking for the girls to improve upon last year's season," Poplawski said.

Sucher sees several potential bright spots on the team.

"I think our best shots at having state contenders are freshman Nicole Indovino and junior Simone Bernstein for the girls and senior Krishna Vemulapalli, Lewis Koppman and Dylan Cockson for the boys," Sucher said. This is Sucher's first year as assistant coach for the running Hounds.

"The guys are capable of a big season as well," Hodapp said. "I personally worked hard during the off-season. My goal for the season is to run a race in under 20 minutes this year."

According to the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA), a cross country race lasts 5000 meters or roughly just over three miles.

After their first two meets on Sept. 5 and Sept. 13, the Hounds are optimistic about the rest of the season.

"It was a great chance to see where we compare among other schools," Hodapp said. "We did well, however, we still need to improve"

"As coaches we are pleased with the effort put forth by the entire team," Nelke said.

This is Nelke's second year on the cross-country coaching staff.

"It is good to see the runners with so much dedication to be able to come to practice everyday after school. As a coach, I know the running is very challenging; however, soon the hard work will pay off."



Seniors Krishna Vemulapalli and Dylan Cockson race in the St. Charles Invitational at McNair Park.

The Hounds view the races as preparation for district races.

"I can't wait for districts," Hodapp said. "It will be good competition and I think we can really do well."

The Hounds will head into districts with competition from teams like Affton, Bishop DuBourg, Central Visual & Performing Arts, Gateway, Lutheran South, Miller Career Academy, Soldan, University City, and Vashon.

Shaw Park will host two cross country meets in the next month: the Suburban East meet on Oct. 14 and the Clayton Invitational on Oct. 24.

"We hope we will see a lot of support for the team during both those events," Sucher said. ☺

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Julia Reilly

Above:
Varsity team member Anna Krane and fellow varsity team member Kate Wheelock battle it out with a Burroughs player. The Lady Hounds lost 2-1.

Right:
Varsity team member Anna Krane takes the ball away from a Burroughs player.



Julia Reilly

Girls' varsity field hockey strives for stronger season

A hardworking team and dedicated coaches bond to make season successful.

Maddy McMahon
Editor

Although it lost its first 3 games to John Burroughs School, University City High School, and Parkway, as well as the Gateway Classic tournament, Clayton High School's varsity field hockey team is ready to put together a strong season.

Despite a rough start, the team is optimistic. "It can only get better," co-captain and senior Kate Wheelock said.

"The season has been good," senior Chelsea Flood said. "We played Burroughs Sept. 4. They won 2-1, but we went out playing hard. We didn't win the tournament, but we learned a lot about the team and how everyone plays together."

Although John Burroughs School has a very good team, the lady Hounds' game against them has been one of the best so far.

"JBS is a great team," junior Izzy Fratt said, "and it showed us that we have the ability to play at a higher level as individuals and as a team."

The team is comprised mainly of sophomores, with only 5 juniors and 5 seniors playing on the varsity level this year.

"We lost a lot of seniors last year so this is a very young team," junior Emily Wack said.

Despite the interesting range in ages on the varsity team, there's a lot of potential.

"Our team has a lot of potential and I believe that once we start getting used to playing with one another we will do really well," senior Claire Miller said.

Head Coach Lizzy Dooley echoes Miller's belief.

"We definitely have a young team. It's going to take a while to develop cohesiveness. We have a lot of strong players, but we need to learn to play together," Dooley said.

The team members make personal connections over the course of the season that help them work as a team during the games.

"The best thing about being on the team is that we really come together throughout the season," said co-captain and senior Courtney Pierce.

The team's confidence in their ability to do well stems from their coaches. The head coach, Lizzy Dooley, played for Clayton when she was a student.

"[Dooley] has been with the program for a while, so we have all been with her before," junior Caroline Stamp said.

Dooley lends her experience to the team, while the new assistant coach, Mary Henry, is new to the team. Henry is a senior at St. Louis University, where she played on the Division I team. Although she is not playing at the moment due

to an injury, she shares her love of field hockey with the lady Hounds.

"She's really energetic and is really good at pushing us individually and as a team to become more cohesive," Wack said.

Dooley is enthusiastic about working with her colleague this season.

"She's awesome," Dooley said, "She has a lot of bright ideas, she's very serious about field hockey, and has brought us to a new level."

Together, the coaches create a positive environment for the team at practices, urging the members to improve.

"The practices are pretty quick-paced," Pierce said, "They're fun but focused."

"They make a great team together," sophomore Lily Gage said.

The coaches connect with their team on an intimate level as well, helping to make the team a community.

"Lizzy and Mary are very easy to relate to and talk to," Fratt said.

The team members have high hopes for both themselves as well as the entire team.

"I want to enjoy my last season playing field hockey and take advantage of every opportunity of the field that I am given," Miller said.

Fratt has particularly ambitious goals for the team overall.

"My goal for the team is to be number 1 in the public school district," Fratt said, "and always to get further than we did in districts last year."

Co-captain Wheelock notes that the team has already made progress in bonding as a unit.

"This year especially, nobody was really good friends with each other before the season," Wheelock said. "There's less natural talent, but we work harder than ever before."

Most of all, the lady Hounds want some support.

Dooley believes it can boost the team's spirits after a rough start to the season. Also, since the previous games were away, the team could simply be in need of some home games to turn the tide.

"I'm hoping in the next couple of weeks, when we have home games, we'll benefit from a home field advantage. Having fans at the home games will be crucial," Dooley said.

Like every year, the team is a mixture of different personalities and strengths.

Because of the uniqueness of the team this season, the varsity team wants to give its all this year.

"It will never be the same team playing all together again," Flood said. ☺

“Our team has a lot of potential and I believe that once we start getting used to playing with one another we will do really well.”
Claire Miller

Upcoming Home Varsity Field Hockey Games

Oct. 1	Lafayette	5:30
Oct. 3	Webster	5:30
Oct. 15	Parkway North	5:00

Athlete of the Month

Katherine Greenberg

From the Coach:
"One of the reasons for Katherine's success is she plays year round. She takes individual lessons, which allows her to compete with top players from private schools throughout the area."
--Coach Susie Lutén



BY THE NUMBERS:

#1 on team for past three years

Went to state as freshman and sophomore, where she played doubles with Drew Lefkowitz



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Procon.org is a nonpartisan website that gives both the pros and the cons to most controversial issues. So if you are torn on an important topic, such as the presidential election or Israeli-Palestinian relations, just mosey on over to this website and it will give you the 411.

The Interest page is a new venture for the Globe staff this year. It focuses on funny and interesting bits of pop culture. If you have any item you think is worthy, drop us an email at globe@clayton.k12.mo.us or come see us in the cottage. Photos, funnies, and favorite songs and websites are all welcome.

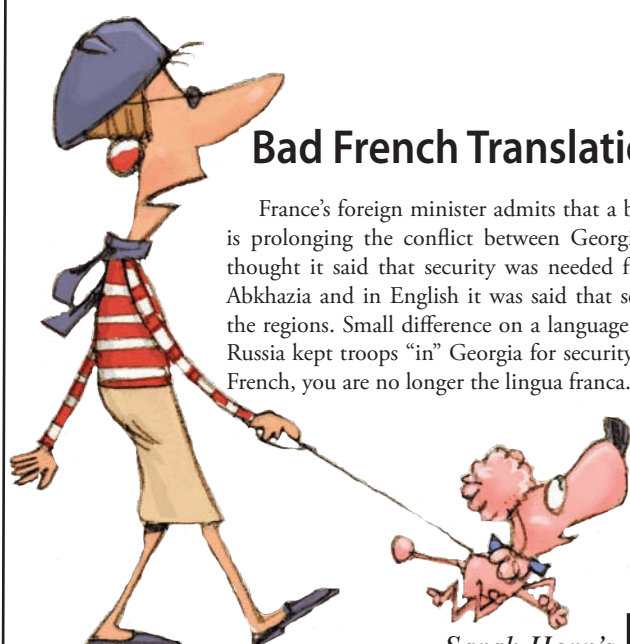
Environment Tip of the Month: Vespas



Vespas are fun and environmentally safe way to zoom around town! \$50 worth of gas will earn you 900 miles on these cute mopeds. Developed in Italy these scooters have swept the nation and are becoming more popular as gas prices skyrocket. So if you want to save a little money next time at the gas station, invest some now in a Vespa.

Playlist

- | | | |
|--|----------|---|
| You Don't Know Me | 1 | <i>Ben Folds featuring Regina Spektor</i> |
| Cigarettes & Chocolate Milk | 2 | <i>Rufus Wainwright</i> |
| You can't put your arms around a memory | 3 | <i>Johnny Thunders</i> |
| Hands are Shaking | 4 | <i>Sundie Lerche</i> |
| Bang Bang | 5 | <i>Dispatch</i> |



Bad French Translations

France's foreign minister admits that a bad French translation is prolonging the conflict between Georgia and Russia. Russia thought it said that security was needed for South Ossetia and Abkhazia and in English it was said that security was needed in the regions. Small difference on a language test, huge in real life. Russia kept troops "in" Georgia for security purposes. Move over French, you are no longer the lingua franca.

Sarah Horn's

Line of Infamy



Britney Spears

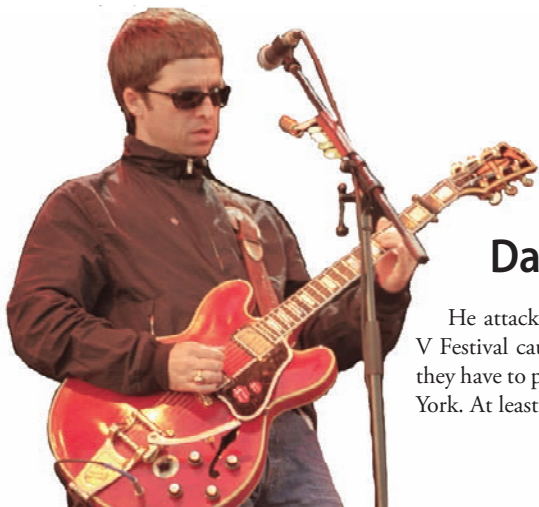
It was supposed to be the comeback of the year. And there was hype, hype, hype, and more hype...and then a big old dud. And then she wins her first Moonmen for "Piece of Me". It was all so meticulously and thoughtfully planned, we wonder how on earth it went so terribly wrong. We are sure that her comeback will happen...eventually.



Sarah Palin

Dinosaurs are "lizards of Satan", we are invading Iraq because of God's will and we can see Russia from Alaska. Right...can someone please get this woman's mental health checked out?

All photos from MCT



Daniel Sullivan

He attacks Noel Gallagher of Oasis randomly at Canada's V Festival causing serious bruising to his ribs and hips. Then they have to postpone their tours in London, Ontario and New York. At least it will give Oasis a new thing to cry about.



John McCain

There was Bob Dole referring to himself in the third person and I was convinced that it was the most obnoxious political saying ever. And then McCain comes along with the ever so common "my friends" remark. You are not FDR and no you cannot get away with saying it 11 times in a speech. And more importantly, no I am NOT your friend.

The Adventures of...GARTAN

JEFF

by Jacob Goldsmith

We left our hero unconscious and glowing on the floor at his classroom...

Just then a man walked in.

As Jeff closed his eyes trying with all his might to stop himself he felt a flash of heat. When Jeff opened his eyes he was still floating, but the fan had been burned to ashes.

Jeff's relief was short lived as he plummeted to the ground and blacked out once more, when he came too the entire room was engulfed in flames.

Jeff acting quickly ran for the door but it was blocked. His only hope was the window.

With grim determination Jeff ran and jumped out of the window but, instead of flying, he began to fall.

TO BE CONTINUED

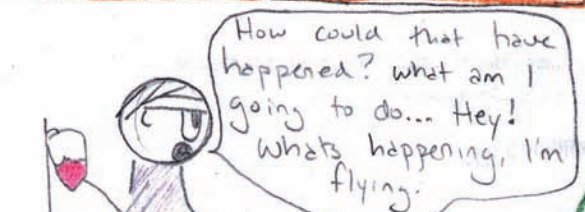


What? where am I?

Hello Jeff, I am Dr. Conley. You are in the hospital you have slept for a week straight. We were very worried about you.

Jeff is shocked, and as he asks for an explanation from the doctor he feels himself begin to rise.

Jeff continues to climb higher and higher, but danger looms ahead as Jeff becomes dangerously close to the fan.



How could that have happened? what am I going to do... Hey! What's happening, I'm flying.



Help, someone turn off the fan!





September 24, 2008

Adventures Abroad



Photo courtesy of Jacobs Family

Clayton family travels to Peru on medical mission

Maddy Bullard
Staff Reporter

For the Jacobs family, a 2008 summer vacation wasn't just your average get-away-from-it-all stay at a plush resort in some distant hotspot. This year was of quite a different nature. Sophomore Elle Jacobs, freshman Isabella Jacobs, and their parents went on a trip to Cajamarca, Peru, to work on a medical mission.

When they arrived, the group received a special welcome from the residents of Cajamarca.

"When we were going up the mountain in a bus, we didn't know where we were because it was dark out, and everyone was asleep," Jacobs said. "When we got there this big city appeared out of nowhere. We had police escorts all the way up to the hotel. When we got there, they [had a parade planned], they gave us candy, and they set off fireworks. They were all standing up there, shouting, 'Woohoo! They're all here!' It was really funny."

The welcome was, in fact, well deserved. The Jacobses had quite a travel agenda. Just to get to Cajamarca, they took three airplane flights and an eight-hour bus ride. By the end of their trip, they had taken many more. However, Jacobs maintains that the long trek was definitely worth the effort.

"It was really fun, because the culture is a lot different, and I was with all my friends," Jacobs said.

Although the mission was mainly centered around medical volunteers, other opportunities were available for the rest of the Jacobs family.

"The first week, during the medical mission, my mom, my sister, and I worked in an orphanage while my dad worked on people's hearts," Jacobs said.

Elle, Isabella and their mom enjoyed working in the orphanage in Cajamarca.

"Mainly the people that I met were in the orphanage," Jacobs said. "I thought all the girls would be shy and stuff, but... when you go there, they all run up to the door, and they give you kisses. They take your hand and they show you around. They're all friendly." However, Elle did notice the poverty and poor standard of living while in the city.

"When I was in the orphanage, they had such a little amount of what we had. I know a lot of stuff that they would've had if they had been that age in America," Jacobs said.

Isabella also noticed the poverty, and recognized how lucky she was to have so many things in America.

"It helped me see how different countries like Peru are and showed me how thankful we should be to have all that we have," freshman Isabella Jacobs said.

However, Elle also noted that Cajamarca was fairly technologically sophisticated.

"They had internet, TV, all that stuff," Elle Jacobs said. "There wasn't as much of it, because it was older versions of everything."

The orphanage that the sisters worked in housed children up to age 18. When they turned 18, they had to move out of the orphanage and find homes. Some of these young people didn't have enough money to support themselves.

"Well, a lot of them end up being prostitutes, because they have no way to get money," Elle Jacobs said. "But they are educated, so some of them do go to college."

Isabella had a hard time leaving the orphanage because of the many connections she made with the girls there.

"My least favorite part was when we had to leave Cajamarca because leaving the orphans was one of the hardest things I have ever done," Isabella Jacobs said.

Elle Jacobs enjoyed the mission, and encourages others to participate in volunteer work.

"If you like working with kids, then work in the orphanage,

or, if you're a medical person, then you'd work in the hospital," Elle Jacobs said. "And also, some of the kids...did medical stuff. And you can also work [as a] dentist."

Overall, the family enjoyed their trip so much that they hope to return to the mission two years from now. The medical mission, however, was not the only adventure the Jacobs experienced this summer. They also went sightseeing around Peru. First, they flew from Cajamarca to Cusco. The city of Cusco, located in the mountains of Peru, was at a very high elevation.

"It was really high elevation so they had oxygen bars," Elle Jacobs said. "We got out of the plane, and we had to walk down to get our luggage, and there was this lady and she had this thing that you put over your face, and you breathe into it. It was pure oxygen. It was kind of funny, but...it freshened you."

The next stop for the Jacobses was Machu Picchu, which they traveled to by train. Then they hiked Machu Picchu. Machu Picchu, widely considered one of the most beautiful structures in the world, is a five square-mile city built atop a mountain by the ancient Incas. Widely believed to have been of religious or spiritual use to the Incas, the site of Machu Picchu attracts large numbers of tourists each year.

"My favorite part of the trip was going to the top of Machu Picchu," Isabella Jacobs said. "I felt like I was on top of the world."

However, the Jacobses will not be returning to Machu Picchu on their next trip to Peru.

"It was really pretty and everything," Elle Jacobs said. "But...we hiked that mountain and it was deadly. We were so tired the next day we didn't want to go back."

They have another unusual destination in mind for their next venture.

"We're going to go to the Galapagos next time," Elle Jacobs said. ☺



TOP: Elle and Isabella Jacobs stand atop Machu Picchu, famous ruins located in Peru. RIGHT: Maria, a 14-month-old girl, that the Jacobs family worked with during their trip.

Israel trips change global views

Katherine Greenberg
Staff Reporter

For many, the thought of Israel brings up images of suicide bombings and scared people that fear their neighboring countries. This image is something very different for the Clayton students that have visited Israel and want to go.

Israel has been a place that has been visited very often by Clayton High School students. Dave Denlow, a senior, is now spending four months in Israel after spending time in Israel this summer.

"I am having the time of my life," Denlow said.

Another Clayton student, Jacob Goldsmith, echoes this idea. Goldsmith went to Israel this summer for five weeks through USY, United Synagogue Youth.

"I would highly recommend a trip to Israel, regardless of what religion you are," Goldsmith said. "It's an amazing experience for any person."

There are many ways for people to go to Israel. For Jewish people many temples offer trips. Birthright is an organization that sends Jewish students to Israel after they graduate high school.

"I am really excited to do the birthright program," sophomore Eve Root said. "I have heard really good things about it and I can't wait until I am old enough to go."

Birthright offers trips to Israel for Jewish people ages 18 to 26. The trips are offered in a variety of dates for different lengths of time.

"I am definitely interested in doing Birthright," sophomore, Emily Rosen said. "It definitely helps that it's free."

Israel brings a different attraction not only because of the beautiful landscape but also because of the rich heritage and its importance in the current issues in the world.

"I think that it is important for everyone to visit Israel not only because it is such a beautiful country but because it is so important in the world," Goldsmith said. "It really helped shape my opinions on what is happening in the Middle East."

While in Israel, Denlow has not seen any harm.

"I realize that though there will always be people with malicious intent here, there are more good citizens than bad," Denlow said. "It seems to me that the 'trouble' of Israel's disputes with its neighboring countries is nothing more than a worry to foreigners, and truly isn't something that's a constant worry of most Israelis."

After going on a summer trip to Israel for only 10 days Denlow decided that he wanted to spend even more time in Israel.

He decided to return to Israel for four more months through a different organization.

"So far, I have yet again met some of the most amazing people, and become very close to many of them," Denlow said.

Jewish people are taught that Israel is the homeland and that going to Israel and seeing all of the sites that have been revered for so long is like going home. "The Old City has to be my favorite part, because when Jews pray in America, we turn



David Denlow

David Denlow with a Jewish group visiting one of the many sites throughout Israel. After a summer trip lasting just 10 days, Denlow decided to spend four months in Israel in order to meet new people and learn more about his Jewish heritage and culture.

towards the east... to our temple," Denlow said.

The temple is no longer standing, but the outer wall remains intact in the Old City. It is known throughout the world as the "Western Wall," the "Kotel" to the natives.

"It is the Kotel that gets me emotional every time I approach it and touch it," Denlow said, "because I know that that wall represents everything my religion stands for."

The most powerful experience for Denlow is being at the Kotel during Shabbat.

"Everything around the country is quiet and almost abandoned... and yet, the wall is crowded with so many Jews praying," Denlow said. "I believe my spiritual side has come out in my two adventures in Israel, and I am still eager to experience more." ☺



A cause worth riding for

CHS teachers ride in the MS 150 to raise money going towards the cure of multiple sclerosis.

Payton Sciaratta
Editor

While most teachers and other staff members spend their weekends relaxing and grading papers, some have been waking up at 5 a.m. to ride their bikes.

"I began riding my bike in May, and I was planning on riding just as a way to stay fit," school librarian Luran DeRigne said.

After she began riding, DeRigne heard about a bike ride in September to raise money for multiple sclerosis. After she talked to other people about the bike ride, they decided to form a team which consisted of five of the staff members at Clayton High School; DeRigne, technology specialist David Hoffman, library assistant Mary Stamborski and math teachers Kurt Kleinburg and Katelyn Eustis.

"It was more motivating because it was for charity, rather than just doing it for myself for training and exercise," DeRigne said.

To get ready for the ride, the staff members rode their bikes for two and a half months, 26 miles a day, several days a week.

"I know my limitations enough to know I could never do 75 miles two days in a row. When I found out there was a 40/40 option, the MS 80 sounded doable," Stamborski said.

As a team, the five staff members raised \$1,304 to go towards finding a cure for multiple sclerosis.

"I'm very thankful to the generous CHS staff. They helped us raise more than \$ 1,300 for MS," Hoffman said.

DeRigne may have only begun riding to become fit, but by the end of the summer she was motivated to ride in the MS Bike Tour because Stamborski's sister was diagnosed with MS about six years ago.

"My sister was diagnosed with MS about six years ago and it is something I always wanted to do," Stamborski said. "Out of the blue in early summer, Luran DeRigne mentioned that she was interested in riding in it and despite the fact that I hadn't ridden a bike further than a couple of miles in years, I joined up."

The MS Bike Tour took place on Sept. 6-7 in Columbia, Missouri. It takes place every year and lasts two days. Although

it only lasts two days, training may take up much of the riders' time.

Stamborski told the Globe, "First, as with any goal, make a commitment first. After that, the best advice came from my younger sister who rode in the MS 150 in Wisconsin last year: make sure you have a good bike and practice, practice, practice those hills."

These participants all said that they would definitely participate in this event again.

"It was very well organized, more than I expected it to be," Hoffman said. "There was a staggered start so the route was not crowded. Every ten miles or so there were rest stations set up with plenty of Gatorade and food for the participants."

This bike ride helps raise money for people who struggle with multiple sclerosis. MS is a chronic disease of the central nervous system. Some of the symptoms people usually have when dealing with MS are blurred vision, loss of balance, poor coordination, slurred speech, problems with memory, as well as several other symptoms.

About 2.5 million people worldwide are living with MS. 400,000 of them are Americans. Also, about 200 people are diagnosed with MS a week. More than twice as many women get it as men, and it is usually developed between age 25 and 30.

"I'm hoping we'll do it again and get more teachers, and maybe even some students involved," Hoffman said.

The MS Bike Tour was a huge success, and it has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars this year alone. To finish off the year of 2008, the founders are hoping to raise \$2.6 million.

For those not as motivated as DeRigne, Hoffman or Stamborski, who don't want to wake up at 5 a.m. to ride their bikes, there are still ways they can help. The founders of this bike ride not only host a bike ride, but also a walk. This walk is also two days long, but the participants walk 30-50 miles over the weekend. For those who don't feel like walking or riding, they can donate money, and that way people can still be helping the cause.

For more information about MS or participating in one of these activities visit www.nationalmssociety.org.



Photos by Payton Sciaratta

From top to bottom: Riders ascending a long hill as part of the race. The riders accepting medals after finishing. The finish line banner.



Puhan Zhao

Deborah Rice began teaching at CHS this year due to the incoming freshman class size. She teaches first hour in room 214.

Deborah Rice enjoys new teaching environment

Meredith Redick
Page Editor

Back when CHS physics teacher Deborah Rice was learning to be a math teacher, women rarely advanced to the level of teaching calculus or other upper-level math courses.

"They never let me teach any of the upper level classes; that was for the men," Rice said. "I wanted to teach the good students, and I saw a way."

Rice shifted from math to the study of physics, a long road that eventually led her to Clayton High School in her second post-retirement job.

"Math is the language of physics," Rice said. "I was able to function well in physics because of a good math background."

Her experience serves her well for teaching math-based physics to freshmen at CHS.

Clayton's freshman class is so large that a supplementary freshman physics class was required.

"Clayton is doing the right thing by making class size small," Rice said.

"[Science Department Chair] Mike Howe said it was unacceptable to have freshman physics classes over 20."

Rice enjoys teaching first-hour physics.

"Teaching another class eases me into not teaching. It's the best of both worlds: I still get to see the kids, but I get to engage in my hobbies. I garden, I do watercolor, I go to yoga class, I walk my dog."

Among Rice's other interests are scuba-diving, traveling, and spending time in the country.

"We have a house in the country, and I like to go floating on the river," Rice said. "I don't hunt or fish, but I do bird watch."

Rice is teaching physics in the same department as her husband, CHS physics teacher Rex Rice, for the first time.

"We've never taught with each other before, although we've presented lots of workshops for physics teachers together," Mr. Rice said. "I think we're probably both better teachers because we can have conversations related to teaching physics."

The couple met at a 1988 physics workshop.

"In 1988, Mr. Rice came to UMSL, and he was a Woodrow Wilson master teacher in physics, and I took his workshop," Mrs. Rice said. "I was his favorite student. He moved to St. Louis to marry me."

Although the Rices never planned on teaching at the same school as something the situation has posed few challenges.

"We actually talked about teaching at the same school as something we wanted to avoid because you have to keep your personal and your professional life separate," Mr. Rice said. "But we don't see each other all the time, so it's not a problem."

Mrs. Rice has enjoyed getting to know the rest of the physics department.

"I think the freshman physics teachers make an excellent learning community," Mrs. Rice said. "If someone comes up with ideas, they share it. I'm just a part of a really well-organized learning machine."

Mr. Rice hopes the teaching situation works out next year.

"She is the best physics teacher I know," Mr. Rice said. "She's a really positive addition to our faculty."

Vodicka refreshed after leave

Art teacher Christina Vodicka returns to CHS after a one-year stay in California.

Noah Eby
Reporter

After taking a one-year leave of absence, Christina Vodicka has returned to CHS refreshed and eager to resume teaching.

Vodicka, a Photography and Art in Society teacher, says she left CHS following the 2006-2007 school year because she heard opportunity knocking.

"My partner was awarded a Post-doctoral Fellowship at Stanford, so I decided to take advantage of the opportunity to live in California for a year," Vodicka said.

The process of working out the terms of her leave with the school district was simple. Vodicka met with Sharmon Wilkinson, Director of Human Resources for the School District of Clayton, and took it from there.

"I had to write a letter to the Board of Education telling them my plan," Vodicka said. "[Wilkinson] took the letter to [the Board of Education] for Board approval and we hired someone to take my job for a year."

At the beginning of her leave, Vodicka's father became ill. She had already moved to California, so she returned to St. Louis to help care for him. Sadly, Vodicka's father passed away in November. In this sense, she says that the timing of her taking leave couldn't have been better.

"Without the time off I would not have been able to be with him, so I was very grateful for that," Vodicka said.

In January, Vodicka returned to California where she did a myriad of things. She spent time in San Francisco and explored the Bay Area in



Andrew Dowd

Vodicka loves what she does and is glad to be getting back to work. After taking a one-year leave of absence, Vodicka has returned to CHS.

From Palo Alto, where she lived during her year off, Vodicka says she was a 40-minute drive away from the beach, the city, and the mountains. Still, she says the primary purpose of her leave of absence was not to have fun and vacation, but was instead to focus on her artwork.

"My main goal for the year was to concentrate on my studio work," Vodicka said. "I had a small studio building in my back yard and also took a couple of classes."

Vodicka said that taking a year off was a worthwhile decision, and that it reinforced balance in her life. Also, she said it changed her as a person and as an art teacher.

"I [am] excited to be back to work and that's definitely a good thing—that I love what I do."

"It's easy to get caught up in things and it's important to stop and take a breath once in a while. I think, though, that it also really refreshed me as a teacher."

Christina Vodicka
Art Teacher

"It's easy to get caught up in things

"No Excuses" policy

The new "No Excuses" policy will try to force students to remember the basics of writing mechanics and grammar.

Apoorva Sharma
Staff reporter

The 2008-2009 school year brings a policy to pose strict guidelines for polished work to Clayton High School.

Called the "No Excuses" Policy, this new rule allows teachers to simply hand back a piece of polished writing if it does not conform to certain criteria. These guidelines include proper capitalization, proper spelling of common words, proper punctuation and various other basic rules.

If a piece of writing is lacking in these areas, the student gets a zero until they fix the mistakes and resubmit the paper. Simply put, the policy has the same effect as not having the assignment when it is due.

English Department Chair John Ryan explained the goals of this policy.

"With the policy we are hoping to eliminate from student writing the kinds of errors that students should know better than to make," Ryan said. "Once students graduate and go on to college and the work world, continuing to make the errors on the 'No Excuses' list might make them look less educated or simply sloppy in their writing. Those perceptions can affect their class performance or even job performance, career advancement, etc. We think a Clayton High School diploma also means a student has reached a minimum standard for writing mechanics and grammar."

Jim Lockhart, the Literary Curriculum Coordinator, agrees with Ryan. He broke down the purpose of the policy into three parts: to "(a) make students more conscious of basic grammar and usage conventions, (b) reinforce the material that students have already been taught.

There is nothing on the No Excuses list that students were not taught between grades K-8 and (c) hold students accountable for work that has been edited for fundamental mistakes in grammar and usage."

Lockhart believes that this policy will prove to be helpful to teachers as well

"Teachers have responded enthusiastically to the policy," Lockhart said.

Even though some teachers may have liked the idea, not all of them think that it has made a difference yet. Sheri Steininger, who teaches Honors English 1 as well as Advanced Composition 1 and 2, doesn't think the "No Excuses" policy helps her at the moment.

"It's pretty basic, and people are already doing this," Steininger said. "It's pretty much fourth grade level."

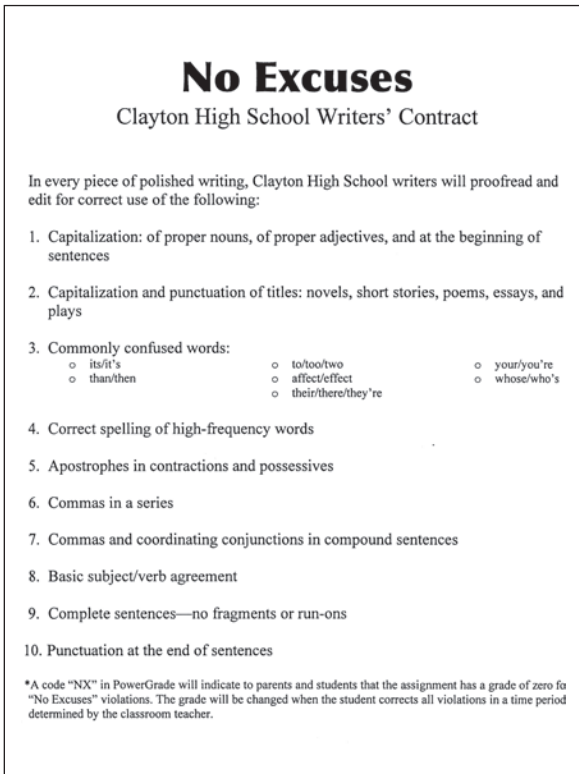
However, she knows that this policy is going to gradually evolve.

"It's laughable, its minimal, but it's going to expand," Steininger said.

According to Steininger, the "No Excuses" policy will soon grow to actually start having an impact on both students and teachers. Even so, the need for the policy is still questionable.

"Honestly, I used to do this before this came into effect," Steininger said. "I just handed the paper back if it was sloppy."

Teachers are not the only people that are affected by this policy. The student body of CHS will now need to start double checking its work.



This "No Excuses" poster now hangs on the walls of many CHS classrooms in attempt to hold students to certain writing standards. Wydown Middle School had implemented a similar policy several years ago.

This new standard has gotten mixed responses. Some people, such as freshman Jack Elliot, agree with it for the most part.

“With the policy we are hoping

to eliminate from student writing the kinds of errors that students should know better than to make. We think a Clayton High School diploma also means a student has reached a minimum for writing mechanics and grammar.

John Ryan
English Dept. Chair

”

"I think it's a good idea," Elliot said. "I just don't think it's fair to expect that everyone should be perfect on every little detail of every assignment."

Not everyone agrees with Elliot. Some think that it was completely unnecessary.

"The 'No Excuses' Policy is explicitly obvious," freshman Scott Floerke said. "Putting punctuation at the ends of sentences and capitalizing beginnings of sentences is a given."

Freshman Karl Behnke not only thought it was unnecessary, but was actually letting some students get better grades than they deserve.

"It's stupid," Behnke said. "People should just get the grade they would have gotten, and not get a second chance."

Some students did not even know of the existence of this policy. However, Lockhart explained why.

"We have only begun implementing the list this year, so we have not had an opportunity to 'debrief' our use of the list," Lockhart said.

This policy is very new to CHS, so the department does not know how it will work.

As Ryan put it: "I guess we'll see how it plays out this year."

First class to use textbook given option to retake final

Dawn Androphy
Staff Reporter

Clayton honors courses tend to be stressful for the students who partake in them. Finals have a propensity to be a major contributor to this build-up of stress as students worry about the grade that they will receive on the test that reviews all the material covered during the semester.

Last year, however, was exceptional in that a retake for the Honors Algebra/Trigonometry final was offered to students for the first time in department history.

Principal Louise Losos and math department chair David Kohmetscher made a collaborative decision to offer the retake over the summer in two different sessions. Overall, a total of 33 students elected to retake the final over their summer vacation.

"We had a lot of kids concerned about their grades," Kohmetscher said, "and, more importantly, they were worried that they would not have the prerequisite knowledge to succeed in the next grade."

Junior Danny Steinberg was one of the many students who took advantage of the retake offered last summer.

Steinberg explained the concerns of the students.

"The class was much harder than it could have been. There was a new textbook and teachers who had taught the class before were not familiar with it," Steinberg said.

Kohmetscher seemed to agree with Steinberg.

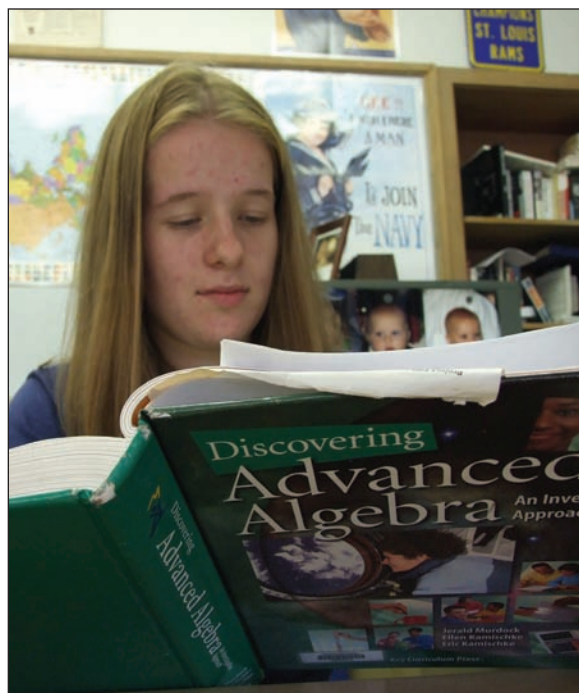
"It was a perfect storm," Kohmetscher said, "I don't see it happening again this year."

Offering the review course before the final also appears to have improved both the students' grades and their overall understanding of the material.

"My grade on the final retake was better than my first grade on the first final," Steinberg said.

Junior Simone Bernstein also improved her score on the final when she elected to take a review course and try again.

"The review course that I took before the retake really helped me understand the material better," Bernstein said, "It also helped me to feel better prepared for my class this year,



Sophomore Erin Knadler flips through her math textbook.

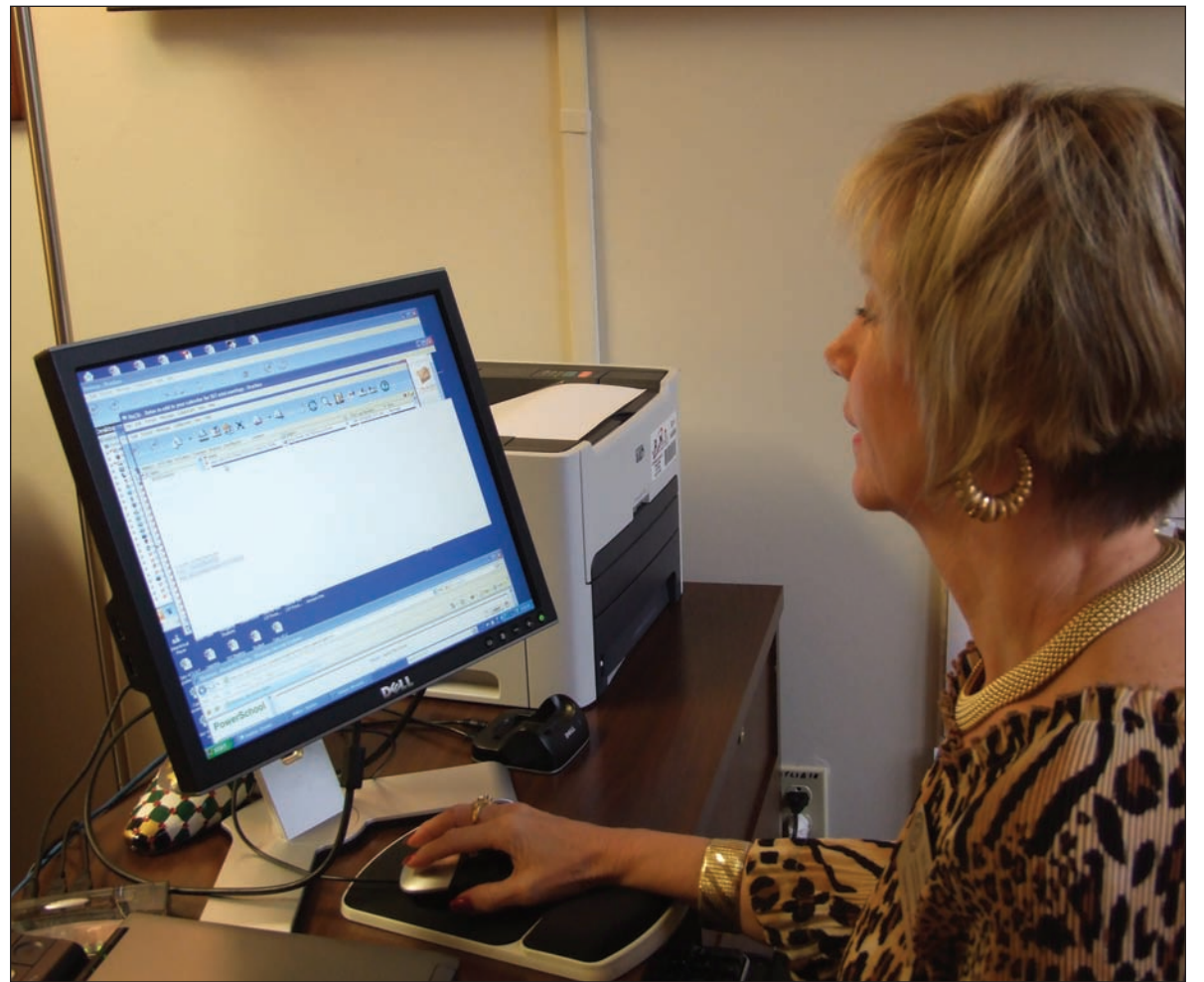
Honors Pre-Calculus."

Because most of the problems last year's math students faced are now irrelevant, the math department does not plan to not make any dramatic changes.

"We're not doing anything terribly different this year," Kohmetscher said.

With a new year starting, the textbook that students used last year is being used again. Since Kohmetscher is planning on remaining at Clayton, this year's students will not have a new textbook or a replaced teacher.

With all of the differences from last year eliminated, a retake on the final does not appear to be in the forecast for this year's Honors Algebra/Trigonometry students.



Dee Blassie works at her computer, checking student's grades on PowerSchool. With this new precautionary system and the Student Support Team, it is now very difficult for students to fail at CHS.

Precautionary system to prevent students from failing at CHS

Jeremy Bleek
Editor-in-Chief

According to principal Louise Losos, it will soon be very difficult for fail at CHS.

"We're trying to move toward a system that has automatic processes in place, so that when A happens, B occurs, when C happens then D occurs," Losos said. "Part of that is to make sure that every kid gets caught—so that someone doesn't slip by."

Over the past year, the Student Support Team (SST), a group of teachers, administrators, counselors and support staff, has met to develop a new plan to address the needs of struggling students. The initiative, spearheaded by Learning Center Director Dee Blassie and counselor Alice Morrison, is designed to systemize the processes used to help students.

"All of the individual teachers work very hard with interventions, and setting students up for success, but there wasn't really communication," Blassie said. "Maybe the student was having a difficult time in math, and all of a sudden that same student was struggling in English, but the teachers were just working on their own in how to get that child up to the higher speed. So we came into it with the idea that if we have one person in charge of the interventions, to find out what's going on, there would be a lot more communication."

That one person is Blassie, who will be in charge of assembling a "data warehouse" for each student requiring additional help.

She is already beginning to collect information. Under the new proposal, every student with a GPA below a 2.0, and any student with an F, will receive an action plan and will be channeled into the system.

The first five weeks spent in class is a time of identification, contact, and plan-

ning. During this period teachers identify and meet with failing students, contact their parents, and write a "Teacher Action Plan" that identifies 1-3 clear steps for the student to take to increase academic performance. A copy of that plan is given to Blassie, who coordinates between different teachers and subjects.

"Everybody knows what everyone else is doing—what intervention worked, and what didn't," Blassie said. "We're learning from each other. Everybody has different styles—teaching styles and learning styles—so now we're all collaborating."

At the end of the five week period, assessment of the student is performed. If academic progress is being made then the plan remains in effect, with continued monitoring. If, however, no progress has been made, the intervention goes to the next level.

"The Student Support Team meets, a case manager is assigned, which is probably another teacher, and they write another plan which maybe uses higher level interventions," Losos said. "It could also be a place where we say you know what, we know you love baseball, but if we don't get these grades up you might not be able to play baseball. That's where free periods can be taken away, so that we start to take away a few privileges."

Losos says that the plan is necessary due to what she believes is an unacceptable number of D's and F's on student report cards.

"Roughly a quarter of each class has

a student who received at least one or more D or F—and I think that's too high," Losos said.

Morrison says that, if necessary, there are many steps which can be taken to get students performing at an acceptable level.

"We might shift a learning center from history to math," Morrison said. "We might drop a class, an elective class, or even a core class, and add more support. We might have before school or after school help with teachers. A mandatory stay-after physics lab."

Morrison stresses that the new plan is not meant to pick up slack for teachers who haven't done enough to ensure success. It is simply a way to bring together all the teachers collective efforts in the most efficient manner possible.

"Teachers here support students naturally," Morrison said. "They do this because that's who they are—they're professionals, they're at the top of their game. They've always had plans for kids who are failing, but now it's written and it's systemized."

Blassie is confident that this new level of organization combined with the existing amount of teacher enthusiasm will allow students to achieve.

"I'm excited, because it's working," Blassie said. "And in just a short span of time, I know it's working. We have everybody involved—the parents are involved, the teachers are involved, the students are involved—we're a family, we have a problem and we're going to figure out what it is."

Teachers here support students naturally. They've always had plans for kids who are failing, but now it's written and it's systemized.

Alice Morrison
Counselor

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Action, comedy spark blockbuster summer movies

Schuyler Longmore
Reporter

Most moviegoers consider summer the best season for movies because of excellent high budget action blowouts and the funniest of new comedies. This summer was no exception with some chart-breaking releases.

"The Dark Knight" passed "Star Wars" by earning \$471 million on Aug. 18 making it the second highest grossing movie of all time (with inflation taken into account).

"Heath Ledger made the Dark Knight awesome, and I liked how different this Batman movie was from most other superhero movies," junior Nate Townsend said about the newest in the Batman series of movies.

Ledger's final and most profound role as the joker in the epic "Dark Knight" sequel to the Batman series of movies represents everything that a summer blockbuster can offer. But what are the details that make a summer movie such a hit?

Triumphant summer action movies are high budget, packed with action, and over the top in all aspects. But, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" was high budget and highly action filled, without being the sensation that "Wanted" and "Iron Man" were. Townsend observed some flaws in "The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

"The Indiana Jones movie was terrible," Townsend said. "Everything was too unreal, and the plot was all over the place".

The better half of summer action flicks incorporated excellent acting jobs, which helped carry the high budget action scenes to the successful level that received praise from critics and viewers alike. Heath Ledger made "The Dark Knight" exceptional. And other excellent rolls came from Robert Downey Jr. in "Iron Man" and a seductive assassin played by Angelina Jolie in "Wanted."

Not all summer hits are action adventures; comedies also attract hefty crowds.

"Summer comedies are fun, and fun to see with your friends," senior Amber Fisher said.

Comedies possess a different recipe for success. Both Townsend and Fisher mentioned "Pineapple Express" as a comedy favorite. Originality, funny characters, and memorable jokes stand out as important aspects of a comedy sensation.

"Tropic Thunder", "Pineapple Express", "Step Brothers", and a surprising all ages favorite, "Wall-E", helped secure the top comedy spots for the summer.

"I had to see 'Wall-E' when I was away with family this summer and the movie actually made me laugh," Townsend said about a surprise favorite of his.

"Wall-E" was child friendly, but the funny characters appealed to a wide audience. The Judd Apatow-produced "Pineapple Express" was funny because of its excellent use of the comedic duo—Seth Rogen along with a well-acted dealer/friend played by James Franco.

"Seth Rogen is one of my favorite actors right now," Fisher said.

"Step Brothers" also incorporated the popular comedy duo of Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly to make it a vulgar, but funny, comedy this summer.

With an excellent range of original and unique comedy hits, this past summer was hardly dull. Hollywood churned out some excellent films this summer, pleasing all sorts of viewers with all sorts of different tastes. Only nine more months until we get to see what there is to offer all over again. Long live summer movies!

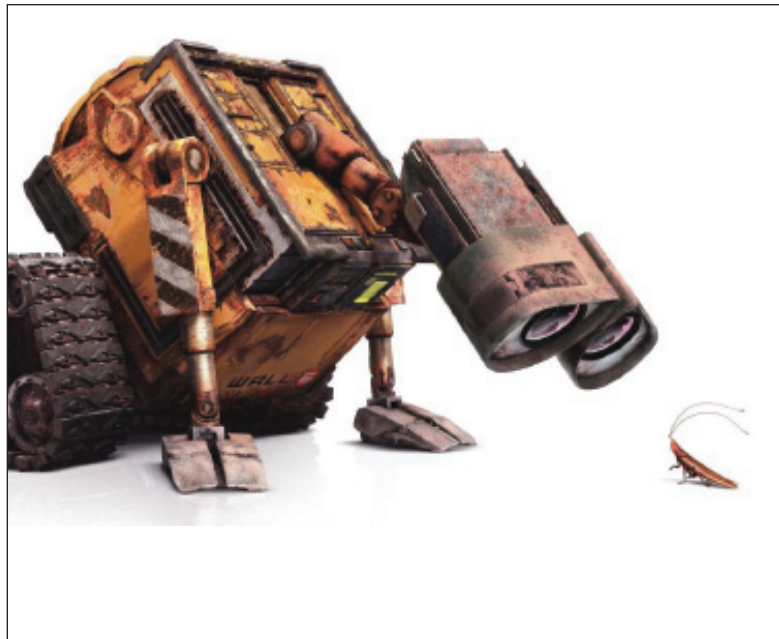


U.S. box office record

The new Batman movie set a record for best opening weekend; gross revenues in millions:

1. The Dark Knight (2008) **\$155.3**
2. Spider-Man 3 (2007) **\$151.1**
3. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006) **\$135.6**
4. Shrek the Third (2007) **\$121.6**
5. Spider-Man (2002) **\$114.8**
6. Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (2007) **\$114.7**
7. Star Wars Ep. III: Revenge of the Sith (2005) **\$108.4**
8. Shrek 2 (2001) **\$108**
9. X-Men: The Last Stand (2006) **\$102.7**
10. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (2005) **\$102.3**

Source: www.the-numbers.com
Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, Eeli Polli © 2008 MCT



Top right: Christian Bale stars as Batman in Warner Bros. Pictures' and Legendary Pictures' action drama, "The Dark Knight."

Bottom near right: WALL-E's pet roach, his only companion on a wasted Earth, lives in a Twinkie, loves to give tickles, survives innumerable squishings and waits patiently for WALL-E to return from outer space.

Bottom far right: Harrison Ford, left and Shia LaBeouf co-star in Paramount Pictures' thrill-adventure "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

'Hamlet 2' farce hilarious, fun

Hannah Callahan
Reporter

First of all, I liked this movie. The combination of Steve Coogan's comical performance, and a screwball plot made "Hamlet 2" hilarious. I laughed out loud, something I seldom do during modern comedies, at this ridiculous parody about a subject I know well, high school drama.

"Hamlet 2," directed by Andrew Fleming, satirizes the inspirational teacher genre that we can only hope has been euthanized by this film. I always have hated those movies, and people who feel inspired by the teacher who was able to reach seemingly unreachable students. They are difficult for me to watch without rolling my eyes at the teacher's never ending saccharine lines. There are times to watch serious films, and then, there are times for movies like "Hamlet 2."

Dana Marschz (Steve Coogan), a character with an almost unpronounceable name (which was a joke throughout the film), is an untalented actor whose enthusiasm carries him to the lofty acting heights of herpes commercials and to unpaid volunteer drama teaching at West Mesa High school in Tucson, Arizona.

At the beginning of this film, only two students are in Coogan's drama class: Rand (Skylar Astin), a sexually confused teacher's pet, and Epiphany (Phoebe Strole), a Christian goody-goody, both who act in Coogan's genre of high school plays, reconfigured Hollywood movies.

films such as "Dangerous Minds" only result in an unintentional beatdown by a student, and an acid trip after students spike his peach lemonade.

As in "Mr. Holland's Opus," one of his favorite movies, Coogan faces the cancellation of the arts department. However, Richard Dreyfus did not respond by writing a play featuring a time-traveling Hamlet, Jesus, and Hillary Clinton.

Laughs are generated most by the obstacles the drama department faces to produce their show, Hamlet 2, and by the improbable end result. Coogan's portrayal of a bizarre, cross-dressing drama teacher intermittently inspires laughter, and leaves sounds of catchy irreverent tunes in your head long after the film has ended.

I wish the drama department at CHS was as vivacious as West Mesa High School's, but it would invariably result in arrest and students being expelled. Now that's comedy!



Diet soda addiction taking over life

Maddie Harned
Senior Editor

They litter my bedroom floor, creating a clunky tin can maze. They make it nearly impossible to walk for more than a few small steps at a time.

For the most part my windowsills are enveloped in cans. I have a serious Dr. Pepper addiction.

Routinely I ambush my trash bin with the past week's soda cans. Then and only then do I realize the severity of my problem. I throw away can after can, literally disposing of enough tin to construct at least a dozen Wizard of Oz style tin man costumes.

My obsession with Dr. Pepper began years ago. At the dinner table I would beg and plead my parents to allow me to drink soda, not the healthier option of milk. The crisp, slightly tangy, yet relentlessly refreshing flavor of Dr. Pepper matched with the shimmering can enthralled my senses from childhood on.

Presently, I can easily go through three cans of Dr. Pepper in a single day — a fact I am not particularly proud of. Such a strong dependence on the

soft drink has made me question why exactly does this particular drink, merely a mixture of sugars and water, has such a strong grip on my life. There simply must be something more to Dr. Pepper than meets the eye.

In essence, the soft drink represents a changing global economy, where western style capitalism reigns supreme. Dr. Pepper is sold all over the world, and often the company sponsors major international movie releases. Perhaps I am only a pawn in the marketing scheme Dr. Pepper has created.

However, I like to think of Dr. Pepper more as a benevolent, sincere doctor and less as a scheming medical malice.

To further my soda self-discovery I look inside the Dr. Pepper. Carbonated water, caramel color, aspartame, phosphoric acid and most importantly, caffeine, are the main ingredients in Dr. Pepper.

Alone, the ingredients have little meaning to me. In fact, I have absolutely no idea what exactly is aspartame, or

what composes phosphoric acid. Nonetheless, when those vital components are combined sheer culinary genius occurs.

Possibly, what I can learn from Dr. Pepper is that united, individual elements can become stronger. If I were offered some caramel coloring for refreshment, I would most definitely decline. However, mixed with the other ingredients of Dr. Pepper suddenly the caramel coloring takes on a new delicious meaning.

What once was only a mundane soda can, of little significance to me other than for its drinking value, Dr. Pepper has taken on another implication. Essentially, it represents my journey to find self through the day-to-day interactions with vastly different people who come in and out of my life.

Even now, I have a can to the right of the keyboard. I take a sip; refreshed I realize that, indeed, the doctor has arrived.



Deborah L. Coon, DMDPC

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Lollapalooza electrifies crowds, enlivens Chicago

Caroline Stamp
Reporter

Imagine pushing your way through crowds, seeing over 40 bands in one weekend, and being at an outdoor concert with over 150,000 people? That is Lollapalooza.

Lollapalooza is a three-day music festival in Grant Park Chicago. There is music and festivities all day long.

"The days were really long," junior Shelby Sternberg said. "Just think about getting up at 8 a.m., then standing all day, then crashing around 1 a.m. and doing that for three days. But it was worth it."

There are seven stages, including a kids stage and a DJ tent, set up throughout Grant Park.

"There are a bunch of musicians playing on multiple stages throughout the park all day and at night there are one or two big headliners," junior Emily Wack said.

"A bunch" may be an understatement. At the 2008 Lollapalooza festival 139 artists, bands, and DJs performed over three days.

The headliners this year were Radiohead, Kanye West, Rage Against the Machine, Nine Inch Nails, and Wilco. Lollapalooza usually has five headliners, but that is just topping the extensive list.

"I think people should see a variety of concerts and not just the famous ones," Wack said. "They are all amazing."

Some of the lesser-known bands this year were What Make Milwaukee Famous, The Ting Tings, The National, Tally Hall, Bang Camaro, and MGMT.

But with so many bands playing, try-



Caroline Stamp



Caroline Stamp

At left: Crowds surround the stage for a concert at Lollapalooza 2008 in Grant Park, Chicago during the three-day festival of music. The Chicago skyline provides a dramatic backdrop.

Above: A member of Manchester Orchestra performs. Manchester Orchestra was one of the 139 artists featured in the three day concert series.

outside in Chicago makes the experience that much better.

"Kanye West was the last concert, and he was amazing," senior Chelsea Flood said. "It wasn't just his performance, it was having everyone all together, not caring how you act. Everyone

ing to chose which ones to see was a tough decision.

"Grant Park is bigger than you think, and I learned the hard way that if you decide to try to run from one stage and one end to the another stage at a different end to see two bands playing at the

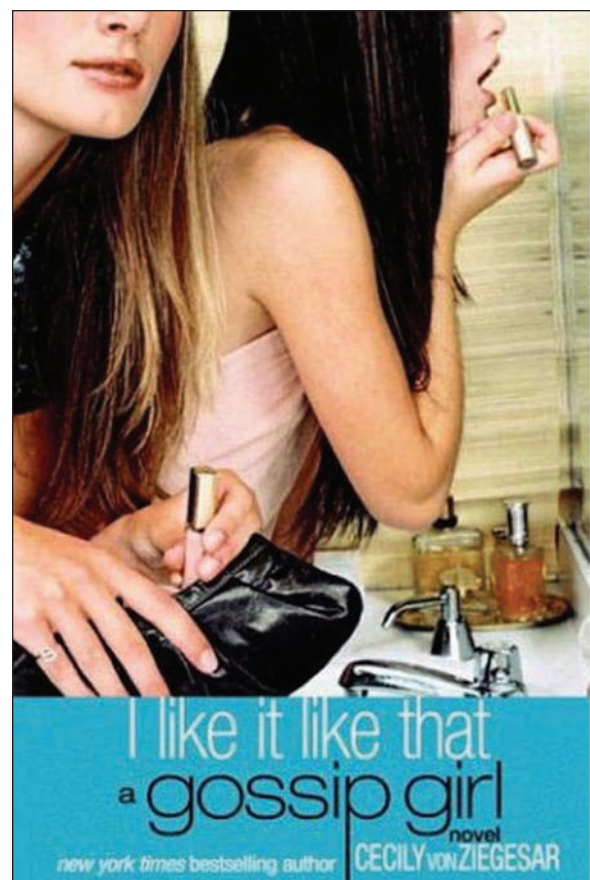
same time you will end up missing the majority of both shows and wiping yourself out," Wack said.

Even with tons of bands to see, everybody has a favorite show that stuck out and was more fun than the others.

"The National was really great and we

were really close to the stage so it was exciting," Wack said. "Also Flogging Molly was so much fun because it was a great atmosphere and everybody in the crowd was singing along and doing Irish jigs."

Besides the performances at Lollapalooza, but the atmosphere of being



Handout/MCT

The books in the "Gossip Girl" series were among the most challenged books of the year. The series is now a TV show, starring Blake Lively, right.

Popular TV series titillates, causes controversy

Jessica Lefton
Reporter

It's Monday night, and I'm waiting on the edge of my seat for my weekly dose of fashion, music, sex, lies and scandal. That's right, it's time for "Gossip Girl".

The CW show began airing last year, and has since developed a rabid fan base among teens, with over two million viewers last year (not counting the huge number of online viewers). Based on the book series by Cecily Von Ziegesar, "Gossip Girl" follows the lives of New York's elite teens as they party, shop, date and behave badly.

Season two of "Gossip Girl" begins a few months after where the first season left off. Summer is ending, and couples are in disarray. Blair is still angry over Chuck's disappearing act at the end of season one, Serena just can't get over her lonely boy, and Nate is having a little too much fun with an older woman. Season two promises to have just as much, if not more scandal as season one.

"The show has very suggestive sexual themes," senior Krishna Vemulapalli said. "There's sex almost every episode, and if not there is definitely innuendo. Kids really aren't old enough to watch it, but I am."

While Vemulapalli watches the show, he says he would never watch with parents or younger siblings.

This is one of the core concerns about the show; parents don't like it. With "content so racy it would make Harry Potter blush," (according to the Early Show), parents aren't exactly

thrilled over their kids' new favorite show.

"Rather than reinforcing positive values that parents are trying to instill in their children, this program very often is undermining these positive values," said the Parents Television Council's director of communications Melissa Henson in a press conference over the summer.

Henson was not a fan of the series' summer ad campaign featuring the PTC's quote, calling "Gossip Girl" "mind-blowingly inappropriate" on top of a picture of Blair and Nate lying together suggestively.

The "Gossip Girl" ad campaign has raised quite a few questions about the suggestive content of the show. Featuring either quotes such as the one above, or the acronym "OMFG," parents are left to wonder whether this show is, in fact, too racy for their kids.

But good or bad, "Gossip Girl" is undeniably addictive.

"I started watching 'Gossip Girl' from the very beginning," said junior Melissa Kopp, who is also a fan of the book series. "I love how the show does not relate to the books whatsoever. I don't know what's coming, and I'm always surprised."

And despite all the extravagance, it seems the show is relatable as well.

"The way they portray high school is really true—especially the 'elite group,'" senior Michele Shultz said. "[And with Serena], she's trying to change. Stuff like that happens when you move; you get a chance to start over."

With the new idea of new beginnings in mind, I leave you to watch season two of my new favorite show. XOXO ☺

Last book in 'Twilight' series creates strong female figure

Taylor Stone
Reporter

When fans of the enormously popular books of the "Twilight" saga excitedly gush about the plot, the following sentence is often heard. "It's about vampires...well, it's better than it sounds."

"Breaking Dawn" the fourth and last book in Stephenie Meyer's beloved saga was greeted with anticipation by its avid fans, usually teenage girls. These crazed readers flocked bookstores such as Borders, which offered midnight release parties, the second the book was released.

They were dressed from head to toe in vampire costumes, powdered skin and all, and sported "Team Edward" and "Team Jacob" T-shirt in support for their favorite male characters. Arguably, these books are the new Harry Potter.

MTV even picked up "Twilight," the first in the series, to be a major motion picture. It is set to be open for the hoards of fans' viewing pleasures on Nov. 12.

But what actually distinguishes these books, particularly "Breaking Dawn", from other teen literature?

"Breaking Dawn" continues the compelling story where it left off from its predecessors "Twilight", "New Moon" and "Eclipse". After the success of the first three books (each is still active on best sellers lists), the fourth's road to publishing was already paved with gold. However, despite the almost obscenely obvious amount of money the book would (and did) gain, the question of whether it would live up to the deified standards of the first three novels remained in question.

In the previous books, there was an ongoing discussion between Edward Cullen and Bella Swan, the lovers of the novels, about the question of Bella's mortality. More than anything, Bella wanted Edward to turn her into a vampire, so that she could be with him for all eternity. Edward, however, being traditional (if that is the appropriate term for this novel) wanted to marry Bella first, so that they could further solidify their commitment and devotion. Bella, agreed, and in this novel we finally saw the ceremony actually take place.

All was fine and dandy for a while, Bella and Edward married happily and even notorious enemies, vampire Edward and werewolf Jacob Black, attempted to play nice. The plot really thickens when, towards the end of their long honeymoon on Edward's vampire mother's island, Bella discovers that she is pregnant. Her plans to attend college for a semester or two are shot, and the couple rushed back home, to Carlisle, Edward's vampire father and doctor.

The pregnancy is discovered to be fatal to Bella, as the infant would be half human, half vampire. It is predicted as a destructive, blood-thirsting monster whose size would prompt broken ribs and the probable death of Bella.

The book unfolds in the mental and emotional torture of Edward in watching his beloved slowly die, as Bella refused to allow an abortion. Surprisingly, Jacob Black is vital to the plot, and Meyer even allows him full narration for a large chunk of the book. His voice is almost refreshing after Bella's constant worrying and sometimes exhaustingly feminine tone.

The baby, however, somehow is able to be born with the re-



sult of Bella being perfectly fine...if perfectly fine means being turned into a vampire, much to Jacob's utter horror. A major part of the book is the conflict between Bella's new abilities as a vampire, and her increasingly complicated role as a mother and protector, of a baby that is deemed to be a threat to society by authoritative vampires.

Overall, Meyer's style is remarkably comparable to that of her other books. Her descriptions and almost fluid dialogue evokes emotions in the reader- love, fear, and suspense. Perhaps in this book most of all; Meyer reveals a true dark side to her story, with tones of sacrifice, death, and mental suffering. If the books before were regarded as sappy teen literature, they certainly should not be now. With one foot in fantasy, and the other in raw human emotions, Meyer truly portrays a sense of beauty in a plot seems to be terribly painful to its characters. Being 754 pages long, it would be hard to present any story without portraying it as slow to progress. However, Jacob's point of view added variety and more voice to the story, which contributed to the compelling power of Meyer's carefully constructed plot.

Themes such as endless, undying love were present in each of the novels, but in this novel most of all. For instance, when Bella is changed into an immortal creature, she and Edward are equals and, no longer overpowered by Edward, Bella emerges as a strong female figure.

This in itself is the key message of the novel. It's not about Edward and Bella's struggles in marriage, parenthood, and new beginnings, but of Bella's emergence as a confident individual. What teenage girl wouldn't want to read about that? ☺

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Fashion trends provide new options for fall

With cold weather just around the corner, designers are rethinking the norm for fashion this autumn.

Grace Cohen
Reporter

You open your closet door and there's nothing to wear. You're bored to tears of sun dresses and flip flops, but don't despair it's time to put them away because fall is here and so are exciting new fashion trends.

Just like the deep colors of the changing leaves, rich colors are in, especially purples and yellows.

"Mustard yellow seamlessly transitions from summer to fall and even winter," designer Michael Kors said to The Canadian Press. "It's that right pop of autumnal color to announce the beginning of the new season - but it's upbeat, doesn't make you miss summer and looks great with a bit of leftover suntan."

As the weather cools down, skirts are no longer an option, unless you wear tights. But make sure they're not just any old tights, but brightly colored ones with patterns. They're a great way to keep your legs warm and make a statement.

Feminine details such as ruffles, lace and bows are also very in this season. A blouse with ruffles is a great way to bring a feminine touch to any outfit.

Mad for plaid may just be the biggest trend this fall. Plaid is no longer just for preppy school uniforms, but a way to bring a splash of pattern to any outfit. But be careful not to overdo it. Keep plaid pieces to one per outfit. Or just accessorize and wear it on a headband.

Leather rocker style attire is also a good way to make a fashionable impression. This includes anything from a leather jacket to accessories with metal inspiration.

Make a statement with rhinestones. They can be a great way to make an outfit shine. However, as Clayton boutique owner Jessica Young warns, one must be cautious because too much sparkle can be a bad thing.

"Avoid denim that is overdone with the rhinestones," Young said. "A little embellishment on the pockets is great."

Trends are also returning from past decades, such as the 80's Members Only jacket.

"Members Only jackets are back," Young said. "They revamped the design with a modern edge. Celebrities love them."

According to CHS alum Hannah Kurland, who now works in Marketing for Estee Lauder, another era that is coming back is the roaring 20's. Yes, the flapper dress is back.

"Anything flapper. Tiered dresses, pearls, crooped hair, red lips," Kurland said.

Going green is now for your clothes, too. "A major trend in all fields is going green, and I think suede fringe and funky stones go with a more earthy/natural look," said Kurland.

So be bored no more. Enjoy the new fashion fall has to offer.



Two big trends are bright leggings and motorcycle jackets for this coming season. Shiny Nylon Tricot Legging, \$34 American Apparel (above). Silence and Noise Motorcycle Jacket, \$128 Urban Outfitters.



This season, 1920s are making a comeback. A perfect dress with a distinct flapper influence is this Silence & Noise Multi-tier Racer back Dress, \$58 Urban Outfitters (left).



Mustard yellow is a big color for the fall. Silence & Noise Open Cardigan, \$42 Urban Outfitters.

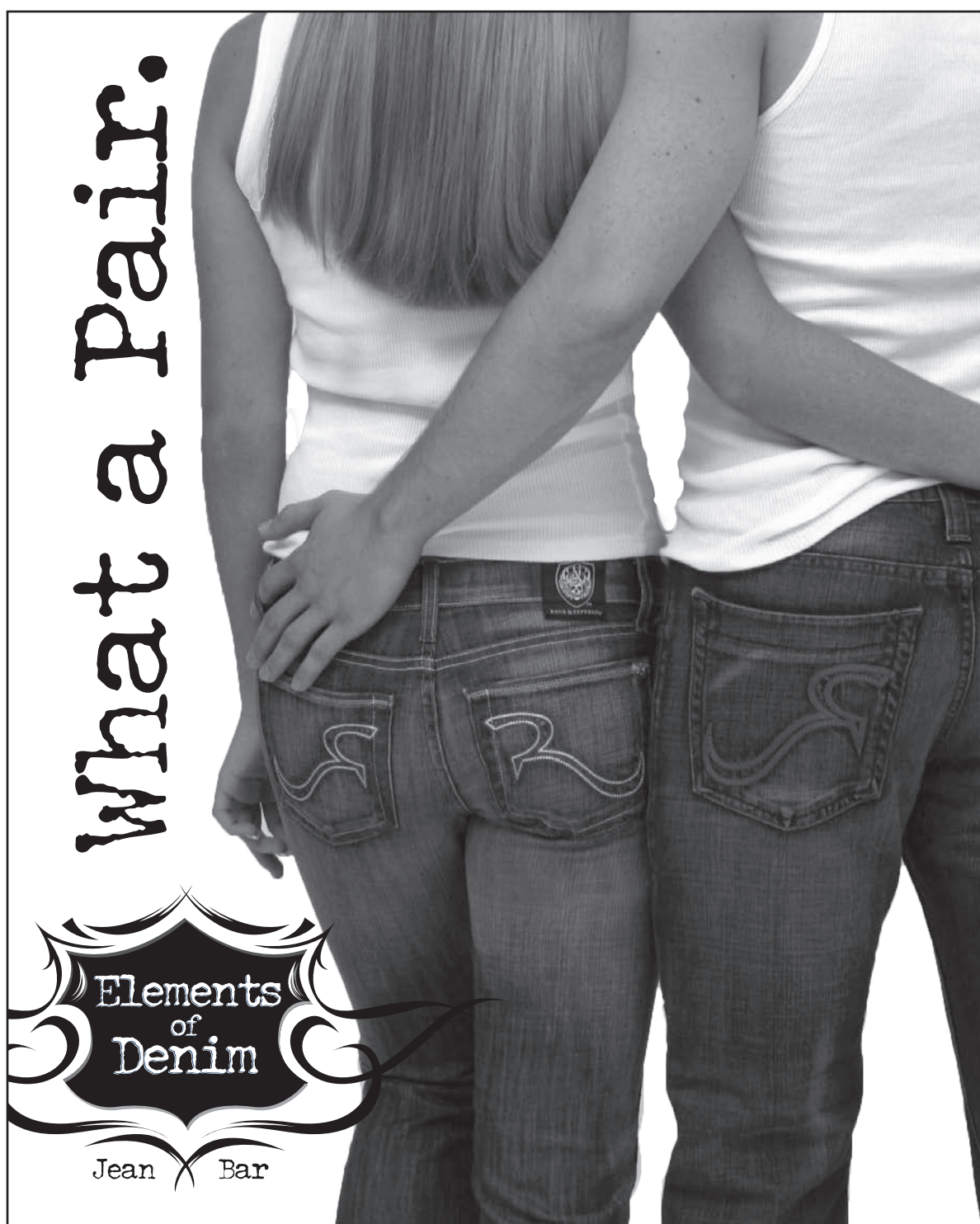


One big trend right now is eco-friendly clothing. Organic tee shirts (above) are especially popular. Sustainable Edition Unisex Organic Fine Jersey short sleeve T-shirt, \$18 American Apparel.



Bright red lipstick and tiered dresses fit perfectly with the flapper style that is fashionable this fall. Rouge Volupte Silky Sensual Radiant Lipstick SPF 15, \$34 Sephora (above).

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Students search for affordable fashions at alternative locations

Caroline Kennard
Reporter

Every teenager dreams of having a huge closet with everything they like, usually expensive designer things. The thing is, most can't afford that. So, how do you get the most fashionable clothes for less?

"I shop at Target and Gap," senior Caitlin Bladt said. "I go to Urban Outfitters when I have a lot of money to spend but mostly Gap."

Other students said their favorite stores are Urban Outfitters, H&M, Forever 21, and Heritage. The cheapest pair of high calf boots at Urban Outfitters is \$78 and the most expensive ones being \$428. Lets face it, who has the money to buy clothes when a pair of boots can swap out your entire savings for the year?

"Forever 21 has some pretty cute clothes that aren't expensive," freshman Jocelyn Cooper said.

A pair of high calf boots at Forever 21 is \$30. Forever 21 has reasonably priced clothing, causal shirts from \$5 to \$25. Most of their sale items are under \$15.

Bladt says she's gotten all of her dance dresses for the past two years at Forever 21.

Target, Gap, H&M, Express and Heritage are other stores with amazing prices. Don't say no to a jacket just because it's from Target! These stores follow the trends of the latest fashion. Yes, it might not be that \$400 L.A.M.B. jacket you wanted but it looks a lot like it!

"I sew some of my clothing," freshman Fatimah Austin said. "This summer I made this really cute tube dress."

Sewing your own clothing can give you many advantages in the fashion world. You can pick what design you are going to make and with what fabric and other add-ons. When it's completed, it's a one-of-a-kind.

In stores, a designer skirt, costing \$300, may only come in blue but you want a skirt with the same style only in pink. You can mimic the design and then make it for about \$220 less!

There are some disadvantages to sewing like the need of a sewing machine and a few lessons. If you'd really like to design and make your own clothes, there is a class called Wardrobe that can help you start your fashion career.

If you must have, say, a pair of designer sunglasses, look for sales. Department stores like Nordstrom have anniversary sales where you can get designer bags for a lot cheaper. Yes, they won't be 15 dollars but they could be \$200 cheaper.

Have you ever found the perfect dress but there was a big old bow right on your butt area? On sale for \$30 from \$120 but there's that cursed bow stuck to the back of the dress? Cut it off! Modifying cheap clothes is another great way to save money.

"Sometimes, I will cut something if I don't like the fit of it," freshman Margaret Mulligan said.

If you ruin the bottom of your jeans somehow, cut the bot-



Among the best of stores to shop for when in search for a good deal is H&M, which features this luxurious sweater for only \$19.90.

tom off! Turn your old pair of jeans into a new pair of shorts. "My advice for other teens would be for them to try stores that you never go in to," Austin said. "They may have something in there that is really cute. Also, check the sale prices because you can always find something that is really cute for a great price."

"Don't get stuck on name brands," Bladt said. "Get your stuff from everywhere."

You can find the hottest items that Valentino, Dior and Chanel have out at regular places like Target and Gap. Just because it's Dior doesn't mean that its fashionable and just because it's from Target doesn't mean it's horrible.



Xiowhen Zhang

PARENTAL INTRUSION

Martha Burke
Reporter

When does a parent's involvement cross from being caring to stiflingly uncomfortable?

Almost all teenagers have accused their parents of being nosy or over-involved, whether it is with their academics of their social life.

But when does parents' involvement actually put their child at a disadvantage?

According to math teacher Michael Rust, parents begin with good intentions.

"I think parents become over involved because they want to protect their children," Rust said.

School counselor Alice Morrison thinks that there is a line between being involved to an extent that teenagers feel supported and to an extent where students feel overwhelmed. Grades are what are often associated with much stress and concern to parents.

The parents who "helicopter" around grades can often be involved in other aspects of their children's lives.

Rust believes that parents want their children to be successful beyond CHS.

Some believe that the intervention of a parent can help pre-

vent their children from making mistakes. Morrison does not fully agree with that.

"When can you be taken seriously when people are always intervening to save you?" Morrison said.

English teacher Jim Lockhart agrees with Morrison; he believes that there are lines that parents cross that cause students

to feel that their privacy is being threatened.

"The line crosses when the parent doesn't let the kid have an appropriate level of independence for their grade age," Lockhart said.

Students have different opinions about the distinction between caring, and over involvement.

Freshman Freddy Barnes says that parents overestimate their power. To comply, freshman Thalia Sass believes that the line is crossed when a parent tries to tagalong when with their child's friends while freshman Taylor Gold says that the line is crossed when parents tries to force their children into extra-curricular activities like sports.

"A parent moves from being a concerned involved parent to a "helicopter parent" when they start swooping in and rescuing their children form every difficult situation," Rust said. "It is important for young adults to have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes."

The cushion some students may get from their parents may eventually hurt them more than the initial fall would have. Once the parent's influence dims out from the child's life (typically beginning in college) a "crash" period will occur, when no one is there to help.

So what's the solution? Each individual parent and child must find his or her point where caring crosses into over-involvement.

"Teenagers know their own mind and know right from wrong, and sometimes must make their own decisions," Morrison said.

Tuition considered good deal

An increasing number of students choose to pay tuition to attend CHS because they think it is worth the money.

Colleen Layton
Reporter

Sophomore Ikshu Neithalath and Junior Erica Blustein are two of the approximate 817 students currently enrolled at Clayton High School. They are also two of the 40 students currently paying tuition to attend CHS.

For one reason or another, these 40 students weren't happy with their designated area schools. Left with a difficult decision to make, they could have remained in their respective school districts. The other option available, which they all chose, was to pay tuition to attend another public school of their choice or a private school.

"My parents and I didn't feel that University City would provide academic challenges and the curriculum and faculty didn't seem as developed as Clayton's," Neithalath said, a fifth year tuition student. "The Clayton community seemed to be more academically oriented."

Some students wanting to attend a different school district do it for the social and environmental reasons as well as academic purposes.

"Originally my parents and I decided to apply to a private school, but we decided it was too expensive and not right for me," Blustein said. "We heard great things about Clayton and decided to pay tuition."

Principal Louise Losos knows that this decision is not an uncommon one. In fact, many families prefer CHS to local private schools.

"A lot of times, we have more offer-

ings than a private school, especially academically and we have diversity, which a lot of parents like," Losos said.

Still others decide on the tuition program if they are currently upperclassmen, have been attending CHS for many years and want to graduate with their class, even if they have to move to a different district.

After the choice has been made to attend Clayton, many potential and incoming tuition students find it hard to adjust into a class that has been together for such a long time, usually since kindergarten. The class size makes a difference too. Tuition students often come from smaller or private schools and when coming to Clayton, although it is generally considered to be a small district, find that the increase in class size was

which is higher than the cost of several private schools in the St. Louis area, including Nerinx Hall High School and Westminster Christian Academy.

"I think tuition in this case is too high and the system of different schools for different regions is socially unjust," Neithalath said. "The education cycle makes the wealth gap even greater."

That isn't to say that Neithalath doesn't like CHS. On the contrary, he has enjoyed his time.

"I'm glad I did it," Neithalath said. "Families with more than one kid might find it easier to move to Clayton. But in a case like mine with one family member, it is the better option."

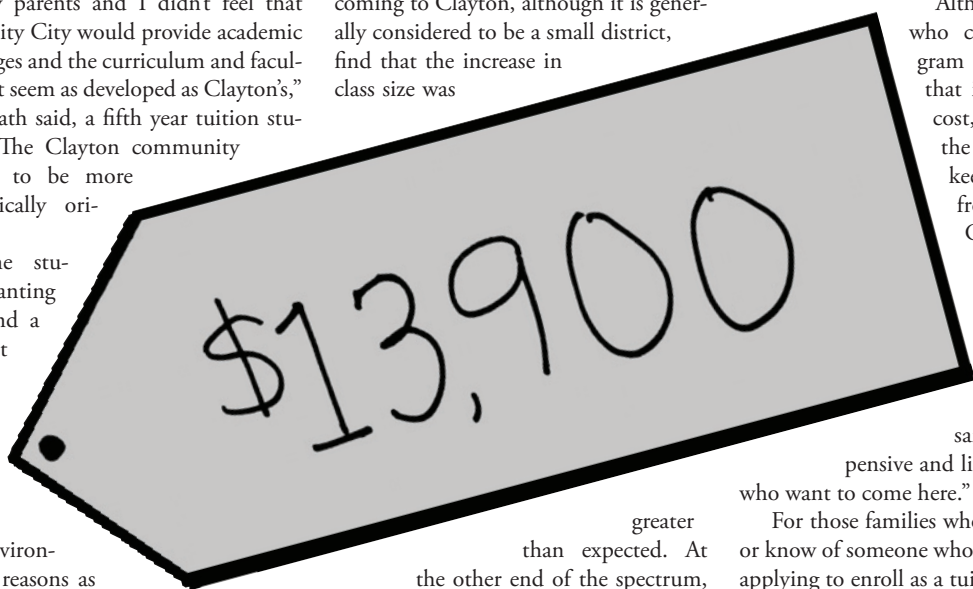
Although those who chose the program generally find that it is worth the cost, it is precisely the cost that is keeping many from attending Clayton.

"I recommend it to kids whose schools aren't the best," Blustein said. "It is expensive and limits those kids who want to come here."

For those families who are interested or know of someone who is interested in applying to enroll as a tuition student in the Clayton schools, there are applications available in the communications office.

"It is for families who are not eligible to send students to CHS," Losos said. "They can apply and pay to send their students."

There are still many enrollment opportunities available but when spots start to fill up, there will be a lottery system and those with siblings at the school or grandparents living in the area are given first priority.



Julia Reilly

College counselor Chat Leonard's office is decadent with college paraphernalia. A myriad of former CHS students are now attending several of the colleges seen on her walls.

Counselors help relieve college stress

Chelsea Cousins
Reporter

Imagine walking into the counseling office on any given day and see the counselors struggling to manage five different tasks at once. Throughout CHS, college counselors Carolyn Blair and Chat Leonard are seen walking around the building with both unfamiliar and familiar faces. These are the faces of deans, students, and other college counselors from other school districts as well; however, their jobs entail much more than handling tours.

It is obviously clear that the college counselors work extremely hard to help students proceed; Blair says that both she and Leonard are on several boards and committees, and have up to five and six meetings per week.

As college counselors, Blair and Leonard meet with seniors and their parents, as well as having the responsibility of planning college fairs. Every spring, the 'Four School Fair' is open to students looking at particular schools. This year, word is that the fair may be held here at CHS.

Also, counselors are subject to attend different fairs and presentations on the various schools that come into St. Louis from out of state and other countries.

In determining different college preferences, seniors are beginning to receive their letters of recommendation and an idea of where they will end up within the next four years.

"I love watching the students' hopes and dreams come to life and helping them actually reach that dream," Blair said.

Along with the college process, seniors are faced with many decisions, but have a important element to keep in mind is that they aren't alone because the college counselors are here to help them with their decision.

"Being a college counselor is one of the most rewarding jobs," Leonard said. "You get to know the students holistically and it's just an overall opportunity to get to know the students on an academic level as well as a personal level."

Here at CHS, the college process serves as a puzzle that is completed by the student's relationships with the counselors.

Why is this important? Beginning spring of their junior year, students will have the chance to sit one-on-one with either Blair or Leonard to discuss possible recommendations that best suit them.

"Although this process is distasteful in this country, the outcomes are rewarding. 90 percent of seniors leave CHS happy," Blair said.

Leonard describes the college process in three phases. First, students enter into the 'search phase,' in which students gather as much information as possible on particular schools of interest. Next, they enter the 'application phase,' where students submit their applications and finally there's the most important of the three, the 'decision phase'. This technique is all about the process of elimination and being aware of what options are available to students.

"It is a stressful process but as college counselors we try to alleviate that stress," Blair said.

Building a relationship with the counselors while going through the stages of the college process ensures seniors that by knowing that there are other authority figures that care just as much as they do about their education, and that fact often gives them that boost they need to succeed.

"Choosing a college is one of the most important decisions that a student will ever have to make and it is so rewarding to be recognized as a part of that decision," Leonard said.

Local shelters provide comfort, care for neglected animals

Three St. Louis animal shelters take in abused, unwanted and abandoned animals, seeking adoptive homes for thousands of pets.

Preeti Viswanathan
Editor

Plenty of pet stores offer pets to purchase, and it is often difficult to resist the pleading gaze of a puppy or a small calico kitten in need of a loving home. When considering getting a pet, adopting animals from animal shelters could be a better option, especially since the St. Louis area has several shelters.

The Stray Rescue of St. Louis (SR) is one of the local organizations devoted to finding and rescuing stray animals and providing them with medical care until they find foster homes. Many of the cats and dogs that Stray Rescue temporarily nurtures were abandoned early in their lives.

"We rescue cats and dogs who have been dumped on the city streets to live on their own or who have been born on the street," said Kelly Brinkman, Director of Development at Stray Rescue of St. Louis.

According to Brinkman, SR usually rescues more dogs than cats since it is more difficult for dogs to survive on their own because they lack the instincts to do so.

"Cats have instincts to live outside on their own but for dogs, these instincts have been bred out of them so they can only survive on substances such as garbage, road kill, and grass," Brinkman said. "The dogs are rescued from very dangerous areas of town, from junkyards, from the woods and from abandoned homes and gang neighborhoods."

The Stray Rescue typically adopts out about 1200 dogs and cats annually.

The Animal Protective Association (APA) of Missouri, another animal shelter, takes in about 4000 cats and dogs each year. According to Becky Krueger, Director of Education at APA, smallest dogs are more frequently adopted, while adult animals usually stay at the shelter for about four months before being adopted. Though there is no set period of time that the animals stay at the shelter, animals that have been with the shelter for more than six months have a lower adoption fee.

"Small dogs, like Chihuahuas and Maltese poodles, are adopted the quickest probably because smaller dogs fit more easily into peoples' lifestyles — they don't necessarily need a big yard or big house for a small dog," Krueger said. "It is much harder for us to find homes for big dogs and adult cats."

She also said the APA has some dogs and cats that people can no longer keep.

"People think they want a puppy or kitten because they are cute, but they don't realize how hard it is to train a young animal," Krueger said. "So we have a lot of 'teenage' cats and dogs brought to us — these are animals that are between one and two years old."

New animals in the shelter are given medical examinations, including flea and tick preventive vaccines, and are tested for heartworms and leukemia before being put in adoption rooms. The cats tend to interact more with one another than the dogs do.

"The dogs are in separate dog runs so they don't really interact much with each other," Krueger said. "If a cat likes other cats, he or she can go into one of our 'cat condos' to socialize with others while waiting for a new home. We have volunteers come to play with the animals on a regular basis and take the dogs outside to play."

Another unique animal shelter is the Clowder House Foundation for cats. Many of the cats that come to the Clowder House come there because their owners passed away or live in nursing homes.

"We are unlike any other shelter in the area," Diane Hurwitz, President of Clowder House Foundation, said. "We actually are a sanctuary, or as we like to call it, a cat retirement home."

The cats get lifetime care with an entrance fee. Usually, however, only the rescue cats are available for adoption unless the previous owner allows it.

"These [rescue] kitties are rescued by board members and come from various situations such as living in a nearby vacant building, and some have actually wandered in on their own via our side door," Hurwitz said. "The rescue kittens are given all necessary medical care and socialization, and then are available for adoption."

Similar to the other two shelters, kittens at Clowder House are adopted more frequently than older cats because potential owners want to raise them from an early age. They also don't have to get accustomed to the older cats' personalities and health problems.

In many ways, the cats are treated like human children; as part of their lives in Clowder House, they have social activity and bonding time. Their recreation includes playing with toys, listening to music, and watching television.



Sonja Peterman

"We are primarily a no-cage facility, so most of the cats are allowed to roam their areas," Hurwitz said. "There is a lot of cat furniture and toys available, and we keep music on for the cats 24 hours a day. We also have a T.V. that is often on in the kitchen for those cats who prefer to watch and hear talking."

Additionally, the Clowder House Foundation is building an outdoor playground for them.

"Once construction is finished, we will also have an enclosed area outside which the cats will be able to enjoy in better weather — we affectionately refer to it as 'little cat country' in honor of the zoo," Hurwitz said.

Students explore medical careers

Simone Bernstein
Editor

Operating rooms, emergencies and hospital rounds became part of a summer routine for a few CHS students. This past summer, while many students were vacationing, unwinding and relaxing, a handful were observing an actual surgery in an operating room. For 60 hours in June and July, students had the ability to explore different medical fields. This summer a few CHS students shadowed professionals in the medical field at Barnes-Jewish Hospital (BJC). Shadowing has numerous benefits for all students.

Shadowing provides the ultimate hands-on classroom. No desks and limited lectures add intrigue and appeal to this classroom without walls. Homework includes writing in a journal and answering questions. This CHS summer school program was available for all juniors and seniors who have an interest in pursuing a career in the medical field.

"Job shadowing provides a meaningful match between a high school student and a health-care professional for a one-day experience," said Jennifer Irvin, School-Community Health Educator for BJC. "The student is on a fact-finding mission in pursuit of learning more about the opportunities available in the health care field. Often this visit reinforces their interest or eliminates this as a career choice." This program provides many students with a new and unique experience.

"Through this program I learned to appreciate all who work in the medical field," senior Krishna Vemulapalli said.

From January to July 2008, about 2400 students in the metropolitan St. Louis area participated in this mentoring program. Mike Howe, the Science Department Chair at CHS, helps CHS students coordinate their schedules with BJC.

"Through this program students get a chance to explore various medical fields and earn a half unit of elective credit,"

Howe said. "Students follow a variety of therapists, nurses, and physicians throughout the two months."

Every student has the opportunity to explore a specialized area of interest where they can observe and gain a deeper understanding of the medical field. Senior Tianxin Ku chose to work with chemotherapy specialists. After exploring different fields, Ku realized that other jobs would better suit her interests. Some students had the privilege of working with respiratory therapists, and were able to experience all areas of the hospital.

"Based on my personalized experiences, I am now interested in becoming a neurosurgeon," Ku said. "Through this program I observed a few surgeries, and learned a lot of general information about the roles of technicians, nurses, and doctors."

This year Howe wants to spend additional time promoting and advertising the BJC program, so more students will sign up in the future. Some freshman and sophomore students already have an interest in signing up for the program in the next few years.

"I would be very interested in participating in this program as a junior or senior if I was given more information," freshman Jonathan Knohl said.

Many students who complete this program pursue additional studies in a health care field. Irvin even gives recommendations for students attending colleges. She advises students to explore all career paths through shadow programs like BJC offers.

"The sooner students learn and explore careers, the better position he/she is in to work with counselor to ensure the right course load," Irvin said.

All students interested in participating in this summer course should talk with Howe, who is willing to help students find opportunities to get involved during the school year.



Andrew Dowd

Sophomore Grace Brumley works the counter at Pacigoo, a gelato shop. Grace was among the many CHS students who went to work this summer, earning valuable knowledge in addition to a paycheck.

Summer jobs ring in cash, experience

Justin Elliot
Reporter

In the current economy, the price of almost everything around students is skyrocketing, from college to new clothes to gas. Some students found jobs this summer to make ends meet for their increasing expenditures.

Although a full force of eager and willing teenagers was ready to find jobs at the beginning of the summer, the failing job market struck them down.

According to a survey from the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University released earlier this summer, the national teen employment level is the lowest it's been in 60 years.

"I applied to eleven places when I was looking for a job, and I took the only one that replied" senior Katie Poplawski said. "And I think it is even harder to find one now."

With a lagging economy, over-qualified college graduates, immigrants and laid-off adults are taking positions that were once filled by teens.

"The only applicants I see getting

jobs are people with prior work experience," senior Krishna Vemulapalli said. "I even got my lifeguard certification this summer and I still couldn't get a job, the only work I found was on the side landscaping."

Although Vemulapalli did make some money, it was nowhere near the amount he was expecting to make.

"I really wanted to find a steady job for the summer, but I was only able to help my mom in her office every once in a while," sophomore Sarah O'Brien said.

Although it was hard to get jobs this summer, many students' persistence paid off and they landed a job. These students at the end of the summer were able to walk away with much more than a paycheck from their jobs.

"Not only did I gain a lot of new friends, but I also got a whole new perspective of people who don't have a choice if they work or not, and a true respect for people that work 'behind the counter,'" Poplawski said about her work experience at Bread Co. in downtown Clayton.

Poplawski's job entailed manning the register, but she occasionally helped make sandwiches or run the bakery.

Above all, Poplawski has learned to "Work hard, but have fun while doing so."

Like Poplawski, many student workers expect their work experience will help them in the future.

Vemulapalli still is searching for a job for the school year.

"Hopefully having a job in high school will help me get jobs in college or later in life," he said.

O'Brien's job entailed a lot of busy work such as filling and labeling. But her interface with fellow workers and clients helped her build formal communication skills.

"The things I learned working at my mom's will help me with any job I have in the future, and will hopefully make me a better candidate for future jobs," O'Brien said.

Even though working at her Mom's office was not her first choice, Sarah's thoughts afterwards were positive.

"Although it was a lot of work, it was definitely a good experience, and maybe I had a little fun too," she said.

To find listings for teen jobs, students should check out the Y.E.S. webpage on the Clayton High School website.



Nina Oberman

Mike Howe talks with senior Krishna Vemulapalli about his experience shadowing doctors this summer. Howe coordinates the program for CHS students, giving them the opportunity to explore various fields of health care.



Mack Su works on various calculators, the tools of the trade that helped him prepare for the ACT.

Jessica Shen

Senior attains perfection on ACT

Nina Oberman
Editor

To most students, it's a remote fantasy. It lent its name to a 2004 Hollywood Blockbuster. According to ACT.org, only about 1 in 3,300 test-takers will achieve it. And this year, Senior Mack Su accomplished the near unfathomable feat.

The Perfect Score. But Mack doesn't like to brag. A surprise even for him, he's only told his friends and family that he scored a 36 on the ACT.

"No one goes in expecting to get a 36," Mack said unassumingly. "I thought I was going to retake it, but after I got my score back, I was like 'dang, I don't need to take that again.'"

Still, Mack realizes his "perfect" score doesn't guarantee everything. Colleges don't automatically accept high scorers on standardized tests. Like everyone else, he still worries.

"Dude, I don't even know what to do for college," he agonized. "My top three schools each have like a 10 percent acceptance rate. Combined that's still only like...a 30 percent chance of getting in!"

Nice math, Mack. Meanwhile, he's just trying to enjoy senior year while it lasts. The presumption that his test score would require an abandonment of his social life perplexes even a genius.

"I don't know why people would think that someone who got a 36 on the ACT would have no life," he said. "It just doesn't take that much time commitment."

Like the rest of us, Mack says he ends up on Facebook most of the time. His homepage, however, is MSN.

"That site is amazing. They've got everything you need—sports, news, human interest. I'm a human! I'm interested!" Even a perfect-scorer is easily distracted.

Mack's best prep tip: go to school. As long as you take all of the challenging courses, he thinks there's definitely no new

material to learn for the ACT. However, he did check out one library book: "The Real ACT."

"Why would I waste my money on ACT books?" he joked.

On the day of the test, his guidelines are more extensive. First, he recommends listening to classical music.

"I listened to rap music on my way to the practice SAT. What a mistake. That was unfortunate." The theory is plausible, he thinks. Rappers tend not to employ proper grammar. Such an influence so soon before the test could have been negative. And he didn't do as well as he would have liked.

“No one goes in expecting to get a 36. I thought I was going to retake it, but after I got my score back, I was like ‘dang, I don’t need to take that again.’”

Mack Su
Senior

Secondly, he pointed at his digital watch—nerdy, but pragmatic. Mack does all of his problems at once, and reserves the last five minutes to bubble them in. Timing himself is essential.

Lastly, he advises to be thorough. "I don't skim the reading sections, I read it all through," he said. "That's the pimpin' way to do it."

Evidently Mack's image of a pimp is a little more intelligent than that of today's culture.

Although he recognizes the rarity of his accomplishment, he is confident that others can do the same.

"It was a challenging test, but it's not impossible," he said. "It's not like people don't know the stuff, they just make stupid mistakes."

So Mack truly believes he's the lucky one. The one who didn't slip up. Taught by his dad at a young age, he learned math from "some sketchy Chinese textbooks." Soon, he'll choose his career path. Will it be Science? Business? Before he decides, he wants to make the most of the world at hand.

"You know what would be awesome?" "To just go to the South and stand in a cotton field. That would be amazing." ☺

District strives to become environmentally friendly

Laura Bleeke
Reporter

Global warming has quickly become a rising topic of conversation in the country. People have started to make drastic changes to their lifestyle, such as cutting down on the amount of gas they spend, reducing the amount of water they use in their showers and recycling any products they can.

The Green Club, formed in 2006, is working to spread awareness about environmental issues and make the school a greener place.

In the past the Green Club has done work both inside and out of the school community.

"They worked with Earth Day last year," said Nathan Peck, AP Chemistry teacher and cosponsor of the Green Club. "Two years ago they did something with the Art Fair in terms of recycling, and they went around as a group, collecting stuff and just making sure it got recycled."

Through these outside school projects, students have been able to show the community that they care about the environment. They have also been working on a project in the school.

"Within the school community, the project they were working on last year the most was with the lighting," Peck said. "And changing all the switches around in the building so that they would have automatic shut-off and save electricity."

The Green Club is not the only group looking for a way to make the lights turn off automatically in our school district.

"I think there are plans district wide to move in that direction, which they really should," Principal Louise Losos said.

According to Energy Information Administration, a government website about energy, the United States is recycling

more than 50 percent of the paper it uses. The school is trying to show students that it is not hard to recycle and that it makes a big difference.

Recycling bins have been placed around the school, reminding students that they have the opportunity to recycle.

Many CHS students are within walking or biking distance from the school. Many also live near each other, making carpooling an easy, yet environmentally friendly way to come to school.

Bike paths will be added to Wydown Boulevard next year, and engineers are considering putting bike lanes on Forsyth Boulevard as well.

"Having a bike path would certainly help," Losos said. "I think it's as much as getting the kids to change their attitudes towards it. It's hard to convince a 17-year-old with access to a car that they ought to bike to school."

Although it would be difficult to get a student to come to school everyday via bike, foot or public transportation, it might not be out of the question to have a carbon-free day. Students would be challenged to come to school without leaving any kind of carbon footprint behind.

"I would love to see the Green Club promote a 'car-free day', where they encourage the entire school community to come to school by biking or walking," Losos said. "Just to raise awareness."

Peck believes that student enthusiasm must remain the primary motivator for change within the school.

"The environmental movement happens with individual people making these choices," Peck said. "As the Green Club, you can't really tell people what to do. This is a student initiative, and we've tried to keep it that way." ☺

“The environmental movement happens with the individual people making these choices. As the Green Club, you can't really tell people what to do. This is a student initiative, and we've tried to keep it that way.”

Nathan Peck
AP Chemistry teacher

Saving energy at home

One way to reduce residential energy bills is to make sure your home is well insulated.

► **Caulk and weatherstrip** doors and windows; caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting or electrical wiring penetrates through the exterior

► **Install rubber gaskets** behind outlets, switch plates on exterior walls

► **Replace single-pane windows** with energy-efficient double-pane windows, or use storm windows to reduce drafts

► **Keep the flue damper** tightly closed when you are not using the fireplace to keep warm air from escaping up the chimney

Personal Finance

The numbers
How air escapes from homes

Floors, walls, ceiling **31%**
Pipes, ducts, outlets **30%**
Windows, doors **21%**
Fireplace **14%**

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Source: U.S. Department of Energy
Graphic: Pat Carr

Facts about the ACT

What was the national average ACT composite score for 2008? 21.1

Is that an increase or decrease from 2007? It is a decrease from 21.2 in 2007.

What is the source of the 2008 ACT national average? The scores of all ACT-tested 2008 high school graduates (more than 1.4 million students)

What proportion of 2008 graduates who took the ACT scored 36? About 1 in 3,300

What subject areas do the ACT questions cover? English, math, reading, science, and writing (optional)

How many questions are asked? English: 75
Math: 60
Reading: 40
Science: 40
Total: 215

How long does the test take? English: 45 minutes
Math: 60 minutes
Reading: 35 minutes
Science: 35 minutes

Unique underclassman offer promises acting experience

Kara Kratcha
Reporter

With the drama season just kicking off, incoming freshmen and inexperienced sophomores may be looking for a way to get involved with the Drama Guild.

Clayton has instituted a new performance this year—the freshman/sophomore play. This production is exactly what it sounds like, a play put on entirely by underclassmen actors. This year, Ted Drury, drama teacher Kelly Ryan's student teacher, is directing the production of Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors.

The play itself is a comedy based mostly on mistaken identity.

The plot is centered around a set of twin brothers, each with the same name, and each unaware that he has a twin brother. Each twin, Antipholus, has a servant called Dromio. The Dromios are, consequently, also a set of twins, also unaware of their brother. The four all end up in Ephesus, where one of the Antipholus's lives with his wife.

The drama department as a whole seems rather excited about this opportunity.

"Well, usually it's hard for freshmen and sophomores to get involved," Drury said. "The fall play will cast juniors and seniors. We want freshmen and sophomores who don't have that experience to get that experience."

Drury also said he was worried about the underclassmen turn out at auditions, which were held on Sept 8, especially with students' possible perception of Shakespeare's work as old or stuffy.

"They think it's all heavy stuff, but even the tragedies are funny," Drury said. "They all have comedy in them."

Nick Oliveri, Drama Guild Co-President, agreed. "I think that not a lot of people know about it," Oliveri said. "I think freshmen may not come out to do it because they've never heard of Clayton doing a freshman/sophomore play before."

As the shortest Shakespearean play written and a relatively small cast, the script is a good choice for the inexperienced underclassmen, being both manageable and entertaining. There are thirteen characters in the play, but, according to Drury,

only nine actors may be cast. The casting could be difficult, though, because of predominantly male character base and the need for two sets of twins.

"What we'll do is cast two people who look very alike, dress them very similarly, and ask the audience to suspend their disbelief," Drury said. "It's actually funnier if they look different. It allows the people in the audience to know things the people onstage don't."

As far as the abundance of male characters, Drury had another solution already worked out.

"I'll probably have to do a lot of gender switching," he said. "One of the Antipholus' may even be a girl if I find the right actors." "Despite any concerns, the underclassmen arrived at the audition ready to try out. There seemed to be a good mix of students from all the grades. News of the audition time must have gotten out. One hopeful freshman actor there summed up the feelings of her fellows.

"I have talked to a few people," freshman Rosalind Cuneo said, "It seems like most people just want to see what they get into."

The main roles have all gone to the sophomore veteran actors, with Ian Miller and John Holland as the twin Antipholuses, Ruthie Polinsky as one of the Dromios, and Sarah McAfee as Adriana, the native Antipholus's wife. Each of these thespians has acted in productions both at Wydown and CHS, creating a web of experience for the incoming freshman actors to learn from.

Comedy of Errors is set to run one night only on Oct 25, the same weekend as the Halloween Dance. John Holland, sophomore and Drama Guild member, seems to personify the general attitude of the Guild.

"I think it's a good thing for freshmen who want to test the waters," Holland said. "I would like to see what the department can do." ☺

Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors

October 24, Black Box Theater

“I think it’s a good thing for freshmen who want to test the waters. I would like to see what the department can do.”

John Holland
Sophomore



Children from a Webster Japanese language school sing Japanese songs to audiences at the Japanese Festival. The annual Japanese Festival took place at the Missouri Botanical Garden over Labor Day weekend.

"My favorite part of the Japanese Festival was the booths. They had a lot of different things from Japan for super cheap. I spent a ridiculous amount of money. One other part that was cool was this guy called the "Candy Man" who did a little show at the entrance where he made intricate figures out of wax. There was also amazing food like udon noodles, sushi, and really yummy snow cones, which aren't Japanese but were still tasty."

-Nichole Burton



Jecoliah Wang plays violin with the children from the Japanese school.

photos by Nichole Burton

Celebrating Cultural Diversity



The International Institute of St. Louis' annual Festival of Nations and the St. Louis Japanese Festival are two local cultural celebrations out of a myriad that occur year-round.



Belly dancers perform at the Festival of Nations. The festival takes place downtown.



A member of the Japanese choir plays a traditional Japanese instrument as the choir sings.

"The Festival of Nations is a great way to experience other cultures. The food is awesome and there's a huge variety because of all the different countries that have booths, where they also sell items such as clothing and instruments."

-Taylor Obata



A woman plays a Japanese drum in a demonstration at the Japanese Festival.



A woman in the Turkish booth at the Festival of Nations creates a marble-like painting.