



Photo courtesy of Jeff DeVries

Go Club sponsors Sara Johnson and Diane Bilyeu pose with senior Jordan Bivins during a Christmas gift drive at Emmanuel CRC in 2018.

Marketing Department creates new app

Jessica Bergfors
Reporter

Illiana released a new app called the Illiana Christian High School app at the beginning of the school year.

Approached by “Legit Apps,” Marketing Director Jenna Dutton, summer marketing intern Kassidy Weenhoff, and Director of Admissions Marie Limback worked throughout the summer to try to create the easiest and most convenient app for students, staff, parents, and alumni.

“We want to reach students where they are at,” said Dutton, explaining that everyone is always on their phone and most teenagers don’t check their email, so this app makes getting information out easier.

The app is a summary of the Illiana website and an individual’s Renweb account. People can turn on push notifications to receive announcements as they are made. Users can personalize an account to get the information that they need.

“It’s where people live,” Limback said. “People live with their apps and their phones.”

Go Club absent, opportunities to serve remain

Lauren Woo
News Editor

Illiana began this school year without a club it has offered for over a decade: Go Club.

After Diane Bilyeu, the former girls gym teacher, retired at the end of the 2018-2019 school year, and Sara Johnson, one of Il-

liana’s English teachers, took over the role of Missions Director, Go Club was left without a sponsor.

“We couldn’t find someone on faculty who had a passion for [Go Club],” said principal Peter Boonstra, “and we couldn’t just assign it to someone.” The position was not formally offered to anyone on staff, so the responsi-

bilities Go Club usually handled were divided amongst IMPACT, Student Council, Chapel Committee, and the new Missions Club.

This means that there will still be a dodgeball tournament, sponsored by Missions, taking place on November 15. Johnson hopes that the distribution of events between different clubs and commit-

tees will allow for better planning “so the students can get the best of their high school experience.”

As Missions Director, Johnson will still offer one or two service opportunities a month, as Go Club would’ve done in the past. As Missions Director, Johnson is organizing three mission trips for this spring break.

New courtyard creates space for community, events, learning

Adam Gibson
Reporter

With hopes to hold events, encourage student fellowship, and create more of a sense of community, Illiana constructed a new courtyard in its backyard.

Building a sense of community is the main focus of Illiana’s new courtyard, according to Lance Davids, Vision Director of the school. At least twelve tables and benches will be available for students to sit on during break and possibly lunch. Electrical pads and USB ports will allow students to work outside and lighting will extend the uses past dark. Irrigation will also be included in the venue.

Vice Principal AJ Turkstra said about the new Illiana

space, “It’s like a Starbucks seating area on steroids.” He would like to see Impact Club, Praise Crowd, movie nights, classes, and lunch in the area. He is open to the courtyard being rented as well. Following last year’s final Praise Crowd night, the committee will need to get creative if it wants to host another night outside because of the obstacles the courtyard has like the gardens, said sponsor Mrs. Rachel Drost.

Last year there was talk of a greenhouse in the space, but the project now could be a phase two Illiana build. Science teacher Mr. Brian Sylvester says, “I think it’s good that the courtyard was built there because it was a better use of space.”

Future plans include the greenhouse being built at the end of the science department.



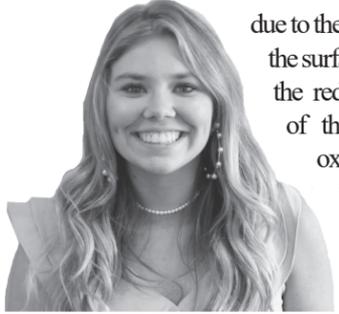
Photo by Jeff DeVries

STEM teacher Brent Vermeulen takes students outside for class even before the project is finished.

Dangers not seen from contacts

Don't sleep in contacts. Not for a few minutes, a few hours and definitely not for the night. Sleeping in contacts can have a very life-altering outcome, speaking from experience.

If a person sleeps while wearing contacts, the cornea does not get oxygen due to the contact covering the surface of the eye and the reduced movement of the eye. Lack of oxygen combined with pollutants from the air that get trapped under the contact, in my case it was limestone from a softball game, can cause infections, ulcers and vision impairment.



Madison Ceponis

Feature Editor

On March 22, Illiana's JV softball team played a game at Heartland Park against Hanover High School. Not only did we go home with our first loss, I personally went home with limestone in my eye.

That night I slept in my contacts and did not think anything of it. Usually they are just red and itchy when I wake. On that Sunday, I took them out right away. Throughout the day, my eyes became intensely itchy, red, swollen and hooded. But still we did not think anything of it. I had a restless night. My eye felt like it was on fire with toothpicks in it.

For some reason I decided to go to school on that following Monday. I showed up late, but I couldn't even look in the sunlight, the white board, or any other light. I lasted till break time and sat in the office with a wet rag covering my eye waiting for my mother to pick me up. We immediately went to Illiana Eye Care in Cedar Lake and saw Dr. Davids.

Walking in there, we thought it would be nothing serious, just that I had scratched my eye and I had irritation. Such was not the case. I had a pseudomonas corneal ulcer that covered 70% of my cornea. The infection could not have lived on the surface of my eye, if my contact had not trapped it in. As it was trapped in, it ate part of my cornea, and created an ulcer, all in a few hours of sleep.

Dr. Davids put me on eye drops to see if it would kill the infection. The antibiotic I was put on was a very effective drug, but it had no effect on me.

Tuesday, when I went back, Davids expressed that the infection could lead to vision loss and even loss of the eye. The ulcer now covered 100% of my eye. She referred me to a specialist, Dr. Nickolas Katsoulakis, who was located in Krates Eye Care in Orland Park. As we went to see him that day the moment he looked at my eye, he clenched his jaw, gave a deep breath, sat back and muttered, 'oh no'. That was something you can't prepare for. He sent us to a lab in Roseland, Illinois to get the strong antibiotics that is not even in hospitals or drug stores. The infection is that aggressive and rare, especially in a 17 year old.

As I was put on the drug a drop every hour. By Wednesday, the ulcer and the hole in my cornea had not changed in size but also had not grown. I was responding to the antibiotics and my eye was full of white blood cells, which help healing.

By Thursday I was still sensitive to light and could only see shadows. My vision was hazy, but the ulcer began to heal, and the fire burning pain finally went away. On Friday I was responding well to the antibiotics, the swelling was going down, and the pain was gone. The ulcer that covered my eye shrunk by nearly one-third. As we wanted the healing to improve more Katsoulakis put an amniotic membrane, an implant lens the size of a gatorade cap, in my eye to help heal the surface of my eye. My family and I believe that he saved my eye with his cutting edge treatment and also Davids fast decision making to send me to a specialist.

Moral of the story; do not sleep in contacts.



Photo by Taylor Benes

Big Brother/Big Sister and Impact Club members and incoming freshmen pose together while playing a game.

Welcome Night success for Impact Club

Liz Aje
Reporter

Impact Club sponsored a Welcome Night to greet many new students to Illiana this year at 7 p.m. on August 19.

Welcome Night is an event designed to bring

both new transfer students and freshmen from non-feeder schools together on a night where they can meet fellow students and become acquainted with the school. The night started off with hamburgers for both the students and parents. The parents then went to a Q-and-

A while the students went to enjoy some ice breaking activities hosted by the Big Brother/Sister program.

"The Big Brother-Big Sister program is where students, sophomores through seniors, volunteer to be a big brother or sister to the new students," said Mrs.

Benes, one of the teachers who runs Impact Club. The students played games like human knot, two truths and a lie, and a blind folded obstacle course.

"It was pretty fun and a good experience," said sophomore Devan Connor.



Photo courtesy of Jenna Dutton

Introduction to Drama camp warms up before learning about the art of theatre.

Summer camp triumphs, Illiana benefits

Olivia DeYoung
Reporter

Viking Academy, Illiana's new summer camp program which combines both sports and academic camps, launched July 2019, giving both students and teachers an opportunity to participate.

Over 300 students enrolled, participating in activities ranging from learning STEM to cooking meals to visiting museums in Chicago. Viking Academy offered about thirty classes, but because

each camp required at least ten students, four of the camps had to be cancelled. Although the enrollment was a little lower than expected, Marketing Director Jenna Dutton explained, the new program still raised about \$12,000 for Illiana.

In the past, Illiana has offered sports camps and a band camp, but Vision Director Lance Davids saw an opportunity to expand the program after seeing the wide range of camps that Holland Christian High School offered.

In order to make the program a reality, the Illiana market-

ing team reached out to Illiana teachers for help in creating and teaching camps. Science teacher Kevin Haan, who taught a camp on fishing, said that he enjoyed getting to teach a class "to get [students] excited about fishing."

Illiana also employed many students who served as aids in the camps, with a one aid per ten student ratio. Senior Sydney DeVries, who assisted with the Chicago experience camp, said that she would gladly help out again because she felt like she was learning alongside the students.

Old campus to land on auction block

Valentina Lopez
Reporter

After failing to find a buyer for the old campus in the past year, the school board hopes to sell it soon by putting it up for auction.

According to principal Peter Boonstra it is still for sale. Different groups have extended offers and contracts, but none of those have ultimately resulted in a deal. According to Boonstra, selling the building is especially tricky because the campus was built uniquely as a high school.

The building also requires many repairs, and maintenance grows harder as the building gets older. The school board is currently working on putting the property on auction.

"We hope to be advertising it very widely in the next sixty days," said Boonstra.

Despite of all the challenges that came with moving campuses and even states, Boonstra added, "I'm extremely clear that it was good for us to move. I don't have any regrets about having made the change."

Illiana welcomes new faculty members

Mr. Matthew De Boer

Olivia Oostema
Reporter

Illiana recently welcomed new teacher Mr. Matthew De Boer to the science department.

De Boer teaches physical science, physics, and biology. Last year, he graduated from Calvin College. He student taught at Holland Christian High School.

Asked what he thought of Illiana, De Boer said that he loved all the friendly people and the strong, supportive Christian community. He has a homeroom of talkative juniors that “keep him in the loop.”

De Boer also started the card games club because he loves learning new games and enjoys spending time with his



students. He said that he looks forward to teaching science from a Christian perspective and being a part of Illiana’s growth.

Science Department Chairman, Mr. Brian Sylvester, described him as being a “fresh set of eyes” that question the way things are done and as having “maturity beyond his experience.”

Ms. Erin Behn

Amanda Horner
Reporter

Erinn Behn joined the P.E department this August at the beginning of school.

Behn, an Illiana graduate from the class of 2011, worked at a few middle schools, including Deer Creek Academy, before starting here. Behn

had a long time goal to teach at a high school, and now her dream has come true.

Fellow P.E. teacher Tom Roozeboom and Athletic Director Deb Kamp have been making sure Behn’s start at Illiana is smooth, and both agree she has brought fresh ideas to PE.

Behn is also the new girls varsity soccer coach.



Mrs. Bethany DeVries

Kylee Cruz
Reporter

The Student Services Department welcomed Mrs. Bethany DeVries to this staff this fall.

Working with over 40 students ranging from freshman to seniors, DeVries offers help and support to the Illiana students and staff, according to Mrs. Heidi Teach, Director of Student Services. If a student ever needs to make up a quiz, stay for homework hall after school, or has a learning disability, DeVries is there to assist.

DeVries has a bachelor’s degree from Trinity Christian in English and business, and a masters in special education. Teach said, “She is very knowledgeable and a great help to me.”

DeVries also helps Illiana teachers meet state requirements into different curriculum learning activities. She helps general ed teachers, like Mrs. Hillegonds and Mr. DeBoer to modify their methods to help struggling students meet Indiana state standards.

DeVries said, “The Lord called me to Illiana for a reason.”



Photo courtesy of ICHS Facebook page

A participant rolls down the Challenged to Ride course that ran to Momence.

New ‘Challenged to Ride’ routes welcome all ages, raise \$40,000

Rachel Bultema
Reporter

Challenged to Ride, a bike riding fundraiser for all ages and levels of expertise, attracted 86 riders and raised \$40,000 to benefit Student Services on Aug. 24. Riders could choose from four different routes, including the new addition, Walk and Roll, a path around Illiana’s track for families with small children.

Organizer Mr. Lance Davids says, “A bike ride helps get different people involved in different ways and promotes health.”

The event was advertised through fliers, brochures, and social media, all of which helped to get people outside the Illiana community involved.

The event’s third year brought change that ac-

ording to the organizers allowed the ride to happen more smoothly. Routes were modified which made transport of bikes and people easier.

Going forward, organizers plan to “make minor changes to how the route was marked,” said organizer and rider Mr. Anthony Drost.

One rider suffered a concussion after a fall in the Momence leg of the ride. Davids drove the rider to back to Illiana, and his wife drove the man to the hospital. “It was only a minor concussion,” Davids said. “No one died.”

The Student Services department plans to use the funds to help the students through things like standing desks. Last year’s funds went to the building project, but it is currently undecided how next year’s proceeds will be spent.

Illiana's twins, triplets share stories

Lauren Woo
News Editor

The chance that a mother will have identical twins is 1 in 250. The chance of having identical triplets is 1 in 62,500. Yet with an enrollment of 439 students, Illiana currently has seven sets of twins and two sets of triplets. That means that 4.55% of Illiana's students are either a twin or triplet.

In recent years, the percent of twin and triplet births has grown drastically. According to the Center for Disease Control's National Vital Statistics Report, the twin birth rate rose 76% from 1980 to 2009. However, twins and triplets still make up a minority in society.

Because of the rarity of twin and triplet births, many people are unfamiliar with what it is like to live as a twin or triplet. Graham Goodfellow, a sophomore

at Illiana, and twin to Grace Goodfellow, said that having a twin is "definitely different than

While Goodfellow was in surgery, he explained, he had "a tube shoved down his throat"

tube was removed, she stopped throwing up.

Goodfellow also said that

Grace share many friends, and have since grade school, and that they are in many of the same classes.

Amanda Vis, a freshman and triplet to Alex and Josh, said, "I kind of like being a triplet."

Vis continued, "I always have someone to talk to who's my age."

Nick Boersma, sophomore and triplet to Noah and Logan, said that they "go everywhere together," to the point where "we get annoyed because we're together a lot."

Logan said that people often get the three of them confused, but they "try to be different."

However, in their 6th grade math class, Nick and Logan switched sweatshirts and seats, to see if their teacher would notice.

"She never noticed," Nick said.



Photo by Madie Ceponis

Twins and triplets of Illiana pose together.

having other siblings."

"We're definitely closer," he added.

in the hospital. While this took place, his twin, Grace, began throwing up at home. When the

sometimes when he can't sleep, neither can Grace.

He also said that he and

Photo courtesy of Luke VanEssen



Photo courtesy of Justin VanDrunen

James and Justin VanDrunen



Photo courtesy of Grace Goodfellow

Grace and Graham Goodfellow

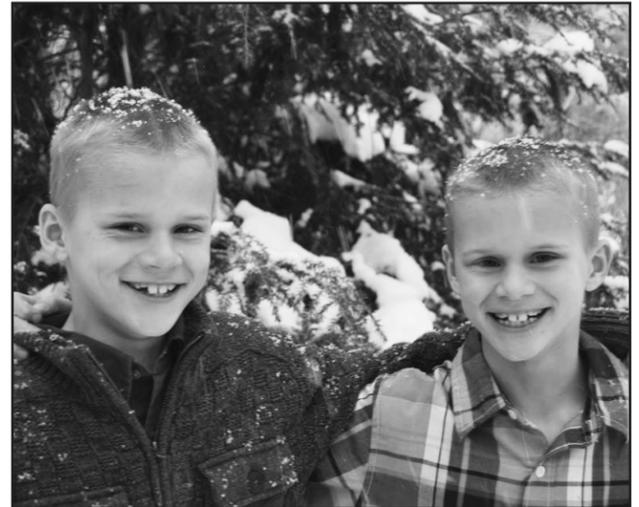


Photo courtesy of Luke VanEssen

Luke and Zeke VanEssen



Photo courtesy of Matt VanEssen

Matt and Nick VanEssen



Photo courtesy of Noah Boersma

Noah, Nick, and Logan Boersma

Statistically, twins, triplets on rise

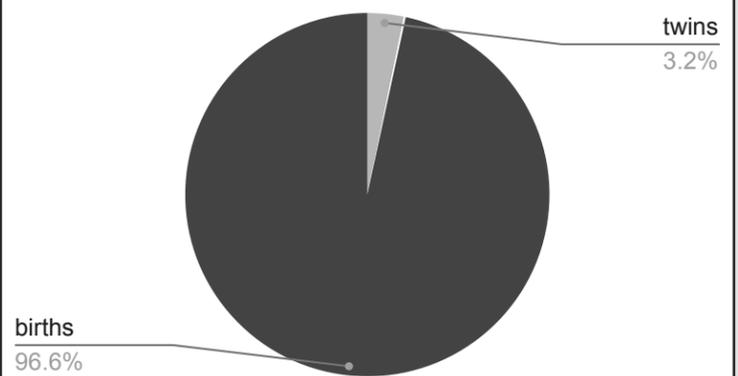
Madison Ceponis
Feature Editor

Multiple births, though currently well represented in Illiana's halls, remain fairly uncommon. According to the CDC, the twin birth rate is 33.3 per 1,000 live births. The triplets or higher birth rate is 101.6 per 100,000 live births. The likelihood of multiple births has been increasing.

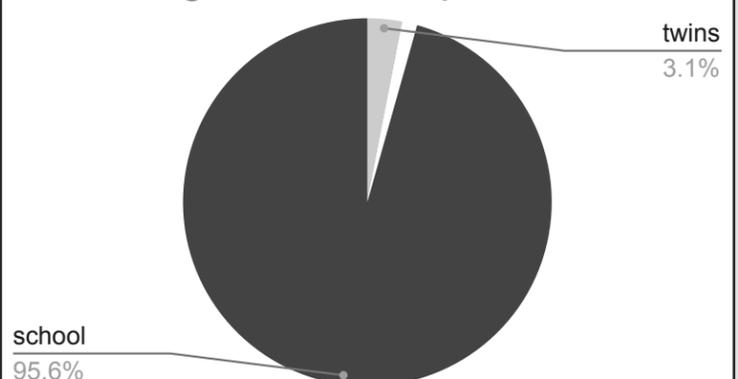
Monozygotic, or identical, twins are developed from one zygote (a fertilized egg) that splits and forms two embryos. 3 to 4 births out of 1,000 are identical twins.

Dizygotic, or fraternal, twins are developed from separate eggs after each egg is fertilized. Couples who birth twins are about 10 times more likely to have fraternal twins than identical.

Percentage of twins, triplets in world population



Percentage of twins, triplets in ICHS



'The A List' provides B-list entertainment

Lauren Woo
Arts Editor

Netflix and the BBC's "The A List" begins as any run of the mill teen drama would. It opens on actors in their 20s, yet playing teens, entering into what should be the perfect summer. They hop off the ferry onto Peregrine Island expecting to make new memories, discover new friends, and, especially for Mia (played by Lisa Ambalavanar), protagonist and typical queen bee, find a summer romance.

This, however, is not what occurs.

The perfect island scene and overly cheerful mood is interrupted by a dark silhouette and eerie music. The disruption soon becomes a pattern with the emergence of Amber (played by Ellie Duckles), who, as it quickly becomes apparent, will be Mia's enemy, as they both pine for the same boy, Dev (played by Jacob Dudman).

Their rivalry quickly spirals out of control, dictating the dynamic of the entire camp and changing the entire mood of the show. Every episode seems to become darker, alluding to supernatural forces and science fiction, while still forcing in elements of teen drama.

The melding of two genres seems clunky, leaving the viewer wondering why the director, Dan Berlinka, didn't choose one or the other. Episodes that could be seri-

ous and immersing are interrupted by teen feuds and cheesy jokes. And, because of this, the show lacks dimension and doesn't stand up against renowned Netflix originals such as "Stranger Things."

The characters themselves lack dimension as well, although some, Mia in particular, are given more detailed background, any development seems forced. She goes from the most stuck-up and popular on the island to the most down to earth and caring all within the span of 13 episodes. It seems unrealistic.

The entire show is unrealistic. Even if you strip away any elements of science fiction, the characters are flat, with only one defining trait per person. Dev is a heartthrob, Kayleigh is ditzy, Jenna is snooty. And I haven't even mentioned Luka, played by Max Lohan, the random man living in the forest that has absolutely no reason to be in the story except to help Mia in a time of need. He makes no sense in the story and seems completely disconnected from the plot.

Overall, "The A List," although mildly entertaining, lacks the complexity and quality of the other Netflix originals. If another season does come out in 2020, I honestly don't think I'll watch it, even though the first season ended with a cliffhanger.

Average run time: 25 minutes
Rating: PG



Photo courtesy of Netflix

"The A List" stars Kayleigh and Mia at the start of the series.



Jiang Yang (center) and two other commanders during the battle for Shanghai. Photo courtesy of Cinema Escapist

'Shanghai Fortress' opens eyes to foreign films

Lauren Woo
Arts Editor

Netflix provides a number of foreign films and shows, created in other countries, featuring actors and actresses from other countries, and spoken entirely in languages other than English. One such film is Shanghai Fortress, which came out in July.

It was produced by the China Film Group Company, written by Jiang Nan, and directed by Hua-Tao Teng, who has directed numerous Chinese films. The star of the film is Han Lu, who plays Jiang Yang, a young member of the Shanghai defense force who has fallen in love with his commander, Lin Lan, played by Qi Shu.

Han Lu is both an actor and singer. He was a part of a popular Chinese-Korean boy group and this year he was ranked as the 6th most popular actor in China. He has even been in an American film, The Great Wall (2016).

Having never watched a movie almost entirely in a language other than English, I was surprised that, with the help of subtitles, after a few minutes, I

hardly noticed that I was reading all of the lines rather than hearing them. In other words, the language barrier did not affect the viewing experience.

The story is interesting enough. It is set in the future, in China, where war has been waged between humans and aliens for years. Humans seemingly have been losing, with Shanghai the last stronghold of humanity. In this war-torn society, young citizens all join the military, the best among them quickly rising through the ranks. Jiang Yang is one of those military stars. He has, however, fallen madly in love with his commander, Lin Lan.

I was surprisingly impressed with the quality of the special effects and graphics. Being a science-fiction film, there were many massive robots, weapons, and spaceships, all of which obviously aren't real. The sequences in the film featuring this futuristic technology are, however, quite realistic, as high quality as big-budget American films that are shown in theaters.

The storyline, however, was what I found lacking. Some of this could be due to the transla-

tion from Chinese to English, in which perhaps certain intricacies were lost, but, I still think the characters lacked development. It wasn't that the acting was bad, it wasn't, but I don't think the characters really changed. Jiang Yang starts the story devoted to China and in love with Lin Lan, Lin Lan begins the story passionate about her military position, and ends the story the exact same way, with nothing else really apart of her character.

There is one deeper scene between Lin Lan and Jiang Yang, in which he nearly confesses his feelings for her and she talks about her childhood, which does help the viewer to grow more attached to the characters, and especially root for Jiang Yang to confess his feelings.

The true star of the film is the graphics, however, and not the storyline. After watching this film I would be interested in watching other foreign Netflix original films, and I would recommend Shanghai Fortress to anyone who enjoys science-fiction films.

Run time: 1 hr 47 min
Rating: TV-14



Sophia Thompson
Sports Editor

Top It Off, located in Cedar Lake, Indiana, is a small family-owned restaurant that offers a variety of drinks and snacks. The building is positive and upbeat

Top It Off, off the charts

with popular clean music playing and colorful blue and grey walls. The shop workers and owners are kind and quick to make your food or drinks.

The shop is open 5am to 5pm every weekday, Saturdays 7am to 2pm, and Sundays 9am to 2pm. The restaurant offers a 15% discount for Hanover High School students, but extended it to us as well. They only offer this discount

Monday through Friday from 7am to 8am and 3pm to 4pm.

The small shop offers different varieties of smoothies and protein shakes. They also have a good selection of food in a snack-type size. They offer sandwiches, wraps, and paninis, served with a pickle and a bag of chips. The portions are not very big, but are enough for a snack. There is a variety of drinks, in-

cluding frappes, smoothies, and different kinds of coffees. The smoothies can be made with choices of pineapple, strawberries, mango, banana, or mixed fruit. You have the choice to add protein powder, honey, or other sweeteners. They offer different candy flavored frappes like Reese's, caramel, Oreo, M&Ms, and chocolate. Food and drinks are pricey, but the new restau-

rant offers generously sized drinks.

The atmosphere was positive with uplifting, clean music playing softly in the background. The coffee is freshly ground with every cup and the smoothies are made from scratch with fresh and frozen fruit. The business, owned by the Hardesty family, is located on Lincoln Plaza Way in Cedar Lake next to Pizza Hut.

Boonstra, athletic directors appeal for eligibility

Illiana presents bylaw change to Indiana Constitution, seeking post-season eligibility by 2021.

Taylor Benes
Editor in Chief

On Aug. 27, principal Peter Boonstra and athletic directors Deb Kamp and Darren DeBoer met with the Executive Committee of the Indiana High School Athletic Association to request a bylaw change in the Indiana Constitution. The rule change would pave the way for Illiana athletes to compete in

state competition.

“Our goal was to receive authorization to present a new bylaw to the Indiana Constitution,” Kamp said. “They only have rules for new schools, and we believe that we are not a new school. We believe we are a transfer school.”

Currently, the Indiana Constitution has no laws addressing schools that cross state borders, so Illiana has been excluded from postsea-

son participation for four years like a new school would; however, Boonstra, Kamp, and DeBoer argued that Illiana has circumstances unique from any other school. They made the argument that Illiana is a “transfer school” with well-established programs, an established history of post-season play, and a strong reputation within a state athletic association,” according to DeBoer.

“We had to get permission to present a new bylaw, and we were granted to present that,” Kamp said. “We will know by the end of spring whether

[or not] we will be granted eligibility for postseason competition for the school year of 2021.”

“It’s more complicated than most people realize,” Kamp added. “Many think we were going there for them to say ‘Oh, you can play,’ but you have to go through quite a legal system. We believe that it was in our best interest to open school [in Indiana], play some games, get to know some schools, get to know some athletic directors, before we went and asked for something of this magnitude.”

In the middle of the meeting, a criminal break-in

prompted a potential breakthrough for Illiana’s representatives.

“Mr. DeBoer and Mr. Boonstra’s cars got broken into, so the police were out there and had to check with us,” Kamp said. “That actually turned out to be a nice thing, because it broke up the meeting.”

All thirty-three of the state representatives, along with Kamp, DeBoer, and Boonstra, had to go out into the parking lot and check their cars.

“It gave us an opportunity to casually talk with all the representatives throughout the state, so they will not forget us,” Kamp said.

Lone senior lends support, positivity

Madison Ceponis
Feature Editor

The varsity volleyball team of 10, has 5 returning players, but only one senior, Kennedy Rogers.

Coach Vander Zee has been coaching Illiana girls varsity for two years after being the JV coach for 8 years. She has changed the number of players on the team from 12 players to 10. The smaller number changes both practice and game plans.

The team gets along very well together, bond really well and there is good chemistry on the court, said Kylie Martin.

Other teammates have picked up responsibility for leadership by playing to the best of their ability,

encouraging others and encouraging those on and off the court, said Coach Vander Zee.

Roger’s responsibly of being a captain includes leading cheers, picking up the players when a mistake is made, and being a leader on and off the court. She is helped by Kacie Van Kalker, the second captain.

Rogers is described as a supportive teammate, great example, and she is a hard-working player said Mia Doorn.

Coach Vander Zee said that only one senior leadership doesn’t make a difference to the team, that age doesn’t make the difference, but rather the experience and knowledge that is brought to the team.



Photo courtesy of Jeff DeVries

Senior Kennedy Rogers anticipates passing the ball to a teammate.



Photo courtesy of Justin VanProoyen

Boys cross country team poses for a picture after running the Bishop McNamara Invitational.

Cross country turnover brings fresh face to coaching staff

Sophia Thompson
Sports Editor

Longtime Illiana cross country coach Jim Piaskowy left last year after deciding to move to Wisconsin to be closer to his family. The team is now coached by Kevin Vroegh, a former cross country and track runner of Illiana’s.

Piaskowy approached Vroegh about the coaching position before he left for Wisconsin.

Piaskowy said, “Kevin

is a winner and knows what it takes to be the best you can be. The team is in good hands.”

Graduate and former runner under coach Piaskowy, Kyle Mulderink said, “Coach Pi was one of the best coaches Illiana has ever had. He knew me as a runner better than I knew myself. I was definitely upset when I heard he wasn’t coming back, but I think they are in good hands with the new coach, Kevin.”

Returning runner, senior Dominic Turkstra said, “These

new coaches are pushing us harder since we don’t have as many guys as we have in the past. It is nice to have fresh coaches who are trying different things.”

Vroegh said, “The team has been running together in pairs or groups of three. Our team is very young with only one senior and one junior running in the top five. This grouping has been beneficial to the younger guys.”

The top runners this year have been sophomore Brady Vroom and junior Justin VanProoyen.

Sports Highlights



Photo courtesy of Jeff DeVries

Senior Meghan Smit outruns an opponent with the ball in possession.

Girls Soccer

Taylor Benes
Editor in Chief

Girls soccer faced strong competition right out of the gate this season, but they have held strong with their 7-3-1 record. With six freshmen joining the squad, the team's chemistry needed to be strong to play as a unit, and it has been so far.

"Team chemistry is fantastic," coach Erin Behn said. "I love how much fun they have and how they work well together. We have six freshmen and six seniors, so the bookends are helping include them and getting them comfortable being here at school."

In addition to the turnover of players, the team has new coaches this year. Behn is also new to the Illiana staff.

"I feel like I was relatively prepared for it," Behn added. "I enjoy coaching and was excited to be involved in more in the program."

"I really love all the new freshmen," senior Lexi Terpstra said. "We lost a lot of seniors last year, so I was nervous if we were going to be close, but we're doing a lot of team bonding and getting along in practices."

Freshman Sabrina Lopez said, "[Being on soccer] has been great because I didn't come from a Christian or feeder school, so knowing the soccer girls helped a lot because we can sit in lunch together. I wouldn't have known anyone coming in if it wasn't for soccer."

Girls Cross Country

Taylor Benes
Editor in Chief

Girls cross country began its season with a nearly complete team turnover. With only two returning runners from last season, the team has rebuilt itself, adding eleven new runners.

Despite the lack of experienced runners, the team has performed well. It placed eighth out of nineteen teams in its first meet.

Coach Luke Fennema said, "I think they are very enthusiastic and work really hard. They're still developing friendships because almost everyone is new, but it's fun to see them get to know each other."

Team chemistry has definitely helped the girls grow as a group. "We talk a lot and sing when we run," freshman Alex Vis said. "We say a word and have to think of a song that has the word in it."

"It's refreshing because we have a new team," senior Caylynn Townes said. "Last year we only had six people, and now we have thirteen, so it's nice to have a bunch of new people."

Boys Cross Country

Sophia Thompson
Sports Editor

The boys cross country team, led by a new coach this year, has been trying to catch new runners up.

With only four returning runners this year, the team is "young and fresh," according to Coach Kevin Vroegh. The new coaches have been trying an approach to help the other younger runners catch up and "get to know the ropes" of the sport.

The team is running well with the new coaches so far in the season. With senior Dominic Turkstra, junior Justin VanProoyen, sophomores Brady Vroom and Logan Boersma, and freshman Fritz Olthof as the top five runners.

The team placed 3rd out of nine schools at the Bishop McNamara Irish Invitational, 6th out of eight schools at the Christian School Invite, and 1st out of forty schools in the New Prairie Invitational.

"The harder workouts and higher expectations that have come with Coach Kevin are worth it considering how well we have been running," said Turkstra.

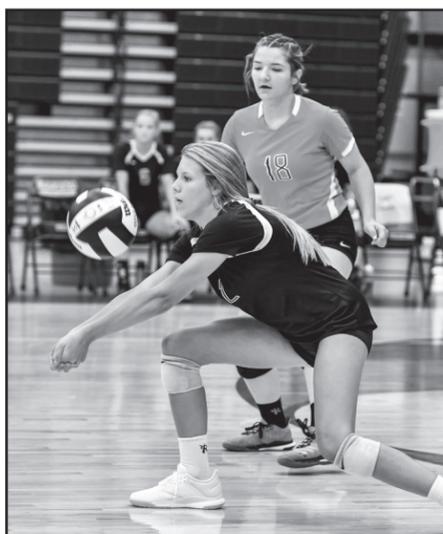


Photo courtesy of Jeff DeVries

Sophomore Mia Doorn gets ready to pass the ball to the setter.

Girls Volleyball

Madie Ceponis
Feature Editor

The girls varsity volleyball team of 10 players, is sporting a record of 17-4. Coach Vanderzee and Coach Steward have led the team against Hammond Clarke, Hast, Stagg, Hanover, Whiting, Wheeler, Timothy Christian, Lake Central, Aurora Christian, Richards, and Johnsbury. The JV team of 11 players and Coach Clark have a record of 7-4. The freshman team, coached by Coach Bosman, has record of 0-4.

Cheerleading

Taylor Benes
Editor in Chief

The cheerleading team spent the summer dominating in competitions, placing first in the Lake Central Invitational and fourth in both the Indiana State Fair and the Eastern Hancock High School Royal Rumble Invitational.

Sophomore Christine DeYoung said, "Our team can be described in one word: family. When I'm tired, stressed, or have something going on in my life, it's comforting to know I can go to them for support in and out of practice."

Though multiple injuries have plagued the team, senior Erica Gillespie said, "We've been working really hard and staying positive to make our routine work."

"I think all the girls are selfless and dedicated to the team," senior Anna Lenting said. "My favorite part of the season so far is watching our team improve on our skills."

Gillespie added, "I really love spending time with my girls because we have such a strong relationship with each other beyond just cheerleading."

Boys Soccer

Madie Ceponis
Feature Editor

The boys varsity soccer team of 19 players coached by Todd Bevan and Mike Waldmarson, currently has a record of 8-2-1. The JV team, coached by Tony Sserwadda and Nick Kloosterman has a record of 4-6. The varsity team has played against Victory Christian, Hammond High, Marian Catholic, Wilmington, Peotone, Beecher, Andean, and Hammond-Morton. They are still scheduled to play Michigan City, Chicago Christian, Highland, Covenant Christian, Hobart and Morgan Township.



Photo courtesy of Jeff DeVries

Senior Lance Mulderink prepares to launch an overhead pass to a teammate.

Boys Tennis

Sophia Thompson
Sports Editor

Illiana's tennis team, coached by Coach Eberly and assisted by Coach Bloesch has been playing "exceptionally well," Bloesch said.

"We started off the season with mostly beginners and a few guys who returned from last season. All of the boys who were new were also great athletes, and have improved incredibly well in a short amount of time," Bloesch said.

The new team has been working hard in order to catch the new players up and start the season strong.

"We are very excited to see this team the next couple of years," Bloesch said. "The new players are young and ready to learn."

Male Athlete of the Month

Sophomore Brady Vroom, is in his second year of running cross country. He has been one of Illiana's top runners at the Hammond Invitational and the Bishop McNamara Irish Invitational.

"Brady is really encouraging and pushes everyone on the team to run faster and do the best they can," said teammate Justin VanProoyen.

Senior Sherron Hamilton said, "He's a fast runner, always is looking out for his teammates, he shows an immense amount concern at any point for any of his peers, he shows strong leadership to the team."



Female Athlete of the Month

Junior Sydney Tuuk has played soccer all three of her years at Illiana.

Freshman Cameron Evers said, "When I first joined I did not know very many people on the team, but Sydney went out of her way to make me feel included. She really holds us all together."

Sydney plays a defensive role on the team, Coach Erin Behn said. "She has hustled really hard and has contributed well on defense a lot this year."

"Sydney is such a hard worker on the field and is a big help on defense with me and Anna Delahunty," junior Mia Cruz added.

Editorial

Marketing should highlight diversity

Marketing Director Jenna Dutton, in the most recent issue of “The Spectator”, Illiana’s quarterly newsletter, said, “The Spectator’ will feature a whole new look and feel.” Hopefully, that means that diversity of race will be highlighted in all platforms of the school’s marketing, but so far, it hasn’t.

Since the beginning of August, Illiana’s Instagram and Facebook pages have featured many aspects of student life through its “ABC’s of Illiana Christian” promotional posts. These posts used a letter of the alphabet to put a spotlight on a part of Illiana that began with that letter. The letter “D” highlighted our school’s blindness to irony. How so? Well, “D” was supposed to be promoting Illiana’s diversity, but the picture used was of five individuals wearing different types of pants. All five people in the picture were white. In addition to that, the description of diversity included no discussion about racial or ethnic diversity. For a school with a historically and still primarily Dutch student body, that may not be the best way to market to families outside of the school’s foundational heritage. “E” and “I,” which stood for enrollment and interna-

tional students, also fit into the same puzzle. Neither of the photos displayed actual Illiana students, prompting negative comments on social media. As we continue to expand further outside of the primarily Dutch student body, increasing our international student enrollment, we should showcase the diversity we are bringing in

“The school need not be ashamed of its Dutch roots, but it does need to recognize that not all students are Dutch.”

from different countries.

In “The Spectator,” the Advancement Department laid out a six-step plan to “lead ICHS confidently into the future.” One of these steps was to create a promotional video to show the wide variety of education, athletics, and extracurriculars offered at Illiana. This video accurately depicts the growing percentage of people of color in our student body. Our future marketing should follow this lead, showcasing our own diversity rather than using stock photos of other students.

For a school seeking to

promote diversity, however, the front cover of the summer issue of “The Spectator” presents a glossy miss. On it, six seniors smile, posing with their graduation caps on the day of graduation. All are blonde, white girls. Around 22% of the graduating class of 2019 were people of color. How could the school miss such an easy op-

portunity to showcase that fact? Intentionality is important when marketing Illiana to prospective families. The Marketing Department should celebrate diversity by including students of all races and ethnicities in marketing attempts. Our website says, “Today the school enjoys a growing diversity with 22.5% of the student population being people of color.” If the student body consists of almost one-fourth people of color, why does Illiana market itself by showcasing what often seems like the

same ten students, nearly all of them blonde and white?

After the campus’ move to a predominantly white area, the school’s Marketing Department should strive even harder to display the diversity found in our student body, to make clear that all people of all races and ethnicities are welcomed here. There is more diversity than what is shown on social media and in newsletters. A prospective family’s first impression of Illiana could be what they see on social media, so every post should display what Illiana is truly about: God-centered learning, inclusivity, and a challenge to serve God and others. We should challenge ourselves to be able to serve students from outside of the Dutch heritage, and that can start by highlighting our diversity.

The school need not be ashamed of its Dutch roots, but it does need to recognize that not all students are Dutch, and that diversity makes us stronger.

So next time the Marketing Department wants to celebrate Illiana’s growing diversity on social media, instead of displaying different types of pants, we might highlight students’ shoes--and not just the wooden ones.

Illiana’s website in need of update

I assume that most of you don’t peruse Illiana’s website, but I have, and, in doing so, I discovered something shocking.

Doing research for journalism class, I used Google and searched “Illiana Christian High School enrollment.” I was shocked to see that, according to the renowned browser, our enrollment is 520 students, when

in reality, our enrollment is only 439. The reason for the faulty information, however, was not Google. When I clicked on the top recommended link, it took me to Illiana’s website, specifically a page entitled “Quick

Facts.” I gasped upon reading (under the subheading “Academic Program”) that Illiana has 500 students. Perplexed and intrigued, I continued to read. As I read, my fascination grew. Apparently, Illiana has a bowling club, Go Club, rifle corp, and a mock trial team. Surprised that you haven’t heard of these? Don’t be. They don’t exist. They probably did, at one time, but they don’t now.

After making this startling discovery I couldn’t keep it to myself, so I shared it with my mother. She wasn’t surprised with my discovery at all! In fact, she herself had encountered problems with Illiana’s website.

While attempting to enroll my younger brother--it was suggested that much of the enrollment be done through the website--my tech-savvy mother decided to use the online resources. She would soon find out, however, this was a grave error.

To her dismay, she was unable to create a student application through ParentsWeb, where the school website had directed her. So, of course, she emailed the admissions office to not only alert them of these issues, but also to get them fixed. However, unbeknownst to her, the email listed on Illiana’s website was for Elly Makowski, who left Illiana’s employment over two years ago.

That leaves me wondering, and possibly you too, what else on the school website is outdated and obsolete?

Well after typing that, I ventured to find something else that was outdated. It did not take me long. I quickly stumbled upon the FAQs section, where one of the questions is, “What grading scale do you use?” Personally, I am very familiar with the grading scale, because I remember transferring from the grading scale where a 96-100% was an A to the current scale, where anything above a 93% is an A. (I’m a fan of the new one, it makes me look smarter than I am.)

Illiana’s website, however, still displays the old grading scale (the one where an A is 96% and up) as the school’s current grading scale. This is, of course, wrong.

These three issues, inaccurate directions and personnel for enrolling new students, the inaccurate current enrollment, and the inaccurate grading scale being shown, aren’t that important in the grand scheme of things, but such frequent errors on our face to the public don’t exactly inspire confidence in the school.

And therein lies the problem. Being a current student at Illiana, the website being wrong doesn’t affect me too much, but what about prospective parents who are looking for information? If they turn to our website to learn more about Illiana’s programs, will they receive reliable information? And if they find out that so many details there are wrong, will they choose to send their kids here?

They, and we, deserve better.

Lauren Woo
News and Arts Editor

Photo by Jeff DeVries



’19-’20 Editorial Staff: Sophia Thompson, Lauren Woo, Madie Ceponis, Taylor Benes

The newspaper is a forum for expression; therefore, we encourage feedback or commentary. Please contact us at theillianaecho@gmail.com

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Letters to the editor can be submitted to the advisor or sent to the school. All letters must be signed and must not exceed 250 words. They will be printed provided there is enough room and content is not offensive to the general public.