



Photo Courtesy of Jenna Dutton

*The Lansing campus has seen an uptick in buyer interest within the last few weeks.*

## ‘We’re in a state of uncertainty’

Potential Lansing  
Campus buyer gets cold  
feet, leaves administration  
without buyer

Lauren Woo  
Reporter

Despite what appeared to be a promising buyer emerging in late November, Illiana’s Board of Directors has not yet found a buyer for the old campus in Lansing.

Near the end of November, Illiana had signed a contract with Dr. Kim, a pastor at a Korean Presbyterian church, that could have led to the building being sold, but since then, the contract has come under strain.

The contract never guaranteed that Kim would buy the school.

Kim used to have “big plans” for the school, according to Vice Principal AJ Turkstra. Some of those plans were to host school and church in the building, enlarge the gym, and host revivals

and festivals. But “the buyer has been making extra contractual demands” according to Principal Peter Boonstra.

One of these demands is that the closing date be moved back.

“One reason we selected him [Kim] as a buyer is that he would close quickly,” said Boonstra.

Shortly after the creation of the contract, however, Kim “proposed to take two more months to close,” Boonstra said.

“We’ve decided that we cannot meet these demands and we have indicated that the contract is over,” Boonstra said. Other parties are interested in buying the school, he added, but, until the contract with Kim officially lapses, the party’s interest cannot be acted upon.

“We’ll probably know a lot more in a few weeks,” Boonstra added. “We’re in a state of uncertainty. In a contract, you need to be able to reach a mutual understanding. We’re not reaching any agreement.”



Photo by Maddie Holesinger

*The detention ponds at the front of Illiana freeze over, heintening the anticipation of the students hoping to ice skate.*

## Despite rumors, ice skating privelege yet undetermined

DJ Gladney  
Reporter

Rumors have swirled around Illiana that students will be allowed to ice skate on the detention ponds located on the east side of campus, but the rumors may be premature.

Vice principal AJ Turkstra has yet to make an official declaration on the possibility. While he likes the idea of kids getting exercise and having fun outside, he also worries about the risk of injury to students

and the school’s liability should someone get hurt.

Turkstra suggested that he may bring the issue before the school board to let that group decide on the school’s policy.

Junior Kristine Neumeyer, a competitive figure skater, said that it would be a lot of fun to have skating on the ponds, and she sees no danger because the ponds are not that deep. Neumeyer says she would be willing to talk to someone to try to convince them to let students skate.

# Kamp brothers decorate Wheatfield church, raise profits

Sophia Thompson  
Reporter

Standing outside of First Church in Wheatfield, Indiana on Dec. 1, one would see a colorful light show flashing in sync with Christmas music in the front yard of the church.

This year Trent Kamp and his brother Luke designed a colorful computer-run Christmas light

show for First Church. The show is actually the result of a side gig Luke Kamp does for profit.

Luke began decorating his family’s house for Christmas around ten years ago before running out of money. At that point, what began as a hobby turned into a business when Luke formed an LLC, and began selling his services.

According to First Church’s

website, when drivers pull into their north parking lot, they can tune their radios to 87.9 fm and listen to some popular Christmas songs while watching a coordinated light show for thirty minutes. This is the second time the church has had a light show for Christmas.

The light show at the church will be on display through January 6.

# Getting inside the beltway

## Juniors tour nation’s capital, meet prominent public officials

Alex Wondaal  
Co-Editor in Chief

Eight Illiana juniors, along with history teacher Jeff White, flew to Washington, D.C. on Nov. 24 for a week of education in American politics and history with the Close Up program.

Close Up, a nonprofit, nonpartisan institution in D.C., takes United States high school students to monuments, museums, and historical sites in the U.S. capital. Andrew Deboer, Sydney DeVries, Olivia DeYoung, Matthew Huizenga, Lizzie Knot, Allison Meyer, Kayla Sylvester, and

Lauren Woo were selected for the trip after an interview process with Illiana’s history department.

The trip included a tour of Frederick Douglass’s house, Arlington Cemetery, multiple embassies, a trip to Colonial Williamsburg, photo ops with South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, and a sit-down meeting with Representative Pete Visclosky

Although the trip was largely planned out by the Close Up organization, White was able to take his group to extra spots with his eight students specifically in mind. “I try to tailor the trip towards specific interests,” said White.

For example, the group visited the office of Clara Barton, the founder of The American Red Cross, because Sylvester completed

a yearlong research project on Barton prior to the trip. “It was cool seeing what I researched in person,” said Sylvester.

DeVries said the trip to Chile’s embassy was the most interesting part of the trip. Her group, which included one student from Illiana and dozens of other students from the United States, had an hour meeting with the assistant to Chile’s ambassador to the United States. DeVries said, “Before the trip I was interested in nursing but now I think I want to get involved in international relations.”

Meyer said her favorite part of the week was “Capitol Hill Day.” On this day, the Illiana students assembled and visited Senator Todd Young, Representative Pete Visclosky, the assistant to Senator Tammy Duckworth.



Photo courtesy of Jeff White

*Illiana juniors meet and talk to Betsy DeVos, Federal Secretary of Education, before a longer meeting with Frank Brogan, Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education.*



## Teachers, keep your political opinion out of my learning

When I walk down the halls of Illiana, I see MAGA apparel, Black Lives Matter tee shirts, Hillary For Prison stickers, and Barack Obama Chia Pets. Such displays don't faze me. I expect people to differ in political opinion; it's part of human nature. I do, however, expect those political factions to end once I step foot into a classroom. Teachers, keep your political opinion out of my learning!



Kylie Boss

Co-news Editor

Sure, it is true that education is inherently political. I don't expect teachers not to have some level of bias in their teaching that can influence students. It's impos-

sible not to have a bias. Bias, however, is different than full-throated support for a party or political advertisement in a classroom. I understand that using current events to illustrate a concept is vital to curriculum, but that information should be based on facts from credible sources, not from Fox News or MSNBC, both of whom display a partisan approach. Teachers also shouldn't share the views of one party while silencing another. Students need a well-rounded learning experience. Giving them only one side of history deprives them of what is truly happening in this world.

Here are phrases that I have heard some teachers utter in class: "all liberals should die," "all liberals are full of corruption," "voting for a Democrat means certain death for you," and "Hillary Clinton belongs in jail." I shouldn't have to hear such things in class.

When I go to class, I want to learn about the topic at hand. If I go to a class studying government, I expect to learn about the different mindsets of certain political groups. I don't expect to be lectured about how great of a leader Donald Trump is. My parents pay tuition for quality, Christian education, not a political rally.

It frustrates me that some teachers here at Illiana demonize parties with whom they disagree. Either party's main goal is not to destroy America; therefore, both parties need to be respected. The Democratic and Republican parties are not simply parties; actual people, good people on both sides, are involved in them. Respect them and the party.

In a Christian environment, it is hard for some teachers to differentiate between faith and political opinion. All teachers at Illiana hold a Reformed belief and encourage students with advice based on this faith. Advice should not cross over into politics, for the word of the Lord is different from the word of a political leader, even though leaders may try to use the Bible to do their bidding. Teachers, use your faith to encourage students. Share personal experiences. But please keep your political opinion wisely to yourself.

I am educated enough in politics, thanks to Mrs. Drost, and I have enough judgment to make an educated decision about who I will support politically. I don't need teachers shoving their opinion down my throat. Teachers shouldn't infringe on decisions that I should be making by myself or with parents.

Teachers need to respect the difference of opinions in the student body rather than trying to gain one more supporter for a political cause. Even moreso, Christian teachers ought to be modelling how to view the other side of a political debate as the opposition rather than as the enemy. Good, fair-minded people, *Christian* people, exist in both parties. Regardless of political stance, we are Christians, serving, loving, and praising the same Lord.



Students and parents help wrap presents at Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church. Photo by Mia Roth

## GO Club hosts Christmas drive for families in need, brings together school and church

Madison Ceponis

Reporter

Parents and kids gathered together at Emmanuel Church on Dec. 15 from 9-12 a.m. in Sauk Village for the Illiana GO club Christmas

drive. ICHS combined with Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church because Ms. Johnson saw the perfect opportunity to create some synergy between our school's Christmas drive and the church's efforts.

Johnson encouraged all Illiana students and homes to donate objects such as socks, gloves, mugs, candles, body wash, perfumes, and much more. Students also donated wrapping supplies to help the kids wrap

their gifts. The donated objects went to the church's thrift store so the kids could buy their parents up to five gifts for \$1 each.

Saturday morning the children picked and bought their presents for their parents as the parents gathered around, drank hot chocolate and socialized with each other.

Illiana students and Emmanuel Church members wrapped presents before the children took them home. They let the children pick the color of wrapping paper and write their own tags to make the gifts more personal. Senior Katie Stegenga said there weren't many children, but she could tell the event impacted the ones who were there as well as their parents.

Emmanuel Church also runs a food pantry every Saturday. Some Illiana students who volunteered at the event on the 15th also helped people bring shopping carts to their cars.

"It was great to serve people," said senior Ben Ipe-ma, who spent the morning outside pushing carts.

## Turkstra makes it big on new social media app

Grant Gibson

Co-news Editor

Dominic Turkstra, Illiana junior, made it big on TikTok, an app for "short-form mobile videos," according to TikTok's website. His most recent video, uploaded a week before Thanksgiving, has gained over 80,000 views and 38,000 likes.

Turkstra's video is a variation of a trend called the "ZEZE Challenge," which commonly takes

place in the bathroom, while the person washes his hands, and to Kodak Black's song "ZEZE."

"You have the phone in your mouth," Turkstra said, "and when the beat comes in, you look up at the mirror and start dancing with your arms going side to side."

Turkstra's is different, though: it satirically mocks the trend.

His peers at Illiana, including freshman Trevor Eenigenburg and



Photo by Dominic Turkstra  
A still shot from Turkstra's video that has received more than 800,000 views.

senior Joah DeVries, have also seen his video on the "For you" page of TikTok, which shows trending videos based on each user's history on the app.

Despite Turkstra's opinion on the app—

pretty funny, for the most part, but "not as good as Vine if we're comparing things"—he added that he'll hopefully make more TikTok videos.

"You just have to think of something unique and different," he said.

## Students visit Art Institute of Chicago

Madison Rogers

Reporter

Mr. Kamphuis's drawing and painting class went on a field trip to Chicago on Wednesday, Dec. 19.

The class travelled by bus after first period. They

started their visit at the River North Gallery District to view contemporary artwork.

"The River North Gallery is a highly concentrated area of galleries which allows students to visit a lot of galleries in a short

amount of time," said Kamphuis. "It is perfect for a trip like this."

Afterwards, students had lunch, visited the Dick Blick Art Store, and then ended their day at the Art Institute where Kamphuis asked them to look for some of the works

they had studied in class.

Kamphuis said, "I want to familiarize them with the these places and encourage them to return and spend more time here on their own. I hope they get inspired by this to help create their own work."

## Vandals highlight need for better security at old campus

Lauren Woo

Reporter

Vandals broke into the building at Illiana's old campus in Lansing over Thanksgiving weekend, causing only minor damage.

Vice Principal AJ Turkstra said that the vandals "discharged some fire extinguishers and drew on the white boards."

"[The vandalism] was a wake-up call that we need to increase security on the old campus," said Boon-

stra. Since the break-in, security has been hired, the doors have been chained shut, and more diligence is being shown towards arming the alarm system.

Turkstra said the building is "more secure than ever."

Graffiti has appeared on some of the building's exterior walls and some attempts to break into the building had been made prior to the event, but this was the first time anyone was able to enter the building.



# Students, fans attend first loud crowd game at new campus

**Nina Verhagen**  
**Reporter**

The first Loud Crowd game, Hawaiian night, resulted in almost half the student body coming to support the boys varsity team, which took the win in the home game against Southland on Nov. 30.

The bleachers on the north side of the gym were completely filled, leaving many fans to sit and watch on the south side bleachers.

Sophomore Olivia Ipe-ma said, “I thought the turnout was great. I’ve gone to Loud Crowds in the past,

but this was definitely one of the best...It was really fun and energetic. People got really excited over the game which made the Loud Crowd even better.”

Students dressed in leis and wore Hawaiian shirts for the theme of the night. For the first time ever, the Loud Crowd Committee used a t-shirt cannon to shoot Loud Crowd shirts to the fans.

“Yeah, that was one of the best parts of the night, hoping I would catch one of the loud crowd shirts being shot from the shirt cannon.” said freshman Graci Foster.



Students show off Hawaiian gear in the Loud Crowd section at the basketball game. Photo courtesy of Abby Tillema



German students visit the Goethe Institute to learn about German culture. Photo courtesy of Luke Fennema

## German students venture to Chicago to experience different culture

**Samuel Vargo**  
**Reporter**

German 2, 3, and 4 students went to the Goethe Institute and the Christkindlmarket in Chicago on Friday, Nov. 14. German teacher Luke Fennema said the reason German 1 classes can’t go is because they don’t have the experience with German culture to be able to appreciate the field trip.

The first stop for the field trip was the Goethe Institute, where students learned about the namesake of the institute, Johann Wolfgang

Goethe. Students also learned about German culture and technological innovation, in particular in the fields of medicine, automobiles, and telephones. They played a game which taught them about important people in German history, and they played a Kahoot to review what they had learned.

After about an hour at the Goethe Institute, they walked about 2 blocks to the Christkindlmarket. When they arrived, Fennema gave them an hour to walk around and buy food, souvenirs, or something to drink. The Christkindlmarket was

bustling even for noon on a Friday. According to Sophomore Josh Sylvester “It felt like it was going to take an hour to just walk around the whole market.”

Despite the crowds, students walked around and got the opportunity to try their German on native German speakers who worked in many of the booths. Many students bought food or drinks for themselves but a few got little souvenirs or trinkets. When the hour was up, they gathered in front of the market near the Nativity Scene and they boarded the bus to return to school.

## We the People Club impresses competition judges

**Taylor Benes**  
**Reporter**

We the People Club competed at the Illinois’ state competition on Friday, Dec. 7 against 8 other schools at the Dirksen Federal Building in downtown Chicago.

History teacher Jeff White is the sponsor of We the People Club, a group of 12 students who meets at club time and after school. White founded the club around 15 years ago and has been its leader ever since.

“We used to compete as a class, but now we compete as a club,” White stated.

The competition is a simulated congressional hearing where students testify before a panel of volunteer attorneys, educators, and civic leaders, answering questions to display their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and confidence in defending their position, according to classroomlaw.

org.

The club members diligently prepared their opening statements in club periods and after school leading up to the day of the competition.

White added, “Our students competed very well. Many of them were first-time competitors, and I was very impressed by their organization of material. The judges were also very impressed because most schools compete as a class, like AP classes, but we just competed as a club. They were impressed with how well our students did.”

“I think we performed well,” sophomore Josh Sylvester said. “We competed against AP Government classes, and some of our sophomores haven’t even taken U.S. Constitution yet, so there was a bit of an education difference there, but with the knowledge we had, we did pretty well.”



Junior Josiah Knoll and others look at the screen to find the answer. Photo by Liz Van Drunen

## Students compete in Kahoot Christmas trivia, win Common Grounds gift cards

**Benjamin Wheeler**  
**Reporter**

About 45 students enjoyed Aurelio’s pizza, popcorn, cookies, and prizes as the IMPACT Club hosted a free trivia night on Friday, Dec. 14.

Club sponsor Heidi Teach said the event met the IMPACT Club’s goal: “to bring students together and to give them time to hang out, get to know each other, and be friends.”

IMPACT Club members asked students a variety of Christmas-themed questions in the form of a Kahoot, and members of the first place team received a \$10 gift card to Common Grounds. 2nd and 3rd place winners received a \$5 gift card to the same.

Sophomore Michael Moore, whose team finished second in one game, said, “I really enjoyed the trivia night, and I got to meet a lot of new friends. I met lots of new seniors and

juniors.” Moore also secured a \$5 gift card to Common Grounds for his finish.

At the beginning of the night, Teach and her co-sponsor Melanie Benes, with the help of a few IMPACT Club members, counted heads, assigning numbers to the students present. The numbers determined on which team the student would play.

Once the teams were set, the emcees running the game asked a student from each team to use a Chromebook or phone to link up with the Kahoot. Each team got to be creative with its name, laughing when the names appeared on the big screen in the front of the commons.

A definite yuletide theme dominated the game, with questions such as “What famous Christmas movie starred Tom Hanks?” The answer, of course, was “The Polar Express.” Students were able to play multiple times, which means multiple teams got the chance to win gift cards.

Senior Andrew Roets, a member of IMPACT Club who helped to plan the night, said, “It did everything we hoped it would. It would have been nice if a few more people attended, but it was good.”

Senior Sarah Mapes attended the night and thought that “it was great fun. And I definitely talked to some new people I might not have talked to otherwise. I enjoyed it.”



# Though 'born from pain,' Bosman's roller coaster adoption story ends in joy

Alex Wondaal  
Co-Editor in Chief

Dave (Boz) and Judy Bosman decided they wanted to adopt in the winter of 2010. It would be almost nineteen months before they brought home their children Atikilt and Zinaub from Ethiopia.

Judy said she felt called to adopt after a friend of hers introduced her to a sermon series which addressed African children being orphaned because of the AIDS pandemic. "I was working in a basement and all of a sudden, out of nowhere, I had this feeling that we were going to adopt, and it was going to be from Africa. I remember it clear as day... My next thought was... How am I going to tell Boz?"

In the spring of 2010 they faced difficult decisions: how old do we want our children to be, how many children do we want to adopt, what gender do we want, where should we adopt from, what adoption agency is the best choice?

One of those questions was answered at a Steven Curtis Chapman concert when the singer and songwriter talked about his adoption through America World Adoption, an agency in Virginia. They soon decided they would request one boy around the age of two or a pair of siblings, both under six years old.

In April of 2010 they sent in their application along with a detailed dossier. The agency wanted to know everything they could about them; they sent three agents to his home in the early summer to make sure it would be a suitable home.

According to aawa.org, America World's website, the idea that international adoption takes several years to complete is a myth. According to awaa.org: "Most America World families are now completing their adoptions within 24 months from the time they apply."

However, for the Bosmans, even 19 months felt eternal.

Dave and Judy heard they were 2nd from the top of the list for requests for a young boy. "We thought, OK, awesome, we're going to get a boy," said Bosman.

Then for two months they heard nothing. "You can imagine how anxious and frustrated we were," said Bosman.

Judy explained her "rollercoaster of emotions" throughout the adoption process. "I would wake up every Monday full of hope that this would be the week we'd get the call! And every Friday at 4pm (when our adoption agency closed) I

had to

fight back the tears because it didn't happen. But when Monday rolled around I was full of hope again!"

Judy explained her fear, hope, frustration, happiness, and--most gut wrenching--her sadness. "Adoption is beautiful, but it's born from pain," Judy said. "These kids were going through hell and I wanted to be there to comfort them. I hated that they were going through what they were going through."

In June, Dave finally got a call from Virginia. He answered, "Could you call my wife? I want her to hear first."

He soon heard back from his wife. The agency wanted them to take in a two year old boy as well as his four year old sister.



finished their court hearings, they didn't expect to take their children home. "We were with our future kids, but they were with their current kids," Bosman said.

Bosman and his spouse were mildly frustrated but determined. They packed their things expecting to

return alone. They then received a surprising message from an agent from America World.

"We then found out the judge was willing to make a special trip," Bosman said.

However, they had to return to America before the judge would make it to the court in Ethiopia, even though she was making an exceptional appointment.

Bosman returned on a Sunday but two days later he and his wife learned the judge would allow his adoption. There was still one problem, the US embassy had to review the adoption in order to prevent trafficking. They wanted to get an okay from Atikilt and Zinaub's biological parents. Their mother was no longer alive, but their father was living six hours away, possibly more, and the rainy season was beginning to make travel impossible.

Desperate to get his children out of awful conditions, the biological father made the trip and children were free to enter the United States.

Today, Atikilt and Atikilt and Zinaub, aged 10 and 12, attend Highland Christian School.

"In our minds, they were no longer orphans but they were our children and all we wanted was to jump on a plane and go meet them," Judy said.



Photo courtesy of Dave Bosman

Dave and Judy Bosman sit with their two children, Atikilt and Zinaub, in Ethiopia on the final day of their first trip, at the transition home.

Dave called his father for guidance. "This is what's meant to be; this is what God wants you to do," his father said confidently.

"It was the best decision we ever made," said Dave.

They called the agency and told them they were willing to adopt both children, expecting two members of the family to be home soon. They received pictures of their children to be.

They learned they would need to set a court date with a judge in Ethiopia and that it would either have to take place before the month of September or a few weeks into October. (Court sessions are rarely held in the rainy season, a five to six week period in the early fall where the ability to travel is drastically reduced.)

Along with many other adoptive families from America who were meeting their own children, they were able to meet Atikilt and Zinaub at the very end of August. However, unlike the other families who had



# Not sure what to do this winter?

Liz VanDrunen  
Co-Feature Editor

Haleigh Olthof  
Co-Feature Editor

Night to Shine Experience  
Maddie Holesinger  
Co-Editor in Chief

**What:** A prom experience for people with special needs ages 14 and older. You can volunteer for a variety of positions whether being paired as a buddy with a guest, serving food and drinks, or serving parents and caregivers.

**Who:** Anyone with a heart for special needs, looking to help make someone’s night special. If you are under 18, you will need parent consent.

**Where:** Faith Church Dyer, 100 W. 81st Ave., Dyer, IN US 46311

**When:** Friday, February 8 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Registration closes after January 8.

**Why:** To join with over 500 churches around the world hosting this event in order to celebrate our differences.

## Ice skating

**Deep River Waterpark**  
Don’t wait for summer to return to your favorite local waterpark. Deep River turns it’s Plaza into an ice rink for the winter months, complete with concessions and indoor restrooms. You can skate there from 4-9pm any day over winter break (except Dec. 4 and 5) for \$5. Skate rental costs an additional \$6. After the break, the park is open 4-9pm Thursdays, 4-10 pm Fridays, 12-10pm Saturdays, and 12-9pm Sundays. (Note: hockey sticks and equipment are not allowed on the rink.)

**Flossmoor Park and Willowview Park**  
The Homewood-Flossmoor Park District maintains two outdoor ice rinks: one at Flossmoor Park in Flossmoor (about 30 minutes from Illiana) and one at Willowview Park in Homewood (about 45 minutes from Illiana). These rinks are open as weather allows, so check hfparks.com/rinkstatus for ice conditions.

**Midwest Training and Ice Center**  
Midwest Training and Ice Center offers indoor Open Skates for \$6 (skate rental for \$4) on all weekdays over break, excluding Christmas Day. Skating is from 11-12:30pm Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and 10-11:30pm on Wednesdays.

## Ice fishing

**Wampum Lake Woods**  
Located 23 minutes from campus, Wampum Lake Woods is open from 7am to 6pm for ice fishing. The forest preserve is located in Thornton, Illinois and is open to the public and contains perch, large-mouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, channel catfish and bullhead.

**Lemon Lake**  
Lemon Lake County Park, in Crown Point, Indiana, offers ice fishing from 7am to dusk. The park is a seventeen minute drive from Illiana and contains largemouth bass. Park is \$5 per vehicle for Indiana residents and \$8 for out of state residents.

**Oak Ridge Park**  
Oak Ridge Park offers ice fishing for Channel Cat, Largemouth Bass, Carp, Bullhead and Bluegill in Griffith, Indiana. The park is located twenty-three minutes from Illiana. Park is \$5 per vehicle for Indiana residents and \$8 for out of state residents.

**Wolf Lake**  
With a thirty-five minute drive from Illiana, Wolf Lake in Hammond, Indiana, offers walleye, northern pike, muskie, yellow perch, blue gill, crappie and bass. Fishing is open from sunrise to sunset and has a parking fee of \$5 per vehicle for Indiana residents and \$8 for out of state residents.

## Sledding

**Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve**  
Head to Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve in Beecher, Illinois, for a forty foot drop and a great run of downhill sledding. The Preserve is open from 8 am to dusk and has inner tubes for rent. Rentals are available at Plum Creek Nature Center, located next to the hill. Renters must be 18 years old and have valid state ID with them. Tubes are limited to one tube per ID. Rental cost is \$2 per tube.

**Hidden Lake Park**  
In Merrillville, Indiana, Hidden Lake Park is open daily from sunrise to sunset for sledding. Admission for the park is \$5 per car for Ross Township Residents and \$8 per car for non-residents.

**Oak Ridge Prairie**  
Open from 7am to sunset, daily, Oak Ridge Prairie County Park offers sledding for \$5 per vehicle for Indiana residents and \$8 for out-of-state residents. The park is twenty-two minutes from Illiana.

**Centennial Park**  
Centennial Park offers free sledding in Munster, Indiana. Sledding is open daily from sunrise to until thirty minutes after sunset. The park is located only twenty minutes from Illiana’s Campus.

## Downhill skiing

**Four Lakes Alpine Snowsports**  
Four Lakes Alpine Snowsports is a five-run park located just over an hour from Illiana. It offers \$20 lift passes on Fridays, \$28 passes on Saturdays, and \$25 passes on Sundays. Ski rentals are available for \$20. (fourlakessnowsports.com)

**Villa Olivia**  
Skiers can speed down 7 runs, a terrain park, and a snow tubing hill at Villa Olivia, a ski resort about an hour and a half from Illiana. Day passes are \$40, and night passes (5-9:30 or 5-10pm) are \$30. Skiers can rent skis, boots, and poles for \$27. (villaolivia.com)

**Wilmot Mountain Ski Resort**  
Recently acquired by Vail Resorts, Wilmot Mountain Ski Resort in Wilmot, WI boasts 21 runs, three terrain parks, and a snow tubing hill. The resort is about two hours from Illiana, depending on traffic. Lift tickets are \$55, but buying passes for Wilmot may result in a discount on Epic passes for Vail Resorts out west, and vice versa. Ski, boots, and poles are rented out for \$34 total. Check wilmotmountain.com and epicpass.com for more details.

(Pass prices may vary. Check resort websites for the most current prices.)

## Cross-country skiing

**Oak Ridge Prairie County Park**  
Don’t have cross-country skis but always wanted to go? No worry Oak Ridge Prairie County Park offers rentals from December through February as well as lessons. The park is located in Griffith, Indiana twenty-three minutes from Illiana.

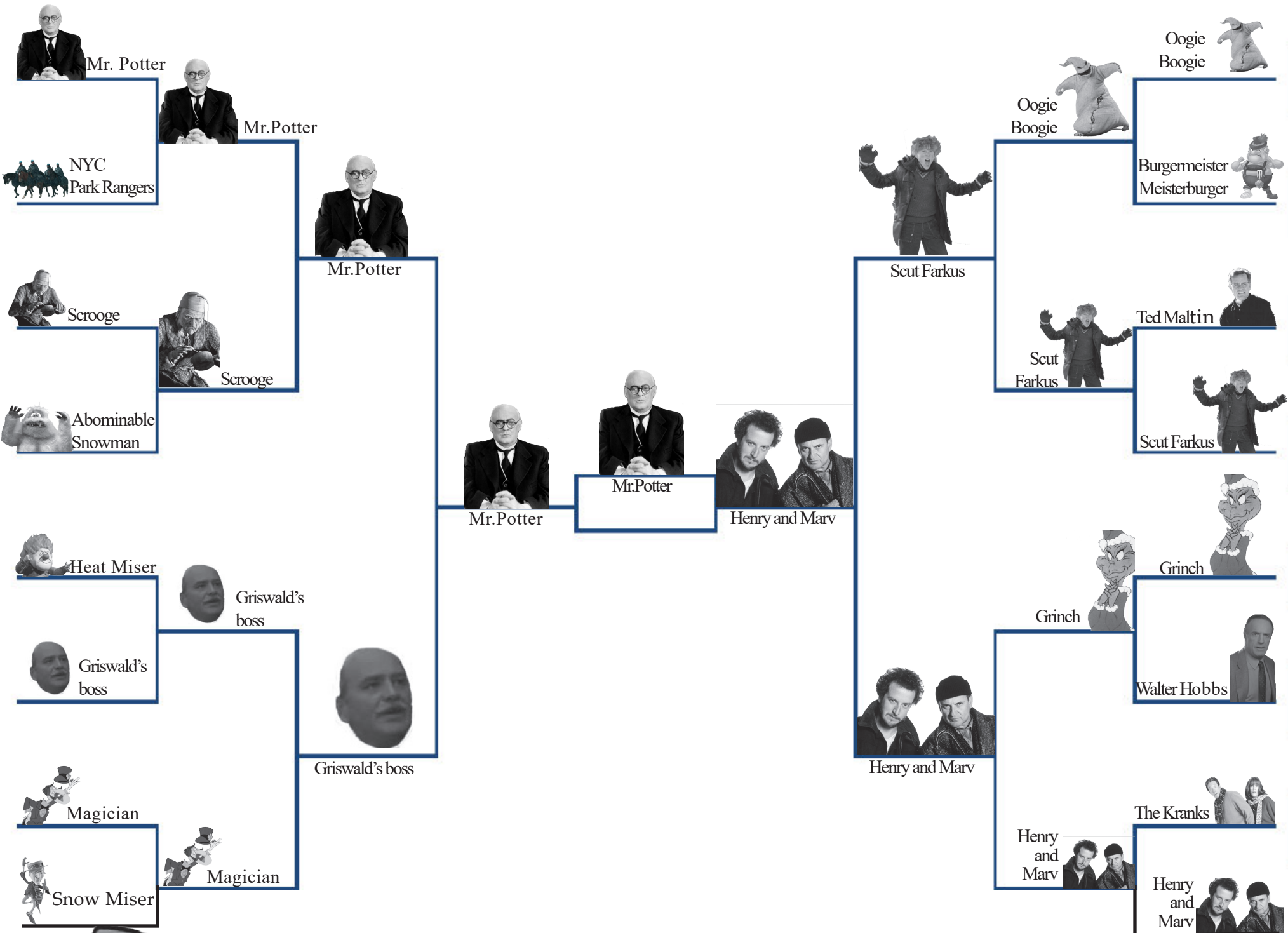
**Lemon Lake County Park**  
Lemon Lake County Park has eight miles of easy to moderate trails in Crown Point, Indiana, seventeen minutes from the school. Rentals and lessons are available.

**Stoney Run County Park**  
Open from 7am to sunset, Stoney Run County Park offers seven miles of easy cross-country skiing trails. The park in Hebron, Indiana is only located twenty-seven minutes from Illiana and offers rentals for equipment and lessons.

**Grand Kankakee Marsh**  
Grand Kankakee Marsh has a trail of 8.7 miles of cross country skiing. Thirty-three minutes from Illiana, in Hebron, Indiana, the trail is open from 7am to sunset in the months of January to September.

**Indiana Dunes State Park**  
In Chesterton, Indiana, Indiana Dunes State Park offers a 6.4 mile trail, Ly-co-ki-we Trail, rolling through the dunes, forty-seven minutes from Illiana.

# Christmas villian face-off



## Christmas villian steals gifts, hearts, brings laughter, joy to many children

Natalie Togtman  
Arts Editor

Dr. Suess' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," is a popular childrens book about a green, furry creature named the Grinch and his attempt to steal Christmas. This book became so popular that it has been made into a movie three times.

The first rendition of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," was a cartoon special that aired in December of 1966. This version of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" opens up with the Whos from Whoville decorating their houses and the village in preparation for Christmas. Then

we see the Grinch, bitter and hateful, plot to ruin Christmas for the Whos. He disguises himself as Santa, takes a sleigh and his dog Max, disguised as a reindeer, and sneaks into the houses in Whoville. From the houses in Whoville he steals presents and Christmas decorations. After hearing the Whos sing the Grinch decides to go back to Whoville to return their gifts. The film ends with him sharing a meal with the Whos who even give him the honor of cutting the ham.

The second version of the movie is a live action film. This movie starts with four teenage Whos going on top of Mt. Crumpit, where the Grinch lives, to entice the Grinch into the open where they might see him for the first time. Eventually, the Grinch goes down

to Whoville. While down in Whoville he meets a little girl named Cindy Lou Who. Most of the movie captures Cindy Lou Who trying to find out more about the Grinch and welcome him back to Whoville. Her attempts were successful as the Grinch eventually comes down to the Whos' Christmas celebration where he becomes the guest of honor.

The third version of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" opens up with the Grinch venturing down to Whoville. As the Grinch is down in Whoville he encounters Cindy Lou Who who tells the Grinch about her mother being overworked and how she wrote a letter to Santa Claus asking him to help her mother. However, the Grinch tells her that if she wants Santa to help her mother she needs to ask Santa face to face. This

entices Cindy Lou Who to plan a way to trap Santa. Just as in the other movies, the Grinch decides he will go and steal Christmas from the Whos. In his plot to steal Christmas he manages to acquire a reindeer named Fred who stays with the Grinch and Max, his dog. He then steals a sleigh. The Grinch carries out his plan with Max and sneaks into every house in Whoville to steal their Christmas decorations and their presents. Despite not having any decorations or gifts, the Whos still decide to celebrate Christmas which puzzles the Grinch. This causes his heart to soften and he returns everything he took. Cindy Lou Who invites the Grinch to Christmas dinner where he admits it's not that he didn't like Christmas, he just didn't like feeling lonely.



# Boys basketball team finds new success with new coach

Cate Peerbolte  
Co-sports Editor

The boys basketball team has burst out of the gate and sports a 9-1 record. Senior Alex Eenigenburg said, “We have been having a lot of fun this season. We are extremely close because we spend so much time together, but we also know how each other play because of the previous years we spent playing together.” Senior Mark Hernandez said, “Because we aren’t able to compete in the state

series, we are really trying to improve as much as we can while we have the time.” Eenigenburg said that having a new coach this season brings a refreshing atmosphere into the program. Coach Roozeboom was the head coach for five years from the ‘10-‘11 season to the ‘14-‘15 season. He stopping coaching due to “a young family and pressure from the community.” Rozenboom said he decided to pick coaching back up for three reasons: “I missed it a

lot, the campus move made it easier for my family, and I want to share my passion with the guys.” Roozeboom explained that his goal for the season is to change the culture of Illiana basketball and set the groundwork for teams to come. “I want to teach the guys what it takes to lead and to have character, not only in basketball but in life.” Hernandez said, “We want to show the community that this is a new team with a new culture, and we want to show Indiana schools that we are to be feared.”



Photo courtesy of Daniel Chandler  
The boys huddle together after winning the Seneca Tournament.

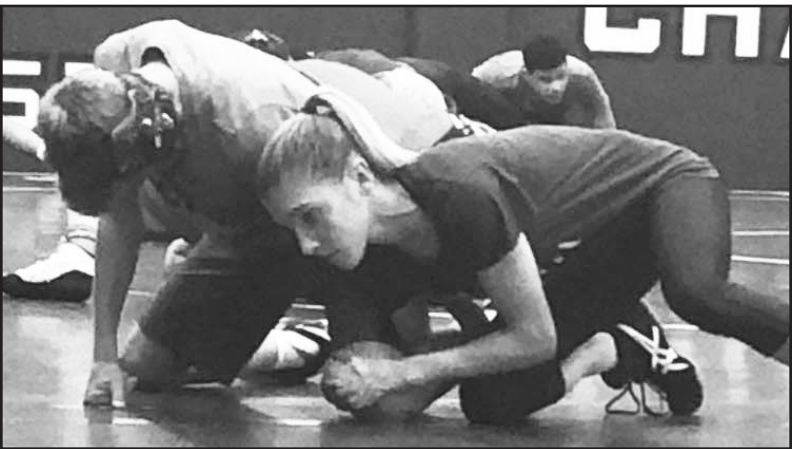


Photo courtesy of Faith Vanderlaan  
Freshman Faith VanderLaan practices with her team before the next match.

# Wrestling team grapples its way to early victories

Grant Gibson  
Photo Editor

Illiana’s wrestling team has had ups and downs this Dec. possibly because of all the “new people that need experience,” said junior Brandon Schutt. The team started training and conditioning in late October, which paid off at the Seneca Irish Wrestling Invite. Junior Ben Kramer and sophomore Logan Frederick both took third in their weight classes at the Invite. However, the Munster Invite saw the Vikings struggle as a team, despite their beating the host school. Frederick and junior Lucas Vazquez agree that many freshmen are showing potential. One

such freshman is Faith VanderLaan. VanderLaan stands out on the team as one of two girls. She cited her four-year background in Brazilian jiu-jitsu—a martial art that involves a lot of ground fighting—and her father, who also wrestled in high school, as two key factors to her success. “The instinct is always there,” she said. “I know how to control the hips.” According to Frederick, team spirit is high right now. The team is constantly joking around and “pretty positive.” “The Echo should know that if there was a state [tournament] this year, Logan would’ve won,” joked Oppenhuis. But, he added, the compliment was sincere.

# Lady vikings working hard to improve despite rough start

Kade Bouwer  
Co-sports Editor

The first season in Indiana for the varsity girls basketball team has not gotten off to the start they might have hoped for. At 3-12, the team hasn’t seen a lot of improvement in the win column from last year’s season. Although the team hasn’t won many games in the early part of their schedule, the players and coaches have seen a lot of positives and are working hard to

produce better results in the latter part of their schedule. Senior Rachel Huisman said, “We have had rough start, but I think things are starting to pick up now. I feel like we are getting better and working better as a team. We definitely had a bit of a rocky start, but I think we have hope for the future.” “In every one of our games we have seen glimpses of this potential team that we could be,” said Senior Emma Slings. “We have had really good plays. We

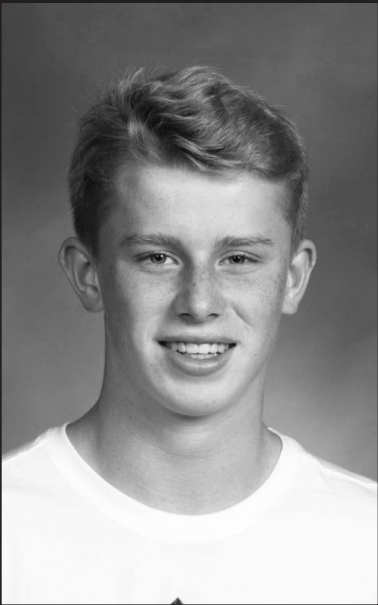
have had really good looks to each other. We have had good trust between our passes and how we run our plays, but then also it breaks down during the game, so we just need to keep up our consistency.” Assistant coach Tom Knapper said, “They all get along really well both on and off the floor. I see the team together a lot before the games. When we have a game they all go over to someone’s house. They seem to have a really good time together.”



Photo courtesy of Emma Slings  
Senior Mickey Boss, 22, looks for an open teammate during a game against Peotone.

## Male Athlete of the Month

Sophomore Logan Van Essen came to Illiana with a lot of expectations and so far he has surpassed them. Van Essen has blossomed into a scoring machine, lifting his team past opponents seemingly single-handedly. Van Essen has been the leader on offense, leading the team in scoring at 22 points per game and being top five in assists. Van Essen said, “[My offensive skill set] opens up a lot for the other guys. When the other team keys into a player, the ball can go to another person that has an open look. Through that, I can open up a lot of other players [on offense].”



## Female Athlete of the Month

Despite the tough start to the season, senior Emma Miedema has been a stand-out player for their team. There were a lot of production to be filled after critical seniors graduated last year such as an all conference player Lauren DeYoung and solid player Bethany Junker, but Miedema has done her best to fill those holes. Miedema has been a key scorer for her team all year, highlighted by a season high, 20 points, in a win over Hammond-Clark. Miedema said, “I’m trying to keep the energy up and continue to encourage [my teammates] when [they] miss a shot. I’m trying to keep our spirits up and keep pushing everyone to do their best.”



# Editorial

## In pursuit of the 'good life'

Many people know the words Thomas Jefferson penned in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The pursuit of happiness. Four words that hold so much weight; words that express a right that cannot legally be taken from us, which is quite ironic considering we are a nation of takers founded on taking. We took the land we live on from the Native Americans, and we have become a country of consumers. However, taking doesn't always have to have negative connotations. Every day, we take chances by pursuing what sets our soul on fire, what gives us hope and makes us want to get out of bed in the morning. Except, with happiness, the more we chase

after it, the more elusive it becomes. Like a desert mirage, happiness always appears to be just over the next ridge, but as we step toward it, it recedes or vanishes. We always seem to believe happiness is one more win, one more party, one more A, one more vacation, one more dollar away.

**"Like a desert mirage, happiness always appears to be just over the next ridge..."**

Maybe Jefferson has us pursuing the wrong thing. After all Jefferson wasn't a Christian but a Deist, meaning that he believed in a Creator who doesn't interact with His creation. And if God is absent from the picture, what is left to pursue but our own happiness? That feels morbid.

Christ offers us a very different version of the

good life, and he invites us not to pursue happiness but to pursue the kingdom. Matthew 6:33-34 says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each

day has enough trouble of its own." In other words, Jesus suggests that we are much more likely to find happiness if we stop chasing after it and we start chasing after him. Live a life of service and love, live a kingdom life, and all these things—happiness included—will be given to us.

Joy is quite evidently linked to service, and nu-

merous examples can be found throughout time and in our lives. We encounter joy in Luke when we look at how the friends of a man went out of their way to lower him through the roof in order to get to Jesus, so that he could be healed. Missionaries that our churches support exclude joy when they come home to give their annual reports about the work they're doing to further His Kingdom across the globe. Teachers in our school, emulate Christ's serving heart every time they teach and radiate joy through the halls when they go a step further and take interest in students' lives.

According to the Westminster shorter Catechism, the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. So this Christmas season, we suggest that rather than pursuing happiness, we pursue Him.

And we might just find a deep, deep, happiness thrown in.

## Memories made with people, not technology

One night I was out driving around with some of my friends when a thunderstorm rolled in and it began to pour. We decided to head inside the house because the rain ruined our plans. When we got inside and got situated in



**Cate Peerbolte**  
Co-sports Editor

the living room, almost instinctively everyone pulled their phone out of their pocket. The little screens illuminated every face and captured everyone's attention in the dimly lit room.

After seeing that I had no notifications, I looked up and saw everyone still occupied. So, I opened up Instagram to look at pictures people posted of them living their best life. Not surprisingly, none of the pictures looked like us, sitting there with our phones glued to our faces; I glanced up but nothing had changed, so I opened Snapchat to tap through stories.

Once I was finished with that, I set my phone face down next to me and sat silently as my friends kept scrolling and tapping. After five minutes the frustration built inside of me and I asked if there was a deck of cards or a board game anywhere.

A deck of cards turned up a few minutes later. I grabbed some spoons from the kitchen, shuffled the deck, and asked who wanted in. Two people. Two out of eight. After some additional pressure, six people played a round of spoons.

We all laughed as cards spun around the circle and as spoons disappeared from the middle. But one by one the circle grew smaller, and one by one the phone screens lit back up.

Still frustrated, I persisted that I would not spend my time looking at my phone in a room full of people. I gathered the cards and convinced the same six people to put their phones down and join me in a game of B.S. Some people joined right back in, but for one it took me physically ripping the phone out of his hand and sliding it across the room because he wouldn't put it away.

I don't suggest doing this to people. Not everyone may react well. But, I do want to suggest that you not be the person who is unable to put your phone down. I know that it's easy to sit staring at our phones, but while you sit looking at pixels of other people's lives, yours is right in front of you—passing you by.

That rainy night my friends and I made eye contact, laughed, and made a memory. That memory may be a small thing, but it is something our phones are completely unable to do. So this Christmas break as you go to your family's parties, forget your phone. Grab a deck of cards or a board game instead. When your family members are talking and you are scrolling through Instagram, stop, and remember that these are moments you can't get back. Instagram will still it'll be there in a few hours. You may be surprised at how much more fulfilling connecting with the people around you is, rather than "connecting" with your phone.



# Merry Christmas!

*-From: The Echo Editorial Staff*

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

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