

Turn to pg. 4 to read about a true story of one student's sexual harassment and about the larger problem.

the Echo)))

Illiana Christian High School

See a showcase of Illiana's Fine Arts on pg. 5.



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Students serve on spring break

Ugandan orphanage inspires Illiana visitors

Haleigh Olthof

Co-News Editor

Twenty-two Illiana students, along with principal Peter Boonstra and teacher Sara Johnson, traveled to Uganda over spring break to volunteer at a children's camp, visit a crisis pregnancy center, paint at two schools, and go on a safari and boat ride on the Nile River.

Johnson said the goal of the trip was not to "do a tremendous amount of work" or to evangelize but rather to expose students to a different culture and to meet fellow Christians in Ugandan communities.

Senior Jason Schutt said visiting the children's camp was his favorite part of the trip.

"We all got to bond with the kids in our own way," said Schutt. "For me, it was playing soccer with the older kids."

Senior Lauren De Young said she enjoyed making friends and meeting people her age who live in Uganda. She also enjoyed dancing at a "wor-

ship party" at the children's camp.

At the pregnancy center, students met girls from twelve to twenty years old who were pregnant for "various reasons," said senior Maddie De Young. Throughout the trip, she enjoyed witnessing the contentedness of the people she met in Uganda.

"We [as Americans] think that we have everything, but they know that they don't have everything, so they're more grateful for what they do have," she said. "It was a reminder that we don't deserve any of it and don't know when it will be taken away."

"I struggle with showing joy," said Schutt. "When I went there, I saw that they don't have nearly as much as we do, but they still show joy in everything they do. That joy is evident in the way that they talk, in the way that they act, and especially in the way that they worship."

Schutt said that despite missing his family and having to eat cow tongue that was "not pleasant," the trip was "a great experience overall."



The DR team poses by the mural they painted on the wall surrounding Pathway to Jesus School.

Photo by Shelley Hernandez.

DR team paints Pathway to Jesus

Natalie Togtman

Co-Arts Editor

On March 30 twenty, Illiana students ranging from sophomores to seniors set out on a plane to serve those in Santiago, Dominican Republic. They were accompanied by Spanish teacher Tom Knapper, Choir director Kathy Slikers, and her husband John Slikers.

In the Dominican Republic students painted walls and murals for the Pathway to Jesus School, hosted a fun day for the kids, attended worship services at local churches, and spent a day at the beach.

Senior Josh Harris said, "I went because this trip gave me the opportunity to do something bigger than myself."

A majority of the time was spent painting walls and murals at the Pathway to Jesus School.

Junior Mark Hernandez, whose mother and father founded the school, said, "My favorite part every year is seeing the progress on the school. I've grown up seeing other people work on this school, so I figured that if I had the chance to do my part, then I was going to do it."

A highlight for many of the students was the opportunity to attend three different worship services held at three of the local churches.

Senior Maria Powers said, "The worship services out there are so different from our worship services here. The people there are so energetic about their faith. They were always dancing. It was also interesting to see different

styles of churches even if I didn't know what they were saying."

The group also spent one day playing with the kids and hosting a fun day for them doing similar activities as one would do at a carnival.

Junior Elizabeth Pugh said, "I was able to use my gifts of helping with children on this trip which was awesome. I also formed a lot of amazing friendships down there, especially with the kids."

The group was scheduled to return home April 8, but due to delayed flights the group was not able to return home until April 10.

Junior Mia Roth said, "We built lasting relationships with the people there as well as with each other. Overall, it was a positive experience and one I will never forget."



Photos by Beth Boonstra.

Seniors Carlee Faber (top) and Ester Lagerhey (bottom) play with kids at the camp in Kampala, Uganda.



Photo courtesy of Michelle VanKalker.

Seven Illiana students were selected to showcase their finest pieces in the Metro Suburban Art Competition.

Illiana art takes first in conference for first time

Cassie Laninga

Co-Photo Editor

Illiana art students on April 13 did what no other Illiana students had done before: they won first place at the Metro Suburban Art Competition at Aurora Central Catholic High School.

Fourteen schools in the conference got together with teams of seven art students to display art and compete against each other. Seniors Tom Ericks, Stephanie Van Deel, Michelle VanKalker, Matthew Haak, Beth Boonstra, Rachel Batterman, and sophomore Abigail Dong competed for Illiana.

"While the judges were choosing winners, we went to workshops. Michelle [VanKalker] and I built birds' nests out of twigs, branches, and twine," said senior Matthew Haak, who won first place in the functional category, for wind chimes he fashioned to look like a perched owl.

Senior Michelle VanKalker, who won first place in the postmodern category, said that because of the way the point system works, Illiana's two first place wins and one second place win put them over the threshold.

"We have a lot of artistic people in our grade. Even the people who

didn't win submitted really amazing work," said VanKalker.

Haak said, "Michelle and I stayed after school almost every day for a week before the contest to finish our pieces, so we were really happy we both got first in our categories."

"I'm pretty ecstatic," said art teacher Mr. Kamphuis. "I think we've been in the Metro Conference for about nine years, and this is our first time winning."

Because of the school's move in the fall, this was Illiana's last year to compete in the conference. Kamphuis said it was good to go out with a win.

Short term mission trips have long term impact

Missions trips aren't just mini vacations or exciting adventures. I've been on several, including trips to Swaziland, Uganda, and the Dominican Republic and I plan on pursuing missions long term because of those experiences. Short term missions do matter.

Missions is not always about going away faraway lands to paint classrooms or pick up garbage because, let's be real, they could hire someone who lives there to do it. Rather, mission trips are about the change that happens in the people who go,



Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor-in-Chief

and it's about the relationships that are built on those trips. Mission trips are about spreading God's love.

Every time I come home from a mission trip, I feel different. Something new clicks, my perspective changes, my faith grows. After Swaziland, I was more confident in who I was as a child of God, and I was able to trust God and others more easily. Before I left, I would have multiple panic attacks every week. I worried about the future and not measuring up to expectations. Now, I am better able to focus on what is happening in the moment. I still have panic attacks, but now I know that God is working in everything, and that my sole purpose is to glorify him.

Mission trips can be extremely hard. The things you experience leave an impression. There is a difference between going to New York City for a vacation and going to Swaziland for a mission trip. On vacation, when you confront someone hurting, you can look straight ahead and keep walking, or hand a homeless person a granola bar, feel good about yourself, and carry on. On a mission trip, your purpose is to build relationships with the homeless, the sick, the lonely. Yeah, that should be our purpose at home too, but getting away from home and out of normal routines opens your eyes to the hurt that surrounds you. In Swaziland, we went to a hospital. I saw burn victims, children sick with flu, babies with pneumonia, and little ones with broken bones. I got to know those kids. For those hours, I was their little buddy, and they didn't have to be alone. That is why short term missions are so important.

When you get to know new people, you make connections. Even though God created each of us unique, we share many similarities, even when we are raised in different cultures. In Uganda, a group of Illiana girls joined some Ugandan girls for a study on becoming a woman of God. The counselor asked all of us to write questions. As the counselor read and answered questions like "How do you discern God's will for your life?" and "What are some ways I can become a better follower of God?," it was hard to tell the difference between the Ugandans' questions and ours.

You learn that there aren't so many differences between you and the people thousands of miles away in a foreign place. A mission trip forces you to see the underlying humanity within us all.

I still talk to the people that I got to know while I was in Uganda, and it's not just small talk every now and then. It's phone calls after school that they wait for even though it is almost midnight there. It's encouraging people like Rebekah, who is twenty-one years old and who is even sassier than I am, and who is excited and nervous about opening up a clothing shop. It's conversations about school, faith, and life. We encourage, support, and pray for each other even though we are roughly 7,721 miles apart.

That is why mission trips matter.



Students play Kahoot! with their grandparents in Mr. Bosman's class.

Photo courtesy of Illiana's Facebook page

Illiana hosts annual Grandparents' Day festivities

Liz VanDrunen

Co-Feature Editor

This year on April 20, 230 grandparents attended Illiana's Grandparents Day. The festivities began at noon with a lunch, catered by Van Til's, provided

to grandparents. Students were then able to pick up their grandparents and bring them to their sixth and seventh period classes.

One grandfather, Fred Kramer said, "Going to the classes with the kids is always

my favorite part since it's a good way to spend time with them."

After this, the grandparents attend a 50 minute program.

Helen Fitch, a grandmother said, "The program is always nice and well put together."

Vice principal AJ Turkstra said, "It's a tradition we enjoy keeping. Grandparents need thanks and appreciation for all they'll done especially since many are supportive of their grandchildren's education."



Photo courtesy of Rylee Benes

Seniors Rylee Benes and Max Men pose with their second place winning robot.

Robotics class places first in local competition

Grant Gibson

Co-Feature Editor

Although their class is only in its second year, robotics students took their knowledge to South Suburban College's annual robotics competition and captured the first place trophy, beating nineteen other teams. Thanks to running-up in Sumo Survivor, Pathfinder, and Catapult and winning Autonomous Racer, Mr. Jack Rudenga can rest easy knowing his teaching paid off.

"I thought we'd do okay going into it," said Rudenga, "but coming out of it, I thought we did great."

"We represented Illiana very

well—and this is only our second year of robotics," said senior Austin Ohm.

Students started building their robots, specifically to each assigned event, a month prior, and they constantly adjusted them in hopes of perfect performance.

"[Revision is] part of design," said Rudenga.

Senior Rylee Benes attributes the second places to poor management at the competition. Judges restarted the Pathfinder event twice and meddled with the gravel on the course, changes that got her robot disqualified.

"The people running the event didn't know what they were doing," she said.

Food, farewell, Fine Arts make for successful evening at Illiana

Kylie Boss

Reporter

The last Evening for Illiana at the current campus was hosted in the upper gym on April 24. The night commemorated past alumni and staff. The event consisted of tours throughout the school, dinner, and a fine arts display and recital.

Principal Peter Boonstra, the host, said that this year, they decided to add the tours and a farewell commemorating the alumni. "It worked out very nicely," he said. "[The Evening for Illiana] has really helped...bring everybody out again."

The annual event helps raise money for all of the items on the teacher's wish lists that aren't covered by tuition, said Mrs. Nancy Rietveld, one of the evening's organizers.

"The P.I.E. board this year

also made it a farewell to the old building," Rietveld said.

Toward the end of the dinner, Boonstra opened a time capsule that had been planted in January of 1948. The metal box, that he had to cut open with a saw, contained a copy of the Lansing Journal newspaper that included a front page story the opening of the current campus, a 1948 Spire, a photo of the school's first board of trustees, and more.

Following the dinner, a large number of guests retired to the auditorium to enjoy music, readings, and drama performances by students who participated in the recent Fine Arts Festival.

Former teacher Mr. Ron Tuinstra said walking down the halls brought back a lot of old memories.

"It was a great place, and I'm really glad I was able to be a part of it," said Tuinstra.



Photo courtesy of the Illiana Facebook page

Runners end strong as they cross the finish line at this year's Pancake Pacer.

Pancake Pacer raises \$12,000

Jordan Bivins

Reporter

On Saturday, April 21, Illiana Christian held its 8th Annual Pancake Pacer, a 5k run/walk and pancake breakfast fundraiser for ICHS athletics. The \$12,000 raised will help the Athletic Department buy things such as new uniforms and equipment.

German teacher Luke Fennema took first overall and first in the male division. He has run in the event three times. He explained that his favorite moment of the event was seeing all the Illiana athletes cheer everyone

as they ran.

Fennema added, "[The course] is nice because we run a lot through Lansing for training in track and cross country, so I feel very familiar with those streets."

Science teacher Mr. Kevin Haan, who also ran, expressed his disappointment with the job that the Lansing Police Department did with cutting off the streets so the runners could get through the course easier.

Haan said, "The police officers could have been doing a better job at stopping traffic."

190 people ran or walked in the race this year.

Go Day: many parts, one student body

April 25, students fanned out across the community to serve. Go Club organizes numerous sites where different homerooms can volunteer. Go Day is an annual event.

Maddie Holesinger

Co-Editor in Chief



Above: Mr. Kevin Haan's homeroom went to Elim Christian School where they played bingo, sang, and participated in other activities. A highlight of the trip was the dance party with the students there. "It was an amazing experience," said senior Rachel Groen. "They exemplified true happiness for my classmates and me."

Right: All the sophomores went to Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, where they were able to package enough food to feed 108 children for an entire year. "It was fun to just see everyone working together and actually accomplishing something," said Ben Haak.



Below: At Highland Christian School's Etc. Thrift Store, Ms. Sharon Bultema's junior homeroom helped by sorting, hanging, and displaying clothes. "My favorite part of working at Etc. today was bonding with my classmates and laughing at students who tried on the craziest clothes they could find," said junior Rachel Huisman.



Above: Mrs. Mary Lagerwey's homeroom served at LARC, a center that employs both mentally and physically disabled people. The students helped organize and work with the employees in assembly lines making packages for their churches Sunday school classes. "I enjoyed working at the LARC center because it made me realize how truly blessed I am," said senior Sarah Kuiper.



Above: The entire freshman class went to Camp Manitoqua where students raked leaves, painted buildings, and paved paths for the campers to hike on in the summer. "I loved seeing students come together and work towards a common goal," said Mia Cruz.

Chamber Singers experience change of plans, learn vocal techniques

Beth Boonstra

Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Thurs., April 12, the Chamber Singers, Illiana's finest choir, departed for Dordt College in Sioux Center, IA to perform two songs by themselves and five songs as a mass choir of choral groups from other schools. They departed from Dordt early due to a blizzard and stayed in Miss Johnson's hometown, Parkersburg, IA, to perform at her church on Sunday. That church was cancelled because of the snow, but they ended up performing at a Methodist Church nearby instead.

About 15 high school groups met at Dordt on Friday, April 13 to perform showcase pieces for a panel. They all received constructive critique. Illiana's Chamber Singers were told they could improve their vowel sounds and breath control. Then all the schools performed five songs together later that afternoon. After being warned of the blizzard coming, Choir Director Mrs. Kathy Sliemers decided to leave early for Parkersburg, IA, Miss Sara Johnson's hometown. Sliemers said, "They performed very well at each different

venue, they handled the craziness and uncertainty of the plans as they changed with calm attitudes and flexibility, and they had fun together. It was a fun weekend to be together." "I learned a lot from this experience," said senior soprano Valerie Swets. "I sang a solo for one of the Dordt professors and she taught me how to connect my breath support and reach the lower notes with a stronger tone quality. It was really helpful and I really enjoyed listening to her critiques." The choir bonded through some of the crazy twists and turns of the trip. Multiple times the group found itself driving through the middle of the night. There was a lot

of running around and craziness according to senior alto Emma West. Senior tenor Johnathan Lightfoot said, "Chambers this year is a really tight group. In the past I feel the overall quality of the experience was nowhere near as good as this year. I feel that because we connect so well as people it reflects in the sound and in the connection we can make with our audiences."

Sliemers felt God's hand in the trip. "He watched over us, protected us, kept me awake driving for which I am immensely thankful, and provided a weekend of fun and laughter. It is good to be flexible and let God work."

Black history field trip showcases local African American accomplishments

Alex Wondaal

Co-Sports Editor

On April 12 a group of 37 Illiana students and three staff members took a field trip through the south side of Chicago to study Black history. History teacher Jeff White gave lectures at 9 locations including the cemetery of Jesse Owens, the Chicago Stockyards, the Chicago home of former President Barack Obama, and Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ where Emmett Till's funeral service was held. The field trip wasn't connected to any specific class or course, so students from all grades were allowed to attend.

Better Illiana through Better Understanding, a student-led club dedicated to encouraging equality at Illiana, helped recruit students for the field trip. (Another trip was scheduled for February of 2018 but was cancelled because too few students were able to attend.) Senior Christin Washington said she enjoyed visiting Jesse Owens cemetery and the lecture that went along with it. Seniors Kyle Zuidema and Aliyah Chancellor both said their favorite parts of the trip were visiting the church where Emmett Till's funeral service was held. "I was surprised by all the history I didn't know about in

our local area" said Zuidema. Bible teacher Mark Dykstra drove the bus and Vice Principal AJ Turkstra also attended the trip as a chaperone. Turkstra said he enjoyed learning of "the Great Migration of African Americans from the South to Bronzeville." Turkstra also said he enjoyed learning about the stockyards where Irish Immigrants and African Americans worked together extremely efficiently. Students on the trip left from school 15 minutes before the beginning of the school day and returned 15 minutes after the end of the school day.

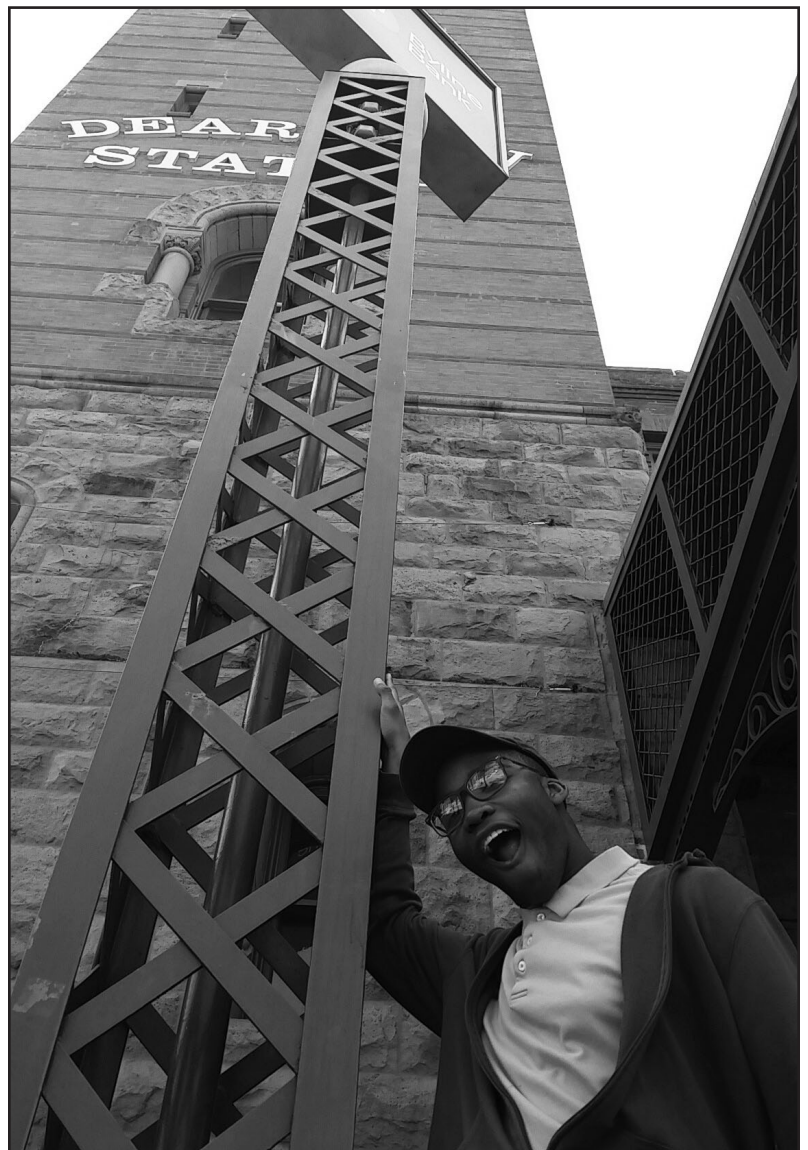


Photo by Beth Boonstra
Senior Johnathan Lightfoot poses outside of Dearborn Station in Chicago.

Nationwide sexual assault issue too close for comfort

Maddie Holesinger

Co-Editor in Chief

Starred names have been changed to protect each individual's identity and reputation.

Emily's* room is filled with memorabilia, reminding her of past accomplishments and memories. Pictures of Emily on the beach with friends and pictures of her in Florida with family cover the walls, capturing a social, confident, trusting, and radiant young woman. Now, when she looks in the mirror, she sees a less trusting, more private, and fearful girl staring back at her.

"It's funny, I don't think he'll ever understand how much he took from me," said Emily. "While he goes on living his life like nothing happened, I have to face it every day."

Emily car pooled with John* every morning to Illiana. Since their families were so close, she was comfortable talking to John, even though he was three years older, and it was easy for Emily to let him in and trust him.

Her trust in him began to falter after one afternoon took a turn for the worse. Emily received a text message from John. It was the middle of summer, and he wanted to hang out so that they could catch up since she had been gone at a camp. He asked to hang out

multiple times before, and every time Emily turned him down because she thought it'd be awkward hanging out with him one on one.

Like every time before, Emily said no, but this time John told her that he had planned the afternoon already. Finding herself in a difficult position, Emily decided that she didn't want to let him down, so she agreed to go, despite the fact that she was exhausted from the busy week.

She slipped on her favorite pink shirt, got ready for the day, and settled into the passenger seat.

"We drove off, and it was pretty obvious that he didn't actually have a plan when he began driving around aimlessly," said Emily. "We talked back and forth. It was slightly weird, but I didn't really think anything of it at that point."

A little while later, John parked behind the Round the Clock on Route 30. He continued to carry on in conversation until he got out of the car and went to the

back seat. He asked Emily to come sit with him back there, when she said no he persisted. After continuing to turn him down, John got back in the driver's seat, but didn't turn the car back on. Instead, he slid onto the passenger's seat, practically sitting on Emily at this point.

Emily pressed her body against the car door as John slid his hand up

her thigh and into her shorts.

"It's like time stopped," she said. "I was frozen, paralyzed in fear. I couldn't get any of the words out of my mouth that I wanted to."

John then began kissing her and groping her.

That's when Emily began coughing.

"It was the only thing I could think of doing," said Emily. "Even when I started to cough, he kept going, but when I wouldn't quit he finally let up."

She then insisted on going home because she wasn't feeling well." He started driving home. Emily didn't say a word the entire ride home. John on the other hand wouldn't stop talking. He told her she couldn't say a word to anyone,

that it would only cause conflict between their families, and that there wasn't really anything to say anyways.

As soon as she walked in the door Emily went upstairs. "I kept it to myself for a while, but I soon told my sister. I realized that keeping it inside would be toxic."

One of Illiana's guidance counselors, Helen Bussema agrees wholeheartedly. Bussema said that around seven people, whether sexually harassed or abused by another student or by someone outside of school, go, every year, to the guidance office, so that their voices can be heard.

According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network), the largest anti-sexual violence organization in America, "Every 98 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted. Every 8 minutes, that victim is a child.

Meanwhile, only 6 out of every thousand perpetrators will end up in prison."

"No case [of sexual abuse] is greater or less significant than another, especially to the victim," said Bussema.

More often than not, sexual harassment/abuse goes unreported. In most cases, girls are the victims. Girls feel stupid for not saying "no" boisterously enough or for putting themselves in a vulnerable position.

According to Neil Zandstra, Illiana's other guidance counselor, "Girls don't want to feel like victims, and sometimes when they speak up, it is hard because no one likes admitting they are a victim. It makes them feel weak, but in reality speaking up is the bravest thing they can do."

"If nothing like this has ever happened to you before, you see it from the standpoint that if I was that person I would have gotten up and walked away, or whatever, but when you're in the moment there's nothing you can do," said Emily.

More than anything Emily felt alone after the assault.

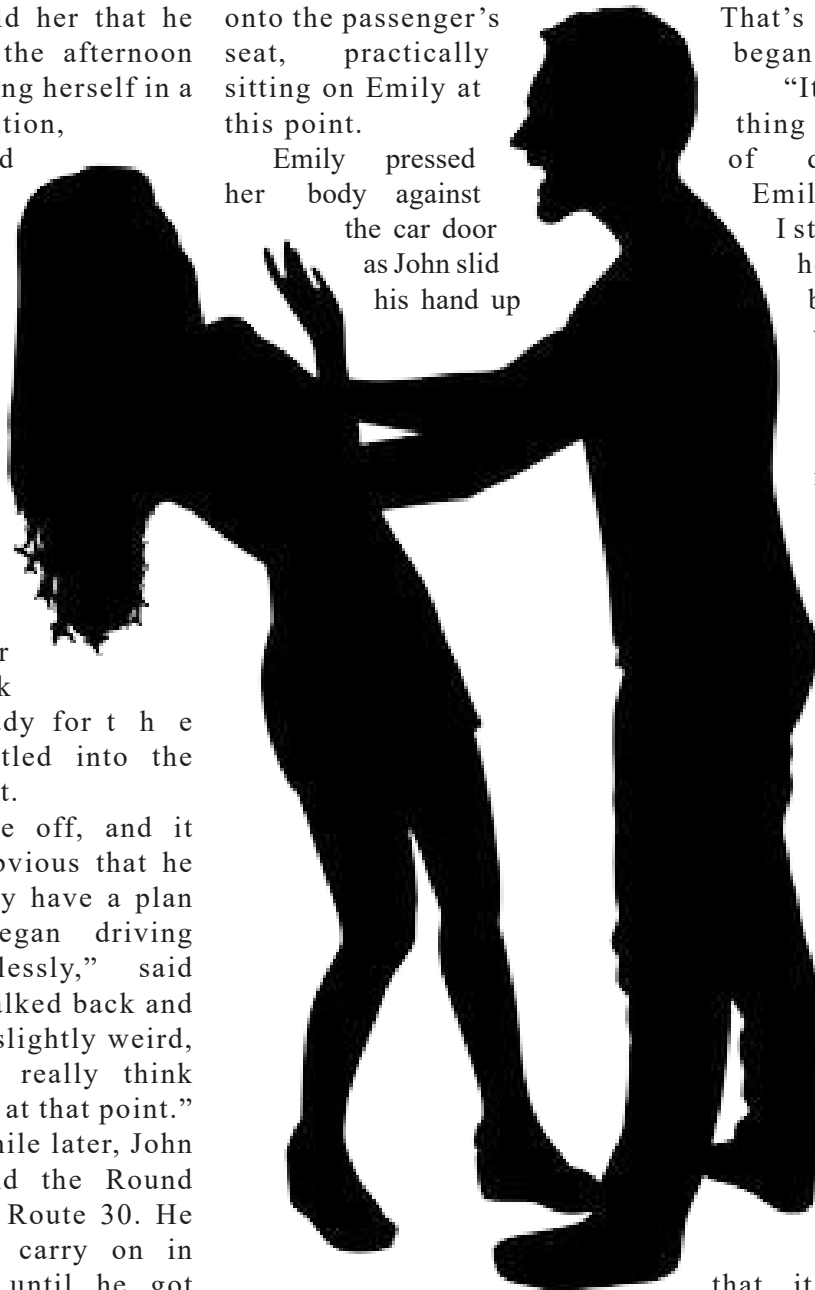
"The first thing I did that night was take a shower. I felt dirty and ashamed and I wanted to wash that all away," said Emily.

She realized that bruises had formed on her thighs because of how hard John had held her down. Emily then decided to talk to her sister, who was away at college, and eventually she told her mom. Her mom was angry that it happened, frustrated about the world we live in, and sad that she couldn't prevent this from happening to her daughter.

Emily is still working on forgiving John every day. He escaped to college, and Emily never got her justice she deserves.

"I wouldn't want to ruin his life, but I do want him to think about what he did every day," said Emily. "I want [what happened to me] to change the way he interacts and treats other people."

Now, at least, her story will be heard, and she is not alone.



www.shouselaw.com

Defining the terms of sexual harassment

Liz VanDrunen

Co-Feature Editor

One in nine girls and one in 53 boys under the age of eighteen experiences sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult, according to the RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network). Such statistics suggest many students at Illiana Christian High School are also affected.

Sometimes talk about sexual abuse is difficult because terms prove slippery. What's the difference between sexual harassment and sexual assault? Where

is the line drawn between sexual assault and sexual abuse?

According to Helen Bussema, guidance counselor at Illiana, "Sexual harassment is bothering somebody because of their sex or about sexual matters. This could mean putting down the opposite sex or talking suggestively about the opposite sex in front of them."

Bussema said, "Molestation would be to make inappropriate sexual contact with a minor."

The American Psychological Association defines sexual abuse as "unwanted sexual activity, with perpe-

trators using force, making threats or taking advantage of victims not able to give consent."

Bussema said, "Sexual assault would be an umbrella over molestation and sexual abuse; it goes beyond the underage problem. It would be any unwanted sexual engagement," said Bussema.

The Illinois and Indiana state law defines sexual assault as the act of sexual penetration through force or while the victim is unable to understand the nature of the act or is unable to give knowing consent.

Fine Arts Festival 2018

Fine Arts week is six days dedicated to celebrating creativity in the Drama, Fine Arts and English departments. This year, around 120 students submitted their pieces for critique. Some students performed at the “Evening for Illiana” on April 24, where visitors marveled at Illiana’s many talented students.



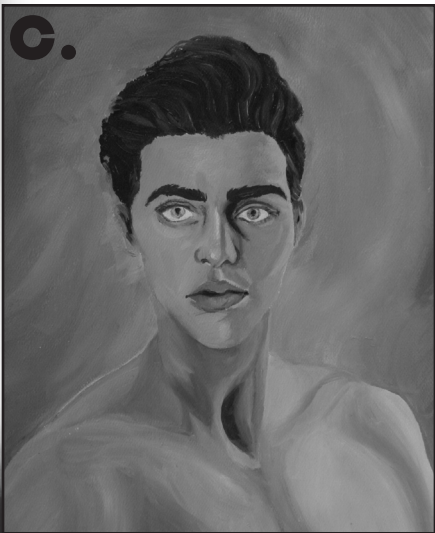
Corset Won 3rd place in Poetry
By Olivia DeYoung

My heart flutters inside its cage,
Looking for escape;
It is nowhere to be found.

Steely bars press around me,
Pushing out the air,
Making breaths short and shallow.

The bars suppress emotions,
And pain comes sharply
But turns into a dull throb.

The cage damages my heart,
But when I wear it,
I can pretend I’m okay.



He Waits For Me Won 1st place in Poetry
By Makayla Hoeksma

He found me once more
Black, dark,
Coat dragging on the floor
He knocks gently on my door
But I shy away even more

He calls for me when he’s near
“Oliver, oliver,
It’s me so dear.”
He waits for me to hear
And open the door against all fear

I run away from my home
Scared, tired,
Drowning out his moans
He slowly follows with a groan
And catches up all alone

Suddenly I stop in my tracks,
Lost, buried
Beyond trees which lacks
All the leaves to cover my back
And he catches up without a hack

He stares at me with black eyes,
Dead, empty
Whispering to me deadly lies
I decide to no longer try
And let him get to me, but why?

He’s an old friend of mine,
Loyal, daring,
And visiting all the time,
I kept running with a whine
Finally death got me perfectly fine



A. “Electric Sea Gull” by Tom Ericks won 2nd place in Abstract Photography.

B. “E plurabus unum” by Trent Kamp, Caleb Perez, Sam Boonstra, Matthew Huizenga won 2nd place in the Sculpture category.

C. “Fluorescence” by Stephanie VanDeel won 2nd place in the Painting category.

D. “Marleigh” by Sarah Maguire won Best of Show in the Portrait category.

E. “Sky Jumpers” by Tom Ericks won 1st place in the Portrait category.

F. “Who’s on First?” performed by Sam Boonstra and Matthew Huizenga at the Fine Arts Recital.

G. “March of the Dwarves” by Edvard Grieg preformed by Kayla Sylvester won 2nd place in the solo piano category.

H. “I Won’t Give Up” sung by Wendy Teune won 3rd place in the solo vocal category.

I. “Wake Me Up” sung by Anna Lenting, Anna Delahunty, Kaylee Evers, Nina Verastegui, Caylynn Townes, Lizzie Knot, Lexi Terpstra, Te’nia Phillips won 2nd place in the ensemble vocal category.



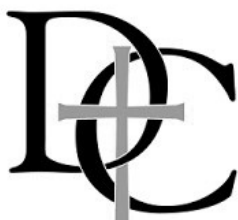
Senior athletes making the next step

In honor of the regular period national signing day on April 11, we tracked down the athletes already committed to compete at the collegiate level (and the time spent playing their sports at Illiana.)

NATIONAL SIGNING★DAY

saturdaydownsouth.com

Austin Clark



glitternight.com

Dordt College Volleyball
4 yrs. Volleyball

Sarah Hernandez



athletics.alverno.edu

Trinity Christian College Volleyball
2 yrs. Volleyball

Nascha Hladek



collegead.com

Indiana University Northwest Cross Country
and Track
4 yrs. Cross Country
4 yrs track

Taylor Huizenga



active.com

Cornerstone University Volleyball
4 yrs. Volleyball

Bethany Junker



universitylogo.blogspot.com

Methodist University Softball
2 yrs. Softball at Grant Park
1 yr. Softball at Illiana

Tony Lucito



patch.com

South Suburban College Baseball
4 yrs. Baseball

Austin Ohm



megasportsnews.com

Indiana University Purdue University
Indianapolis Croaa Counrtry and Track
4 yrs. Cross Country
4 yrs. Track and Field

Garret VanderZee



glitternight.com

Dordt College Volleyball and Soccer
4 yrs. Volleyball
4 yrs. Soccer

Derek VanProoyen



plexuss.com

Taylor University Cross Country and Track and
Field
4 yrs. Cross Country
4 yrs. Track and Field

Cambrie VanRoekel



change.org

Grace College Track and Field
4 yrs. Track and Field

Softball continues to improve with help from freshmen

Jo Mulder
Co-Sports Editor

The softball team at Illiana kicked off its season last month, but the cold weather has caused the cancellation of quite a few games. However, with the cancellation of games comes more practices and more time to hone certain skills.

According to junior Calie Ritzema, the team has great chemistry out on the field allowing for good plays and an overall flow out on the dia-

mond. The addition of three freshman has also proven beneficial for the team. Kacie VanKalker, Jenna O’Brien and Anna Gouwens have all been positive assets to the team. Ritzema expanded on that by saying the following: Kacey Van Kalker has proven herself playing second base; O’Brien bats well and is a good pitcher; Gouwens plays as a pitcher and is a great addition to the team. Each of the girls plays their position well and adds to the chemistry and performance on the diamond.

Soccer stays positive despite losing record

“We keep taking L’s, but we are working hard”

Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

The varsity girls’ soccer team continues their season with a record of 4-5.

Junior Annie Weemhoff said, “The season is going better than expected. We are working well together and we are forming great team chemistry.”

The varsity team consists of fifteen players, only four of them seniors.

Weemhoff said, “We’re hoping to learn and improve at every game and go far this season.”

Mia Cruz, the only freshman on the varsity team, said, “The girls have been really welcoming. We’re planning to

go to conference, and, hopefully, win so that we can go to state.”

The Junior Varsity team struggled at the beginning of the season.

This year’s team is freshman heavy with nine of the fourteen players being freshman, with many of them never have played before.

Freshman Abby Mejan is a part of this latter group. Mejan said, “I was skeptical and nervous at first because I’ve never played before, but I’ve learned it [soccer] is really fun and relaxed.”

“We keep taking L’s, but we are working hard and are growing together as a team,” Mejan said. “We just need to improve on our communication on the field.”



Sports Catch-ups



Boys Volleyball

Kade Bouwer
Co-Sports Editor

The boys volleyball team has surged to an 8-6-1 start to its season, despite some injuries to key players. After a poor record last year, the team has exceeded the expectations of most people with its impressive start.

Senior Austin Clark said, “We are doing really well compared to what was expected at the beginning of the season. I definitely thought some of our fundamentals, especially with passing, would be lacking. So far it’s been really strong, so I’m definitely pleased with how we are doing.

As a team, they are looking to ride the early momentum and confidence into the rest of the season and into postseason.

“We just always want to keep improving and win as many games as possible,” said junior Dylan VanDrunen. “We just try to have fun with each other and have a great time while playing.”

Boys, Girls Track and Field

Kade Bouwer
Co-Sports Editor

The boys and girls track teams have raced out to a solid start to their seasons. Although they have only had a couple of meets so far due to Spring Break and weather cancellations, they remain confident.

Sophomore Gillian Fiene said, “[The girls track team] has only had one meet so far that’s been an official outdoor meet. Otherwise, the training has looked really good and it seems like everyone is healthy.

Fiene set the school record in the 1600 meter run on April 24 at the Watseka invite, beating her own previous record.

With the bulk of their season coming up, both teams are focusing on practicing more and staying close as a team.

“We haven’t had a lot of experience outside and it is hard to train without a full track,” said junior Ashley Pigatti. “We have a lot of upcoming meets, so it’ll be good to get out there and get our times lower.”

Freshmen Josh Sylvester said, “The team is good. We are all close. We respect each other and know each other’s strengths and weakness.”

Boys Baseball

Alex Wondaal
Co-Sports Editor

Boys baseball is heading into their final month with a 7-5 record, boasting wins over Aurora Central Catholic, Ridgewood, and Crete Monee.

Strong pitching from sophomores Eddie Spoelman and Tavares VanKuiken and senior Tony Lucito have helped keep the opponents’ scoring low while well-placed hits from experienced upperclassmen have helped keep their record above 500.

Junior Colton DeJong said of the postseason, “Our regional will be tough, but we’re hoping to qualify out of it this season.”

Senior Josh Smits said their strengths include “a close knit bunch of guys and talented pitching.”

DeJong said better hitting against more skillful pitching will be essential for success in their final games.

Boys Tennis

Dominic Turkstra
Reporter

The boys tennis team’s explosive attack has led them to sole possession of first place in the Metro-Suburban Conference and a varsity record of 7 and 0.

Lawton and Seth Bower are the top two individual players for the team. They have also had a really good matches recently and have really helped the team.

Junior Parish Townes said that if their team keeps up the good work, there is a good chance many players will qualify to go downstate.

Townes added that their team has been really consistent with good serves.

Freshman Brendan Kamp said that he really enjoys tennis and likes his teammates.

Male Athlete of the Month

Jared Trivette has been on varsity for four years and overcame a 16-week vertebrate injury the fall of his junior year to lead his team to a so-far successful season.

“He hits dingers, plays the field well, and gets everyone pumped before games,” said Junior Colton DeJong.

Trivette’s two biggest moments this year were a walkoff grand-slam against Chicago Christian and two homeruns in a single inning against Walther.

Sophomore Tavares Vankuiken said, “He gets everyone really serious and focused on the field and he keeps everyone engaged in the game.



Female Athlete of the Month

Senior Rylee Benes is a four-year varsity softball player and has been playing softball for a combined 13 years. This year, her role on the team as a leader is more amplified than in previous years.

Benes said, “I have to be a leader a lot more this year. I have to help out the freshmen along, as we have three freshmen on varsity this year. I try to be an example for them every day.”

Junior Calie Ritzema said, “She is such a good leader. She is really encouraging. She not only leads by telling us, but she also leads by how she plays.”

Editorial

Ultimate reason to be smart internet users

Most teenagers would admit to spending too much time on their phones and computers. The problem isn't that adolescents don't think our electronics are hurting us, but that we don't think its harmful enough to justify a change in our usage.

Hence, serious consideration of any significant restriction of our technology is usually brushed off, probably because the motivations preached at us aren't compelling.

We're told a stupid tweet could ruin our reputation. True. But if we thought our tweets were stupid, we wouldn't be publishing them.

We're told too much time spent on social media and video games will be wasteful, that we should be spending time studying, so we can be successful, wealthy, and happy! But we're already happy on our phones and gaming consoles, so why should we care?

We're told our generation is socially stunted from lack of face-to-face communication. But with hundreds of friends online, that can't be true.

We're told pornography will ruin our sexual relationships. But the internet is home to enough filthy gratification to keep us from caring.

We're told if we send or receive nudes, we could end up in prison. But for many that's a worthwhile risk if it means gaining acceptance from a peer. (And no one really takes the warning seriously anyway.)

Every warning seems either insignificant enough to neglect or a risk worth taking for the near-term benefit.

For those concerned for our

But with random programming and profit-driven, split decisions, we're being rewired in our constantly updating world. We too rarely hear that the amazing gift of being created in God's image is threatened by technology.

We serve a relational Father. He cares deeply about every human life, so much so that he purchased the ability to know us with his own son's life. Meanwhile,

who washed the feet of disciples he knew would soon betray him. But social media encourages narcissism, to the point where we'll spend real money to buy fake followers.

We serve a strong Savior, who rejected the three strongest temptations Satan could present, but how many young women don't have the strength to deny a young man asking her to send naked photos? And how many young men didn't have the strength to walk righteously, and avoid such a demeaning request?

We teenagers should take a long look at what we're doing with technology and seriously ask ourselves how great the cost really is.

Instead of petty warnings and arguments that have proven ineffective, we should be taught a more important truth; that being made in God's image is a gift worth treasuring. If the same power that live in Him lives in us, no device is worth the sacrifice of that power. If students truly understand what it means to be made in God's image and the threat that technology brings to that sacred gift, we would make some real progress towards righting the wrongs that our devices have generated in our lives.

homerooms at Illiana consist of quiet students glued to their phones to avoid awkward loneliness. We'll go four years without getting to know the people beside us because no one wants to look like they don't have dozens of friends in other rooms eager to send us a text.

We serve a pure God, so flawless that he cannot be in sin's presence. But the number of men right here who are addicted to pornography is tragic.

We serve a humble Servant,

“...with random programming and profit-driven, split decisions, we're being rewired in our constantly updating world.”

generation, this isn't an easy pill to swallow. Dependency on and addiction to technology are problems everyone wants fixed, but noble attempts to change our behavior have failed. When we have dialogue about the problems with technology, something is missing. We're not taught about the most damaging problem of all: technology threatens one of God's most wonderful gifts—his image within us. With divine artistry and perfect execution, we were wonderfully woven in our mothers' wombs.

Real change proves difficult

‘It was a life-changing experience,’ I say. ‘Wow,’ they reply trying to sound jealous but not fully convinced.

‘No, really, I don't see any way of being the same person after that experience.’

‘Good luck with that,’ they say skeptically because they all know how hard it is to break free of our routines, order, and control.



Beth Boonstra
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The day after returning from Uganda was the hardest part of the entire trip, not of jet-lag, school, or snow, but because my return to life here hit me with the cold shock of

reality. Days earlier I had participated in a different lifestyle, one that I wanted desperately. The orphans that we got to know throughout the week were abundantly joyful because of their passion for and full surrender to God. They weren't trying to control their lives the way that we do with our excessive planning, stressing, and accumulating of stuff. For some of these orphans, God was all they had. Their worship reflected their different values. They didn't have carefully planned worship services with a full sound system, power point, and detailed bulletins. Instead they let the Spirit guide their time. They celebrated with each other and mourned with one another. Spontaneously they shared their testimony of God's goodness or broke into song in front of everyone. They freely danced because they weren't worried about their neighbors watching them; they danced for no one but the Lord. This lack of control may sound like a nightmare to some of you, but it's truly refreshing to experience. Not every encounter with God has to be planned in order to be meaningful. In fact, I would say that we should challenge ourselves to encounter God outside of the boundaries where we expect to see Him.

Their lifestyle involves being bold for Christ and surrendering everything to Him. This takes courage and it's impossible to be courageous if I'm not actually faced with a fear. How often do I feel fear within my routine? Going to a friend's youth group doesn't count as leaving my comfort zone, and realizing I forgot to do my English assignment doesn't count as fear. Coming home made me see how safe I was living. When I look at Paul, recklessly traveling the world to spread the gospel and courageously loving others, I don't see his life at all resembling mine with its unsaid but always evident boundaries of just how far I am willing to go for the sake of Christ.

So now what am I supposed to do? Well, that's the valley that I'm in right now. Although it may sound pretty radical, probably the easiest thing for me to do would be for me to sell all of my possessions and just move to Uganda. I know that may sound scary to some of you, but it's a picnic compared to the other much more terrifying, humbling, and uncomfortable option: completely restructuring my life, so that the one thing that is left standing is Christ, and then, once I'm ready, slowly start to feel around to see if there's any old or new pieces that I can fit into my life without covering up my main purpose. If it distracts from the main purpose, it's out. And the changes don't stop there. If my life truly is centered on Christ, I will overflow with the desire to convince others to radically restructure their lives in the same way. As terrifying as that second option is for me, I think that's where God's calling: ‘You wanted to live radically and encounter fear for my sake?’ Well here it is.

My favorite verse for the past five years has been John 16:33, but I didn't truly understand its weight until this moment. It reads, ‘I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.’



Photo by Jim Kamphuis

As a part of a farewell to the old campus on Tuesday, April 24, Principal Mr. Peter Boonstra saws open a time capsule buried in Jan. 1948. It contained a 1948 Spire, a copy of the Lansing Journal, a picture of the school board, and an architectural rendering of the original building. Alumni and past Illiana faculty celebrated memories of the current campus at the Evening for Illiana. Retired teachers led tours of the school. On Saturday, April 28, community members can tour Illiana's new campus in St. John, Indiana. Call the school office for more details.

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

the Echo)))

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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. Names will not be for doing so.