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## Impact Club launches weekly breaktime prayer meeting

Nina Verhagen  
Reporter

Every Thursday during break a prayer group, organized by IMPACT Club will meet in room 243. The idea came about when Mrs. Heidi Teach, the

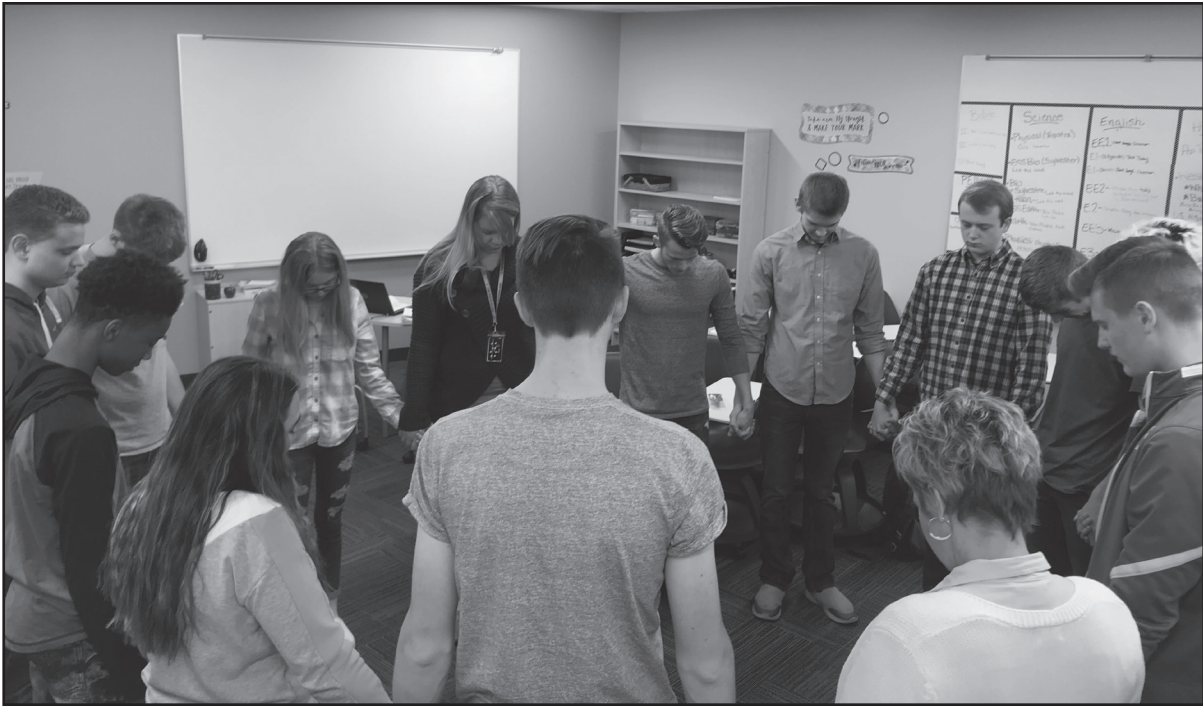


Photo by Maddie Holesinger

*Students and staff gather in room 243 to pray for school, government, and specific prayer requests.*

club’s sponsor and Director of Student Services, had a conversation with Grace

Peterson, and junior and member of the club. Peterson, who had

recently returned from a youth group retreat, said, “The power of prayer

struck me.”

While telling Teach about the trip, Peterson expressed “wanting to get more students involved in prayer.”

Teach, who had recently attended the CEA convention, had a similar feeling. “I asked myself, ‘How do we raise up more men and women of God in Illiana?’”

The conclusion they came to: a prayer group during break.

“Anyone who wants to pray has a chance to pray,” said Peterson. “Or they can tell us about their struggles and we can pray for them.”

“This is about meeting kids where they are,” said Teach, “This is about students praying for students.”



Photo by Marv VanDrunen

*Seniors Kaneisha Perry, Julia Oostema, freshman Kenny Pickard, and senior Ben Wiersema perform in Act Two of “Peter and the Starcatcher.”*

## Can you hear me now?

Abysmal sound quality tarnishes school play

Taylor Benes  
Reporter

Over 80 students participated in five performances of Peter and the Starcatcher on Nov. 1, 2, and 3, and although the acting on stage was terrific, audience and drama department members complained of numerous technical difficulties in the ARC.

“We were expecting some growing pains and having to figure out things differently than in Lansing, but we weren’t expect-

ing no lights or sound for the first week of practice runs,” Tech Director Jim Kamphuis stated.

Kamphuis took advantage of the demolition of Star Plaza, a theater venue in Merrillville, by purchasing everything from soundboards and lighting fixtures to a 70-foot-long drapery.

“Our lighting console came from Star Plaza and is an absolute dream. Once we got it figured out, the lighting looked really good; it just took a long time to get there,” said Kamphuis.

On the other hand, according to Kamphuis, little consideration was given to the ARC’s acoustics in both design and installation of speakers and dampening panels.

“It sounds like a cave in there,” junior Greg Leysta, a

tech crew member, said.

Freshman Jane Peterson added, “It was dreadful just sitting there listening to muffled voices.”

Sound-absorbing ceiling panels were brought from the Lansing campus, but were hung so high they made no difference.

The stage’s side speakers were mounted 9 ½ feet off the ground, causing sound to pass over at least the front ten rows.

Kamphuis anticipates lowering the speakers and hanging sound-absorbing drapery from the back wall.

He finished by saying, “We have three months before our next tech week, and by then, hopefully everything is up and running.”

## Illiana recycling falls victim to market realities

Grant Gibson  
Co-Feature Editor

Blue recycling bins have been missing from Illiana’s classrooms since the new campus kickoff. The administration explained that Homewood Disposal, our refuse hauler, no longer offers separate recycling, which is true. But misperceptions about what happens to our garbage arose.

“What I’ve been told is that at the transfer station is where these disposal companies are sorting garbage,” said Vice Principal AJ Turkstra. “They’re literally sorting garbage and pulling recyclables out of the garbage.”

Turkstra added that Homewood Disposal wouldn’t even drive a designated recycling truck to the Lansing campus last year. He claimed that Homewood Disposal cited other reasons: first, running a second truck to pick up strictly recyclables doubles their transportation costs. Second, Homewood Disposal sorts everything at their facilities through only one line because so many people mix recycling and garbage together.

Turkstra added that “refuse companies are finding it cheaper to sort the garbage themselves.”

Peter Clevering, who works in the marketing department for Homewood Disposal, debunked this misperception. He said that “Homewood Disposal does not sort recyclable materials out from

the garbage. Recycling is a separate service and requires a recycling dumpster and a separate truck so the recyclables are not contaminated. Due to market restrictions, we currently do not offer commercial recycling in your area.” Clevering added that garbage is its own line, and “very rarely does [Homewood Disposal sort recycling out of trash loads].”

That being the case, it is safe to say that nothing from Illiana is currently being recycled. Every aluminum can, paper, or cardboard box is ending up in a landfill.

George Oostema, the finance manager at Republic Services, another disposal company, said in an email, “Collecting recyclable materials and trash in the same truck and then sorting the material at a recycling facility is almost unheard of these days. Most recycling processors stopped running garbage and recycling over the same sort line decades ago. Not only is this practice extremely inefficient from a sorting perspective, but it also substantially increases contamination of the recyclable material stream.

“Think about that clean paper or cardboard, mixed together in the same truck with something like food waste. The clean material will be contaminated to the point where it has no value and no end market for reuse,” Oostema wrote.

Turn to **Lack, Page 3**



## Students' reactions to late Chick-fil-A show lack of gratitude

For those of you who have yet to hear about the Great Chick-fil-A Debacle of 2018 that occurred at Illiana on November 12, I will shed some light on the event. It was just like any other day when it was announced that the day's schedule would be changed because the lunch had not arrived yet.



Liz VanDrunen  
Co-Feature Editor

To say that student reactions were out of line during the "crisis" is an understatement. This small setback to our lives created

disorder and anarchy. Once they were dismissed from lunch, students lined the halls and pressed against the metal gate of the servery. Others started conga lines, leading the administration to call for order by having students sit back down, instead of being dismissed. Teachers, in an attempt to quiet us, walked around with liters of soda. Eventually, students were appeased as the lunch arrived, even though it was late. Even then, students ran into line to receive their lunch. This was all for the first lunch; the second lunch hadn't even started yet.

I would like to say that the actions described are exaggerations, but sadly they are not. With one announcement, our school had gone from order to chaos due to our lack of chicken. We sat in our brand new beautiful school and behaved like spoiled children because our lunch was not on time.

Yes, some of the commotion was done jokingly, but some wasn't. Looking back on the day, it's easy to see past the humor of it, past the complaining from students and realize how much that we take for granted. There was not one child at Illiana that day who was legitimately worried that he would not get anything to eat that day, because, even if Chick-fil-A hadn't come, they could go home and find a pantry filled with more than they could ever eat in one sitting. It's not as if Chick-fil-A had purposely forgotten our lunches; there was simply a miscommunication somewhere along the line, yet we took it as a personal attack. What happened to our student body? Are we so used to getting what we want, whenever we want it, that we have grown complacent? We sit surrounded by families who care about Christian education and teachers who invest time and energy into us. None of us know hunger or homelessness. Our problems generally are so small. At least this one was. Yet we complained about waiting an hour and a half more than usual to eat lunch as if something more than a minor inconvenience was at stake. I, for one, find that sad.

We should be examples to others on how to behave. During the Great Chick-fil-A Debacle of 2018, I fear we were not.



Photo by Jim Kamphuis

Senior Elizabeth DeYoung and junior Andrew DeBoer play the trumpet in the Veteran's Day ceremony.

## Illiana honors veterans with flag raising ceremony, patriotic chapel

Samuel Vargo  
Reporter

On Monday, Nov. 12, Go Club and Student Council planned and hosted a Veterans' Day ceremony that included morning devotions, a flag-raising ceremony and a Veterans' Day chapel led by Navy Petty officer Christian Perry.

About 80 veterans

attended the ceremony, according to Go Club sponsor Miss Johnson, a significantly higher number than last year.

At the start of the school day, students, veterans, and faculty filed outside in the brisk morning air to the flag-pole in front of school. Desert Storm veteran and Illiana history teacher Mr. Bill Venhuizen led

devotions. Venhuizen touched on many important aspects of Veterans' Day, including that "the ultimate sacrifice does not come from us but rather from our Heavenly Father, who created us – not for one people or one nation but for all who believe in Him."

After the flag-raising ceremony, spectators walked to the ARC

for chapel where Navy Petty Officer Christian Perry told us his story and connected with both veterans and students. A brass trio played the anthems of the respective branches of the armed forces, and veterans in attendance stood during their fight songs. As the band finished, Mr. Davids told students "not just to remember veterans on Veterans' Day but each and every day." He added, "People have fought, lived and died for what we have today."

Student Council served breakfast to the veterans while the veterans mingled with each other. Many of them were just happy to relate to someone.

"Being a veteran is like being in a unique brotherhood," Venhuizen said.

Many veterans agreed with Venhuizen, like Army veteran John Busker. Busker mentioned that he had called one of his friends from the Army on Sunday to wish him a happy Veterans' Day. Many veterans just want to be able to share their stories and Veterans' Day allows that to happen.

## Student council runs first blood drive at new campus, receives many donations

Benjamin Wheeler  
Reporter

On Tuesday Nov. 13, Illiana's student council held a blood drive, for students 16 and older in the ARC.

The donations aid people who are suffering from liver diseases, anemia, blood loss from operations, and so much more. Illiana donated 47 pints of blood to the Heartland Blood Centers. Illiana has been doing blood drives for a long time, but this was

the first blood drive done at the new campus.

Senior Ben Wiersema, who gave blood at the drive, said "[Donating] affects a lot of people, and it could change and save the lives of people who are in need of blood."

Many people fear the needle, which might make some choose not to donate. However, the needle doesn't hurt, according to Wiersema. "There is a lot of pressure," he said, "but there is no pain."

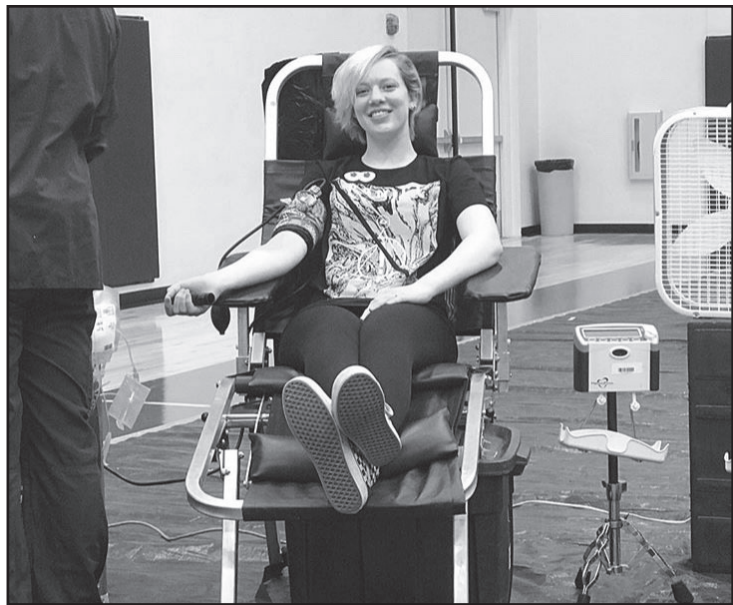


Photo courtesy of Issy Neibert

Senior Issy Neibert gives blood for her fifth time.

## Praise Crowd raises funds with annual Taco Dinner

*Community comes together for food and fellowship*

DJ Gladney  
Reporter

On Saturday, Nov. 3, the Praise Crowd Committee held a taco dinner fundraiser at Illiana's new

campus from 4-7p.m.

Senior Calie Ritzema said that the dinner was not only to raise money for the Praise Crowd budget to fund breakfasts, dinners' and other events,

but also to serve the community and give them an idea of what Praise Crowd does. To that end, the giant screen in the commons played praise music and student comments on

Praise Crowd throughout the event.

Senior Hayley Smit said one of the greatest things about the taco dinner was getting to see the community come together for a specific cause and seeing God's handiwork and blessing through generous donations

Smit said that they received donations from our community that came close to \$13,000.





Seniors from Team Mario Kart win best costumes. Photo courtesy of Hayley Smit

# Dodgeball tournament raises funds for Go Club, delights crowd

Madison Ceponis

Reporter

Nina Verhagen

Reporter

Go Club’s first dodgeball tournament at new Illiana raised over \$ 2,000 to fund the club and help to pay tuition for families in need.

With 25 teams and over 400 people attending, the tournament was a “big hit” according to Vice Principal AJ Turkstra. The money was raised through both admission and team participation fees.

Go Club leader Sara Johnson said, “I think that was one of our best crowd-attended dodgeball tournaments ever.... That was the most fun I think I’ve ever had at one. I think our student body did a fantastic job of following the rules, and I couldn’t have been prouder.”

The winning team of the night was the Swim Team, and

winner of best costumes was Team Mario Kart. Senior Kyle Mulderink of the Swim Team said, “It [Winning] was a pretty good feeling. To be honest I felt better after we beat the Jokers because they were a better team. Once we beat the Jokers, we knew we had it in the bag.”

Following the tournament students gathered in the commons for food and fellowship before the start of Praise Crowd.

Sophomore Bella Verastegui said, “I’ve always loved Praise Crowd since I was an 8th grader. It’s such an inviting and welcoming atmosphere to worship God without being judged. Something that I really enjoy about Praise Crowd is the testimonies that are given. I love hearing others talk about their lives and struggles because it helps me realize that we all have our battles, and God can help us through them.”

# Illiana auction raises money, excites audience with dogs

Sophia Thompson

Reporter

Nearly 700 people crowded into Illiana’s gym on Saturday, Nov. 17 to place bids on various items at the annual auction.

For four years Illiana’s Athletic Department has hosted an annual auction. Winter sports teams for Illiana help work the auction every year to help raise funds for their teams.

Illiana raised \$57,285 at the auction this year. The money raised will go to winter sports teams, tuition

assistance, and new security for the school.

This year Illiana auctioned off two Labrador retriever puppies, a male and a female. They decided to auction off these puppies because someone on the auction committee suggested that they were looking for a puppy and that the auction should get one. Illiana decided to go with a purebred puppy because they wanted to know the background of the dog they got, and customers said that they prefer purebred puppies over a mixed breed.

# Lack of recycling at Illiana points to global struggle

Recycling, from Page 1

Many people—a majority of Americans—recycle contaminated material. It was a semi-harmless practice two years ago, but Oostema and Clevering said the recycling industry is hurting today because of it:

“In 2017, China announced efforts to clean up their country, which included dramatic changes for acceptance of imported recyclables,” wrote Oostema. “For example, allowable contamination levels for paper/plastic decreased from 3% to .5%. In addition, China banned all mixed paper from import, regardless of contamination levels (this was 20% of the historical recyclable material stream). These chang-

es, sometimes referred to as the ‘China Sword’, took effect in March of 2018, and have had a major impact on the recycling industry. To reduce contamination, processors have had to slow conveyor speeds which reduces throughput and/or adds hours of operation. Human resources have been added to either sort or inspect. Recyclers are investing in newer, more accurate sorting technology. Companies are actively exploring other domestic and international markets, although many are flooded by the global industry shifting away from China. All of these responses have made recycling more expensive.”

“[Recycling] has really gone down the tubes in the

past 8 months,” Clevering said.

Clevering referenced Homewood Disposal’s “Basic Recycling is Better Recycling” campaign, which seeks to stop the practice of recycling contaminated material by educating the community. More information can be found on Homewood Disposal’s website.

The new regulations and lower margins have also driven up the price of recycled goods.

“It’s more expensive to use recycled paper than to cut down a tree,” said Principal Peter Boonstra.

No matter the exact reasons, Illiana is no longer recycling. The shift at school reflects a larger truth. As Oostema said, “Currently recycling is broken.”

# Knot takes second in essay contest

Lauren Woo

Reporter

Juliana Knot, an Illiana graduate of 2017, won second place in The Banner’s “Why Christianity Still Matters” essay contest for college students. Her article was published on The Banner’s website on October 29 and her article will be printed in The Banner’s November issue.

“The whole point was to write a narrative,” Knot said, so she added not just one narrative to her

essay, but three, those of Jesus’s death, the creation of the world, and her aunt’s murder in 1997.

“It’s a very sad, difficult part of our family’s history, but it’s important to acknowledge,” Knot said, referencing her aunt’s death, which was one of the central threads running through her essay.

Knot talked to her grandpa, a minister, when writing the essay. “He said to be careful with precision, and that one word has a lot of meaning.”

She wanted to show how God

takes all things, the good and the bad, and uses them for His purpose, to His end. To demonstrate this she uses the word “denouement” in her essay, which is the final part of a story in which all parts of the plot are brought together and resolved.

“Despite suffering,” she said, “God brings everything for his purpose.”

“Our God is a God of suffering and joy,” Knot added, “You can’t have one without the other.”



Limback poses atop the Great Wall of China. Photo courtesy of Marie Limback

# Limback visits underground Christian schools in China

Madison Rogers

Reporter

Illiana’s admissions director, Marie Limback, went on a trip to China from Friday, Oct. 26, to Thursday, Nov. 12, joining the director of Culture Matters, a foreign exchange placement agency with whom Illiana works, and other educators to find more Christian students to come to America for an American experience and a Chris-

tian education.

Once Limback arrived, she met with fellow Christians there, making presentations about Illiana to families, churches, and schools, informing prospective students about schooling and scholarship options in America. Many Chinese families would like their children to have an American education. On top of that Illiana provides a Christian education as well.

Limback spent her days with

schools in several different places like Beijing, Shanxi, and Xuzou.

Limback said, “The people were friendly, and many students could speak and understand what I was saying.”

Limback said exchange students are important for Illiana so that our traditional students realize that, “there is more to the world than just Dyer, Indiana.”

Limback added, “There are more similarities between Chinese Christian schools and Illiana than I expected. I especially noticed it during a chapel service we attended where students were singing the same songs we do here.”

The Christian schools Limback visited were meeting illegally. One school was in an old apartment building that had been turned into a school. Limback said, “Whenever anyone knocked, everyone got quiet and stopped what they were doing. The fear was like a scene from Nazi Germany.”

Limback said the trip will pay benefits for Illiana.

“We made good connections for the future, potential partnerships with Chinese Christian schools. Students at those schools will more easily come to Illiana in the future.”



# Learning to live with what

## Brother with autism brings joy, challenges to Kooistra family



Photo courtesy of Lyla Kooistra

*Lukas Kooistra sits on a swing in his aunt's backyard in Homerwood, IL.*

Haleigh Olthof

Co-News Editor

Scratches mar the walls of the Kooistra home. Marker drawings fill Lukas's room. Logos cover his door along with a sign he made that says "fearfully and wonderfully made." He is always making noise. Screws hold windows shut, and the doors have multiple locks, including a keypad that requires a code to open the door onto the roof. The Kooistras take precautions to make sure their "escape artist" doesn't run across the street to their cousins' house.

"He is very smart," said Julia Kooistra, sister of Lukas, Lyla, and Samuel Kooistra. "He uses bobby pins now to unlock everything, so we had to get some new locks."

Lukas, 12, has autism. He was two when he was diagnosed, and Lyla and Julia were seven.

"We kind of thought of it as a flu, almost, like it was going to go away eventually, or like we were going to catch it," said Julia.

Their other brother, Sammy, asked their mom if he was going to catch "the autism."

Lyla first realized what autism meant for her brother one day when he was running happily up and down a hallway at home and suddenly stopped laughing and started crying.

Lukas usually laughs at everything, even in bad situations, said Julia. "He's got a really contagious laugh, so he'll get you laughing" too.

Lukas enjoys tubing, going outside, and spending time with his sisters' friends.

"He won't actually engage or play," said Lyla. "He'll just want us to sit in his room with him and he'll just look at us and be happy and start screaming or squealing with joy."

Lyla, acting almost as a mother, describes herself as a second caretaker when her parents are busy.

"I always brush his teeth, brush his hair, help him shower. I help him clean up his room feed him." She said he also listens when she scolds him

for bad behavior.

When she babysits Lukas, they go on "McDonald's dates," make cards for the family, play with play dough, or watch funny videos on YouTube.

"We like to dance," said Lyla.

In the past, one parent would have to stay home with Lukas while the other took the rest of the family to church. People at church would ask if their parents were separated.

Now, Lukas attends Reflectors, Faith Church's special needs ministry, on Sunday mornings. Lyla and Julia also serve in the program, through which they have connected with other families with special needs and have helped those families to be able to attend church.

Vinnie Adams, the Special Needs Ministry Director at Faith Church, said in an email that the work of caring for someone with special needs can be "draining, wearing, relentless, [and] overwhelming." Most parents of children with special needs desperately want a break.

"Burn out and high

stress is typical," wrote Adams, but caring for someone with special needs can also help the caretaker develop "compassion, a genuine (real & raw) personality, and an ability to relate with (and minister to) other hurting, burnt-out people."

Lyla said having Lukas as a brother has taught her and Julia empathy, even though taking care of him can be difficult.

Right now, Lukas is going through a glass-breaking phase.

"Glassware, plates, anything--he'll break it," said Julia. "He is very destructive, so there's nothing physically perfect in our house in any way." The family has spent a lot of money replacing things he broke.

Lyla said, "If he doesn't get what he wants . . ."

"Then it's chaos," Julia finished her sentence.

As guiding Lukas's behavior and taking care of him becomes more difficult, the family is looking at options for group homes, where Lukas could stay for the week and come home on weekends and for family events. Although Luke

is young for this option, it may be what's best for the family.

Through Reflectors, Adams has talked to many parents considering housing and placement options. Some of these parents want their children to live at home forever, but others want them to live in a community with peers. Many of the best homes only admit a few people, which can make parents suspicious of more inclusive homes. Many parents and caretakers are "hesitant because of the 'horror stories' they hear about abuse and neglect." Overall, Adams said, parents want to know that caretakers will love and care for their child and that their child will have opportunities to work and interact with others: "the biggest need is trust."

If Lukas doesn't eventually move into a group home, the sisters said Lyla will probably be the one to take care of him.

"We don't want that life for Lyla," said Julia.

Lyla said Lukas can't live dependent on his family forever. "We all have to grow up."

## 5 Challenges Families of Children with Disabilities Face

### Lack of proper education

The lack of proper education for disabled students is a concern for the parents of these children. It is not a given that there will be the appropriate programs or schools in the area in which they live. Also, many times teachers lack training in how to teach these children if they are in their class. Parents may be able to secure an Individual Education Program within the school district to meet the child's learning needs, but even then they must act as their child's advocate to be sure the plan is appropriate and followed.

### Uncertainty of the Future

Families of disabled children often worry about the child's future. Once the child becomes an adult, where will he or she live? Will they move in with a sibling? Will they continue to live with their parents? Is independent living possible? What about after both parents pass? Is there any extended family who could help? Are they able to care for themselves? Will the child be financially secure after the parents are gone? All these questions and many more are constantly on the family's mind.

### Unfair Criticism

Many parents face judgement from others on their parenting. Other parents often mistake disabilities with misbehavior, and they judge the child's parents. Other times they offer unhelpful advice about a situation that they really don't understand. Also, disabled children can be bullied at school or in the neighborhood, leaving both parents and child hurt from these experiences.

### Time in Hospitals

Disabled children often have to spend extra time in hospitals receiving the care that they need. For many families the financial and time commitments for medical needs and appointments are large parts of their lives.

### Family Nourishment

It can be hard for a family with a disabled children to maintain strong relationships. With the extra care that a disabled child needs, siblings can often feel jealous of the attention given to the other. Also, marital problems can appear because of the lack of time for nurturing the marriage and because of the stress from the frequent hard decisions that need to be made regarding the child.

Information taken from the following websites: [www.wehavekids.com](http://www.wehavekids.com), [www.themighty.com](http://www.themighty.com), [www.psychcentral.com](http://www.psychcentral.com), [www.alabamafamilytrust.com](http://www.alabamafamilytrust.com).



# comes with disabilities

## Thanks to loving community, DeVries lets go of anger, embraces deaf culture

Maddie Holesinger

Co-Editor in Chief

Born deaf, Samantha DeVries never heard the sweet words whispered to her by loving family members or the lullabies sung to her as she fell asleep. But the love her parents and family showed her was always palpable. She didn't need to be able to hear their voices to feel the support.

Because DeVries is the older of two daughters, and her parents are hearing, a lot of learning happened within the family in the first few years of her life. Prior to DeVries's birth, her parents were unfamiliar with deafness-- it was totally unexpected to have a child who could not hear. DeVries wouldn't turn around to the sound of her name being called or the sound of pots and pans banging together, which led her mom to suspect that she was unable to hear. Her parents received confirmation that DeVries was deaf when she was one year old. Neither of her parents had extensive experience with sign language, deaf culture, or how to raise a child with a disability. Now, while taking on the challenge of raising a first child, they also jumped into learning sign language and learning how being deaf would affect their child's life.

"[My parents] were and are my biggest supporters," said DeVries. "They always encouraged me to really dive into the deaf culture and gave me every option under the sun."

At age three, DeVries started attending a mainstream pre-school where she was able to take speech therapy. Aside from that, her parents taught her English and sign language as well.

"[Speech therapy] allowed me to find my voice," said DeVries. "Some deaf people don't speak at all, but since I grew up in a hearing household, my par-

ents wanted me to actually speak and use my voice. Doing so helps me communicate with the hearing world as well."

Now, because of the therapy, many hearing people can understand what DeVries says solely by listening to her speak. She also learned how to read lips while growing up which proved to be a valuable tool for understanding others. At around age five, DeVries realized she was different than most of the people that surrounded her.

DeVries said, "I remember being a little angry with God, asking him why he made me deaf? Why do I have to be different than my family?"



Photo courtesy of Samantha DeVries

*Young Samantha DeVries gets messy in the kitchen.*

For most of the rest of DeVries's school career, she was no longer mainstreamed. She went to a public school with a program called ECHO, which is a deaf and hard-of-hearing program for students who need an interpreter. During this time, DeVries wore hearing aids, but she never viewed cochlear implants, devices that are inserted into the inner ear to provide



Photo courtesy of Samantha DeVries

*The DeVries family gathers on a boat to watch the sun set in South Haven, MI.*

deaf/hard of hearing people with a sense of sound, as a choice for herself.

the deaf culture-- her culture. She also embraced the challenges that deafness brought, which ultimately made her stronger; challenges like needing to have her mom or sister interpret for her at family parties or not being able to communicate in the conventional way with waitresses or even cashiers in stores. In these situations, a pen and a piece of paper usually suffice as a communication tool. Other times she'll simply point to a menu or whatever it is that she needs.

Now, thirty-two years later, DeVries fully embraces her deafness.

"I view my deafness as part of me," said DeVries. "A disability? I mean it's an ability that I don't have, so in that sense yes, I have a disability... I am deaf, and

ended up working in the same program that she once attended: ECHO. There, she was a one-on-one assistant for deaf students.

She found her niche in her professional life, and soon discovered all that she needed in her private life when she met Mario Ortiz. Mario is also deaf. They met downtown Chicago, where there is a large deaf community. Right now, DeVries is a stay at home mom, taking care of her baby boy, Ethan. Ethan, however, is hearing, so he will get the opportunity to grow up learning sign language, English, and some Spanish (which is Mario's mother tongue).

"Long story short, I love being deaf," said DeVries. "Was it difficult growing up in a hearing world? Yes, but

*"I am deaf, and that is something I'm proud of. I am just the way I was always supposed to be."*

that is something I'm proud of. I am just the way I was always supposed to be."

After attending college for three years, DeVries

growing up is almost never 'easy' for anyone. I am so grateful to my parents and the Christian community I grew up in."



# Gas station gourmands, here’s advice on where to fill up

*In a poll, the Echo staff asked students for best and worst gas station foods. Below we review the top three favorites. The staff rated the food from 1 Kade face to 5 Kade faces.*

### Speedway’s Speedy Freezes



**Natalie Togtman**  
Co-Arts Editor

Speedway slushies have a range of flavors including cherry, blue raspberry, mountain dew, and cola. Speedway slushies are also fairly cheap with 22 oz. slushies being just 99 cents.

The first flavor I tried was cherry. Cherry slushies from speedway taste just like a cherry - except sweeter. Cherry turned out to be my

favorite out of all the flavors because while it was sweet, it wasn’t overly sweet like the next flavor I tried, blue raspberry.

Blue raspberry was the sweetest out of all the flavors making it almost sour. This slushie tastes just like the dum-dum sucker, blue raspberry. Due to the extreme sweetness of this slushie it was my least favorite.

The next two flavors I tried, mountain dew and cola, tasted just like the pop.

Overall, I give the slushies 5/5 Kade’s. The range of flavors, prices, and sweetness make these drinks enjoyable for everyone.



Photo courtesy of yelp.com  
*Speedy Freezes at Speedway were popular among students.*

### Speedway nachos



When I heard I had to try speedway nachos I was nervous. Nachos usually include taco meat and trying meat from a gas station sounds like asking for food poisoning. Thankfully, taco meat was not offered.

Speedway offers the bag of chips, chilli, cheese, jaleponos, sour

cream, and onions for possible toppings.

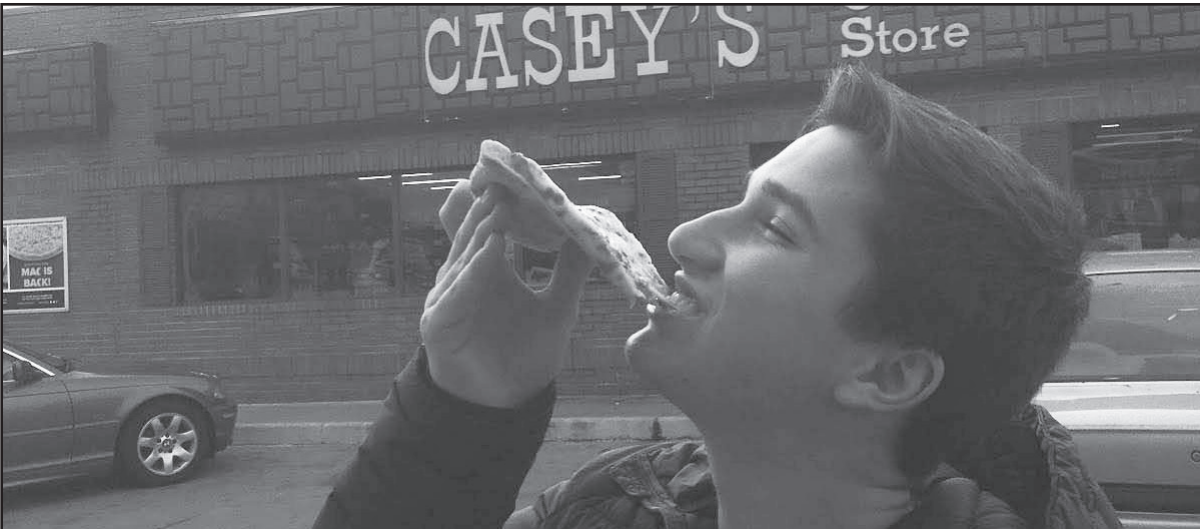
The nachos are only \$2.

I tried chips topped with chilli, cheese, and jaleponos.

The chilli was rather spicy, but the cheese was the exact opposite causing a nice balance. However, the jaleponos did add more spice to it.

Overall I rate the nachos a 3/5 Kade’s due to the lack of toppings, and the stomachache the nachos gave me.

### Casey’s pizza



*Kade Bouwer smiles while enjoying his prized, Casey’s General Store pizza..* Photo by Seth Bouwer



**Kade Bouwer**  
Co-Sports Editor

I walked into Casey’s General Store expecting trashy, uninspiring pizza, but I came out a changed man. It’s not that this was the best pizza I’ve ever had because it wasn’t. It’s just the fact that I never knew such good pizza could come from a gas station.

The crust was surprisingly fluffy and bursting with a sourdough flavor. I think it was a yeast crust, making me come to the conclusion that this isn’t microwave pizza like at other gas stations such as Speedway. I do have to say that the crust was a touch doughy though, but

nothing that ruined the slice.

Although not as flavorful as great slices of pizza such as Aurelio’s or Beggars, the sauce on Casey’s pizza was pretty good. Again, like the crust, nothing was done to the sauce that didn’t work well with the pizza. I would have liked Casey’s to take a risk and flavor up the sauce, but to please the masses, a basic, but tasty sauce does the trick.

My only real knock on Casey’s pizza was that the cheese on the pizza was a little overwhelming. I guess some people like a ton of cheese on their pizza, but this slice felt a little overpowered by the cheese. If I am being honest, it wasn’t a big deal, but I would have preferred if they laid off on the cheese.

At \$2.77, the price per slice at

my local Casey’s isn’t a good deal at all (some people might call it a rip off), considering you can get a \$5 large pizza at Little Caesars, although Little Caesars is a step below Casey’s. The price per pizza is pretty good though. You can get a large pizza for \$10 right now at Casey’s.

With everything considered, I give this 3.5 Kade faces out of 5. When I go to a gas station to get food, I don’t expect perfection, and neither should you. If your slice looks like its been sitting in a warmer for half the day, it probably has. The difference here is that Casey’s pizza could be sitting in a warmer for the day and still taste good. If you like quick, easy, and surprisingly delicious pizza and don’t mind swallowing the price, Casey’s pizza is the slice for you.



Photo by Natalie Togtman.  
*Speedway’s nachos were another popular item*

## Avoid these poorly rated gas station foods

While there are many great gas station foods there are always plenty that many of us wish we hadn’t bought. The staff sent out a survey and asked the student body to tell us their least favorite foods from

the gas station. The least favorite foods are as follows :

- Hot dogs from any gas station
- Speedway pizza
- Speedway chicken tenders

# Go Guardian allows teachers to monitor student browsing, frustrates some students

*Watchguard app meant to increase student productivity*

**Liz VanDrunen**  
Co-Feature Editor

This month Illiana Christian High, has given teachers the ability to monitor and to some degree control student activity on their Chromebooks during class through the GoGuardian software.

Once a class period be-

gins, the teacher is able to see all the screens of the students that are connected and logged in during the class. Teachers are able to control what sites that the students can access during class and close tabs that students have open.

Illiana began using the software four years ago when the Chromebooks were first given out to students, as a way for the school to track what website student’s were visiting. This year was is the first where teachers are

able to see the screens of their students during class time.

Social Studies Teacher Rachel Drost said, “It’s very helpful for me as teacher to hold students accountable for what they should be do-

ing in class. I think it encourages students to understand and learn.”

Some students have had negative reactions toward the teachers’ new access.

Senior Alex Eenigenburg said, “Knowing that they are watching us is just creepy.”

Vice Principal AJ Turkstra said that the purpose was to give the administration and teachers more control in the classroom, not just to “snoop on what the kids are doing.”

Turkstra said, “It may

seem like privacy invasion but we don’t see it that way since the Chromebooks belong to us and [student] educational time throughout the day, kind of belongs to us too.”

Senior Hannah Last said, “Students should’ve seen it coming. Teachers asked them to stop and they didn’t, so this is what it’s come too.”

The administration plans to keep the current system as they have received positive feedback from teachers.

Drost said, “I use it every day and every period.”

“Knowing that they are watching us is just creepy.”



# DeVries discovers talent on ice rink through club teams

Maddie Holesinger  
Co-Editor in Chief

It’s the middle of the game, during the JV championship. Joah DeVries finds himself face to face with the goalie of the opposing team in a penalty shot. Taking a deep breath, DeVries shoots the puck, making the first goal of the championship series. The arena roars with excitement. DeVries began playing hockey in the summer between sixth and seventh grade, when his brother joined a team, and he has been playing ever since. DeVries started his hockey career at Midwest Training and Ice Center in Dyer, where he

learned to skate and the basics of hockey. From there, he joined a club team and fell in love with the sport. “I got interested in hockey at first because I played a lot of sports before, but I didn’t like any of them as much as hockey,” said DeVries. Now, DeVries plays on Crown Point High School’s club team as a Duel Roster, which means he switches between both the varsity and junior varsity teams. At Crown Point, as well as at Lake Central and the other public schools, hockey isn’t a state-sanctioned sport. Hockey is its own separate club. Originally, what team a player was placed

on depended on where he/she lived. So, if you lived in L.C.’s district, a player would be on L.C.’s team. The rule, however, changed about a year after Joah got in. Now, if a player doesn’t go to either of the schools, he/she goes into a draft. All the teams look at the players, and then they select the players they want. DeVries’s team participates in a few different leagues. The Illinois league is the main one, but there is also an Indiana league. His team will be going to 1A varsity state as a JV team this year in the Indiana league. There is another league that includes Crown Point, L.C., Bishop Knoll and Munster. At the end of the year, the four teams will face each other in a tournament. DeVries started practicing the first week of September. Hockey season goes all fall and winter, ending in March. Between the three leagues, DeVries gets the opportunity to travel quite a bit. “We go a lot of places like Fort Wayne, three hours away, and it’s fun to get to travel,” said DeVries. “I get to meet a lot more people because no one on my team goes to Illiana, which is also a plus.”



Photo courtesy of Joah DeVries  
DeVries (middle) takes a shot on goal through two defenders and goalie.

## Cheer grabs fourth place at state competition

Kylie Boss  
Co-News Editor

The Illiana competition cheer team competed at state on Nov. 3rd and placed fourth out of eight teams. The team was able to compete at state because they took fourth out of eleven teams at state preliminaries, according to Senior Mia Roth. The team left at around three o’clock the night before the competition and stayed the night in New Castle, Indiana, so that the girls could compete on Sat., Nov. 3, said Roth. According to Roth, they competed at around three o’clock the next day in the varsity D division, which is an all-girls division of schools around Illiana’s school size. The Vikings took fourth place in the competition, securing Illiana’s first state athletic trophy since the move from Illinois to Indiana. “No matter how we did, we were still going to have fun,” said Roth. According to Senior Lily Gerstner, the competition cheer season has ended and now basketball cheerleading season will begin along with some Illinois competitions just for fun.



Photo courtesy of Cate Peerbolte

## Some trophies find new home at new Illiana, others in garbage

Natalie Togtman  
Co-Arts Editor

In the center of the gym lobby at the old Illiana stood a case displaying trophies and plaques showcasing athletes’ accomplishments. Many students no-

ted that there was no place for these items at the new campus. On Nov. 9 Athletic Director Mr. Darren DeBoer began to put trophies and plaques in a case located in the commons. However, this case was not big enough to display all the awards. DeBoer said, “Not all trophies came to the new campus. The trophies that didn’t come to the new campus were of-

fered to coaches. But if coaches didn’t want them, then I imagine they were thrown out.” DeBoer added, “The only trophies that came to the new campus were sectional or state trophies.” Illiana plans to rotate the trophies and plaques in the case in the commons.

## Rules of eligibility leaves door open for Illiana students to pursue sports not provided by Illiana

Cate Peerbolte  
Co-Feature Editor

According to the IHSAA rules, Illiana students are allowed to participate in public school sports programs in individual sports for which Illiana doesn’t have facilities. Athletic Director Darren DeBoer explained that

according to the IHSAA, students of schools without certain individual sports may approach any public school and draw up a contract with them to use their facilities. These individual sports are swimming, golf, gymnastics, and track and field. DeBoer said, “Students participating in these sports



Photo courtesy of Grace Goodfellow  
Goodfellow competes in front of judges in Dublin, Ireland on November 1st.

## Goodfellow wins bronze in Dublin international karate championships

Alex Wondaal  
Co-Editor in Chief

Grace Goodfellow traveled to Dublin, Ireland on Oct. 28 after qualifying for a worldwide karate and kickboxing tournament. In June 2018, Goodfellow placed fourth in a national tournament in Michigan to qualify, along with 3 other girls from across the country, for the World Karate Commission World Championships on Oct. 29 and Nov. 1. On Monday the 29th, she qualified in four different karate divisions. On the following Tuesday and Wednesday, she traveled to various tourist attractions around Dublin and trained with her Sensei. On Thursday, the final day of her competition, she competed for a full day, placing 4th in 3 divisions and winning a 3rd place

bronze medal in her final division. “It was one of the coolest experiences I’ve ever had,” Goodfellow said of her trip to Dublin. When asked of her favorite part of the trip, Goodfellow said, “We went to an old castle and it was amazing.” Goodfellow said the most difficult part of her trip was trying to communicate with people from around the world, including athletes from Puerto Rico, Austria, and Guatemala. “Some students spoke English that I couldn’t understand and some didn’t speak English at all,” she said. Goodfellow has over six years of training under her black belt. She trains twice weekly in Beecher, Illinois and often travels to her main coach in Bloomington, Illinois where she trains at a higher level.

### 2018-2019 Loud Crowd Schedule

- Nov. 30: Hawaiian Night @ Home
- Dec. 8: USA Night @ Timothy Christian
- Dec. 21: Christmas Night @ Home
- Jan. 11: Neon Night @ Chicago Christian
- Jan. 22: Prep Night @ Munster
- Feb. 1: Green Out @ Home



# Editorial

## Christians should fearlessly love, not ruthlessly condemn

“I hate when people abbreviate ‘Christmas’ to ‘X-mas.’ That’s taking the Christ out of Christmas.”

“I can’t believe they don’t censor that word on TV.”

“It’s sad how so many people work on Sundays now.”

Sentiments such as these permeate the Christian community. We get combative about the actions of people outside our community. We’re offended by the separation of church and state in public schools and by the country’s opinion on homosexuality and extramarital sex. Some of us condemn bad influences at secular colleges or sinister messages from news channels. We lament the state of our country and its changing views towards religion.

We fear a culture that seems to be attacking Christianity, so we attack back. Afraid that this culture will overwhelm us, we try to force others to believe what we believe, act how we would act. But if history makes one thing clear, it is that you cannot “force” people to love God or to embrace his law. Fear makes us forget this. Fear makes us forget that our God is bigger than any cultural force.

Christmas, for example, is the day we celebrate Christ’s birth. No matter how others view this

holiday (or spell it), they cannot remove Christ from it. As long as there are God-followers on this planet, they will praise Jesus for leaving heaven to be with us.

That goes for TV shows, movies, books, radio, and social media accounts, too. These media often portray—and sometimes

be with you/ and when you pass through the rivers/ they will not sweep over you./ When you walk through the fire,/ you will not be burned;/ the flames will not set you ablaze.”

In John 16:33, Jesus tells his disciples, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have

the world through us is with love. Love embraces people where they are, and then it shows tries to show them a better way. That is how God dealt with each of us. God redeemed us through sacrificial love, not through arguments and shouted slogans. As Paul says in Romans 5, “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

In fact, the Bible’s strongest condemnations were always for people who identified as God’s people, not for Gentiles who did not. In the Old Testament, the prophets talked a lot more about Israel’s sins than about the deeds of the surrounding nations. In the gospels, Jesus berated the Pharisees for their hypocrisy, but he was gentle with the Samaritan woman at the well, the Roman centurion, and the woman caught in adultery.

If we want to change our culture, we can’t do it through harsh words and upturned noses. We will only bring change by being salt and light, not bullets and bricks. We have to examine our own lives, not point out the flaws in others’. That kind of humble, loving example might bring real change in our culture.

“We will only bring change by being salt and light, not bullets and bricks.”

glorify—more violence, sex, and vulgarity today than they ever did before. They present ideas that contradict what the Bible teaches. These ideas aren’t new; in fact, they’re as old as sin. And the Holy Spirit defeats them in believers’ hearts every day.

In Isaiah 43:1-2, God says, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;/ I have summoned you by name; you are mine;/ When you pass through the waters,/ I will

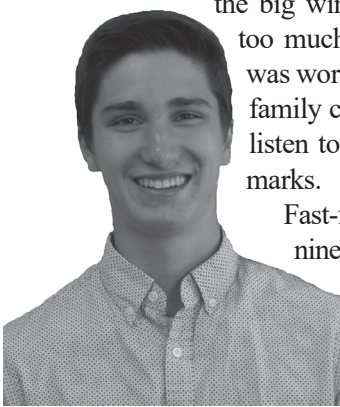
peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

The culture may present different beliefs than us, but that’s no surprise. We are followers of Christ and the world is not. And that the world sees life differently is no reason to fear. God will change the world by his own power through us, and no movie or abbreviation can change that.

The way God will change

## In fantasy football, cockiness breeds regret

Winning a championship is never easy. Winning a fantasy football championship is even harder. Last year in my family fantasy football league, my team exploded in the playoffs and I won the championship fairly easy. I boasted all month long after the big win (maybe a little too much), but because I was world champion, my family could do little but listen to my arrogant remarks.



Kade Bouwer  
Co-Sports Editor

Fast-forward about nine months and a new fantasy football league is starting. Still cocky from last year’s championship, I used my journalism skills to write an article to tease my family even more. It was called “The Road to Repeat”. Throughout the entire article, I roasted my family’s fantasy teams and asserted that the only competition this year was going to be who would come in “lowly second.” Now it clearly seems like too much, but at the time, I thought I was just stating the facts.

A day later I was on a car ride with my family, taunting them again. Someone said something like, “Pride comes before the fall.” Listening to them would have been in my best interest, but no, I said something along the lines of: “Easy to say that from last place.”

To my surprise, everyone was rooting against me at the beginning of the season.

As league commissioner, it wasn’t the first time the league disliked me. There were some serious pushes in the past to oust me as commissioner, but they failed, just like their football teams did last year in the playoffs.

After all the hype, the season started, but I lost my first game. Then I lost another. Panic mode was setting in, but in the next weeks I won two straight and I thought once again that I was the team to beat in the league.

Then came the five game losing streak. It’s tough to lose regardless, but to lose those games by only a few points is even more heartbreaking. But the worst thing about this losing streak has been the taunting. All I hear now on Sundays after I lose is “Road to Repeat” in a mocking tone with laughter following. It never stops.

Sure, I know now that I deserve all of the jokes they have made and continue to make at my expense. I definitely went over the top with the boasting and then proceeded to go further after writing the article. The wise phrase, pride goeth before the fall, seems much more real to me now. Being humble after my championship last year would have made this season a lot less painful. It’s easy to be humble in things I’m not the best in, but in things in which I am the best (or at least pretty good), it’s hard to be humble. And I thought I was the best at fantasy football.

Going into the holiday season, we’ll all see plenty of friends and family, and having a cocky attitude with everyone you meet might not be the best approach. Take it from me: that approach sometimes blows up in your face. So, maybe instead of getting amped up on our own juice, let’s humble ourselves now to prevent a lot of humiliation for us this holiday season and beyond. Even if you are sure that you are on “The Road to Repeat,” I’d advise you to not write an article boasting about it.

Somehow it never works out how you’d expect it to.

### the Echo)))

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Editorials, unless otherwise stated, have been written by an editor and reflect the opinion of the majority of the Echo staff. Opinions expressed are not necessarily that of the administration, faculty, or student organizations.

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.

## 20 Gifts Under \$20

1. Candle
2. Lotion
3. Trendy water bottle
4. Bath bomb
5. Mug
6. Copy of the Echo
7. Fuzzy socks
8. Phone case/pop socket
9. Candy
10. Portable charger
11. Sweater
12. Book
13. Movie theater ticket
14. Trapper hat
15. Plant
16. Ornament
17. Notebook
18. Giftcard to anywhere
19. Soft blanket
20. Board game



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