



Students raise roof, \$2000 for charity at Illiana's first ever Sadie Hawkins Dance

Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief

On Sat., March 23, 225 Illiana students attended Illiana's first ever Sadie Hawkins Dance in the ARC, raising \$2,000 for The Women's Center in Northwest Indiana.

Illiana Student Council seniors, Mickey Boss and Alex Wondaal, came up with the proposal of having

a third dance since most schools do, except they wanted Illiana's dance to be a little different. Instead of having the typical, formal dance, Student Council decided that all proceeds would go to an organization. So the money normally spent on decorations, new fancy dresses, and other extra expenses, was donated to The Women's Center in Northwest Indiana. They chose this institution mainly because of freshman Isabella VanderWoude, whose mom works at the center, which provides free ultrasounds and other re-



Photo by Alex Wondaal
Junior RJ Hamilton dances to "Sweet Victory" while the crowd cheers him on.

sources and counseling for women considering abortions.

"I loved how [the

dance] was low-key and for a good cause," said senior Annie Weemhoff.

The original idea was to invite Chicago Christian and Timothy Christian as a way to unify our student bodies and raise more money, but both schools were unable to attend. Student Council hopes that earlier planning will allow the other schools to attend in the future.

"I am going to make a list of what the juniors need to do next year to get this done in October," said Boss. "Then, hopefully, Timo-

thy and Chicago Christian can come, and that way we would make so much more for whatever organization [gets chosen]," said Boss.

"I would definitely go again. The best part [of the dance] was the song choice. The D.J. was better than homecoming," said sophomore Logan VanEssen.

The Sadie Hawkins dance is actually named after a cartoon created by Al Capp. In the comic strip, an unmarried woman of age thirty-five, grows impatient of waiting to find love. So one day her father desperately gathered all the single men and declared it "Sadie Hawkins Day." On this day, she participated in a footrace, and whatever guy she caught and dragged across the finish line, had to marry her.

Turkstra awaits professional instruction for safety drills

Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

With only two months left in the 2018 - 2019 school year, Illiana has yet to conduct a fire drill, tornado drill, or active shooter drill in the new building.

Vice Principal AJ Turkstra said that the reason why the school hasn't had an active shooter drill is because the school is not yet associated with a police department.

The problem is that the new campus is located in unincorporated Dyer, Indiana, and

therefore, has not yet been assigned a police department.

Regarding the active shooter drills, Turkstra said, "In Lansing we had great contacts and connections with the Lansing police, and they were on us all the time. Here, St. John, Dyer and the county

don't seem to be taking responsibility for us."

Likewise, the fire and tornado drill are conducted through the local fire department. The school has "made connections," according to Turkstra, with the Cedar Lake Fire Department and will be conducting fire and

tornado drills through them in the future.

Turkstra said, "I don't want to run a drill and get the students conditioned to one plan and then they come in and change the plan, so I'm waiting on the Cedar Lake Fire Department."

Miraculous car crash survivors share testimony with Illiana

Benjamin Wheeler
Reporter

Illiana Christian High School invited the Barrick family to speak at their chapel service on Monday, March 18.

On Nov. 5, 2006, the Barricks were driving home from church when they were suddenly stuck by a drunk driver going 80 miles per hour. Their daughter, Jen, suffered multiple brain injuries from the accident. However, as she healed, Jen became closer and closer to Jesus. Before she could even see properly, she told her mother that she could see Jesus as clear as day. Now the Barricks are a well-known family for spreading the good news about Jesus. They were even featured on Fox News and on NBC a few years ago.

After hearing about the Barricks from friends, Mr. Da-

vids decided the family should speak at chapel. He really thought their story was touching and needed to be told at Illiana. He also noted that they needed a longer chapel for this, so the school decided to move the chapel service to the end of the day and make it an assembly, where students and parents could all listen to their story.

Jen and her parents were there to tell the students their story, and students were moved by it. Sophomore Kylie Wegner said, "I was deeply moved by this assembly. It changed the way I view Jesus in my life, and I think their story is a story that everyone should hear."

Sophomore Gabby Albanese said, "I thought it was interesting to hear Jen's recovery, and see that she's doing well for someone who was supposed to be dead."



Photo by Calie Ritzema

The Jonas Brothers, featuring Summer Ruiter, Hannah Last, and Rachel Huisman, sing "Year 3000."

Fake singing generates genuine fun, funding

Madison Ceponis
Reporter

Illiana hosted another annual lip sync battle on Friday, March 15 at 7 p.m. and donated the proceeds to Mommy's Haven.

Mommy's Haven helps pregnant women seeking parenting help and spiritual and emotional support. The crisis pregnancy center received \$465 from the event.

For the past nine years the lip sync battle used to be labeled as "The

Show" based off of Jimmy Fallon. But the name was not easy to understand, so it was changed. This year had one emcee, four judges, five acts, dad jokes and a grand prize of \$200, donated from GO Club funds. Jordan Bivens was the emcee. The judges this year were Lance Davids, former winner Mia Roth, Miss Illiana Mickey Boss and representative of Mommy's Haven, Kadie Camus.

The acts included Emily Feikema performing "Hit me Baby", RJ Hamilton, Parish Towns and Nick Ahrens

performing "Beat It", Rachel Drost, Regan Lyzenga, Maddie Wegner, Annie Weemhoff, Emma Slings and Heidi Bultema performing "Mamma Mia", Max Klain and Ben Wiersema performing "Shallows," and lastly the winners, Summer Ruiter, Rachel Huisman, and Hannah Last performing the Jonas Brothers' song "Year 3,000."

At the end of the night, as the judges chose their winner, several contestants told dad jokes. The favorites came from Ian Van Beek and Kaylee Evers.

Trusting God no easy task, but end result well worth it

Every single morning on the way to school I listen to my worship playlist because it helps calm the anxiety I feel about coming to school. This means that every morning I listen to the same six songs,so it’s rare that when I listen to these songs I have a “Wow, God is so awesome!” moment. One morning, however, was different for me.



Natalie Togtman
Arts Editor

A popular worship song is called “Resurrecting” by Elevation worship and the theme of the song is that Jesus, who resurrected from the dead, resurrects me every day. However, my favorite line in the song is from the bridge and it goes like this : “From your Spirit I will rise from the ashes of defeat. The resurrected King is resurrecting me.”

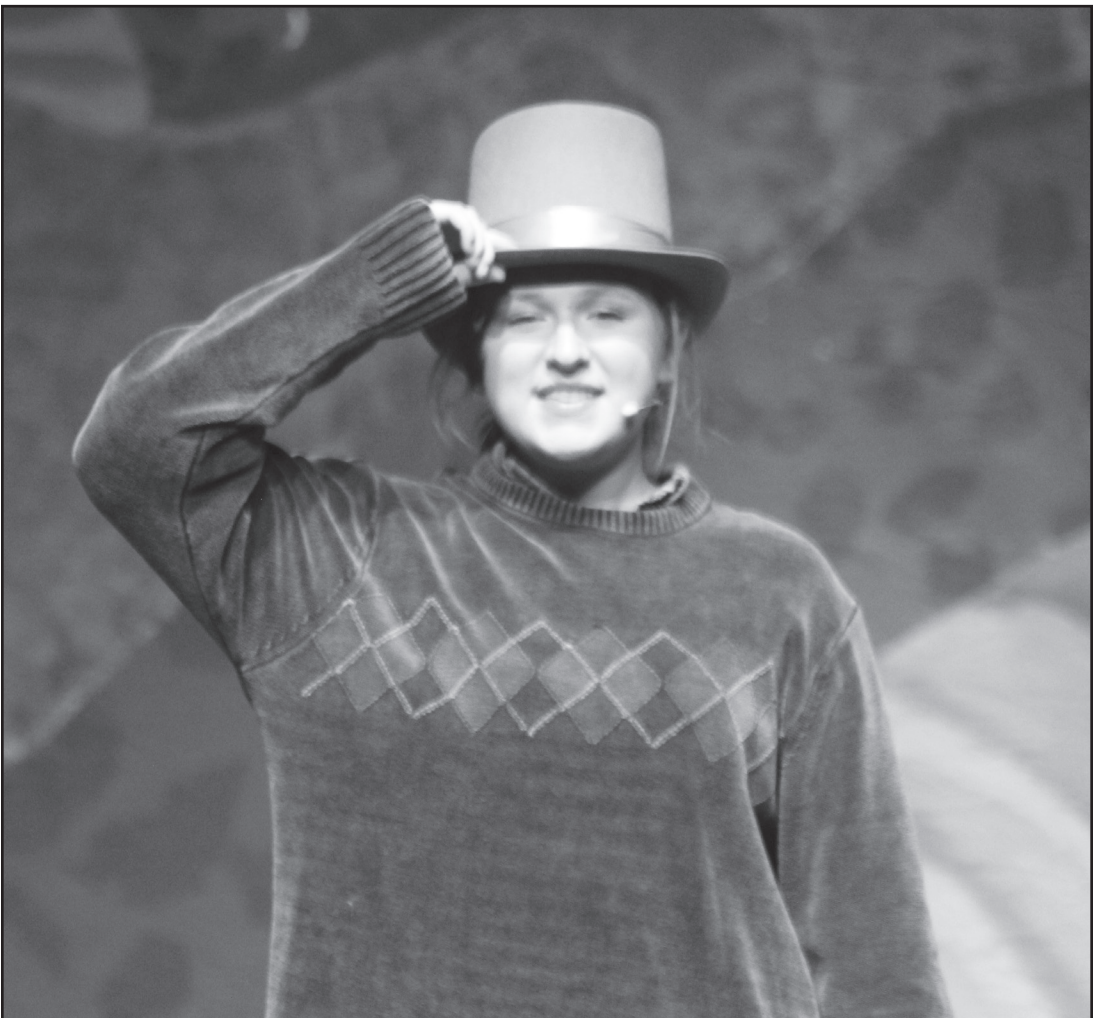
Lately, life has dragged me down. I’ve lost my best friend, I’m guaranteed to have an anxiety attack almost every day, depression feels like it controls me, and confidence seems like a foreign concept. To some people these things may seem like no big deal, but to me life has been difficult the past couple weeks.

Sometimes when life gets hard, I find it especially difficult to pray. Because I am so sensitive, sometimes the way I think can be silly. For example, when bad things happen, sometimes I think it’s because God is mad at me for something I did and He’s punishing me for that sin. Therefore, I feel ashamed about what I did and am too angry at God to talk to Him. However, when I do pray I usually end my prayers asking God to take away the pain that I’m feeling because at times it feels almost unbearable.

However that Tuesday morning when I head “By Your Spirit I will rise from the ashes of defeat,” I suddenly felt hope for the first time in weeks. For the first time in weeks I felt that this pain wouldn’t last forever. For the first time in weeks, I felt hope. Lately, that’s been helping me pull through.

In life when things go wrong it isn’t always easy to remember that God has a plan. If we’re honest, sometimes the last thing we want to hear is “God has a plan!” when something is wrong. So, I won’t sit here and tell you “God has a plan!” or “just pray!” Instead I’ll tell you just to do your best. On days where it seems like your life couldn’t be worse,remind yourself that even when things in life are uncertain He isn’t. Remind yourself that if all you did today was the best you could, He’ll take care of the rest.

It’s interesting how one line from a song could bring me hope for the first time in weeks. The hope that I felt that day is enough to carry me through. I encourage you to find something to bring you hope and to hold on to it. Give yourself a reason to keep fighting and trust in the fact that the pain has a purpose -- even when you can’t see it.



Sophomore Jenna O'brien sings as Charlie in “Willy Wonka.”

photo by Jim Kamphuis

‘Willy Wonka’ stuns audience with new technical aspects, brings joy, laughter with improved sound

Grant Gibson
Co-Feature Editor

Even after hours and hours of work by sound technicians and acousticians, and even after an email from Principal Peter Boonstra to the school community, inviting people to attend the musical and assuring them that sound problems from the fall had been addressed, the Drama Department approached performance week with some trepidation. The sound problems in the fall were so obvious and so severe, and all involved dreaded the thought of a repeat performance.

“Willy Wonka,” however, proved a success in nearly every facet. Over 90 students performed for near-capacity audiences, and not only did the sound equipment live up to its billing, but the show dazzled with some new technical aspects that had not been possible in Illiana shows in the past.

The sound cut out a few times during each performance, but that’s to be expected: dead zones on the stage and microphone

placement on costumes have to be handled perfectly to avoid that, said senior Hannah Last (“Augustus Gloop”) and sophomore Olivia Tambrini (“Mike Teavee”).

Nevertheless, art teacher and technical director Mr. Jim Kamphuis said he was thrilled with how much better the sound quality was.

The tech crew used video projections—in addition to the usual periactoids—mainly for six scene backgrounds and also to supplement other scenes. Illiana has used a projector in previous productions, said Kamphuis, but “in the past, it was hard because of size and dimness” due to the length of the old gym.

However, the ARC’s dimensions and wide stage allowed the projector to project brightly and clearly, giving the musical a “Universal Studios approach,” Kamphuis said.

One such scene, the flying puppet scene, was “born of necessity,” according to Kamphuis. Productions of the musical elsewhere used harnesses to fly,

which was not doable at Illiana because of its costliness. They resorted instead to puppets and projections of bubbles, so it ended up being “more comical than magical,” entertaining the audience, said Kamphuis.

“Mr. Kamphuis always has more ideas than he can actually do in a production,” said Last.

“I loved the candy boat [scene],” senior Ben Wiersema, who played “Willy Wonka,” said about the scene in which the only prop onstage was a boat; behind them was a projection of a winding, psychedelic tunnel that they traveled through. “Sometimes you could see the play button from YouTube,” said Wiersema, “but otherwise it made the performance fun.”

Kamphuis would also like to thank the administration: “They fought for a space that would work for us” by giving the drama department more freedom within the ARC to make modifications to improve their conditions from the last performance.

Student thievery stimulates stricter hot lunch system, higher penalties for students caught stealing

Kade Bouwer
Co-Sports Editor

Common Grounds organizer Carol VanDrunen had suspicions that some stealing was going on at Common Grounds.

VanDrunen said, “We had thoughts of [theft] and then we were told that there was. So then one day we did a count all our chips and all our candy bars before morning break and we were down 10 [candy] bars and 4 chips [at the end of break].”

Unfortunately Common Grounds isn’t the only place where stealing has been going on at Illiana. Students have stolen from the hot lunch line as well, although the extent of it is unknown. As a result, some days hot lunch runs out before all of the students get their food that they ordered online. The school is now putting new systems in place to try to combat thievery.

Principal Peter Boonstra said, “Some of it is being more vigilant, knowing now that [stealing] is happening. We also have made changes to how the hot lunch line works, so that instead of having two or three people at the end of the line to move the line along faster we [must] have a person in the middle of the serv-ery area monitoring kids picking up sandwiches and food, and that means the lunch line goes longer.”

The penalty for students caught stealing is going to be higher from now on according to Boonstra. Boonstra said, “On a few occasions, the lunch [parents] has caught a kid and told him to put it back. Well, that is not going to deter the crime, so we definitely are going to be upping the consequences.”

Close-Up students visit state capitals, historical sites

DJ Gladney
Reporter

On March 13-15 a few Illiana juniors traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana and Springfield, Illinois to meet with some representatives from each of the states.

Kristine Neumeyer

said one of her good friends was going on the trip which was one reason for going but she also thought it would be something fun and very interesting to do.

Anna Lenting said that her favorite things that they did were visiting both the Benjamin

Harrison home in Indiana and Lincoln’s home in Illinois.

They received tours of the state capitals led by representatives from each state, and they explored the state capitals. They visited the Lincoln Museum, Lincoln’s home and Lincoln’s tomb. They

also visited some unique places to eat like the Hard Rock Cafe.

Neumeyer said she did have a lot of fun on the trip, and that given the opportunity, she would do it again. She would, however, like to see different sites and not visit the same places again.



Engineering Design and Development student, senior Michael VanMilligan works on his solar panel.

Biology, engineering students collaborate in Purdue-sponsored project

Taylor Benes
Reporter

Students in Advanced Biology and Engineering Design and Development are performing experiments and creating projects through a grant from Purdue University, using 3D-printing to design solar-powered charging stations and fish lures.

Engineering teacher Brent Vermeulen and biology teacher Brian Sylvester attended a 2-week course over the summer at a college in southern Indiana, researching solar cells and fish lures to be eligible for the grant.

Using a STEM approach to present students with a problem, Sylvester and Vermeulen are currently gathering data for Purdue with several different experiments they have been performing with their

students over the last 4 weeks.

“My engineering students and Mr. Sylvester’s biology students are combining together to make housings [charging stations] using the design process and relating photosynthesis to how solar energy works,” Vermeulen said. “Learning the software for 3D-modeling is a challenging thing. [Students] are learning how it actually works and then how to connect the solar energy and wire it all together.”

Advanced Biology students studied photosynthesis, and then taught what they had learned to engineering students, who use the information to 3D-print the charging stations.

Junior Sydney DeVries said, “The biology kids meet with the engineering kids to share ideas and work together.

We work in and out of class to solve the problems.”

Purdue University offers the grant to learn if project-based curriculum is beneficial, as well as to discover the best college-preparation method of learning. To be eligible for the grant, results from Illiana’s projects are sent to Purdue, and tests given in Illiana’s classes are made by Purdue. Students took preliminary tests at the beginning of the year to see what they knew, and tests are given periodically to see what they are learning by doing the projects.

“They [Purdue] want data from the way the kids learn,” Sylvester said. “The idea is, that hopefully with the projects, they [students] will gain some knowledge and understanding that will show learning.”

Wind Ensemble listens in on Chicago Symphony Orchestra rehearsal

Samuel Vargo
Reporter

Illiana’s Wind Ensemble has long been one of the state’s premier bands for school’s our size. Its success has been built on hard work and the realization that there is always room for improvement according to band director Patricia Menninga. The only way to get better, though, is to practice, and to practice more effectively, students need to see the correct way to practice. The Wind Ensemble did just that by traveling to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on Wednesday, March 6, to watch an open rehearsal.

Sophomore Olivia Yonkman said, “It’s nice to see your own instrument played at a high level.”

The Orchestra played pieces

like the “Coriolan Overture” and “Piano Concerto #5” both by Beethoven and “Symphony #7” by Dvorak. Many in Wind Ensemble like Sophomore Trey Sederstrom’s favorite part was to “listen to a professional orchestra.”

Listening to a professional orchestra was exactly what Men-

ninga wanted Wind Ensemble to do. Menninga said, “The only way to get better is to listen to people who have done this their whole lives.”

Sophomore Tim Ipema said, “My favorite part was to see how they performed so well after only a few times practicing it.”



Wind Ensemble students observed a practice at the Chicago Symphony Center.

While administration waits for buyer, Lansing Police drill in old Illiana building

Madison Rogers
Reporter

According to Principal Peter Boonstra the old Illiana building is on the market and being prepared to be sold. The building has had several offers, some very close to going through, but none of these past offers have closed successfully.

Recently, the school board received an offer that looks promising. Meanwhile, the administration has been heating the building and keeping every in order as well as starting to sell some items still left inside.

Also the Lansing Police Department has been using the building as an active shooter drill space. These police officers play out a drill and make sure they know what to do in the case of a real emergency. They even shoot blanks, running everything as if it was a real situation.

Illiana was also contacted by the TV show “Chicago P.D.,” which wanted to film an episode on a school shooting and was interested in using the old Illiana as its set. After further exploration, however, the show found another location to film.

Pulled pork dinner raises funds for mission trips

Nina Verhagen
Reporter

Several hundred people flooded the commons on Saturday March 9 between 4 -7pm to eat pulled pork at a fundraiser for this spring’s mission trips.

Each year Illiana holds a dinner where people can make free will donations and enjoy a delicious dinner. The meal takes place between the two performances of the musical on Saturday.

Due to serious decline in attendance at last year’s spaghetti fundraiser, Mission Director Sara Johnson decided to replace it with the new BBQ dinner.

This year the donations went to support the DR and West Virginia mission trips. The students who will be going on the mission trips, along with parent volunteers, served pulled pork, cole slaw, baked beans and cake.

Johnson said the goal was to raise over \$2,000, and she was very pleased when, at the end of the night, receipts totaled over \$3,500.

“230 people attended,” said Johnson, “It was much better attended than it was in the past, so I’m really excited about it. I hope that it’s something that we can continue to do and that people will continue to be part of in the future.”

IMPACT wraps up Black History Month with movie night

Sophia Thompson
Reporter

IMPACT club hosted a free showing of the movie “Black Panther” on Friday, March 1.

The club’s mission is to include all students in Illiana’s student body and make them feel welcome. Mrs. Melanie Benes, one of Illiana’s counselors, said, “We wanted to host a night where all students can come together as a school community to do something together and the movie sounded like a great idea to us.”

IMPACT club chose “Black Panther” based on student survey that asked

if students wanted to watch “Remember the Titans,” “Hidden Figures,” “Race,” or “Black Panther.” All of the movie choices were related to Black History Month because IMPACT had been doing other events related to Black History.

At the movie, IMPACT provided soda and popcorn and made the entire experience free. Sophomore Lauren Wicklund said, “I was really excited for the movie night because as a member of IMPACT, I have a passion for including people and making them feel included throughout our school, which is exactly what I feel the night did for students.”

Different educational philosophies drive schools toward different goals

Alex Wondaal
Co-Editor in Chief

Dr. Bill Boerman-Cornell is a professor of education at Trinity Christian College. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 2011 after teaching English at Illiana from 1995 to 2005. Boerman-Cornell explained his affinity for education: “While I was at Illiana, I got a master’s degree in education because I really like thinking about how to teach.”

In an interview about STEM education and Christian Classical Education, Boerman-Cornell offered his insight on the effectiveness of both movements.

When asked about the strengths and weaknesses

of Christian Classical Education, Boerman-Cornell took a step back: “Whenever we talk about education, we’re talking about two things: we’re talking about curriculum and pedagogy. Curriculum is the stuff that we teach, it’s the content, pedagogy is the way that we teach, the methods that we use. Some people, when we think about education, we think just about that curriculum piece.”

Boerman-Cornell then said both STEM and Classical schools can go wrong if they focus too much on any aspect of education, “As Christians, we understand that we need to learn with our minds, but we also need to learn with our bodies, with our hearts, so our emotions are a part of it too.

And our faith and Christ enters into that... Any movement is good to the extent that it does all of those.”

Classical education involves memorization, discussion, and then Socratic questioning. Boerman-Cornell added his approval of Classical Education strategy of expanding the complexity of education as students grow in maturity and intelligence. “Those distinct way of memorizing things when your mind is like a sponge, and then as you move on, it gets to a sort of more global thinking, more complete thinking. That totally makes sense!”

He then returned the importance of pedagogy, regardless of STEM or Classical Education, especially in terms of Classical Edu-

cation’s use of fencing in P.E. classes. “They really put an emphasis on fencing, which I love. There’s no reason why everyone needs to learn fencing, but, to their point, in P.E., it maybe doesn’t matter which games you learn—what matters is how you’re learning.”

“STEM can be great if it is a component of also having the arts, also includes understanding other people, languages, and includes P.E. You can have a STEM emphasis, but if STEM means it’s being exclusive to those other areas, you’re losing a lot... STEM emphasis is fine, STEM exclusivity: not so good.” Boerman-Cornell added.

According to Boerman-Cornell, the literature we read is only as important as how it is read and taught.

“No one’s going to come into your job and go ‘Who is Atticus Finch?’, but if you’ve read that book and you’ve understood in your head and your heart what’s going on in that book, that’s going to affect the way you do your job, and it’s also maybe going to make you happier, and that has value.”

He concluded, “Should Illiana change to be one of these things [a STEM school or a Christian Classical School]? Probably not, the way Illiana works is that it’s got Christ in the center and it’s doing the heart, brain, body thing. Keep working on getting better, but it’s not like changing into another approach will change either [the head] or [the heart].”

Comparing curricular approaches			
Grant Gibson Co-Feature Editor		Cate Peerbolte Co-Sports Editor	
	Classical education	STEM-focused education	Key stages of development of the human brain
	Sources: Wikipedia, Classical Academic Press	Sources: Wikipedia, National Conference of State Legislatures, LiveScience	Sources: Stephen F. Austin State University, Montessori Academy, Newport Academy
Preschool through kindergarten	Children learn to read and develop basic social skills such as talk, play, and motor skills.	Children learn to read and develop basic social skills such as talk, play, and motor skills.	Children’s brains are still developing rapidly, so they need to learn basic, everyday things that they’ll need for an independent life.
First through fifth (elementary)	The “Grammar” phase of the Trivium involves basic fact memorization (often through songs and chants) in Latin, history, science, math, English grammar, reading, and music.	Science and mathematics are geared towards hands-on exploration, designed to pique student interest in STEM and allow students to picture previously abstract ideas or concepts in front of them.	Students are able to distinguish different objects and place topics into different categories based on their characteristics, but it’s hard to focus on more than one aspect at a time.
Sixth through eighth (middle)	The “Logic” phase of the Trivium typically uses the Socratic Method—“why?”—to hone students’ proper reasoning and teach them to use critical thinking to assess information and make connections between facts/ideas.	Students begin to explore STEM-related careers by diving deeper into each subject; the work is more challenging. They’re also introduced to STEM technology so that they’re familiar with it by high school. Collaborative group work becomes more common in the classroom.	The students are able to focus more on others, not themselves. They’re also beginning to question life around them.
Ninth through twelfth (high)	In the final and most developed phase of the Trivium, students learn “Rhetoric”: expressing ideas eloquently and in their own words, evaluating and criticizing arguments, and persuading others with facts and logic they learned in the previous phases. Students become independent thinkers here.	Classes will work with colleges and other out-of-school STEM programs, sharpening the skills that a STEM career requires. Students are encouraged to select a career pathway, on which their schoolwork will be focused.	Students’ brains are starting to make complex decisions by logically prioritizing certain pieces of information over other pieces.

Providence provides alternate schooling

Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

Many people know about the larger feeder schools of Crown Point Christian, Lansing Christian, Highland Christian, and Calvin Christian but few know about Providence Christian Academy, a classical education based middle school, in Dyer, Indiana. This year there are four graduates of Providence at Illiana; junior Matthew Huizenga, and freshmen Ben Bruinsma, Brandon Helmus, and Isabella Vander Woude.

Providence is a member of the Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS). The ACCS focuses on the teaching of classical Christian education. Classical Christian education is “an educational category which establishes a biblical worldview by incorporating classical methods of student development. It includes the cultivation of the 7 Christian Virtues, training student reasoning through the Trivium (Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric), and interacting with the historical Great Books,” according to the ACCS.

Steve Vander Woude, a board member and a member of education committee at Providence, said that “students in the early years learn foundational ideas and concepts, often by memorization, which they build on as they progress into the middle and upper grades, where students hone skills and deepen knowledge through discussion, hands-on learning, research projects, field studies, logic and debate.”

Huizenga said, “We focused a lot on grammar, and we had separate class for English and literature so we could go pretty in depth in both. I also took five years of Latin, which most students probably haven’t had.”

According to Vander Woude, memorization is emphasized especially in the lower grades, and the older grades focus on a study of Omnibus which is “an integrated humanities curriculum that includes Theology, History, Art, Literature and Composition.”

Helmus said regarding Omnibus, “It was a lot of going into in-depth discussions, and reading deep topics.”

Echo editors suggest top reads

Enjoy dark fantasy?

Haleigh Olthof
Co-News Editor

In her 17 years of moving from place to place with her mother, Alice has never met her grandmother Althea, the reclusive author of a book of eerie fairy tales set in the Hinterland. When Althea dies on her Hazel Wood estate, Alice’s mother decides they can finally put down roots in New York City. But just when Alice is starting to think this move is permanent, her mother is kidnapped,

and Alice realizes the Hinterland and its characters are real. With the help of Finch, an obsessive fan who owns one of the rare copies of Althea’s book, Alice begins a journey to the Hazel Wood. Despite warnings from her mother, Finch, and even strangers online, Alice is determined to save her mother and unravel the mystery of the Hinterland, even when each discovery is more frightening than the last. Follow Alice into a twisted fairy tale world in this bone-chilling story, but be prepared: the darkest discovery may be about Alice herself.

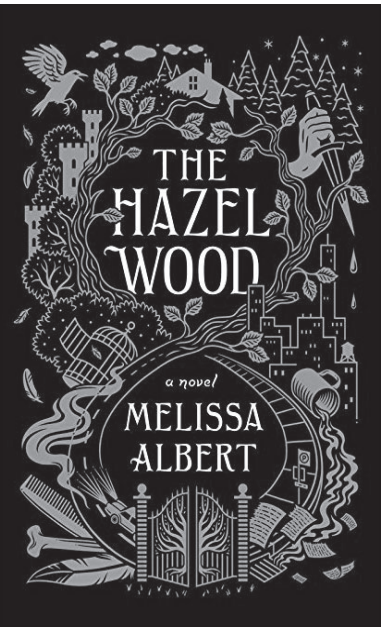


Photo courtesy of amazon.com.

Interested in political history, Jewish culture?

Kylie Boss
Co-News Editor

“Davita’s Harp,” a novel by Chaim Potok, follows the narrative of a young girl named Ilana growing up in Brooklyn. An only child, she moves from apartment to apartment, watching her parents strive to further the communist and socialist cause in the midst of a civil war in Spain and a looming World War II. Despite Ilana’s parents’ activism in the political realm, they strictly

oppose any organized religion; Ilana’s father rejected his Christian family, and her mother strayed from her strict Jewish family. Ilana, however, is still influenced by both of these opposing religions although neither of her parents practices religion. She starts to attend a Jewish synagogue by herself. Throughout the book, Ilana struggles to understand the role of religion with concern to her parents beliefs and the political realm.

I really enjoyed this book because it educated

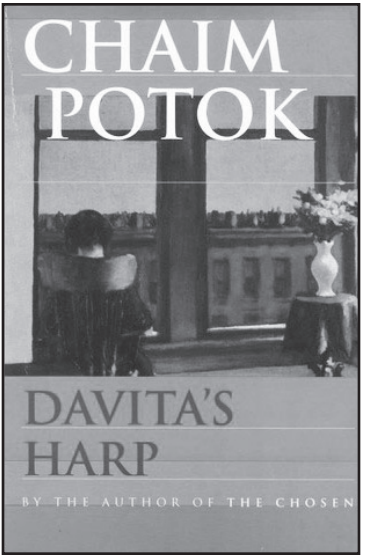


Photo courtesy of goodreads.com.

me on the Jewish religion, the socialist and communist movement, and pre-World War II history. If you love history and politics, like myself, and are intrigued by the Jewish culture, I would definitely read this book.

Intrigued by solving dark mysteries, thrilling adventure?

Natalie Togtman
Arts Editor

In “Want to Go Private?” by Sarah Darer Littman, Abby, a once happy high school freshman, begins to slowly lose interest in everything but Luke, a boy she met online. Luke understands Abby and the struggles she has with fitting in at school. As Luke and Abby chat more, Luke invites Abby to go and meet him. Despite knowing that she isn’t supposed to meet strangers from the internet, Abby goes to meet

Luke anyway, and ends up missing. Now Abby’s family and friends are left to figure out where Abby went and how to bring her home.

In a world full of dating apps and social media sites that encourage teens to meet up with strangers, this book is eye opening. For the most part it’s common knowledge not to meet up with a stranger you met online but for some reason in today’s society it’s considered “normal.” This book shows the potentially negative effects of what can happen when meeting strangers online.

Overall I really enjoyed this book and found it to be educational.

Interested in current issues?

Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief

Captivating, soul-wrenching, and eye-opening: these words don’t even begin to describe the roller-coaster of emotions I felt during and after reading “The Hate U Give.” This book outlines police brutality and racial profiling while following the struggle of a normal, 16 year old, named Starr Carter, who is living with one foot in the rich, fancy, white world where she goes to school and the other in her neighborhood, which is predominantly poor, black and riddled with gang violence. Her worlds collide when she is hanging out with her best friend Khalil, who gets shot after being pulled over for a broken taillight. Deal-



Photo courtesy of amazon.com

ing with the aftermath of Khalil’s death, Starr navigates how to balance both her worlds and becomes a voice speaking out against injustice.

Captin Marvel examines hard topics, ensures laughs

Lauren Woo
Reporter

Opening in a haunting nightmare, “Captain Marvel” immediately thrusts the viewer into an alien world and the life of Carol Danvers or Vers, played by Brie Larson (“Kong: Skull Island”), who suffers with a past only revealed in brief flashes of dreams.

Danvers is caught up in the war between the Skrull, a race of alien shape-shifters, and the Kree. Unlike others on her team of Kree warriors, she is incredibly powerful. She can fly, absorb and shoot energy in concentrated blasts, and she has super strength.

Eventually, Danvers ends up on earth, subsequently running into not

only Phil Coulson, played by Clark Gregg (“Avengers”), but also Nick Fury, played by Samuel L. Jackson (also in “Avengers”), two characters appearing in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) multiple times.

Set in the 1990s, the film is full of nostalgia for those who remember the decade. Grunge fashion, rock music, and VHS tapes complete the setting. Paired with witty comedy, the retro setting gives the film a similar feel to “Guardians of the Galaxy,” another film in the MCU.

Although the film touches on serious themes, it keeps a light undertone, making it easy to watch and enjoy. The film also intersects with many of the other MCU films, such as all of the Avengers

films, “Captain America: The First Avenger,” and both of the Guardians of the Galaxy films, adding to the complexity of the universe.

Because of this, however, the timeline of the films can get confusing for viewers, especially for those who are not incredibly well-versed in the timeline already. But, for those hard-core fans of the MCU, or those just wanting to enjoy an action movie, “Captain Marvel” is certainly up to par.

MPAA rating: PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi violence and action and brief suggestive language

Run time: 2 hours 5



Photo courtesy of disneyinsidblog.com

Faith Vanderlaan dominates opponents in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu

Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief

“I got into Brazilian jiu jitsu because team sports weren’t really working for me,” said Faith VanderLaan, a freshman at Illiana. VanderLaan has been participating in jiu jitsu for about 4 years now. Attracted by the sports individuality, VanderLaan enjoys holding herself accountable. It is why she also joined Illiana’s wrestling team in the fall.

Brazilian jiu jitsu is a grappling-based martial art, which actually has Japanese roots and has been adapted from judo. Its central theme is the skill of controlling a resisting opponent in ways that force him or her to submit. Specifically, Brazilian jiu jitsu emphasizes the idea that a smaller, weaker person can defend themselves



Photo courtesy of Faith VanderLaan
VanderLaan pins an opponent to the mat during a jiu jitsu match.

against a bigger, stronger person using techniques like leverage.

VanderLaan currently holds the rank of a yellow/white belt, four belts away from obtaining the highest rank possible, but it will take ten more years of training to get there. Practicing around ten hours a week, VanderLaan is committed to becoming

the best fighter possible.

“The most challenging part of this sport is how mentally hard it is,” said VanderLaan. “This sport will definitely break you mentally and physically.”

VanderLaan participates in tournaments about every three months across the country, from Chicago to California.



Photo courtesy of Faith VanderLaan
VanderLaan poses with her sensei after a jiu jitsu competition.



Photo by Haleigh Olthof
Junior Jacob Ipema saucers up a serve up a serve against Nazareth Academy. The team would go onto lose 3-2.

Boys volleyball blasts by early competition

Haleigh Olthof
Co-Feature Editor

Starting off with a 4-3 record, the boys volleyball team is “poised for good things this season,” said senior Jack Davids, with passion and potential that they expect to take them far in the state tournament.

Although the team has few returning Varsity players, coach David Bosman said this team has the most initial potential out of the last four teams he’s coached, along

with a strong work ethic. Boys volleyball is not an official sport in Indiana, so the team has joined the Indiana Boys Volleyball Club Association. This means they can compete in regional and state tournaments, and it also means a full schedule: this year, they have played four more games before spring break than they did last year before break, said Max Wegner. The team has also adjusted to Indiana’s system of playing best out of five games rather than three.

New technology allows teams to practice despite volatile weather

Grant Gibson
Photo Editor

With March ushering in inclement weather, many of the spring sports have resorted to indoor training, using new specialized equipment. Baseball, softball, and golf all received new equipment. Anonymous sponsors donated the baseball and softball teams a “HitTrax” batting simulator, which measures exit velocity, trac-

es swing path, and tracks a batter’s progress throughout the season. Athletic Director Mr. Darren DeBoer purchased the golf team a “Skytrak” launch monitor, which simulates the path of a golf ball and displays it on an iPad. Because the move across the border moved Illiana’s golf season from the fall to the spring, the golf team isn’t as prepared as it has been in previous seasons.

“Before, they’d play all summer and walk into the season,” said golf coach Mr. Jack Rudenga, but now they have indoor equipment to compensate for “inconsistent weather” and for losing summer practice hours. DeBoer said that he’d be “giving them a disadvantage if they don’t get practice in.” Golf also received three nets, three turf mats, and two putting mats.



Photo courtesy of Illiana Facebook
Baseball and softball players practice their hitting on the balcony above the gym.

Sports Highlights



Photo by Haleigh Olthof

Juniors *Lizze Knot* and *Lexi Terpstra* warm-up before their practice on March 26.

New school brings new interest for girls tennis

Cate Peerbolte
Co-Sports Editor

The girls tennis season began with tryouts on March 11. Twenty-eight girls came out for the team. Coach Rob Lagerwey said, “It was encouraging to have so much interest in the program. Most years we have to try and search players out, but this year we had more than enough.” Junior Lizzie Knot said, “I think a lot of girls were interested in the team because of the season changing from fall to spring. Many girls wanted to try something new.”

Junior Lily Olthof said, “Having nine courts instead of five has been really nice during practices because both the JV and Varsity teams can practice right after school.” Coach Lagerwey explained that nine courts will allow matches to take less time. Lagerwey said, “We are looking forward to playing new schools in the area. It will be interesting to play new opponents.” The team was scheduled to scrimmage Hanover Central on Thursday, March 21 but it was cancelled due to rain. Looking ahead the girls will face Bishop Knoll on April 10 at home.

Fresh faces guide boys track and field into future

Alex Wondaal
Co-Editor in Chief

After the retirement of beloved coach Jim Piaskowy, the Illiana boys track program is looking to rebuild this season. Illiana track alumni Marcus Devers (head coach) and Ronnie Holmes (throwing and sprinting coach) are the program’s fresh

faces, looking to, in Holmes’s words, “go back to the tradition from when I was here by bringing up the number of athletes.” “This year we’re trying to build the program, add numbers, create a hard working culture,” said Devers, a former 400 meter runner for Trinity Christian College. For Devers, without any post

season to gear training towards, the Unity Christian invite and the Chicago Christian invite will be the team’s main events. Longtime girls distance coach Luke Fennema will be training the boys distance runners as well. “I’ve got big shoes to fill replacing Coach Pi [Piaskowy], but I’m doing my best.... I’ve appreciated the boys’ work ethic.”

Boys baseball begins season with huge tie

Kade Bouwer
Co-Sports Editor

Although the weather so far has limited the boys baseball team in practices, the team still performed well in a 4-4 tie to Portage High School. Despite losing lots of offensive power with last year’s graduating seniors, the team

has reloaded with a ton of pitching talent. The team’s rotation is led by the two-headed monster in sophomore Purdue commit Carter Doorn and junior Eddie Spoelman. Senior Colton DeJong said, “I wish we had more players. We are a little low on count, but the players we do have are very strong.”

“Right now we are working on building the chemistry with our teammates, shaking some of the rust loose from the offseason, and just getting back into the groove of things,” said Doorn. “We are looking like we are going to have a really solid team, solid enough to beat any team we will play.”

Girls softball works through soggy sping conditions

Natalie Togtman
Arts Editor

Illiana girls softball started off its season by celebrating its first win over River Forest on Sat., March 23. The team originally had their first game scheduled for Thur., Mar 21 but that was canceled due to field maintenance.

Senior Emily Poortenga said, “Our team has great chemistry on and off the field which helps strengthen our team and how we play.” Team member Senior Lauren Rozendal added that it also helps that none of the girls on the team give attitude to one another, making it easier to play with one an-

other. Sophomore Jenna O’Brien said, “This season you can expect a lot of wins from us. The team understands each other well and everybody always seems to be one step ahead of each other which can be helpful.” The team has a 1-0 record so far.

Girls track and field makes most of new facilities

Kylie Boss
Co-News Editor

The girls track team began its season competing in three indoor meets on February 23, March 2 and March 9. According to coach Deb Top, the two track meets were practice to prepare for upcoming outdoor meets. For the indoor season, the girls medley team qualified for state finals and were allowed to compete at state for the indoor season but won’t compete because of the long drive for one track event, according to Top. The

indoor distance girls medley is a new event to the Illiana track, for no such event existed in Illinois. Though there is a new event because of the move to Indiana, the triple jump event no longer exists in Indiana. According to Top, the pole vault event is also a bigger deal in Indiana, and Illiana bought new equipment for such event. Although the move to Indiana brings new challenges, like competing against bigger public schools, Top says that the girls are holding their own against these teams. The addition of more freshmen and sophomores

makes the team very well-rounded, said Top. Sophomore Leah Davids runs the 55-meter dash and the 4 x 200’s on the track team and says the team is competing strong. “We have a really great group of girls,” said Davids. According to Top, in the future, Illiana hopes to host invites and sectionals there. It also makes practices a lot easier to plan and easier for sprinters and distance runners, said Top. “It’s surreal to have a track,” said Top. “I haven’t had one for thirty-two years.”

Male Athlete of the Month

The boys volleyball team received a big boost when senior Mark Hernandez decided to play this year. Last year, due to injury, Hernandez was unable to play, but this year he has come back with a vengeance. Hernandez leads the team in blocks and kills, while also instilling confidence in the rest of the team. “As soon as [Hernandez] goes out, it is almost as the morale of the team goes out with him. But when he is on the court, the whole team is a lot more confident,” said junior Camden VanBeek. “He’s a really consistent hitter and when he does hit, he has a lot of power. He is really reliable.”



Female Athlete of the Month

Sophomore Jenna O’Brien is going into her second season of Illiana softball with tons of hype surrounding her. Already an outstanding pitcher and exceptional hitter, O’Brien has shouldered the pressure with both pose and humility while leading the softball program into the future. O’Brien said, “I think it is big being able to encourage and say ‘that is okay if you miss that ball. It is no big deal. You can get the next one.’” Junior Jessica DeBoer said, “She is very positive and kind. She talks to literally everybody, so she is a friend to everyone on the team.”

Editorial

Only bipartisanship will solve national debt crisis

As of December 31, 2018, the United States national debt reached a record \$22 trillion, according to usatoday.com. The government has always borrowed money, but how did our debt become this monstrous?

The first major spike in the national debt began during President Ronald Reagan’s administration, according to investopedia.com, and with the exception of President Clinton’s second term, the trend has continued through every president since. In the recession of 2007, the national debt exploded due in part to the bailouts to save the economy. As a result, the national debt increased 100%, growing from \$10 trillion to \$20 trillion in President Barack Obama’s eight years.

These federal deficits occur because the government struggles to balance its spending with its revenue. For example, President George W. Bush cut taxes in 2001 and 2003, but then spent extra billions on his economic bailout in 2007. When public consumption of government goods increases, the national debt increases. The top costs that have caused the national debt to soar are healthcare programs, Social Security and the military defense budget. As Baby Boomers continue to file for Social

Security and Medicare, the national debt continues to climb. The week.com reported that the Congressional Budget Office expects the national debt to soar to \$30 trillion by 2028 because of this. The Afghan, Iraq and Libya wars also cost the government around \$1.3 trillion.

President Trump’s new tax break to large corporations is also increasing the federal deficit, according to the New York Times.

Many people don’t believe the national debt is a big problem. Former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, however, warned that the national debt is “the type of thing that should keep people awake at night.” If the debt were split equally among all Americans, each person would owe around \$62,000 in the fiscal year of 2017 according to statista.com. On a global scale, the United States’ ratio of debt to gross

So how can Congress fix this problem? Politicians pitch cutting spending or raising taxes, but to correct this problem, America needs to do both. Americans don’t like this fix, though, because Americans want more government assistance, as in social security, but also fewer taxes. Republicans and Democrats must move past ideology and strike a new deal that limits government assistance and raises taxes.

If no new deal comes, future generations will suffer a lower quality of life than the previous generation. That effect has already started. Millennials have a worse quality of life than Generation X because of the unstable economy and an insecure, casualized labor market, according to theguardian.com. If Congressional Representatives don’t do something fast, they will further ruin the lives of generations to come.

You can help bring this issue to Congress’s mind. Email your representative or senator or call your state legislator. Make this issue as large a priority as the border wall or abortion because this issue, like those, is a life-threatening issue that involves every American, not just business owners and economists.

And our future depends on it.

“Politicians pitch cutting spending or raising taxes, but to correct this problem, America needs to do both.”

The standard corporate tax rate was at 35%, but Trump’s new tax plan changed that rate to 21%. Large Corporations now swim in the money they save while the federal government receives much less than it anticipated. According to Fortune.com, Amazon, a company that had a profit of \$11.2 billion in 2017, will pay no federal income taxes and will actually get a tax rebate of \$129 million, making their effective tax rate a -1% while the average American gives 14% of his or her income to taxes.

domestic product is the worst in the world. The United States national debt is roughly 40% larger than the world’s second largest national debt in the United Kingdom.

This increasing debt looms over all Americans. The bigger the debt grows, the more likely the United States will default on its debt service obligations. Doing so would make investing riskier, create hyper-inflation, and cause the loss of political, social and economic power. Hence, the national debt will is not just a nuisance. It is a bona fide national security risk.

Seeing life through new lens

Finally got contacts, in fifth grade. I struggled to see for years, but without insurance, we put getting glasses/contacts off until my vision was so bad that I could no longer see the board at school from the front row of desks.

Leaving the eye doctor’s office with my contacts in, I felt like I had walked into a new world. I looked at the trees in awe because I could see each individual leaf for the first time. They weren’t just blobs of green anymore.

In that moment, I was staggeringly aware of how beautiful life is. I still have these

moments, like in mid-summer when I’m driving with the windows down, and I can smell the freshly cut grass and feel the warmth of the sun on my arm that is riding the waves of the wind. I have these moments of acknowledgement too when I’m at Top Soccer running from one side of the field to the other with Evan or Jesus, acting like race cars with each sprint, or when I’m playing Bunko at Hartsfield on Sunday afternoons with Anne and Ina at the nursing home, hearing stories from their childhood. There’s an overwhelming sense of beauty in this life. I go through tiny spurts where the beauty seems non-existent and it all that feels broken, like now when I get too absorbed in the busyness of life or, in the past, when my favorite old person, Alice Eenigenburg, died. But God reminds me in big and small ways that the beauty is still present even when I’m at my worst.

Recently He just engulfed me in the beauty of life, revealing more of the story He is writing me into. I went to Chico and Tatiana Fajardo-Heflin’s house in Ford Heights on a Sunday afternoon, after writing the feature story that was printed in the February issue of the Echo because I felt I had to experience what their lives were like, to see what they meant about taking all parts of Bible seriously. During five hours there, I felt as I did walking out of that doctor’s office for the first time: overwhelmed and awakened to a whole new world, like I was viewing everything through a new pair of lenses. As I listened to the broken stories of Ford Heights, the murders, the house burnings, the drug wars, and the hurt, the beauty in the brokenness shone through.

The beauty is in the church, not a building, but a community of believers. The people in Ford Heights live in community even if it is dysfunctional. Many people there have faith. Many are believers, but most people we interact with in our circles view Ford Heights and communities like it through a tainted lens in which all we see are impoverished criminals whose struggles are self-inflicted. And so we absolve ourselves of any responsibility: since they got themselves into it, they can get themselves out. In Ford Heights, I listened to stories of people sharing literally all they had, and of people truly caring about and knowing one another, more than just on the surface. Such stories expose values that I believe our community lacks.

That experience redirected the goals for my life. I’m done listening to the media that says that life is unremarkable without the newest iPhone or the cutest clothes. Life is more than that. If I change my goal from living a comfortable life in the suburbs, to living a life that exemplifies how Christ lived (breaking bread while living in community with the “beggars and lepers”), everything changes. When I stop worrying about money, I have time and energy for recognizing the beauty in life.

I’m not working to afford the best things the world can offer; I’m working to experience the best things God has for me. He’s written me into this incredible story, and I have the privilege of discovering what’s on the next page, that I have not yet lived.



Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief

the Echo)))

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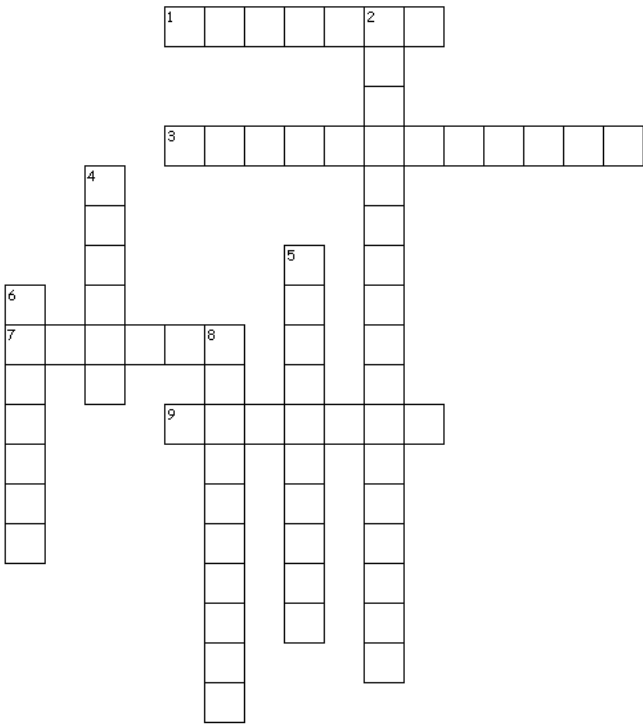
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Editorials, unless otherwise stated, have been written by an editor and reflect the opinion of the majority of the Echo staff. Opinions expressed are not necessarily that of the administration, faculty, or student organizations.

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.

Spring Break Crossword



Across

- 1. Home to more golf courses than any other U.S. state and destination of many Illiana vacationers
- 3. An Illiana mission trip team will visit this favorite state of John Denver (no spaces)
- 7. Second most populous landlocked nation and an Illiana mission trip destination
- 9. Many of these will be busted over break

Down

- 2. This nation is home to the Caribbean’s tallest peak and will be home to an Illiana mission trip team over break (no spaces)
- 4. An orange glow from a bright orb
- 5. A relaxing time of rest involving neither work nor travel
- 6. The negative version of 4 down
- 8. Spring break’s holiday without the apostrophe (no spaces)

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