

Turn to  
page 4  
to read  
about  
the history  
of home-  
coming and the rivalry.



# the Echo)))

Illiana Christian High School

Hard to find a good  
book? The perfect  
fit for you awaits  
on page 6.



Volume 72 Issue 5

January 26, 2018

Lansing, Illinois

## Students march on Capitol Hill to support pro-life cause

Alex Wondaal

Co-Sports Editor

On Friday, Jan. 19, 48 Illiana students attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Teachers Jeff White and Rachel DeVries chaperoned the students. Funded by the Illiana Right to Life Committee, the students took off on the Thursday night before the march, arrived at the capitol at noon to hear speeches, marched up Capitol Hill, and ended the day

with a prayer vigil for the nation and for the unborn. They then spent Saturday visiting museums and exploring the city.

White said he was happy to achieve his three objectives for students on the trip: having fun, getting educated about government and the proper way to protest, and doing missionary work. "I wanted them to learn about Martin Luther King Jr.'s protest ideas and not giving people a reason to look away."

The most moving part

of the trip for junior Annie Weemhoff was "getting to the top of Capitol Hill and looking back to see so many people."

Junior Ben Wiersema said, "It was a life changing experience and anyone thinking about doing it should."

Sophomore Sydney DeVries said, "I thought it was cool to see representa-



Photo by Cate Peerbolte

Senior Megan Meyer and other Illiana pro-lifers march in Washington, D.C.

tives, the Vice President, and the President address the march. It was awesome to see the [Born-Alive

Abortion Survivors Protection Act] passed by the House of Representatives while we were there."

## Two truths, one lie, ten homecoming candidates

Riley Goodwin

Co-News Editor

**Rachel Groen:**

*Embarrassing Moments:*

1. Is dating Andy VanderBent
2. Freshman year she tore her leggings right up the middle & Mrs. Piaskowy had to sew them during break
3. Junior year for a loud crowd game she heard it was Hawaiian Night so she dressed up as a pineapple and it was actually white out

*Odd Foods Eaten:*

1. Ant 2. Tide Pod 3. Maple Leaf

*Greatest Accomplishments:*

1. She met Snoop Dogg
2. Hasn't shaved her legs since Nov. 1
3. Lives life every day with a headache but still has a smile on her face

**Emma West:**

*Embarrassing Moments:*

1. Fainted at the orthodontist and ran into the doorframe
2. Got the basketball stuck between the hoop and the backboard at the end of overtime, missing a reverse layup
3. Split her pants doing the splits

*Odd Foods Eaten:*

1. An acorn 2. A dog treat 3. An earthworm

*Greatest Accomplishments:*

1. Had a lead role in an Illiana production
2. Played a sport at Illiana every sports season
3. Sang in Chamber Singers for 3 years

**Stephanie Van Deel:**

*Embarrassing Moments:*

1. Has been pooped on by a bird 3 separate times
2. Had her head stuck in the jungle gym once and when the bell rang she was left hanging by her head
3. While painting, fell off a ladder and

into a full can of yellow paint

*Odd Foods Eaten:*

1. Squid 2. A candle 3. Cricket

*Greatest Accomplishments:*

1. Painted a mural of flowers on one wall of her bedroom
2. Memorized over 400 lines for an Illiana production
3. Did mission work for hurricane relief in Mississippi

**Sarah Hernandez:**

*Embarrassing Moments:*

1. Peed her pants in front of the class because she was nervous

*Odd Foods Eaten:*

1. Fried cat 2. Chicken heart

3. Ate plantains for a week straight

*Greatest Accomplishments:*

1. Played on a national team for volleyball in the Dominican Republic at the age of 13

2. Fluent in 3 languages

3. Had a lead role in the Nutcracker

**Karli Petrarca:**

*Embarrassing Moments:*

1. Tripped over a volleyball and shattered her elbow

2. Accidently signed the outside cover of someone's yearbook

3. Face planted while trying to walk in

heels at her freshman homecoming

*Odd Foods Eaten:*

1. Poi 2. Frog legs 3. Conch

*Greatest Accomplishments:*

1. Her volleyball team placed 2nd at nationals
2. High honor roll every semester
3. Laid the wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Washington, DC.

**Tom Ericks:**

*Embarrassing Moments:*

1. Accidently mooned a little girl in Mexico

2. While working tech for his church,

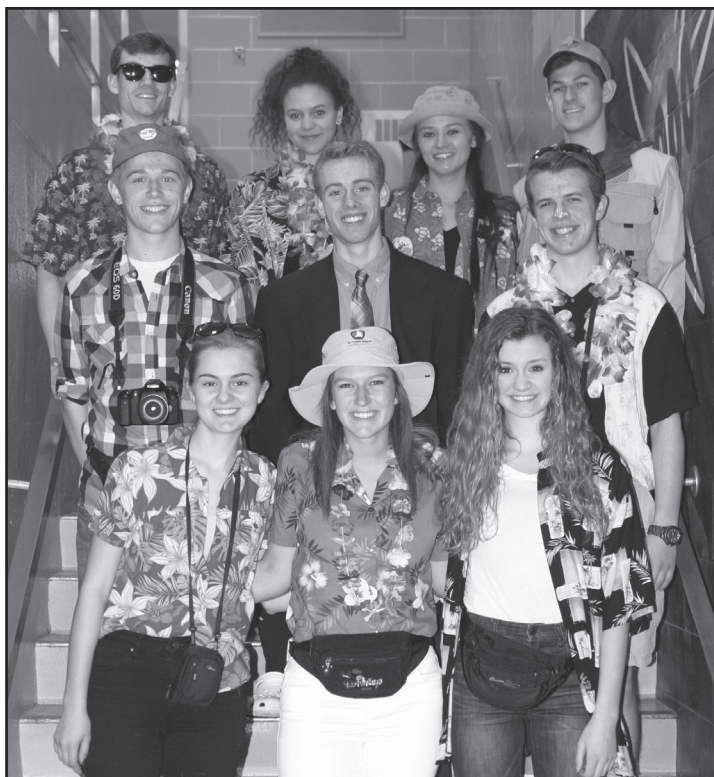


Photo by Maddie Holesinger

Homecoming Court poses for a picture during spirit week.

he left the congregation waiting in silence for 2 minutes while he tried to get his video ready

3. Put a leftover pipe end on his finger and had to remove it with a wire cutter

*Odd Foods Eaten:*

1. Raw cow tongue 2. An entire worm

3. A double deep fried Oreo

*Greatest Accomplishments:*

1. Been accepted into 8 different colleges
2. Built his first 3D printer in only an hour and a half
3. Cut multiple apples mid-air with a sharp pocket knife – Fruit Ninja anyone?

**Derek Van Prooyen:**

*Embarrassing Moments:*

1. His voice cracked in his 8th grade play and all the little kids laughed at him

2. In 3rd grade, he refused to practice his piano and threw an hour long temper tantrum

3. Walked into a restaurant and shouted, "It's clean!" and the next time he went back it was closed down.

*Odd Foods Eaten:*

1. Pig tongue 2. Alligator 3. Calamari

*Greatest Accomplishments:*

1. Played for the Chicago Cubs youth travel hitting club

2. Never had to pay a library fine in grade school

3. Read all the Namia books in one week

**Jordan Miller:**

*Embarrassing Moments:*

1. Threw up at his dad's wedding

2. His sister dressed him up in girl's clothes while his parents were gone

3. Shot an arrow through his neighbor's roof

*Odd Foods Eaten:*

1. Cow testicles 2. Peacock 3. Bear

*Greatest Accomplishments:*

1. Met the Vice President
2. Met the President

3. Employee of the month at Chick-Fil-A

**Payton Smit:**

*Embarrassing Moments:*

1. Planned to ask Karli Petrarca to homecoming at a Bulls game, only to find out that her and Garret VanderZee had already planned on going together

2. Fractured his wrist after falling off his neighbors skateboard after attempting to "ski" behind his go-kart

3. Dressed up in his mom's dress and acted like a hot girl at the beach for an English project

*Odd Foods Eaten:*

1. Squirrel 2. Raccoon 3. Bison

*Greatest Accomplishments:*

1. Survived 2 seizures in a 24hr period

2. Passed Honors Physics his junior year

3. Regularly takes 10 min showers

**Kyle Zuidema:**

*Embarrassing Moments:*

1. Exploded the Illiana bathroom after eating Little Italy junior year homecoming

2. Spilled sauce all over his shirt on his first date

3. Split his pants on the dance floor

*Odd Foods Eaten:*

1. Sausage 2. Calamari 3. Sauerkraut

*Greatest Accomplishments:*

1. Being one of the only people out of my friends that didn't get in trouble with the police sophomore year homecoming

2. Hitting the game winning shot against RB junior year homecoming game

3. Never been rejected by a homecoming proposal

(Answers on back page)



# Perils, pitfalls of journalism become real

*Following facts does not always lead where we wish it would*

**D**on't shoot the messenger just because you don't like the message. Those words are an old idiom, so old that they sound trite. But in my five months as an editor of the Echo, I have learned that people do have a tendency to do just that.



Jo Mulder  
Co-Photo Editor

As sports editor, I have been angrily confronted by members of an Illiana sports team because we reported on their losing record. I will not

mention the team or even the season because I have no interest in people feeling that I am attacking them personally. I am not trying to humiliate anyone now. Nor was the Echo trying to do so when it reported on the team's losing record. We were just doing what newspapers are supposed to do—report the facts.

Before you start sending me death threats, hear me out. I try to stay out of the politics behind sports due to my overall lack of interest, but when I heard complaints about the story, it irked me. A poor record does not lie, and it does not qualify as “fake news.” And reporting that record is simply sharing what a team has done. If a team wins, we report on its wins. But if it loses, we have to report that. It might sting, but it is news. Attempting to sugarcoat the truth would be like handing out those participation “awards” at a little kid's t-ball tournament. It would have nothing to do with journalism.

The team members may be good at their sport and might be even better individuals outside of that sport, but the figures still stand. The story remains that the record is not good, but that may not be such a bad thing.

This season might allow for a new beginning, a rebuild if you will. One that will allow teammates to step up and play better together as a body. It gives a chance for the coach(es) to see players' strong points while in the game and focus on new ways to succeed based on said strong points. Over all the truth teaches a lesson to work harder for what you want and to persevere through a drought. So prove me right next season and for now, know that you cannot win them all.

We are on the same team here Illiana, and turning on each other does no good. No hard feelings. Go Vikings!



Kayla Sylvester poses before being wheeled off to surgery.

Photo by Brian Sylvester

## Sophomore's scary surgery proves successful

Kylie Boss  
Reporter

Sophomore Kayla Sylvester underwent brain surgery on Dec. 27 to remove a cyst on her brain stem. The cyst was pushing on her brain stem and causing headaches which had started as early as junior high, according to Sylvester.

“Throughout high school [the headaches] got worse, and then they were especially bad this year,” said Sylvester. “We then got an MRI and were like ‘Oh!’”

The surgery was performed at Rush Hospital, in Chicago.. “The night before,” said Sylvester, “I had to get an MRI with some special stickers on my head.” The stickers,

according to Sylvester, mapped her brain so the surgeons know where to go once in the brain.

“It's almost like a GPS,” said Sylvester.

Now in recovery, Sylvester said she gets a little better every day.

“As of right now, it is hard to tell because my brain is still moving,” said Sylvester. “I'm kind of just sore.”

Her parents helped her through her recovery, according to Sylvester, as well as her grandma, who came over with her while she recovered to watch movies.

Sylvester wants to thank all of the people that were praying for her.

“It was much appreciated,” said Sylvester.



Packing volunteers smile after packing 40 boxes for Phil's Friends

Photo courtesy of Rob Lagerwey

## Illiana students volunteer to pack boxes for Phil's Friends organization

Jordan Bivins  
Reporter

On Jan. 10, Illiana Christian's Better Illiana for Better Understanding Club organized a Phil's Friends packing event.

Illiana students sorted through the donations made by students and faculty in December and prepared care packages for cancer patients. They placed items such as lotion, blankets, toothbrushes, and Bibles in the packages, which were distributed through Phil's Friends to cheer up those struggling through difficult health issues.

Phil's Friends is a non-profit organization that sends care pack-

ages to those affected by cancer. The organization started when Phil Zielke was diagnosed with Stage 4B Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2004. He underwent aggressive treatment, and he was inspired by the thought-

“It's always good to do something bigger than yourself.”

—Josh Harris

fulness of everyone who sent him cards, showed him love, and gave him encouragement. Out of his own experiences, a vision was born to encourage others facing similar struggles.

Senior Josh Harris said he volunteered to pack because “it's always good to do something bigger than yourself.”

Sophomore Sam Boonstra appreciated the groups service project for very personal reasons. Principal Peter Boonstra, once the recipient of a Phil's Friends care package, is Sam's father. Sam explained how when his father received a box, his family felt there was a community of people who wanted to support his dad.

The group packed roughly 40 boxes the Phil's Friends will deliver to cancer patients.

## Bridge-building team competes in IIT competition

Dominic Turkstra  
Reporter

On Jan 23, Illiana's bridge-building team competed in the Illinois Institute of Technology's (IIT) regional competition where juniors Sam Boonstra and Elizabeth DeYoung captured 7th and 8th place finishes.

Mr. Arie VanEk coached the team that included seniors Derek VanProoyen and Gracie Bulterna and juniors Boonstra, Ashley Clark, and DeYoung.

When constructing the model bridges, students use basswood since it is light, durable, and holds glue well. The contest involves seeing which bridge designs are capable of carrying the most weight with the least mass.

Prior to the IIT competition, Boonstra had built the winning bridge in ICHS's competition. Boonstra's bridge boasted an efficiency of 2,056, just beating runner-up Elizabeth DeYoung's bridge with its efficiency of 1,846. Bridge Efficiency is the mathematical ratio of the load held by a bridge divided by its own mass.

Both Boonstra and Deyoung showed improvement in their bridge design between the Illiana competition and the IIT competition. Boonstra's efficiency increased to 2317, and Deyoung's to 2304.

Mr. Van Ek has been doing bridge building with students in Illiana for about 15 years.

Winning teams at the IIT competition won prizes such as cameras and tee shirts.



# Alumnus battles through difficult pregnancy



Grace eating with her mom 2 days before she went into her coma.

Photo courtesy of Jenny DeBoer

**Maddie Holesinger**  
**Co-Editor in Chief**

Grace DeBoer Sullivan, a class of 2004 ICHS alumnus, has experienced a stunning mixture of dark and light, of sorrow and joy, as she has endured unusual and frightening medical complications in the birth of her

first child, a healthy baby boy. Grace was diagnosed with type one diabetes when she was six years old. Since then, she has been managing her diabetes with insulin shots; however, growing up she had been hospitalized on a couple different occasions because of the disease. While working at Whole

Foods on August 28, she collapsed and went into a coma. At the time she and her husband, Paul, were expecting a baby whose due date was Feb. 7, 2018. They had waited to start having kids due to her diabetes, but since she had been successfully regulating her sugar levels, they felt it was time. Grace and Paul ended up announcing the pregnancy to their family in June when she was only four weeks pregnant. “My mom always says it’s a blessing she told people so early because she got to enjoy her pregnancy before she went into the coma,” said Jenny DeBoer, Grace’s younger sister.

While she was in the coma, the baby was still growing healthy without any complications, although they were worried that she might have severe pre-eclampsia. Grace spent a month in the Neuro ICU at Community Hospital in Munster, IN. They detoxed her off the sedation medicine about 6 weeks after she went into the coma, and the day before she was moved out of the ICU she began to use her voice. Doctors kept a close eye on the baby until his birth on Dec. 22, 2017; he was only 33 weeks and one day. Since Michael’s birth, Grace has been on the road to recovery. Recently, she was moved to the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab and has been making progress in therapy, has gotten into a wheelchair, and has been able to walk up and down stairs with some help. Grace recognizes most family members even though she gets confused on their names, and has been able to attend church at

the rehabilitation place. “Her physical improvements will most likely go quicker than her mental improvements, but we trust in God’s plan and timing,” wrote her mother, Patty DeBoer. Throughout this ongoing journey, Patty, has been with her daughter all but two days out of the five and a half months. Her husband Paul has been busy with their son, but she has always been by her side as has the rest of the family. “It’s so unbelievable how much support has been shown,” said Jenny. “Our church’s Thanksgiving offering went to Grace, and on Jan. 13 at Illiana there was a fundraiser that raised a lot of money. Also, many family and friends and even people we don’t know have been praying for her and Michael.” If you would like to read more about Grace’s story and keep up with the updates from her family, follow the Facebook page, “Praying for Grace

# Teachers write new musical comedy revue for spring

**Jaden Denton**  
**Reporter**

The Drama Department on March 8-10 will be performing “The Show Must Go On”—not only the name of the new and original Spring Musical, but also a description of what happened behind the scenes. After the school board shut down the original musical, “Godspell”, teachers and students alike had no

idea what was next for the musical or if there was even going to be one. “Mrs. Dykstra sparked the idea,” said Illiana teacher Mrs. Mary Lagerwey, one of the musical’s co-directors. The idea was to take highlights of Illiana’s past musicals and stitch them into one original play. The new musical is a revue, a commemoration of past Illiana musicals. “It’s a perfect celebra-

tion of Illiana’s history and God’s faithfulness,” added Lagerwey. “With the variety of different shows it took a lot of brainstorming,” says Mr. Jim Kamphuis, the show’s set designer and technical director. Kamphuis, Lagerwey, and Mrs. Emily Hillegonds co-wrote the script while Mrs. Menninga and Mrs. Sliemers procured the music. Kamphuis and Hillegonds also went to the

mudroom, Illiana’s storage room for props and set pieces, to scour the space for relics from past performances. This new and original plot will see students playing students and teachers. The fictional story depicts the end of the fall play as a disaster which results in the depletion of the Drama Department’s funds and morale. This unmentionable disaster, which also scarred

students and destroyed property, drives students and teachers to work together to find a way of bringing a new musical to the stage. As they scheme, the revisit shows of the past. “I’m very excited,” said Illiana Senior Tom Ericks, who will be playing himself. Although he was disappointed at the cancellation of “Godspell,” he said the new show will be very good.

# Photography students display faceless portraits online

**Haleigh Olthof**  
**Co-News Editor**

At the end of the portrait unit during each semester of Ms. Deb Kamp’s photography class, students complete a “faceless portrait” assignment; this year, Christian Schools International (CSI) posted an article and a gallery of these portraits on its website. A CSI representative discovered an Illiana Facebook post about the project and contacted Kamp to write the article, which defined a faceless portrait as “a collection of meaningful and personal items that identify a person without actually showing the person’s face.” CSI published the article with a gallery of eight of the faceless portraits made by past and present students. One of these students, senior Lauren McClain, created a faceless portrait of her father, who passed when she was seven, because she wanted a reminder of

him that wasn’t a picture of him. “Usually when I look at pictures of him, I get really emotional since that was a really bad time in my life.” In the portrait, McClain included a record from her father’s large collection, a jacket that he gave her mother before leaving on a business trip, and a camera that he used to photograph buildings as inspiration for his own building projects. She also included a handbook for freelance writers because her father was a writer. Another photography student, junior Emma Miedema, used her photo to represent her younger sister, Josie. Among the items Miedema arranged is a pair of “scuffed up pink cowboy boots,” which she included because Josie is a “fashionista.” Also in the photo is a math flash card on which Josie erased and rewrote answers as she learned addition.



Top photo by Kristine Neumeyer; bottom left by Lauren McClain; bottom right by Julia Kooistra.



# “I believe that we will win!”

Over the years the rivalry between Chicago Christian and Illiana has sometimes been ugly and sometimes been good, and sometimes been downright whacky. The rivalry never seems to have a dull moment. Here are some. . .

## Memories of Illiana's great high school rivalry

Kade Bouwer

Co-Sports Editor

Neil Zandstra, guidance counselor and Illiana alumni, said, “One of my years in high school some people let these pigs go in the gym during a Chicago Christian game. The pigs had grease on them, so when they tried to capture the pigs, they would slide out of their fingers.”

Jack Rudenga, Illiana's Technology Coordinator, golf coach, and alumnus, said, “One time when our golf team went to play Chicago Christian at Eagle Lake, they had a player named Sam Bettinardi, a son of the owner of Bettinardi putters. They were expected to win by a lot, but one of our golfers shot a 36. It all came down to what Bettinardi shot. He shot a 42 to give us the victory.”

Senior Jordan Miller said, “Last year, Andy Sons went over by the Chicago Christian's student section during the basketball game and all of a sudden he revealed that he was from Illiana. Everyone in their student section started yelling at him and hating on him. He then got kicked out by Mr. Boonstra.”

Illiana's Athletic Director and Chicago Christian alumni, Deb Kamp, said, “There was a gentleman here for the Chicago Christian game this year and he was a reporter from Palos Heights, the Chicago Christian region. He was here covering the game and he just grabbed me and said that he had been in the business for thirty years and he had never been in an environment like this before.”

## Rivalry here to stay?

Cassie Laninga

Co-News Editor

With Illiana's new campus on its way, will the different location affect the long-time rivalry between Illiana and Chicago Christian? Athletic Director Darren Deboer says no.

“I don't see the move changing that,” said Deboer. “We aren't changing tradition just because we are changing location. Our distance from Chicago Christian won't affect the rivalry. It's so ingrained in each school that it will continue. When we announced the move, Timothy and Chicago Christian said they wanted us to continue playing each other.”

The only teams at Illiana that won't be able to play Chicago Christian and Timothy will be the girls' soccer team. Girls' soccer takes place in the fall in Indiana instead of in the spring like in Illinois.

Vice Principal AJ Turkstra said, “We've obviously had a long run of the rivalry. It's hay day was in the 80s and 90s. The rivalry has gone back and forth depending on if we're in conference with them. We certainly will miss Chicago Christian. We won't be in conference with them

anymore, but we will still play them. Maybe in some ways it'll be more of a rivalry because we will be playing many Indiana schools we don't know.”

Southwest Chicago Christian Schools Superintendent Henry Doorn said he thought the rivalry would continue.

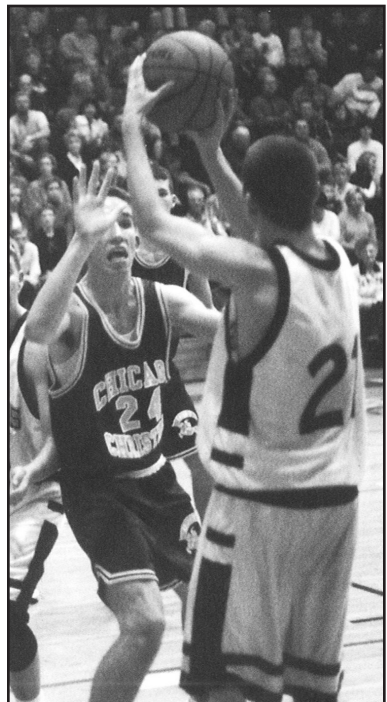


Photo courtesy of Spire 2002  
Alex Phillips shoots over a worried purple Knight in 2002.



Photo courtesy of Spire 1970

Illiana students have been using catchy slogans against Chicago Christian for a long time.

## Roots of rivalry run deep

Beth Boonstra

Co-Editor in Chief

No one really knows exactly when or how the Chicago Christian and Illiana Christian rivalry started, but once it got started, there was no stopping it.

Illiana was first started for the families too far from Chicago Christian but still wanted a Christian education. So Illiana was like a splinter off of Chicago Christian in many ways. Many of the students at either school were related to one another because of the close knit community of the two schools. We now have students whose families have been going to these schools for generations and have been incited by the rivalry from a young age.

“This is a rivalry that has history behind it,” said Mr. Jeff White. “And history carries rivalries a long way.”

No one really knows when the rivalry began most likely because it was always there. Even before Illiana had official sports, thrilling games took place between the two schools. Even back then every game was packed. The way White tells the story, Chicago Christian would demolish Illiana for years because we were so small and young, but he recalls that in the early 70's, under coach John Stob, Illiana's boys varsity team beat Chicago Christian for the first time, and games have been close and hard fought ever since. “Then it became a nice rivalry,” said White, “because from year to year you never knew who would win. Like we as coaches always say, the records go out the window when we play each other.”

The way that Mr. Jack Rudenga remembers it was that the rivalry emerged when Illiana became better at basketball, winning the division in 1967, and becoming harsher competition for Chicago Christian. He also remembers the rivalry intensifying when larger and larger numbers of people began showing up to the games.

Before Illiana's large gym was built in 1976, all Chicago Christian and homecoming games were held at TF South because so many people would show up to watch. White can remember times when the local television stations affiliates for ABC, NBC, and CBS, would come to film a bit of the games. Local newspapers such as

the Hammond Times would cover rivalry stories.

Boys' varsity basketball games were always events that everyone wanted to go to and students even sat in a section and had some cheers led by the cheerleaders and also individuals cheering, but the Loud Crowd as we know it was not officially organized until 2005. Over the years, the rivalry has not just been a competition of the game itself, but of the fans. Who is louder? Who has better cheers? Who has better costumes? Who has more people?

There was certainly an era of mischief in the rivalry. Pranks were pulled on one another – some bordering on harassment and some harmless jokes. From greased pigs and firecrackers to taunting jeers and fights, the rivalry has seen, what many would consider, some rough spots. Illiana principal Peter Boonstra, a member of the Chicago Christian graduating class of 1977, remember the rivalry being “pretty antagonistic” in his time. “For me as a student, it was not unusual to have some kind of talk of confrontation with Illiana students after the game.”

Superintendent of Southwest Christian Schools Henry Doorn said, “I think if you go back farther, there were some pranks and things done in the past. I think it's been more on the up and up in recent years.”

Junior Seth Bouwer said, “[Pranks and harassment have lessened because] Illiana's getting soft. We need to fight back. I hate Chicago Christian. The school could just burn down in a fire and I wouldn't care.”

Boonstra said, “When I was a student as well as now, I don't think there's ever really been what I would consider hatred between the schools. I've always thought of it as being more good-natured in the sense that even when we were talking about fighting it was sort of like fighting among siblings [more] than it was fighting against people that were complete strangers. People may have said [that they hate Chicago Christian], I doubt that people actually meant it. Just like brothers and sisters might say that they hate each other, but I think that in end of the day, if it came down to it, they would probably protect one another if another adversary came between them.”

“I love the rivalry,” White said.

“There are times where there's big games in the pro sporting world and these athletes say this is just like any other game, like at the Superbowl,... but it's not. If anybody tells you that, it's a lie. When the Bears play Green Bay, it's a great game.”

Robin Moore, whose son is on the Chicago Christian varsity basketball team, said, “This is always the best game of every season at every level. Everyone gets up for this game, but the thing I really do love is the mutual respect that the schools have for each other. It's a healthy rivalry.” Her favorite part is after the game when, no matter the outcome, everyone just mixes in the middle because a lot of the students went to grammar school together or are friends or relatives.

Boonstra reasons that they are closely connected communities if not the same community. He remembers, as a student at Chicago Christian, students calling their basketball coach a traitor for leaving to go coach varsity at Illiana. “Later when I came to Illiana myself, I actually worked beside [this coach].”

Both Doorn and Boonstra, old classmates from Chicago Christian, agree that the rivalry has become less antagonistic in part because of the growing diversity in both schools.

“When I was a student, the perception was that the Illiana community was more blue collar, country folk, farmers, and the like,” said Boonstra, who now regards this difference as something rooted more in the past. “I think Illiana has always been a more theologically conservative community than the Chicago Christian community and that also is probably not as true as it was then, but maybe still has some remnants.”

Boonstra said, “I think that today, as a school principal, I find the rivalry to be a positive and wholesome rivalry and I believe that's a pretty significant shift that has taken place in the last 20 years that is for the better. I'm more pleased and proud of the rivalry whereas perhaps 20 years ago I was more anxious and even at times ashamed of the rivalry.”



# Illiana homecoming traditions, festivities evolve over time

Liz VanDrunen  
Co-Feature Editor

Illiana Christian High School’s annual homecoming festivities have seen much change over the decades.

In recent years, the homecoming events begin with a Spirit Week, where students are encouraged to dress according to a theme of the day. The homecoming court, five male and five female seniors selected by the student body, performs a dance at the pep rally the Thursday before the homecoming games. The announcing of Mr. and Miss Illiana happens between the junior varsity and varsity basketball games on Friday night, and the dance is the next day in the lower gym.

Illiana’s first homecoming occurred in 1959. The day began with a chapel service given by alumni. Following chapel, students attended a “pep fest” in the gym where

the names of the top five in the Miss Illiana contest were announced. Janet Nederhood was then crowned the first Miss Illiana during the half-time of the varsity basketball game.

In 1971, Illiana announced a Host and Hostess (Larry Paarlberg and Barb DeBoer) in an attempt to get rid of the idea of crowning a Miss Illiana, but the student body rejected the idea, and the next year the school returned to announcing a Miss Illiana.

It wasn’t until the year 2000, forty one years after the first Miss Illiana, when Illiana announced its first Mr. Illiana, Phil Rienstra.

The homecoming of 1980 suffered a tragedy when two 1979 graduates, Jim Van Drunen and Rita Vander Weele, were killed in a plane crash as they flew back from Dordt College for homecom-

ing.

Mr. Neil Zandstra, current guidance counselor and a part of the graduating class of 1987, said, “Back then, we didn’t have a dance, so kids would just go to the city [Chicago] after the basketball game to get dinner.”

The first parent-sponsored dance to be held on the Illiana campus was in 1997. “We wanted to have a dance to complement the game and to have it on site, said 1997 student council advisor, Mr. David Zandstra. Other dances had been held at other locations but this was the first one in Illiana.

For years, the homecoming dance was right after the basketball games on Friday

night.

Mr. Darren DeBoer, a current teacher at Illiana and a part of the graduating class of 2002, said, “The game was very formal, since everybody in Loud Crowd had to cheer in their tuxedos and dresses, making for a lot of sweaty kids.”

Homecoming became a two-day event in 2006 when the student council decided to have the dance the day after the homecoming game.

“The change allows students to actually cheer at the basketball game, yet still be involved in fancy dinners and the dance,” said Jon DeYoung, the student council co-president from 2006.

Last year Andy Sons and Juliana Knot were announced Mr. and Miss Illiana. They will return January 26 to pass down the title to two current seniors.



Photo courtesy of Spire 1959

## Students, staff weigh in: is voting on students exciting or demeaning?

Grant Gibson  
Co-Feature Editor

Alex Wondaal  
Co-Sports Editor

Homecoming court, despite consistent positive feedback from the student body, has met opposition across the years. Many teachers and some students dislike the system, whether it be because it serves no obvious purpose, it encourages a “popularity contest,” or it alienates lower-GPA students. The life-long question of its morality lingers in the air, both teachers and students reaching for an agreeable conclusion but

not grabbing anything.

English and Bible teacher Mrs. Lagerwey, who opposes the homecoming court system, made sure to start off by clarifying: “This is absolutely not about the wonderful people.... A flawed system has chosen wonderful people.

“I’m uncertain of the Biblical foundation for the process,” Lagerwey said. She then explained her feelings about how the lessons Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount seem to contradict voting on the best and the brightest among students.

“Everyone expects every

high school to have a homecoming king and queen,” said junior Ashley Pigatti, “It makes it fun and adds a little difference than just a dance to go to.

English teacher Mrs. Hillegonds said she wasn’t in favor of the current system. “I just don’t see how it’s anything more than a popularity contest.” Hillegonds was quick to clarify that she has never had anything against the students on court.

Junior Colton DeJong, however, said, “It can be [a popularity contest], but I think a lot of good people get in it that aren’t recognized as much.”



Photo courtesy of Spire 1986

Jori Buikema, Miss Illiana of 1986

Miss Illiana, 1986

Cate Peerbolte  
Co-Feature Editor

Jori Buikema (now Ebbens) was Miss Illiana in 1986. Looking back

on being on homecoming court, she feels that it was a tremendous honor and a great privilege.

Buikema said, “There were so many people worthy to represent Illiana on the court; it was very humbling to be chosen by my fellow classmates for that honor.”

Buikema remembered helping set up for the dance and decorating the gym with student council. She recalled wistfully the many pictures before and after the game.

Buikema said, “I hope they will always continue the homecoming tradition at Illiana. It is a special responsibility and opportunity for each person on court to represent Illiana. It is also a great privilege, one I hope continues.”

Miss Illiana, 1977

Cate Peerbolte  
Co-Feature Editor

Patti Evers (now Jabaay) was Miss Illiana in 1977. She remembers being voted onto homecoming court by the entire student body as a humbling honor she did not expect. She recalls that the requirements to be eligible for court were grades, activities, attendance, and behavior. The Echo also published a list of each girl’s involvement. She also feels the faculty had some input on eligibility.

Evers said, “I think I realized how special it [court] was when I saw the group that I was a part of. I respected each of these girls. They were kind, involved, and displayed a Christian spirit that

was noticeable—not necessarily the way most high school students were back in the 70’s. Therefore it was truly an honor to be a part of this group. And an unexpected honor to eventually be Miss Illiana.”

Evers remembers speaking in chapel, and being asked to represent Illiana at other events. Evers said, “I do remember having a basketball tournament the very next morning. So I was back in the gym with my basketball uniform on rather than a homecoming dress.”

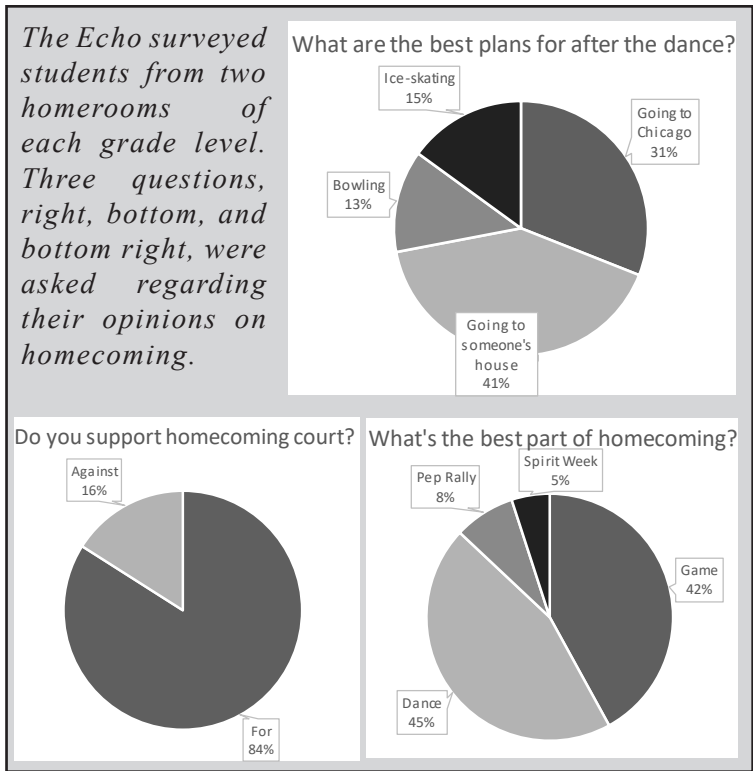
Evers said, “As far as continuing the tradition, I think that might be a better question to ask the students today. When I have attended the homecoming game in more recent years, it does seem the



Photo courtesy of Spire 1977

Patti Evers, Miss Illiana of 1977

students and parents in the crowd truly seem to engage: a lot of cheering, excitement, etc. But do students still feel it is important to select someone from their peers for this ‘title’?”

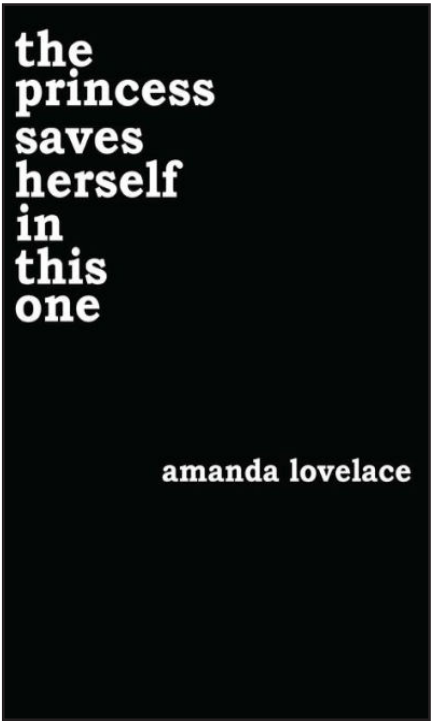




# Tease out your next adventure with these books

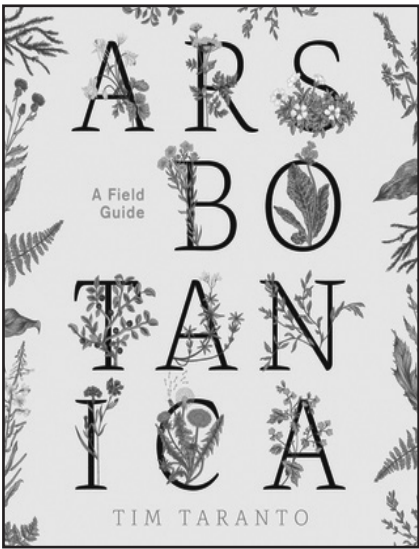
Reading can be fundamental, but finding a good book to read can be hard. With so many books out there, it’s hard to even know where to start looking. Here are some book teasers for every genre.

## Enjoy empowering poetry in... Are you a pro-life activist? Try...



**Lauren Curtis**  
Co-Arts Editor

“The Princess Saves Herself In This One” is a poetry book divided into 4 parts: the princess, the damsel, the queen and you. Poet Lovelace takes the reader on a journey, one of heartbreak, depression and abuse, and allows others to know fully about her and her world. In the first section, the princess, she focuses on her early life – how she fell in love with books, her battle with an eating disorder and self harm, her first kiss and the harassment that followed. The second section, the damsel, focuses more on the idea of her locking herself away in a tower, waiting for someone to come save her. That person never came, which takes us to section three, the queen. Lovelace decides it is time to save herself and fights her dragons. Lastly, the last section, you, consists of encouraging poems for the reader. She shares pieces of advice she wishes she would have known earlier and helps readers find the confidence to conquer their dragons too.

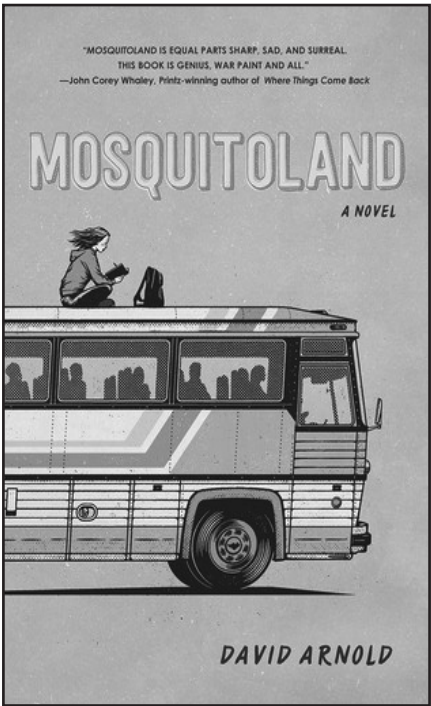


**Maddie Holesinger**  
Co-Editor in Chief

In “Ars Botanica,” Tim Taranto writes a series of letters to his unborn child, who he later names Catalpa. These letters chronolize the events that lead up to the abortion of his child and his life after, the ups, the downs, and everything in between. Taranto’s attention to detail and the vulnerability he displays, forces the reader to hang on to his every word and buckle up for the bumpy road ahead. Taranto writes not only about the abortion of Catalpa, but about his love story, his fight with Alopecia, and about his writing career.

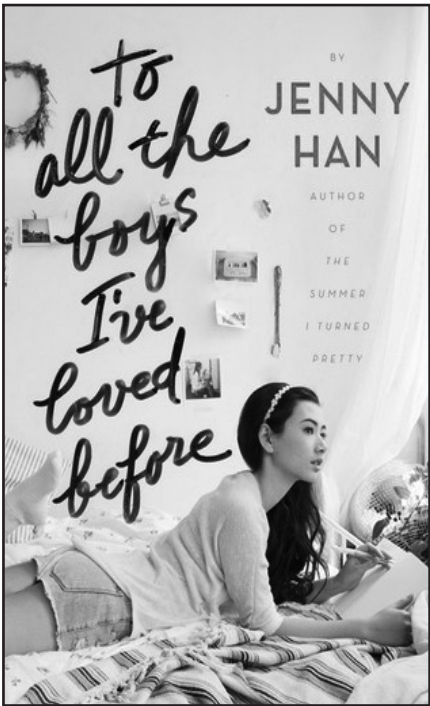
Perfect for those unsure of their beliefs concerning the pro-life cause, “Ars Botanica” confesses the stress abortion has on a relationship and the toll it takes physically and emotionally on all those involved. His letters celebrate life and all its joys and sorrows. His love for plants and discovering the easily overlooked, beautiful creations comforts him throughout his grieving process, as does his need to get away and spend time away from the crowded, familiar streets and buildings. “Ars Botanica” is humorous, enlightening and is the perfect travel companion.

## Like coming of age stories? Read... Do you love romance? Invest in...



**Cassie Laninga**  
Co-News Editor

After overhearing a conversation through the principal’s door, 16-year-old Mary Iris Malone, a.k.a. Mim, finds out that her mother is sick and decides to run away from her home in the wastelands of Mississippi to Cleveland, Ohio in attempt to save her. Mim steals cash from her stepmother and boards a Greyhound bus to flee the state. Along her journey, Mim meets a wide range of people, including Arlene, a kind old woman trying to get to her son, Walt, a homeless boy with Down syndrome, Beck, an attractive college student, and Caleb, a dangerous boy with a split personality. Through it all, Mim learns about herself, the world, how to open up to people, and how to become less judgemental. Mim narrates the book directly and through her letters to her Aunt Isabel. This book deals with heavy topics such as death, abandonment, and mental illness.



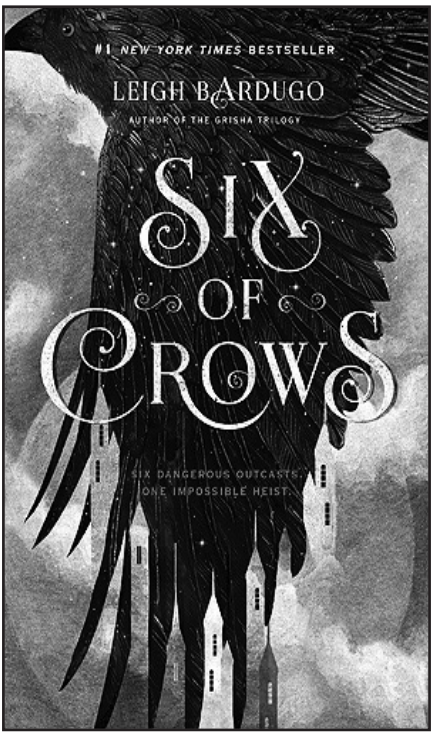
**Natalie Togtman**  
Co-Arts Editor

“To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before” by Jenny Han is the first installment in the trilogy of the same name. This book stars Lara Jean Song, a sophomore in high school, who writes private love letters to the boys she has been in love with. These letters are kept in a blue hat box.

One day her private letters were all mailed out, and suddenly all these feelings no one was supposed to know about are made known to every boy she has ever loved. After, her letters are mailed, her life seems to spin out of control.

If you enjoyed this book you should check out the following two books “PS I Still Love You,” and “Forever and Always, Lara Jean.”

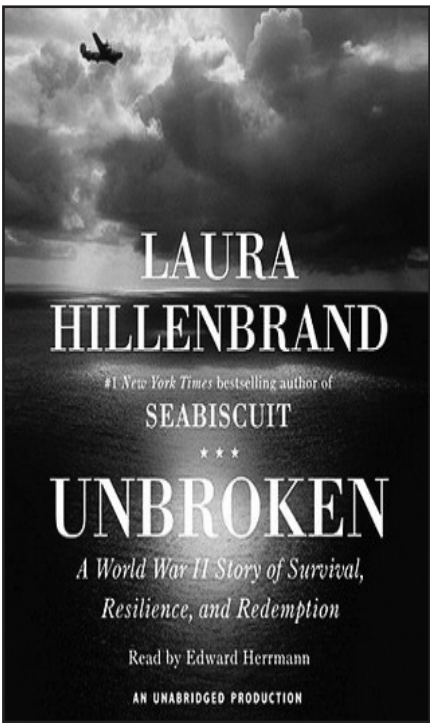
## Fantasize with fellow teens in... Flashback to WW2 with...



**Haleigh Olthof**  
Co-News Editor

In Leigh Bardugo’s Six of Crows, six teenagers with dark pasts take on the daunting job of kidnapping a scientist from the seemingly impenetrable Ice Court. The scientist has developed a powerful drug that enhances the powers of Grisha, gifted people who can already shape metal and glass, conjure storms, and stop hearts. On parem, Grisha walk through walls, fly, and control people’s actions, but the drug is addicting and eventually kills the user. Kidnapping the scientist will keep powerful governments from using the drug for their own purposes, and the young criminals will also receive huge monetary rewards if they succeed.

If anyone can breach the security of the most heavily protected fortress in their world, it’s criminal mastermind Kaz Brekker’s team: A spy who scales walls and wields deadly knives, a former Grisha hunter with inside knowledge of the Ice Court, a sharpshooter who’s at his best in a fight, a passionate Grisha determined to fight for her people, and a math genius who doubles as a hostage. Even as Brekker’s plan becomes reality, he and Bardugo guard their secrets closely. Readers stay in the dark until the final page and then some: the story continues and concludes with the sequel, Crooked Kingdom.



**Alex Wondaal**  
Co-Sports Editor

“If I can take it, I can make it” is an often misinterpreted quote from “Unbroken.”

After years of intense training, Louis Zamperini qualified for the olympics. Shortly after a successful 5000 meter run for a 19 year old man, Zamperini went to fight in the Pacific during World War II. He survived a plane crash, shark infested waters, and dehumanizing Japanese prison camps in an unthinkable story of resilience. Zamperini was a great man from the greatest generation.

“Unbroken” is the story of a man with more mental strength and courage than most people could ever dream of. However, after returning home, he struggled with alcohol abuse and couldn’t seem to hold any meaningful relationships. Only after fulfilling a promise he made to serve God did he truly recover from the war. “Unbroken” is a story of resilience, but more importantly it is evidence that no one, no matter how strong, can be whole without God.

“If I can take it, I can make it” was not a sustainable way of living after the war, but his surrender to God eventually made Zamperini free.



# Low on ‘dubs’, high in spirit

## Boys basketball heads into postseason with aggression, hoping to go deep in state tournament

Alex Wondaal  
Co-Sports Editor

Shuffling out of January with tough losses to Timothy Christian and Chicago Christian, the boys basketball team is heading into February and the postseason with intensity

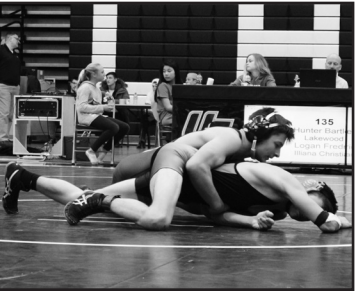


Photo courtesy of Dean Bosman  
*Sophomore Logan Frederick attempts to evade pin*

and ambition. Their current record is 8-11. Over break, the team defeated Grant Park and Peotone at the Kankakee Holiday Tournament for a third place finish. Because Illiana lost to Grant Park in a blowout over the summer, their victory was a confidence booster for the team.

Senior center Josh Harris said, “I was pretty proud of our finish because it was a tougher bracket than the Seneca Tournament.” More recently, Illiana was defeated by Chicago Christian in a heartbreaking 62-59 loss ending

## Wrestlers prep for Regionals after disappointing season

Jo Mulder  
Co-Photo Editor

As the wrestling season concludes, the team looks back with mixed feelings. The season had many positives, such as a great mental toughness and overall perseverance.

According to sophomore Andrew Witvoet the team was great at “Stayin’ alive out there,” and the team had a “great takedown.” They had a lot of new talent and while the season was not great, plenty of learning took place. With talent like Dante Sullivan, who had never wrestled, becoming one

with a fast break dunk from Chicago Christian’s Isayas Aris in overtime. Junior Kyle Mulderink said the team was happy with the intensity shown against Chicago Christian even though it was a tough loss. “We need to play every game like tons of people are watching, like its homecoming,” Mulderink said. Senior Payton Smit said he hopes the team will take home a regional trophy with help from more aggressive play and better defense around the perimeter.

# Lyzenga inspires team, cements wrestling legacy

Riley Goodwin  
Co-News Editor

Senior Isaac Lyzenga has been wrestling for all four years at Illiana Christian, but that isn’t where his interest in the sport first began. “I was raised watching my older siblings wrestle, so I’ve always been interested,” said Lyzenga. “My five older brothers have been beating on me my whole life to make me the wrestler I am today.”

During his time at Illiana, Lyzenga has won a total of 118 matches.

“My strategy as a wrestler is to try and finish the guy as quickly as I can,” said Lyzenga. “And if it is going to be a tough match, then I know I’ll have to use my conditioning sparingly.” “[Isaac is a team player.]said wrestling coach Dean Bosman. “He knows what intensity level is needed to win, while being goofy enough to take the pressure off of others.”

“Isaac holds the team together, plain and simple,” said sophomore Nick Dykema. “He’s very supportive and always fun to be around.”

According to Lyzenga, the most challenging part about wrestling is the mental toughness it takes when you’re tired and you just feel like you can’t go any longer and you have to fight through it, using that mental toughness.

Thanks to Lyzenga’s brothers, he has developed a great deal of strength from rough-housing while growing up which has worked as an advantage while wrestling. Lyzenga has also worked with his father doing construction jobs.

# Girls basketball team’s early season struggles continue despite progress

Lauren Curtis  
Co-Arts Editor

The girls basketball team ends the month 2-21 after playing against Timothy Christian, Glenbard South, Fenton, Elmwood Park and Chicago Christian. Although, their record shows little improvement, their performance off the

court says otherwise. In practice the team is showing consistent growth. Senior Emma West said, “In practices we are constantly working harder than the day before and visibly growing every day.” Junior Rachel Huisman said, “We each individually set goals at the beginning of the month and most of us have met them by now. I think with each practice we are getting better.” Coach Blocker added that “their defense is much better than it was at the beginning of the year” and that “they are beginning to work very well together.” The team hopes to capitalize on that momentum as it enters state tournament play.



Photo courtesy of Beth Boonstra  
*Junior guard Kelsie Derico dribbles up the court.*

# Cheerleaders spring into late season, state competition in mind

Maddie Holesinger  
Co-Editor in Chief

Despite one team member being injured and two others not being able to compete, Illiana’s cheer team hopes to advance to IHSA state competition next month. The cheer team has already gone to ICCA (Illinois Coaches Cheerleading Association)

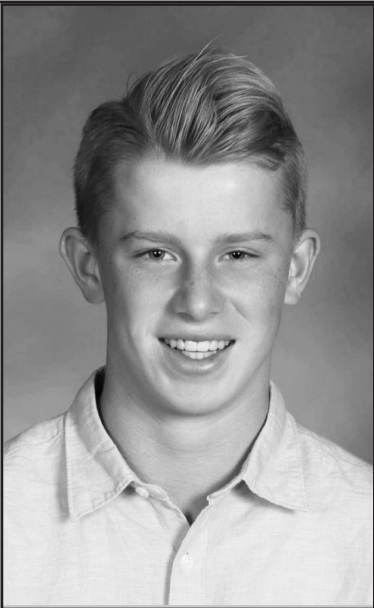
championships, which was considered the state competition for cheerleaders before the state recognized cheerleading as a legitimate sport. There, on Jan. 6, they placed 26th out of 29 schools. “We compete [at Sectionals] to qualify for state at the end of the month,” said senior Grace Bultema. “We are planning on changing up our

competition routine in hopes of placing higher, and making it to IHSA state.” Illiana’s cheer team had two other competitions this month. On Jan. 13, they competed at Lincoln-Way Central placing 8th out of 9 schools. The following Monday, Jan. 15, the team competed at Conference taking 3rd out of 5 schools.

The cheer team had been diligently practicing since tryouts in April, knowing that practice makes perfect, and hoping to reach perfection. “I think we can make it to state,” said junior Lily Gerstner. “It’s going to be harder to achieve that goal with two teammates out, but we’ve worked so hard; I think we have what it takes.”

## Male Athlete of the Month

Freshman guard Logan Van-Essen has had a great season so far for the JV team. He has made a very smooth transition from eighth grade basketball at Crown Point Christian to the JV level. VanEssen is the top scorer on JV this year. On a few occasions he has been pulled up for varsity games. Sophomore teammate Coy DeJong said, “He is a great player and he is selfless. He is a good leader for being a freshman.”



## Female Athlete of the Month

Senior Grace Bultema has been a leader both on and off the floor for the cheerleading squad. A member of cheerleading for all her years at Illiana, she has given the team a much needed senior presence as she is the only senior on the team. She played an integral role her sophomore and senior years in capturing spots into the ICCA state competition. “I help the coaches with communicating with the team so everything goes right there,” said Bultema. “I call the cheers on the floor and also make sure that the Loud Crowd knows what we are doing.”



# Editorial

## Illiana anticipates celebrating Black History Month

Did you realize that February is only one week away? Do you know what that means? Well Illiana does. It means Black History Month is just around the corner, and the fact that Illiana has realized this couldn't make us happier. Many people probably saw the words "Black History Month" on this headline and squirmed because of the controversy this month has stirred in Illiana's past. But this year, instead of punitive "cannot"s, the school is promoting what we "can."

Illiana has been proactive in making this month a positive celebration. The student council planned in advance to have a series of posters throughout the school with scripture from various Martin Luther King Jr. quotes. The Better Illiana Through Better Understanding Club, one of the only good things to spring out of last year's controversy, held a special meeting yesterday to discuss what it should do for Black History Month. Students and administration have not only been talking about Black History Month, but we're talking positively about it.

In recent years Illiana has not acknowledged Black History Month and there has not been much complaint, until last

year. With racial tensions at a high because of a particularly difficult election season, students felt attacked and racism felt quite nearby. In times like these, Black History Month is truly important. This month was first established during a time of racial tension and misunderstanding, and it's still relevant today especially in times of struggle. When racism can mask itself as legitimate political commentary, we need Black History

Month. When students see those words and can only think of the events of last year, we need Black History Month. When we as a nation feel we have taken some steps backwards on addressing race relations, we need Black History Month. Thank you, Illiana, for being proactive and for hearing the call.

In honor of Black History Month, we'd like to share these 5 inspiring quotes from some of the strongest leaders this world has

ever known:

- "It is impossible to struggle for civil rights, equal rights for blacks, without including whites. Because equal rights, fair play, justice, are all like the air: we all have it, or none of us has it. That is the truth of it." -Maya Angelou
- Black History Month has never been about trying to exalt blacks to a position above whites or any other race, but rather focusing on their history which is too

**"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."**  
-Martin Luther King Jr.

often ignored because of a history of oppression in this country.

- "One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings." -Franklin Thomas
- We are those descendants. We can now look back at this history, black history. Some of it is terrible and sad, but if we don't

know our history, we are doomed to repeat it.

- "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." -Martin Luther King Jr.
- In times of trials and tribulation, when injustice seems to prevalent in our world today, we need light. Light is brought with love, not by getting angry at each misunderstanding one another.
- "You're not to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. Wrong is wrong, no matter who does it or says it." -Malcolm X
- In the midst of a time when our very own political leaders seem to encourage racism, we need to remember that they don't need set the bar for our moral character, and especially as we follow Christ, not politicians or parties.
- "You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right." -Rosa Parks
- Rosa Parks actually did something illegal, but right. Imagine if she had decided not to do so because she had been too afraid. Our hope is that Illiana will become a place where there is no reason to fear doing what is right.

## New year calls for prayer

Dear God,  
You are an awesome God. You are a kind and merciful God. All things are possible only through you. Today, we come to praise you Lord, because you deserve to be praised. You are faithful and can do no wrong.



Lauren Curtis  
Co-Arts Editor

Thank you for your love and compassion. Thank you for keeping your covenant with us. Thank you for blessing every single one of us with a new year. Lord, you are good and your love endures forever. You are good to us and shower us with compassion.

Lord, you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. You are the only living God. Because we have you, there is no need to ask for more. Lord, we honor you. You are worthy to receive the glory and honor. You are gracious and just. Oh, how we magnify your name.

Carry us into the New Year. Guide our steps so that we may only do what you want us to do, Lord. We ask that you guide our decisions and change our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors that need to be opened and close those that need to be closed.

We pray that you keep us from temptation, so that we may walk closer with you. May our eyes and our hearts focus only on you and doing what you call us to do, Lord. We ask that you help us stay strong in our faith, and as the year goes on, even stronger. We pray for your protection over our families and friends. We ask that you keep them from evil, disease and stress this year.

We ask that you provide for our needs. We pray for your blessings to cover us, so that we may prosper and flourish this year. Help us to use the blessings you give us to help others. Help us to put the needs of others before our own. We ask that you help us to feed the hungry and give shelter to the homeless. May we be lights to the world this year. Help us to make a difference and stand out from nonbelievers. You call us to love our neighbors, guide us in the right direction to love others.

Lord, guide the steps of our leaders. Help them to seek only peace and prosperity for our nation and other nations. This country was founded on truths from Your word. Humble our leaders, and remind them that they work only for you, Lord. We ask that the leaders you have put in charge lead us back to you again. Give us leaders with discerning hearts, wise minds and truthful mouths. Teach them what is best for our nation.

We know that we are not worthy enough to come to you and ask for anything, but you let us, so we thank you. We are sinful human beings, and without you we are nothing. Your presence is desperately needed in our lives.

Thank you for blessing us with a new year and may we have many more to come. To you be the glory and honor, this year and forever.

In Jesus name,  
Amen.

*the*  
**Echo)))**

**Editors-in-chief**  
Beth Boonstra  
Maddie Holesinger

**News**  
Haleigh Othof  
Cassie Laninga  
Riley Goodwin

**Feature**  
Grant Gibson  
Liz VanDrunen  
Cate Peerbolte

**Arts**  
Natalie Togtman  
Lauren Curtis

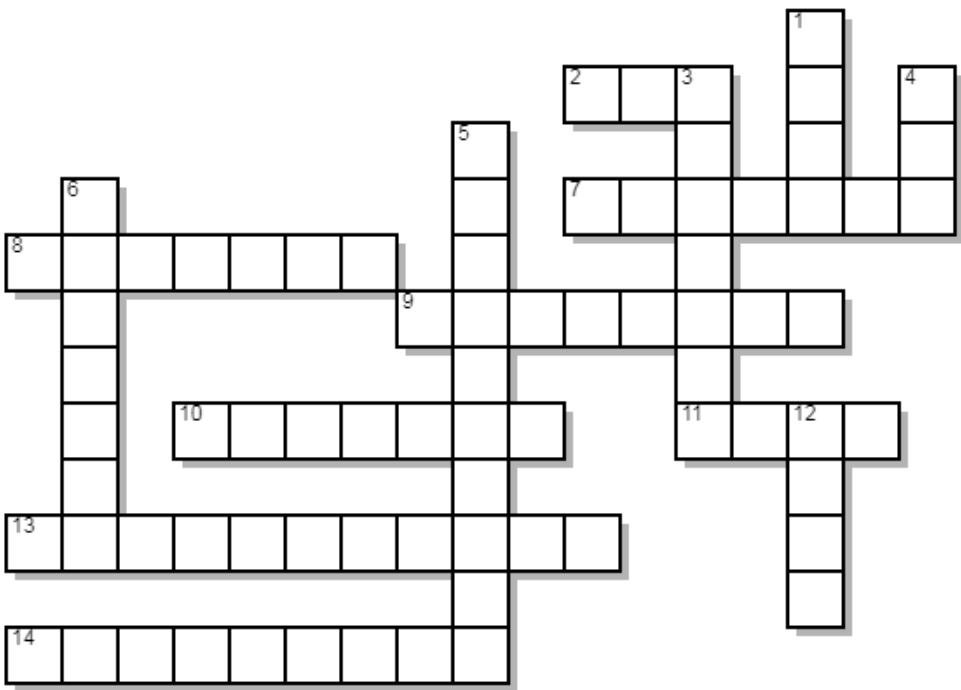
**Sports**  
Alex Wondaal  
Kade Bouwer  
Jo Mulder

**Photos**  
Cassie Laninga  
Grant Gibson  
Jo Mulder  
Cate Peerbolte

**Advisor**  
Jeff DeVries

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 wfor doing so.



ACROSS

- 2 Tom's musical role
- 7 Phil's friends \_\_\_\_ party
- 8 Dancing through the \_\_\_\_
- 9 Black History Month
- 10 Rachael didn't eat
- 11 March for \_\_\_\_
- 13 Book by Tim Toranto
- 14 Isaac Lyzenga's sport

DOWN

- 1 1977 homecoming queen
- 3 The name of Grace's son
- 4 Animal prank
- 5 Started in 1959
- 6 Praying for the \_\_\_\_
- 12 Selfies lack

Homecoming court answers:

RG: 3,2,1 EW: 3,3,1 SV: 3,3,1 SH: 1,2,3  
KP: 3,3,1 TE: 2,3,1 DV: 3,3,3 JM: 3,3,2 PS: 3,1,3 KZ: 3,3,2

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