



Bean bag tournament helps fund Night Ministries

Nina Verhagen
Reporter

Illiana's fourth annual bean bag tournament, organized by Go Club, and held for the first time at the new Illiana, took place on the May 23. Twenty teams of two signed up and all the proceeds from the event went to Night Ministries, a group with whom Illiana's Go club has partnered with for 10 years. Night Ministries, a non for profit organization, provides food and medical care to the homeless. The event raised a total of \$400.

Most teams sported cute names that were a pun on bean bagging. Some teams even wore costumes.

The winning team was the "Swagger Baggers" (Colton DeYoung and Matt Lagestee). They played against the team "Too Much Dutch to Touch" (Illiana teacher Brent Vermeulen and friend Daniel Elzinga) in the final round.

The weather was ideal. There was wind at first, but it died down, leaving just the warm sun. Burgers and hot dogs was served after the tournament and before Praise Crowd. Praise Crowd was, for the first time, held outside on the lawn.

According to event coordinator and teacher Miss Johnson, "[The night had] the overall atmosphere of your best friend's backyard, a little hang-out."



Photo by Lance Davids

Students gather after tournament to praise and worship during last Praise Crowd of the year.



Photo courtesy of Peter Boonstra

Mr. Boonstra sits down with Illiana Board Member and former vice principal Mr. Cal Scott, vice principal of Jincheng School Mrs. Heather-Lynn Burbank, and Illiana's Chinese Agent Hong-chi Fan to lead a panel discussion about US education.

Boonstra explores international expansion

Lauren Woo
Reporter

Principal Peter Boonstra traveled to China for ten days to meet with and make connections with a high school near Beijing.

According to Boonstra, the main purpose of the trip was to "explore a relationship with a school in China." He left on April 23 and returned on May 2.

Illiana was put in touch with the school through its foreign exchange student agent, the same agent that coordinated Admissions Director Marie Limback's trip to China earlier in the year.

While there, Boonstra "delivered several speeches, ... learned about education in China and told others there

about education in America."

The main subject of the visit was one high school that geared towards sending students to colleges in the United States. Boonstra hopes that Illiana can work with the school and aid its students in their college prep.

"We're always trying to find new ways to move [Illiana] forward," Boonstra said, "and further the cause of Christian education."

"The Church is severely restrained in China," Boonstra said. But, on Sunday, Boonstra attended a Presbyterian church. "It was very heartwarming," Boonstra said. He also said that there were around 400 locals in attendance.

Boonstra is hopeful that this connection can benefit students at both schools.

Davids scouts out prospective mission trip

Sophia Thompson
Reporter

Lance Davids and his wife Jill Davids spent a week in Ukraine for a medical missions trip.

When Dr. Jill Davids, an optometrist, got the opportunity to travel to Ukraine for a medical trip her husband, Mr. Davids, found it for a great opportunity to "grow the heart for missions

for our school to make." But, before students could attend, someone needed to make sure the trip would be safe and make connections in Ukraine. As of now, David thinks it will be possible for Illiana students to attend this trip in the future.

The trip is a medical trip where volunteer doctors treat people's eyes and tell them about Christ. "The cool thing is, although

doctors are needed, 3/4 of the clinic can be staffed by people who don't know anything about eyecare," said Davids. My daughters helped too and they were great," Mr. Davids said.

David's hope is that this can be a mission trip Illiana can take every year. Miss Sarah Johnson, Director of Missions, says that she is open to possibly taking a mission trip to Ukraine.



Dr. Jill Davids examines patient's ocular health.

Photo by Lance Davids

High school ends, time doesn't wait

“*Tiid heft net skoft*,” my grandma would repeatedly remind me in her thick, Dutch accent, “Time is not long enough.” It’s a lesson that I’m very grateful she taught me.

Life is all of a sudden in fast forward. It feels like only a month ago, I was running into the auditorium at the old Illiana campus for freshman orientation. I, of course, was late, so I sat in the back alone, staring at the back of all the other freshmen’s heads, thinking about what the future held and wishing that I could fast forward to graduation day.

Now, I’m grateful that I had to live all of those days. I’m grateful for every peanut butter sandwich at lunch, for every nerve-wracking test, and for every late night of studying. I’m grateful for all the lessons I learned along the way, for all the people I’ve met, and for all the teachers who have fostered my faith and future. Somedays, I wish I could hit a rewind button just so I could relive the moments and etch them into my brain, knowing their importance, so that I never forget the people and the things that have impacted my life.

My journalism class makes fun of me constantly because I’ve recently begun taking note of all the lasts. The last day of brainstorming, the last day of giving out assignments, the last day of sitting around aimlessly and not getting a single thing done, and the last pub day.

My co-editors and The Echo share a lot of my favorite memories of high school and by taking note of all the lasts, I’m saying goodbye to high school little by little. I do this with the sports I’m in and the activities I participate in as well. I realized that I do this a lot actually, distancing myself and taking it one goodbye at a time so that the end doesn’t sneak up so abruptly.

At the beginning of the month, I held my grandma’s hand and laid my head on her shoulder as she laid in a hospital bed and took her last breaths. She was right: Time is not long enough. As family face-timed in and to say their goodbyes, I never felt the need to because during the 2 ½ years she lived with us, I said goodbye to a little part of her everyday as the Alzheimer’s took away more and more of her. It’s the same thing with high school. Slowly, I’m saying goodbye as another chapter of life comes to a close.

Time is definitely not standing still, but no one can live wishing they could go back in time and relive one moment just to soak it all in again. I can’t freeze time or speed it up. No matter what, life goes on and every day is full of new decisions and opportunities. We choose to either speak life or death, to do right or wrong, to live satisfied or with regrets. As this chapter closes, I’m satisfied with where God’s brought me. I’m satisfied with the decisions I’ve made and the lessons I’ve learned because of them. And I’m ready to say goodbye to this chapter of my life because, after all, *tiid heft net skoft*.



Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief



Spectators gather to watch the Illiana band march. photo by Summer Ruiter

Illiana bands perform in festival, celebrate completing marching

Samuel Vargo
Reporter

On May 11, Illiana’s Marching Band travelled to Holland, Michigan to participate in the Tulip Parade, a part of the larger Tulip Time Festival that takes place every May.

Sophomore Simon Molenaar said, “It was great experience to march in front of a crowd.”

Band Director Patricia Menninga said, “The students really enjoyed

going, especially getting Kentucky Fried Chicken afterwards.”

The Tulip Time Festival is a festival that shows off the beautiful tulips of the town, and it celebrates Dutch heritage in the town. The parade had around 153 entries this year. Illiana has participated in the parade for over 30 years.

“It’s fun to showcase what you’ve learned over the past few months in front of a large group of people,” Molenaar added.

Math, physical education teacher retires

Natalie Togtman
Arts Editor

Diane Bilyeu is retiring after teaching at Illiana for a total of 34 years. Since starting at Illiana in 1976, she has taught physical education and geometry, helped in the Tutor Center, coached basketball, track, softball, and JV tennis, and was a Go Club co-sponsor.

“One of Mrs. Bilyeu’s strengths is [making] PE education more than recess,” said athletic director Deb Kamp, while avoiding “just [grooming] varsity athletes.”

Kamp appreciates Bilyeu’s humility and willingness to serve, traits that have also been invaluable to Go Club.

“I love that she’s the perfect balance for me,” said Bilyeu’s fellow Go Club co-sponsor Sara Johnson. “She grounds my creative nonsense but also gives me the freedom to be creative.”

In retirement, Bilyeu is excited to spend more time with her family members who live out of state.

Bilyeu has chaperoned eight class trips, which she said were a favorite part of her time at Illiana.



Bilyeu retires after 34 years of teaching. photo courtesy of illianachristian.org

2019 Student Awards

Award	Recipient	Award	Recipient
Art	Isabelle Neibert	Sousa Award	Elizabeth De Young
Bible	Rachel Huisman	Instrumental Music	Alec Vander Zee
Business	Danielle DeBoer		Erin Yonkman
Business Technology	Danielle DeBoer	National Choral Award	Kaneisha Perry
Drama Crews	Corey Schoon	Vocal Music	Julia Oostema
Drama Acting	Ben Weirsema	Industrial Technology	Benjamin Ipema
English	Haleigh Olthof	Principal’s Leadership	Alexander Wondaal
Journalism	Madilyn Holesinger	Illiana Service	Caleb Perez
	Alexander Wondaal	Illiana Citizenship	Rachel Huisman
Math	Samuel Boonstra	Athlete of the Year	Lawton Bouwer
	Grant Gibson		Catrien Peerbolte
Social Studies	Seth Bouwer	Scholar Athlete of the Year	Seth Bouwer
Science	Samuel Boonstra		Haleigh Olthof
German	Erin Yonkman	Sportsmanship Award	Kade Bouwer
Spanish	Haleigh Olthof		Mackenzie Boss
Physical Education	Catrien Peerbolte	Valedictorian	Seth Bouwer
Family and Consumer Science	Kaley Gutierrez	Salutatorian	Haleigh Olthof

2019 Student Scholarships

Richard Vanden Berg Memorial	Kade Bouwer	Cathy Beezhold-Peerbolte Memorial	Julia Oostema
Jim Huizenga Memorial	Madilyn Holesinger	Joshua Daniel De Boer Memorial	Michael Van Milligan
Luke Witvliet Memorial	Brittany Benson	Calvin	Annie Weemhoff
	Kaneisha Perry	Vernon J. Boerman Memorial	Sydney De Vries
	Tori Ruffolo		



Wind Ensemble celebrates the three awards it won while at Cedar Point.

photo courtesy of Pat Menninga

Wind Ensemble wins big at Cedar Point

Madison Rogers
Reporter

On May 18 and 19, Illiana’s premier band, Wind Ensemble, traveled to Sandusky, Ohio for an all high school band competition. Wind Ensemble had a very successful weekend, placing

1st and winning several awards including a superior rating, the Best Overall Band Award, and the Esprit de Corps Award. Wind Ensemble performed at Cedar Point High School all day Friday for the competition. The following day they went to Cedar Point

where the award ceremony was held. The band left Illiana Friday morning for the long trip to Ohio, where they stayed in Great Wolf Lodge for the weekend. Before arriving at the competition, however, they stopped at Calvin Christian School in South Holland and performed for their students as well. Band director, Pat Menninga, said “They performed very well, and the trip was fun. It was mix of work and play.” Sophomore Olivia Yonkman said, “The weather was nice, and we

Fine Arts Committee tours Lyric Opera, sees ‘West Side Story’

Taylor Benes
Reporter

The Fine Arts Committee travelled to Chicago on May 9 for a tour of the Lyric Opera House and to see a matinee performance of West Side Story.

Orchestra teacher Andy Anderson led 17 students, along with Fine Arts Committee sponsors Jeff De Vries and Jim Kamphuis, on a tour of the Lyric Opera. Anderson works at the Lyric Opera as a member of the orchestra for many of the Opera’s shows. He took the group to places like the orchestra lounge, set loading area, and even the pit, where students were able to step on the orchestra conductor’s podium and see what the opera house looks from the perspective

of the conductor. Sophomore Rachel Bultema said, “Going backstage and getting to see how these shows run makes me appreciate them more.” “Seeing what goes into a world-class musical was an amazing experience,” junior Matthew Huizenga stated. After the tour, students attended a matinee performance of the Tony Award-winning “West Side Story,” a musical about two teenagers from opposing gangs in New York who fall in love. “It’s an old story, but it’s relatable to now, and the lessons are applicable now,” sophomore Michael Moore said. “It’s a show that needs to be seen and talked about.”



Photo courtesy of lyricopera.org

Students saw “West Side Story” after touring the Lyric Opera House.

Zoology/Botany students get outside experience

Class takes field trip to Oak Ridge Prairie, catalogs insects, birds

Benjamin Wheeler
Reporter

On Thursday afternoon, May 16, students in the Zoology/Botany class visited the Oak Ridge Prairie in Griffith, Indiana where students searched for and cataloged various insects

and birds they had studied in class. Mr. Kevin Haan coordinated the field trip. Upon arrival, one group searched for the types of birds the class had been studying while the other group searched for bugs that they also had been studying. Af-

ter a while each group switched roles. Unfortunately, a half hour before it was time to go, the rain came, forcing students to leave. Junior Megan Wiersema, who went on the field trip, found some worms, a red beetle, and a pillbug. She said, “I had fun and it was worth my while, but it rained, which had to have been the most disappointing

part.” “It’s one thing to talk about [biology] in class, but it’s a whole other thing to see what’s going on outside,” Haan said. “I wanted to take book knowledge and apply it to everyday life.” This was the first such field trip for this particular project, Haan added, and it didn’t go as well as he had hoped because of the rain.

Choosing to live joyfully in the midst of hardships

Over spring break of 2019, I had the amazing opportunity to go to Uganda, a third world country in the center of Africa. During that trip, I served at orphanages, schools, and a pregnancy center, seeing first hand the immense challenges that most Ugandans face, even as young children. I saw the joy in orphans faces as my team and I spent precious moments playing with them. I saw the gratitude on a teacher’s face as she saw her newly painted classroom for the first time.

Kylie Boss
Co-News Editor

I saw street vendors beg me to buy their food, their faces falling when I drove away. I saw great pain overtake a thirteen year old girl’s face as she tried to tell the story of how she was raped by her uncle. She stopped only seconds into telling my team and me because reliving the moments of this event was too much to bear. I saw her hold her small yet pregnant belly as a leader at the pregnancy center finished telling her story. I saw the tears roll down her cheeks.

And then I went home. I went home to my closet full of quality clothes, my room free of mosquito nets, my vanity full of makeup, and my pantry full of food. My shelves are full of books, and my car has a full tank of gas. After my trip to Uganda, I can just go home to peaceful Illinois, or what must seem like paradise to Ugandans. I can return to my plush life while millions of Ugandans still live in poverty, and young girls continue to be raped just by being outside.

I didn’t realize how privileged I was until I visited Uganda. I don’t expect anyone who hasn’t visited a poverty-stricken country to understand what I mean. Before I went to Uganda, I thought I knew what I would be seeing because I had heard what everyone had said about it. I thought I knew how I would feel after going there. Truth is, I’m racked with guilt, not for what I have but for how I act. Guilty that I, an average person, receive blessings upon blessings from God and am constantly ungrateful for those blessings when most Ugandans receive hardships and poverty. Guilty that I am a pessimistic person full of complaints and excuses, and I don’t have joy that I should have for the vast blessings that I receive.

I’m frustrated how the American culture has shaped me to be ungrateful for the things that I have. This culture screams for me to constantly want more, to never be satisfied. It’s a privilege to have clean water. It is a privilege to feel safe in public spaces. It is a privilege to have a constitution that protects against tyranny.

I think we all need to learn from the Ugandan culture. Though they may not have as much stuff as Americans have, they have much greater joy. Joy is a choice, and the Ugandan people choose daily to live a life full of joy. We need to do the same.

Comments from the Class of 2019

Answer key:



PIP: Post-Illiana Plans

SC: Secret Crush

MEM: Most Embarrassing Moment



Lilly Armendariz

PIP: Purdue Northwest, nursing
SC: Colin DeVries, Seth Neumeyer
MEM: Slipping on water during story

Taylor Bapst

PIP: Gap year, then potentially makeup
SC: haha no
MEM: Not having a good time.

Genesis Barlow

PIP: Forensics IUPUI
SC:
MEM: Mom running over my foot

Ronald Bass

PIP: Purdue West Lafayette, cybersecurity
SC:
MEM: English class pre-

sentations

Brittany Benson

PIP: Paul Mitchell Cosmetologist
SC: Matthew Smits, Adam Gibson
MEM: Picture day, forehead burn mark

Briana Besser

Jordan Bivins
PIP: Illinois State
SC: Karlie Detmar, Taylor Olthof, Kacie VanKalker, Leah Davids
MEM: I have no shame.

Sam Boonstra

PIP: Northwestern University, neuroscience
SC: the actress who plays Mike Teavee
MEM: Freshman year and those glasses

Kylie Boss

PIP: Grand Valley State, communications and political science
SC: Hozier

MEM: GO Day, six passengers, cops
Mickey Boss

PIP: Grand Valley State, nursing
SC: Simon Molenaar

MEM: Broke clock by boys basketball
Kade Bouwer

PIP: Calvin
SC: Sofia Gaich
MEM: Busted toilet papering Mr. Zandstra's house

Lawton Bouwer
PIP: Indiana University, finance
SC: Sophie Gaich, obviously

MEM: Domed kid in golf match

match

Seth Bouwer

PIP: Calvin Biochemistry/Biology
SC: Sophie Gaich

MEM:

Morgan Bryant

PIP: Oakwood, forensic psychology
SC: Steveland Stewart, Alex Wondaal

MEM: I don't have one :)

Anna Buiter

Ashley Bultema

PIP: Taking a year off
SC: Justin VanDrunen
MEM: Lost phone, found in pocket

Heidi Bultema

PIP: University of Indianapolis, occupational therapy
SC: Matthew Smits

MEM: Dropped coffee down stairs
Daniel Chandler

PIP: Work
SC: Danielle Deboer

MEM: Freshmen yearbook picture
Ashley Clark

PIP: Hope, business management
SC: Logan Boersma, Adam Gibson, Matthew Smits

MEM: Tripping down chapel stairs
Cherysh Copeland

PIP: SSC, Elementary Education
SC: None

MEM: Alarm going off in class.

Lauren Courtney

PIP: Purdue Northwest, health studies (pre-occupational therapy)
SC: Jay

MEM: "Lauren was not indecisive when..."

Nathan Couser

PIP: Trades

SC: don't have one

MEM: Freshman year, tripped down stairs

Jack Davids

PIP: Purdue Northwest, business management, volleyball
SC: Kristin Bribieska

MEM: Having wet pants

Danielle DeBoer

PIP: Purdue Northwest, accounting
SC: Michael Van Milligan, Matthew Smits

MEM: Running in field for papers.

Colton DeJong

PIP: Dordt, business

SC: Taylor Olthof

MEM: Tripped up the stairs

Kelsie Dericco

PIP: Engineering or business

SC: Kade Bouwer, Mekhi Blossomgame

MEM: Having braces for 4 years

Joah DeVries

PIP: Ball State, computer science

SC: Avery Marie McKnight

MEM: Asked to TWIRP freshman year

Elizabeth DeYoung

PIP: Purdue West Lafayette, engineering

SC: Seth Neumeyer, Andrew Kloosterman

MEM: 6a.m. labs, parked in snow

Jake DeYoung

PIP: Purdue Northwest, engineering

SC:

MEM: Car crash with another student

Jared Disselkoen

PIP: Undecided

SC: N/A

MEM: Hard to say

Abby Duesing

PIP: Purdue Northwest

SC: Luke Haan

MEM: Tripping up the stairs frequently

Katie Dykstra

PIP: Purdue Northwest

SC: No one

MEM: wrong class, freshman year

Abby Ebbens

PIP: Vet Tech

SC: None

MEM: Freshman year - sweatpants EVERY day

Alex Eenigenburg

PIP: Purdue Northwest, undecided

SC: Madison Derks

MEM: Tearing my ACL homecoming game

Justin Foust

PIP: Purdue West Lafayette, game design and development

SC: Olivia DeYoung

MEM: Almost being thrown away





Matt Fulton
PIP: Purdue West Lafayette
SC:
MEM: My love. . .

Sam Gaich
PIP: Ball State, architecture and business
SC: Kylie Martin
MEM: Pooped myself

Raul Garcia
PIP: Purdue Northwest, chemistry
SC: Julia Oostema
MEM: Asked for directions, said “Weast”

Liliana Gerstner
PIP: Indiana University Northwest
SC: Carter Doorn
MEM: Tripping up the stairs

Grant Gibson
PIP: Ball State, actuarial science
SC: Sophie Gaich
MEM: Mailbox plus bike equals oof.

Isaac Gibson
PIP: Purdue West Lafayette
SC: Anna Holleman, Bella Verástegui, Abby Mejan, Clarisa Ayala
MEM: Dropping Jesus in chapel

DJ Gladney
PIP: Baseball
SC: idk
MEM: Nothing to be embarrassed of

Isaac Gomez
PIP: Criminal justice
SC: Sophie Gaich, Bella Verástegui
MEM: Kitchen one lol

Brooke Gossage
PIP: Purdue, animal science and pre-veterinary medicine
SC: That’s funny...
MEM: There was an attempt

Emma Groot
PIP: Ball State, nursing
SC: Matthew Smits
MEM: Baseball decks me while running

Kaley Gutierrez
PIP: Ivy Tech, baking and

pastry arts
SC: none
MEM: Nothing

Luke Haan
PIP: Purdue Northwest, chemical engineering
SC: Leah Davids
MEM: Plowed by seniors in hall

Janae Harris
PIP: College
SC: I have no secret crushes.
MEM: Fell in front of many

Mark Hernandez
Jason Hoeksema
PIP: Purdue Northwest, electrical engineering
SC: Lyla Kooistra
MEM: This isn’t my class

Maddie Holesinger
PIP: Calvin, special education
SC: Brady Vroom, Hayden Podlin
MEM: Gosh, where do I start?

Kharris Hudson
PIP: South Suburban College, X-ray technician, pursue acting
SC: N/A
MEM: fell out of choir chair

Rachel Huisman
PIP: Liberty, nursing
SC: Parker Schutt
MEM: “Hey what’s up you guys”

Ben Ipema
PIP: Purdue Northwest, civil engineering
SC: Sydney DeVries
MEM: Drove with music on roof.

Trent Kamp
PIP: Wander endlessly through Central America
SC: Haleigh Olthof
MEM: Every single day of HS

Isaiah King
Max Klain
PIP: Ball State, computer science, cyber security
SC: DGYK
MEM:



Julia Kooistra
PIP: South Suburban, speech therapy assistant
SC: Ryne Mulder
MEM: Tripping on stairs

Lyla Kooistra
PIP: South Suburban, Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
SC: Seth Neumeyer
MEM: Red lipstick on my pants

Jared Krygsheld
PIP: Railroad
SC: Beau Vroom
MEM: Truck pull in parking lot

Matt Lagestee
PIP: Purdue Northwest, accounting
SC: Maya Ganser, Karli Detmar, Bella Verastegui
MEM: Karate kicked wood, dislocated leg

Hannah Last
PIP: Trinity, elementary education
SC: Simon Molenaar, Jake VanderZee, Maddux Wiersma
MEM: I fell, broke my butt

Mackenzie Lich-Eenigenburg
PIP: Purdue Northwest, bachelor of science in nursing
SC: Eddie Lagestee, Justin Van Drunen
MEM: Getting left at prom.

Xuanzhu Luo

PIP: University of California, economics and accounting
SC: Tim Schaaf
MEM: Ran to stage during Musical

Regan Lyzenga
PIP: Charleston Southern
SC: Adam Gibson
MEM: Ran into teacher lounge door.

Sarah Mapes
PIP: Loyola Chicago, social work
SC: LC chem partner
MEM: Meltdown in geometry

Jada Mcmillian
PIP: Army
SC: Don’t have one
MEM: I dont have one

Mason Mejan
Emma Miedema
PIP: Purdue Northwest, human development and fam-

ily studies
SC: Ethan Reynhout, Matthew Smits, Oliver Postma
MEM: Airballing first three pointer

Brian Mock
PIP: Airballing first three pointer
SC:
MEM: None

Kyle Mulderink
PIP: Tile and countertop fitter
SC: Carlee Faber, Abby Mejan
MEM: Puked on Ms. Johnson

Allison Murrin
PIP: South Suburban, occupational therapy assistant
SC: Trevor Eenigenburg, Matthew Smits, Luke Haan
MEM: Basketball team lost 64-4

Issy Neibert





PIP: Trinity, art and English
SC: Brendon Urie, Cody Husinga, Brenen Kelly, Josh Parodi, and Tim Triezenberg.

MEM: Skirt got stuck in spandex

Haleigh Olthof

PIP: Wheaton, English
SC: Newt Scamander

MEM: Crutches for broken pinky toe

Julia Oostema

PIP: Trinity, biology, medical field

SC:

MEM: Series of parking lot mishaps

Luke Oppenhuis

PIP: North Central, business major, ROTC minor

SC: Val Disselkoon

MEM: Hotel, pantsed by Beecher golf

Joshua Otte

PIP: Indiana University Northwest, business

SC: Mia Resa, Elena Parodi, Marissa Klain

MEM: Reading in class

Austin Parks

PIP: NIU for Nursing (BSN)

SC: Hannah Last

MEM: I forgot my snare drum

Joshua Parodi

PIP: Purdue Northwest, electrical engineering

SC: Gal Gadot

MEM: Saying I'll get a voucher

Cate Peerbolte

PIP: Hope College, Undecided, Running Cross Country

SC: Brady Vroom

MEM: Fainting in chapel sophomore year

Caleb Perez

PIP: Purdue Northwest, computer engineering

SC: Rachel VanderZee

MEM: Every chapel day.

Jacoby Perry

PIP: SouthEast Tech- Electrician

SC: Jacoby Perry, Belcalis Almanzar

MEM: I have too much clout

Kaneisha Perry

PIP: Trinity, social work

and music

SC: Ashton Podlin, Riley Woodward, Matthew Bills, Mark Muta

MEM: Crop dusted Luke Hillegonds

Hannah Persenaire

PIP: Grand Valley State, social work

SC: Johann Sebastian Bach

MEM: Numerous near-faintings

Ashley Pigatti

PIP: Calvin, accounting

SC: Adam Gibson, Matthew Smits, Hayden Podlin

MEM: Trent pulled chair, hit head

Emily Portenga

PIP: Trinity, special education and elementary education

SC: Hayden Podlin, James Vander Molen

MEM: When I got pulled over

Heather Reichert

PIP: Purdue Northwest, business

SC: Lucas Polman

MEM: Curling iron burned marks

Samuel Resa

PIP: St. Joseph Calumet, dietetics

SC: Lexi Terpstra

MEM: Voice cracking during English Speech

Alexander Richard

PIP: Prairie State, criminal justice

SC: Abby Duesing

MEM: Fell while walking upstairs

Aslynn Riemersma

PIP: Purdue Northwest, nursing

SC: Hayden DeYoung, Moses Santos

MEM: Wearing two different shoes

Calie Ritzema

PIP: Trinity, nursing

SC: Adam Gibson, Gerrit Hamstra

MEM: Falling down stairs in commons

Connor Robertson

PIP: Cornerstone, business management

SC: No one

MEM: Never

Andrew Roets

PIP: University of Cape Town, international relations

SC: Jessica Hsu

MEM: Throwing up on the plane

Mia Roth

PIP: Trevecca Nazarene Nashville, music performance (drum set)

SC: Simon Molenaar

MEM: Messing up my cheer position

Lauren Rozendal

PIP: Purdue Northwest, criminal justice

SC: Camden VanBeek

MEM: Got cut from volleyball twice

Tori Ruffolo

PIP: Moody Bible Institute, education

SC: No one

MEM: Chemistry lab fail

Summer Ruiter

PIP: Liberty, education and social sciences

SC: Mikey Moore

MEM: Cough attack Bible presentations

Kyann Rule

PIP: Moraine Valley Community College, Business Marketing

SC:

MEM: Fell up stairs sophomore year

Corey Schoon

PIP: Universal Technical Institute, auto technician

SC: Danielle DeBoer

MEM: ARC floor legacy

Riley Schutt

PIP: IUPUI

SC:

MEM: Shared fruit snacks = Saturday school

Isaac Sikma

PIP: Purdue Northwest, computer engineering

SC: Hannah Last

MEM: Yabba dabba doo

Angel Silva

PIP: Work

SC: Genesis Barlow

MEM: Sophomore year Bible class

Emma Slings

PIP: Calvin

SC: Adam Gibson

MEM: Bad soccer picture being spread

Hayley Smit

PIP: Calvin, elementary education

SC: Adam Gibson

MEM: Just ask girls' basketball team

Andrew Smits

PIP: Purdue West Lafayette, landscape architecture

SC: Sophie Gaich





MEM: Breaking my arm at tryouts
Katie Stegena
PIP: University of Illinois Chicago, chemistry
SC: Who knows
MEM: Literally every day
Abby Tillema
PIP: Trinity, communication arts
SC: Ben Wiersema
MEM: Fell up stairs, skinned knee
Natalie Togtman
PIP: Fox, veterinary technician
SC: Big Sean
MEM: Every moment of high school
Parish Townes
PIP: Concordia University Chicago
SC: Taylor Bapst, Kelsie Derico
MEM: Something with a “bed”
Tim Triezenberg
PIP: Purdue Northwest, graphic design
SC: Summer Ruiter
MEM: Erin
James VanderMolen
PIP: Gap year
SC: Taylor Olthof
MEM: Every moment was
Alec VanderZee
PIP: Valparaiso, physician’s university
SC: Mia Resa
MEM: Voice crack in English
Dylan VanDrunen
PIP: Purdue Northwest, business
SC: I will keep that to myself
MEM: I have no clue

Liz VanDrunen
PIP: Texas Christian, business
SC: Trevor Eenigenburg
MEM: Pantsed by Emma Groot
Michael VanMilligan
PIP: Purdue West Lafayette, computer engineering
SC:
MEM: Sophomore English speech
Amber Voss
PIP: Purdue Northwest, criminal justice
SC: Joshua Maticcik
MEM: Freshman year entirely
Beau Vroom
PIP: Calvin, business/accounting
SC: Leah Davids, Taylor Oppenhuys, Sofie Gaich

MEM: ILLIANA SWIM TEAM
Annie Weemhoff
PIP: Calvin, speech pathology
SC: Adam Gibson, Ben Bryan, Josue Sanchez
MEM: Kuips yelling at me
Maddie Wegner
PIP: Calvin, occupational therapy
SC: Matthew Smits, Cole Rappold
MEM: Spilled nail polish in backpack
Emma Wheeler
PIP: Boyce, global management
SC: Trey Giroliman, Ben Bryant, Ben Jania
MEM: Locker room, bread dance injury
Ben Wiersema

PIP: Purdue Northwest, student counseling, acting outside of college
SC: The collected group of DGYK
MEM: Eating that Habanero pepper...
Benjamin Winn
Seth Witham
PIP: Olivet Nazarene, zoology
SC: Sarah Mapes
MEM: Ripped my pants on campus
Alex Wondaal
PIP: Cedarville, undecided
SC: Sophie Gaich
MEM: Dumped over text (CCHS girl)
Erin Yonkman
PIP: Valparaiso, German
SC: Matthew Smits, Cody Huisenga

Learning not to sweat the little things

I got my first speeding ticket earlier this month. To set the scene, I was driving down I-65 minding my own business, going 95 mph, when a very nice man in front of me switched lanes to let me pass, or so I thought. Turns out that “nice man” was an undercover police-

man. Wonderful. Many friends know 95 mph isn’t even that bad for me, for some would even be proud of me and my controlled speed, but sadly the officer didn’t seem to agree.



Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

There was no way for me to try to get out of the ticket. I can’t cry on demand like most girls my age and I couldn’t muster up a single excuse for my “reckless” driving. Looking back on the situation I could’ve used the classic family member in the hospital excuse or the late for my flight one. However, in the moment, my mind was filled with only one thing: my mother.

I was dead; deceased; done for. My short life flashed before my eyes and I knew that wouldn’t live to walk across the graduation stage.

There went all my dreams for the future -- gone. Once my mom found out about the ticket my life would be over.

Coincidentally, I had been driving down to my brother’s graduation where I would sit next to my mother for a three hour ceremony.

I sat there planning out how and when I would tell her about ticket. Should I spring it on her to surprise her? Should I wait until she is in the midst of doing something else so she’s confused?

The moment came, it just me and her in the kitchen, and I knew I had to do it. I mustered up all my courage and blurted out the news as fast as I could, held my breath and waited for the black lash.

All she said, “Well I knew it would happen eventually,” and walked away. Out of the hundreds of scenarios that ran through my mind of how my mother would react, I can honestly say this was not one of them.

It wasn’t til days later that the whole situation actually made sense. All through high school I have spent hours worrying about little things that looking back I shouldn’t have: the bad hair days, what outfit to wear, plans for dances, friends angry at other friends, track races, speeding tickets, etc.

In all of those cases, and many more, it took me until the end of my senior year to realize that those trivial things always ended working out in the end. Yes, In the midst of those things, it was hard and, looking back, I always put too much stress on the little things in life.

This year I’ve learned to spend less time worrying about things and more time enjoying the parts of life that are going good. I’ve tried to adopt a positive a outlook on life. If a track meet goes until ten at night, then it means spending more time with friends. If my friends are fighting, it means more coffee dates after school. If I get a speeding ticket, I have a new story to tell.



Not apologizing for learning from mistakes

On behalf of all totally, depraved, flawed, broken, humans, I'm not sorry that we make mistakes. Why apologize for something you can't control? If my high school life were a world-renowned novel, then Mr. DeVries would probably tell his class that the central theme of my book is that mistakes are inevitable, so use them to better yourself and others.

Let's answer the obvious question running through your head right now: why is Grant so accepting of his mistakes?

Well, to start, I know that it's impossible not to make them. If someone made

no mistakes throughout his lifetime, I would probably worship him (cf. Jesus). So, I accept that people will make mistakes, so I aim to make one mistake per activity I try. This is the baseline, the "meets expectations" of my own standards. And achieving that goal makes me happy with myself.

Two mistakes, however, is too much for me. The whole point of mistakes, I hope everyone knows, is to learn from them. So if I make two mistakes, it means that I didn't learn from my first one.

However, if I do end up making multiple mistakes, the best part is that the consequences stack up and get bigger. When you forget a negative sign while balancing an equation for the first time, that's an understandable and acceptable mistake. But when your math teacher marks you off for the twentieth time for leaving a sign change out of the equation, it should trigger this odd feeling, a combination of guilt and sudden motivation. That sense of urgency alerts us, inspires us to right a wrong, to fix what's broken.

To recap, if my expectations are too high, then I'd be stuck in perpetual self-hate, because I realistically couldn't not make mistakes. If my expectations are too low, then at least the consequences provide me with an increasing opportunity to fix my action and learn from my mistake.

However, you might be now making the argument: But you can learn from other people's mistakes, Grant! Well, yeah, you can! Good for you. But some (like me) aren't wired that way; unless the lesson is painstakingly obvious, I can have a hard time learning from someone else's error. Now, since no complete advice column comes without real-life examples, I'll let you learn from a few of mine:

During a few cross country races one season, I wore socks that gave me large blisters... and I wore them twice in a row, which set me back and forced me to run without shoes for a few days. Following that injury, I learned my lesson. Turning in our junior paper over two weeks late and scoring a percentage close to my ACT score? Not this year. (Seriously, never again.)

I enjoy letting others learn from my mistakes, which brings me to my third and final point: I love to bring happiness to other lives by making jokes out of mine. Making people laugh has always been one of my top goals, and I'm glad that I am thick-skinned enough to make fun of myself without repercussions. My mistakes are simply cannon fodder for my tongue to use and use again, slinging them into witty one-liners, random anecdotes, or pages-long testimonies.

Mistakes are meant to be made; it is how you deal with and grow from them that make them beneficial. I had one more thing to say, but since I haven't learned to finish my assignments on time yet (I'm sorry Mr. Lagerwey), that'll have to wait until I learn from my mistake.



Grant Gibson
Co-Feature Editor



Heidi Wicklund sits with infant Lauren Wicklund in the hospital.

Photo courtesy of Lauren Wicklund

Finding joy in midst of surgery, pain

Nina Verhagen
Reporter

Living each day with a grateful attitude can be difficult for many, but remarkably it comes naturally to sophomore Lauren Wicklund, who lives every day with a heightened chance of something going wrong with her health.

Although her doctors say she is well, at any moment her heart could fail her. Lauren was born with Tricuspid Atresia, a heart defect in which the tricuspid heart valve is missing.

Lauren was born January 14, 2003. She was purple and blue, and immediately after her birth she had to be rushed away from parents, Heidi and Peter Wicklund.

"They took her right after I gave birth. I couldn't hold her like a normal mom would be able to; I just barely touched her hand, and then they took her," said Heidi.

At just three days old, Lauren was brought into open heart surgery where a connection between the arteries to the body and the arteries to the lungs were made. Lauren had to stay in the hospital for two months afterward until the doctors said it would be safe for her to go home. Even though they released her to go

home, Lauren's heart was still weak and needed constant monitoring.

At only six months old Lauren had to have another surgery and a third when she was almost three years old, both to make further corrections to her heart. Little did she know she would have many more to come. Years later on the fourth of July, Lauren's dad went to give Lauren a hug when he noticed a bump on her back.

Both parents assumed it was nothing but a small injury from playing, but Lauren's mom called the doctor just in case.

"I just barely touched her hand and then they took her."

Heidi said, "I called her doctor and he had us come in on a Sunday which usually doctors don't do, and he just said, 'She has scoliosis.' So we had to go see another doctor in Chicago, and he wanted to treat it with a back brace."

Doctors attempted to correct the spine with the use of a back brace for almost two years but treatment proved it to

be unsuccessful. Lauren then became a candidate for surgery. Although the surgery to correct her scoliosis would be dangerous Lauren and her family decided it was necessary.

Lauren said, "I was always nervous but I never stopped trusting in God. I knew he had a plan for me. I've always said that everyone has a journey. Mine just started earlier."

Many of Lauren's family members and classmates prayed for her throughout the entire process. At only 11 years old Lauren was wheeled in for her fourth

school. She always had a smile on her face and was so excited to see us. She never complained. She just was excited that it went well and she would tell us about all the plans she had for herself when she was fully healed."

Since that time Lauren has had other less dangerous surgeries including cardio cath. In total Lauren has had five major surgeries and seven cardiac cath. One of her five major surgeries was for her knee.

All her ailments were unrelated and not genetic, making her case rather unusual. Lauren will also be having a sixth major surgery in the near future to remove her gallbladder. Through all these medical trials, Lauren has kept a positive attitude and continues to trust that God has a purpose for her.

Now Lauren dedicates one Saturday each month to talk with other kids going through similar situations. Lauren said, "I embrace who I am. I'm different. I'm unique, and even though I have some bad days, I always remember God has a plan for me and I hope I can make them feel that way too. I want to be there to answer any of the questions the kids have since I've gone through it and I had those same questions."

major surgery. It took eight hours to complete.

Surgery was successful although Lauren's recovery would prove to be long and difficult. First she went through a fever and was confined to bed as her body took time to adapt to the rods put in her back.

A close friend of Lauren's, Julia Lyzenga said, "We used to FaceTime her because she had to miss a few days of

Easy to maintain plants, flowers for any space

Indoor plants for health, beauty



Spider plant in front of window

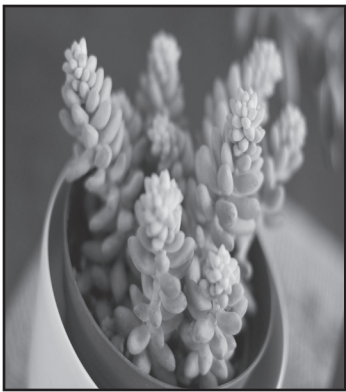
Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief

Spider plants

Spider plants are ideal for new gardeners. They are not only easy to grow, but they are also easily propagated. Spider plants are perfect for your kitchen, adding a touch of color and a feeling of hominess. They grow best in indirect light and well-drained soil.

Succulents

Succulents come in a variety, all with unique colors and specific structures. Succulents are great for those who don't have the green thumb. They are easy to grow and need very little water. They do, however, need a lot of sun. Succulents grow best with perlite and well drained potting mix. Aloe plants, a specific kind of succulent, are medicinal, their oils perfect for putting on burns, bruises, and sores. These are perfect plants for windowsills and desks.



A succulent plant



Croton plant
Crotons

Crotons are funky plants with varying shapes and colors. With smooth edged leaves and splashes of red, yellow and orange, these plants bring vibrancy to any room. Crotons like to live in the same spot, so don't be surprised if some leaves fall off after first bringing it home. Water Crotons thoroughly only when the top soil is dry.

Greatest things are typically unexpected

When I was signing up for my classes for sophomore year, I signed up for a course called "Journalism," which I imagined to be another form of a creative writing class. On that first day of school when Mr.DeVries had said that we would be writing for the newspaper I had two thoughts: "We have a school newspaper?" and "I'm definitely going to drop this!"



Natalie Togtman
Arts Editor

Immediately after the period ended I hurried to Mr.Zandstra's office and said, "I need to drop Journalism." However, Mr.Zandstra did not let

me drop journalism but rather encouraged me to keep taking the class. In that moment I was disappointed, but now I'm beyond thankful I wasn't able to leave.

Throughout that year I began to love writing for the newspaper and love the people I was able to learn with. I liked it so much I even continued with it my junior and senior year. Today, journalism, while being my most stressful class at times, is probably the greatest class that I have.

Journalism not only taught me how to be a better writer, but it also taught me lessons that I will cherish forever.

The first lesson I was taught was to believe in myself. The first time I handed in an assignment I handed it in with confidence in the fact that it was so terrible Mr.DeVries was going to kick me out of the class. Thankfully, that didn't happen. Over that first year in class my confidence began to grow slowly but sure. By my junior year I began to understand that even if I wasn't the best writer in the class, that didn't make me a terrible writer. I had to learn that just because someone else could do something better than me, doesn't mean that I can't do it at all.

Next, I learned to use my voice. This may come as a shock but at one point in my life I was scared to have an opinion that could be considered "controversial," or just an opinion that was different. Last year, I was able to write a column about why I believed arming teachers with guns was a bad idea. That was the first time that I remember feeling passionate about something that seemed to matter and the newspaper seemed like the perfect way to express that. After that column was published it almost became easy to use my voice to talk about stuff that mattered to me. Now, whether it be on social media or the school newspaper, I'm not afraid to use my voice to call attention to things that I think need to be changed in our society.

Taking this class has brought me new friends, lots of laughs, and a sense of belonging. I will forever be thankful for the lessons this class has taught me and the people I was able to make this paper with.



Black Eyed Susan



Hanging baskets

Easy outdoor plants for texture, color

Kylie Boss
Co-News Editor

Cintronella

The Citronella plant is a unique species. This highly desired plant is rumored to keep mosquitos away because of its citrusy scent, but most of this is just rumor. People still enjoy this plant because of the highly enjoyable smell. Citronella grows only 2-4 feet high and branches out in green bushy sections. It can grow in a wide variety of soils and requires about six hours of sunlight a day. It should be taken inside for the winter.



Citronella plant in a pot.

Flowers give color, attract wildlife

Natalie Togtman
Arts Editor

Annuals

Annual plants die but while they are alive they are fairly easy to maintain. A common type of annual are morning glories. Morning glories are colorful which make them appealing to look at. Morning glories require a lot of water, but do not require any dividing or pruning like many plants. However, morning glories are known for spreading across the garden.

Hanging baskets

Hanging baskets are easy "mini-gardents" for beginner gardeners. There are many options to choose from such Fuchsias and Begonias which are partial sun to shade plants. There are also options for plants that do best in the sun such as Calibrachoa and Petunias. These plants require lots of water, and to be rotated frequently.

Perennials

Perennials will die in the winter but the roots will remain alive and grow back in the spring. A common type of Perennial is the Black Eyed Susan. Black Eyed Susans need to be watered only when the top soil feels dry. It's important to cut away faded/dead flowers to be able to lengthen the blooming.



Wandering Jew plant on wall

Wandering Jews

The Wandering Jews plant is a lush, emerald green to purple plant that adds cool color to any landscape. Its ivy-like features add a tropical feel to any hanging basket or garden. Wandering Jews are also an easy plant to take care of, for they can survive with little maintenance or care. They only need to be watered when the soil is very dry to the touch. Because Wandering Jews like warm temperatures and high humidity, summer is the best season for them. They survive best in shade to partial sun.

'Purple Pixie' Loropetalum

'Purple Pixie' Weeping Loropetalum is a beautiful plant that resembles a fern. Its vibrant purple color makes it stand out in any landscape. The plant grows 1-2 feet high, and its weeping habit allows the plant to spread out 4-5 feet wide. The does best in full sunlight but can tolerate light shade. The soil also needs to be moist but not waterlogged.



Purple Pixie Loropetalum

Pushing through difficult trials to find better versions of us

Am I the only person in the world that absolutely hates haircuts?

The whole process is just terrible. It all begins with the realization (or a snarky comment by a brother) that I indeed need a haircut. I probably needed one a few weeks ago, but I have been procrastinating, hoping that the world goes into anarchy and haircuts will become a relic of civilization that suddenly seems unimportant.

As I ride to Great Clips all I can think of is a stranger taking jabs at my head with a very sharp, possibly deadly, tool. All it takes is one wrong head twitch and I'm a goner. One small snuffle is all it might take to have a scissors a few inches deep in my head.

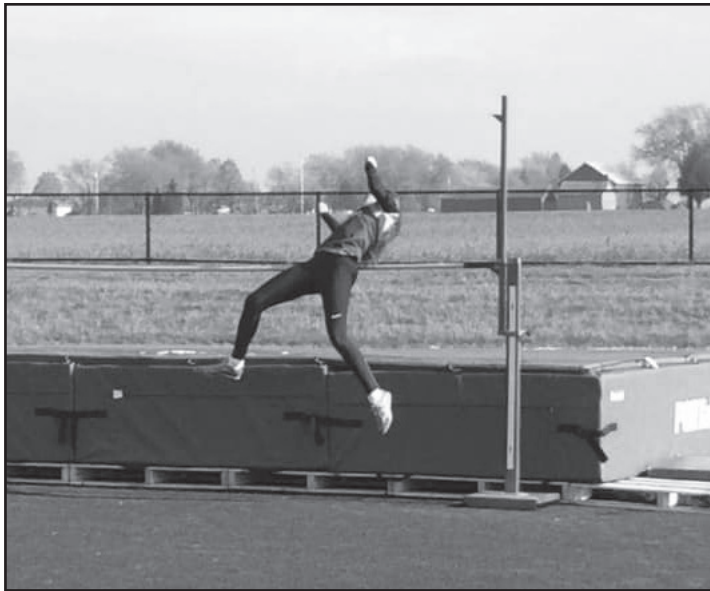
There is also the possibility that my hair is butchered. In the moment before the haircut, I feel like the chances of me coming out with a bowl-cut is greater than the chance of me coming out with what I actually want.

Don't even get me started on the lines I have to endure. Why does the whole Chicagoland region want a haircut the same time I do? The scandalously long wait in the line only increases the fears already swirling in my mind. When I hear my name called, chills run down my spine. My only comfort is that the pain of a terrible haircut barely lasts for a month or two. I feel like a lamb being led to the slaughter as I walk towards my chair.

Despite my suffocating fear of a bad haircut experience, most of the time, my hair cut comes out fine. All of the fear and anxiety floats away and in comes a feeling of joy from surviving this traumatic experience and the exuberance of having nicely trimmed hair, but by the next time I need a haircut, the fear comes back. The cycle never ends.

Unfortunately for me, I treat a lot of other things in life like I treat haircuts. We know in the back of our heads that we should probably go do something, but the possible pain or disadvantages of doing it make us hesitant. Take studying, for example. No one really wants to study because it takes a lot of work and isn't very fun or pleasant, but the reward that comes from it usually far outweighs the negative experience. Still I find myself sometimes skipping out on studying (or completely forgetting I had a quiz the next day).

Pushing through the possible pain and hard work is sometimes necessary in order for us to grow into better people. It is easy to avoid these experiences entirely, but we only avoid potential character building and growth as a person. Crossroads will arise in our lives when we must choose to whether to take the potentially difficult and painful road to personal growth or turn back. I hope that we can make the tough decision to push forward towards better versions of ourselves.



Sophomore Kate Ohm attempts the high jump.

Photo by Deb Kamp



Runners set before starting the 4x800 relay.

Photo by Deb Kamp

Illiana hosts first ever track meet

Kade Bouwer
Co-Sports Editor

For the first time in Illiana's long, storied history, Illiana hosted a meet for track and field on May 6. At the old campus, it was impossible to host a meet because the old campus had no room for a track.

Athletic director Deb Kamp said, "Based on what our goals were, [the track meet] was successful. Our goals were not to start off at the top with a huge sixteen school invitational.... It was more of a celebration of what the community did for our school."

The teams invited to Illiana's first meet were Chicago Christian High School and Covenant Christian High School. Although no one kept score, multiple Illiana track members said they would have won if they had kept score.

Freshman Brady Vroom said, "It was a low-key meet, so it wasn't like a big deal

[we didn't keep score.] I wish we did placements, but it wasn't that big of deal really. It wouldn't have been nice [to keep score], but what can you do.

Although there were no medals, a catering company, Tandem 23, had a food truck at the track meet. Along with

the food truck, admission was free at this event, giving the fans a "fan first" atmosphere.

Looking into the future, the track and field program expects to continue to host this meet, potentially expanding it to more schools closer to campus.

Vroom said, "They plan on expanding it to more schools, so I am looking forward to that next year. I am excited for the future."

According to Kamp, the athletic department is also looking into the possibility of hosting invitationals in other sports in future years.



Photo by Deb Kamp

The catering company, Tandem 23, sets up shop near Illiana's track. Tandem 23 specializes in barbeque.

Boys golf goes undefeated

Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

The Illiana boys golf team finished its season on Friday, May 24 by winning its match against Marquette Catholic High School at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course.

Sophomore Justin Van Drunen said, "Overall we had a pretty dominant season. Varsity and JV both had winning seasons. However, the weather was a big obstacle. Many matches were canceled along with practices. Also, once conference [play] started for the other schools they no longer wanted to play us or make up any matches which shortens

our season."

Senior Parish Townes said, "The team is losing the best players, everyone who shots under a forty-five, so next year's players are going to have to go out and practice on their own if they want to do well."

Consistently, the top five scorers for the team have been seniors Kade Bouwer, Lawton Bouwer, Seth Bouwer, Matt Lagestee and Parish Townes.

Van Drunen said, "Next season we need to work on rebuilding. This was one of Illiana's best golf teams ever to see the course. We face trying to [get over] the bar they set for next year."



Photo by Michelle Bouwer

Senior Kade Bouwer hits a bunker shot during the Western Michigan Christian Invitational. The two-man team of Bouwer and junior Lance Mulderink would go on to place third with a 78.

Girls tennis impresses despite short season

Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief

The girls tennis season came to a close on Thursday, May 9 with a win for the Illiana team against River Forest. Even though Illiana only played 9 matches compared to the normal twenty some matches, Illiana played well and improved throughout the season. The fewer number of matches was not only due to moving state lines, but also because of rain outs.

“Plus, we are just getting to know teams and find out who is interested in playing us,” said coach, Mr. Rob Lagerwey. “[The number of games] will increase next year and again the year after that. Another thing is we don’t know the levels of all the other teams or how they play.”

Head to head, the team was 5 and 2, meaning non tournament play. During the season, Kankakee’s courts were getting redone, so Illiana allowed them to host their tournament at our courts. Illiana placed second in that tournament. As the season digressed, the teams’ skills improved and so did their team chemistry.

“I think we all improved with our skills overall,” said senior Heidi Bultema. “Specifically [I improved] on thinking before I hit it. I knew where it was going to land instead of just hitting it.”

Lagerwey talking about team improvements said, “I think the biggest improvement was in doubles. It’s hard to get the girls to be aggressive especially at the net and not to play it too safe all the time. And then in singles, to have longer rallys and be more consistent.”



Photo courtesy of Illiana’s Facebook

The softball team celebrates after defending its home field. The Vikings won 11-0.

Softball swings, misses in first season in Indiana

Haleigh Olthof
Co-News Editor

With many games cancelled due to rain, the varsity softball team finished with a 3-6 record.

“We all clicked really well and got along,” said senior Lauren Rozendal, especially as the team worked to grow their chemistry and build the confidence of the

four freshmen on the varsity team. Junior Kacie VanKalker agreed that as the freshmen grew more comfortable with playing on varsity, the team’s overall communication improved.

“The games we did play, we all played with our whole heart,” said VanKalker. “We all knew what we needed to bring to the team.... We all had a job to play,

and we played that job.” JV finished with a 1-6 record, winning the first ever game on Illiana’s new softball field. According to freshman Olivia Wegner, the JV could have won more games if they had worked better as a team.

Junior Cassidy Derks said the season was an improvement from last year, with better fielding and more experienced players.

Boys volleyball team exceeds goals makes it to Regional semi-finals

Alex Wondaal
Co-Editor in Chief

The boys volleyball team capped a successful season with a 2nd place finish in their Indiana Boys Volleyball Club Association (IBVCA) Regionals.

Head coach Dave Bosman called the team “One of my best groups yet. All 12 players contributed every game, which was

needed since Indiana requires a best ⅔ to win as opposed to Indiana’s ⅔ wins rule.”

The boys ended the season with a 14-11 record including a heroic road victory over Chicago Christian and a tough loss to Timothy Christian.

According to junior Max Wegner, the team started this season playing at the same level as at the end of last season’s, and

it only improved. For senior captain Mark Hernandez, a 6’7½” left side starter, the season didn’t end after Regionals. Because Illiana took second place in the regional tournament, Hernandez qualified for the IBVCA volleyball all-stars.

“It was a great experience to play with all those talented players,” said Hernandez.

Boys baseball disappoints throughout season

Cate Peerbolte
Co-Sports Editor

The boys baseball team had an unfortunate season, posting a 4-12 record. Senior Kyle Mulderink said, “We had lots of tough competition this season. But we also lost a lot of games that we should have won.”

Junior Tavares VanKui-

ken said, “We had very good competition this year. We faced the number one team in Illinois and some very high ranked teams in Indiana. But not being in a conference was the worst part of the season.”

The boys fought through the rainy spring but could never seem to get on top of their game. VanKuiken said, “We had

solid pitching and our defense was on point, but our overall hitting and base running needs improvement.”

Mulderink said, “The best part of the season was playing at the Railcats stadium. We had good competition that game and everyone played well. It was fun to play in the big stadium.”

Finding community, support in Illiana running teams

If you know me at all, you probably know that I’m a runner. But calling myself a runner sounds strange to me because I’m not a marathon runner, or an adult running 5ks. I’m a girl whose been blessed to do what I love for the past ten years. And I’m extremely blessed to have fallen into the Illiana running community.

Illiana’s running community is the strongest community I’ve been part of. Looking back all the time I’ve spent and memories I’ve made, my heart overflows. From an eighth grade girl sprinting across an ultimate frisbee field at a summer run,



Cate Peerbolte
Co-Sports Editor

to tonight - a senior girl sprinting across the flicker ball field at my last track practice, I’m so thankful for the sport and team that has been a constant in my life for the past four years. Despite each year having its own ups and downs of injuries, personal success, and team chemistry, it’s been an experience I’ll never forget.

The first day of summer practice at Coach Pi’s house I walked into his backyard following my brother, unsure of what lay behind the huge bushes. I found a deck full of shirtless boys in short shorts and a very green pool. I was unsure of which unsettled me most. Probably the pool. It was quite green and didn’t smile at me like the boys did. Before I knew it, we were running and with a jolt of adrenaline I felt surprisingly calm. The team was the most welcoming group of people who were truly happy to be with each other, even when the running became long and hard. Since that day I went to every summer practice I possibly could.

Through this supportive community of teammates, alumni, coaches, and parents I have not only been accepted, but encouraged, to be myself. I was encouraged to keep coming to practices even when I was the only girl. I was supported through setbacks and success. I was challenged to run faster, not for myself, or for the team, but to honor the Lord.

Over the past four years I have learned what it is to truly run my own race. I have learned that hard work doesn’t always reap the results you want, but giving it your all is always worthwhile. I’ve learned to move past failures, and to let the bad days go. I’ve learned that races will always hurt but also how to get past that discomfort.

I would like to say thank you to every teammate who has seen the best in me when I couldn’t. To every coach who has invested their time into me. To every parent who has provided a pool, food, and encouragement along the way. This community has impacted me in more ways than I can express. Being a part of it has been the highlight of my years at Illiana, and I only have you, Illiana running teams, to thank for that.

Male Athlete of the Month

Senior Beau Vroom has been a staple of the baseball program for all of his four years at Illiana. In his limited action this year, Vroom has been extremely effective, owning a .482 on base percentage. As well as being an offensive threat, he fills a leadership void on the team.

Senior Colton DeJong said, “Beau gets everyone hyped up. He gets us ready for the games. Before the game and in the dugout he is always excited even when he is not playing, but when he does get out there, he does his best and makes very good contributions at first base.



Female Athlete of the Month

For four years, senior Liz VanDrunen has been an integral piece of the success of girls track and field. In this season alone, she has won Player of the Year and MVP for their team. Not only does VanDrunen excel on the track, but she also exemplifies hard work for all of the other girls in the program

Senior Emma Groot said, “I remember her sophomore year [when] she wanted to get her blocks really well, so she would be at school for an hour after practice when nobody knew about it. She would work with the coaches and she would also even work out after practice.”

Editorial

People with disabilities don't need our pity

Most of us at Illiana can walk, talk, eat, read, and write without help, but we know that there are others who don't have these same abilities. When we think of people with disabilities, does it make us sad? Do we pity them? Pity is a natural human reaction to seeing someone in need, but maybe we need to rethink how we think about people with disabilities.

People with disabilities certainly face daily and long-term challenges that most of us couldn't imagine, but having a hard life isn't necessarily tragic. Challenges can actually be the driving force of personal growth: no one becomes a better person by living an easy life. Moreover, our shortcomings allow God to be glorified through us: God tells us in 2 Corinthians 12, "My power is made perfect in weakness," so Paul says he "will boast all the more gladly about [his] weakness."

But pity assumes that someone else's weakness makes them more deserving of sympathy than us, more

deserving because we think they clearly have less value. It's reminiscent of the Pharisee at the temple in Jesus' parable, praying, "Thank you God that I'm not like this poor sap." Pity implies superiority. Yet as Christians we know that all people have value because they are made in God's image. Regardless of physical or mental cap-

to adopt this attitude towards disabled people who we know will always be disabled. We see no hope for their situation, so we get stuck in pitying them.

Pity alone changes nothing, but an attitude of pity is not entirely hopeless, as, from the right perspective, it can drive us to action. "Positive pity says 'this person

kingdom who themselves have something to offer to us and to others.

Ultimately, these attitudes can and should replace our pity for disabled people. But these attitudes take a little more time and effort than just feeling sorry for someone. They require seeking relationships with people who are different from us, who may be hard to understand.

Even more difficult, seeing people with disabilities as friends and fellow laborers requires a humility most of us don't possess. We need to recognize that any physical and intellectual abilities we have are a gift from God meant to be used and celebrated for the benefit of others. We did nothing to create or deserve such gifts, so we have no reason to boast. When we truly realize that fact, our views on people with disabilities will change profoundly. God has made each of us with intention, and it is he who equips us to serve him in different capacities as he sees fit.

Regardless of physical or mental capabilities, none of us can claim to be above another.

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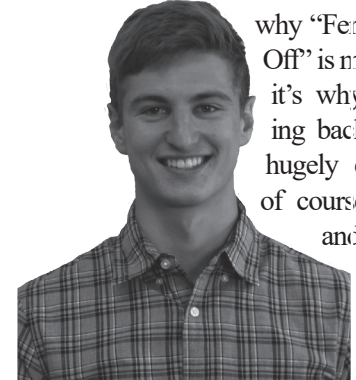
Our pity is not only belittling, it's also useless. Pity itself does nothing to help the person we perceive to be struggling. According to the5stages.com, a site run by Elim Christian Services, "Negative pity is cyclical-you never do anything but wallow in an attitude of pity because you cannot see beyond it." It is all too easy

needs something other than my feeling sorry, this person needs mercy, needs friendship, needs opportunity." Pity, the second of Elim's five stages of changing attitudes towards people with disabilities, can lead us to care about and serve people with disabilities. After that, we can move towards befriending those with disabilities and viewing them as fellow laborers for Christ's

True rebellion only found in Christ

I've always loved rock music. The energetic, distorted guitar notes. The over-the-top drumming. The singing that inevitably leads to belting out which inevitably leads to screaming.

But more than anything, it's the take nothing from no one attitude. There's something attractive about rebellion. It's



Alex Wondaal

Co-Editor in Chief

why "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" is my favorite movie, it's why a student talking back to a teacher is hugely entertaining, and of course, it's why rock and roll still blasts through the airwaves decades after the genre's heyday.

But scripture is pretty clear about rebellion. I could show a dozen verses about it but I'll just summarize my scholarly findings about rebellion: rebellion bad, obedience good. Therefore, any urge to live a rebellious life should be fully oppressed. The Christian life is about shutting up and getting in line.

So I thought, before my time in this very weird place called Illiana, which for me was a sweaty pilgrimage of my Dutch family's traditions through a run down shack in Lansing, and now a new venture through a state-of-the-art building in Wherethecrapsville, Indiana. (Well, that's not the name of the town but no one's really sure if it's Saint John or Dyer so I'm going to go with that.) I've learned many lessons here, but the most important lesson is that true rebellion is obedience to Christ. True rebellion is Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."

Thanks to Illiana, I've gained a solid understanding of what it means to be in the world but not of it, to rebel from modernity, debauchery, love of money, both hatred and obsession with self, and the patterns of this world. If there has been one motif that seems to follow through just about every class, every chapel, and every morning devotional, it's that we need to bring God's kingdom to the world while simultaneously rejecting its dirty, fleshy, deadly patterns.

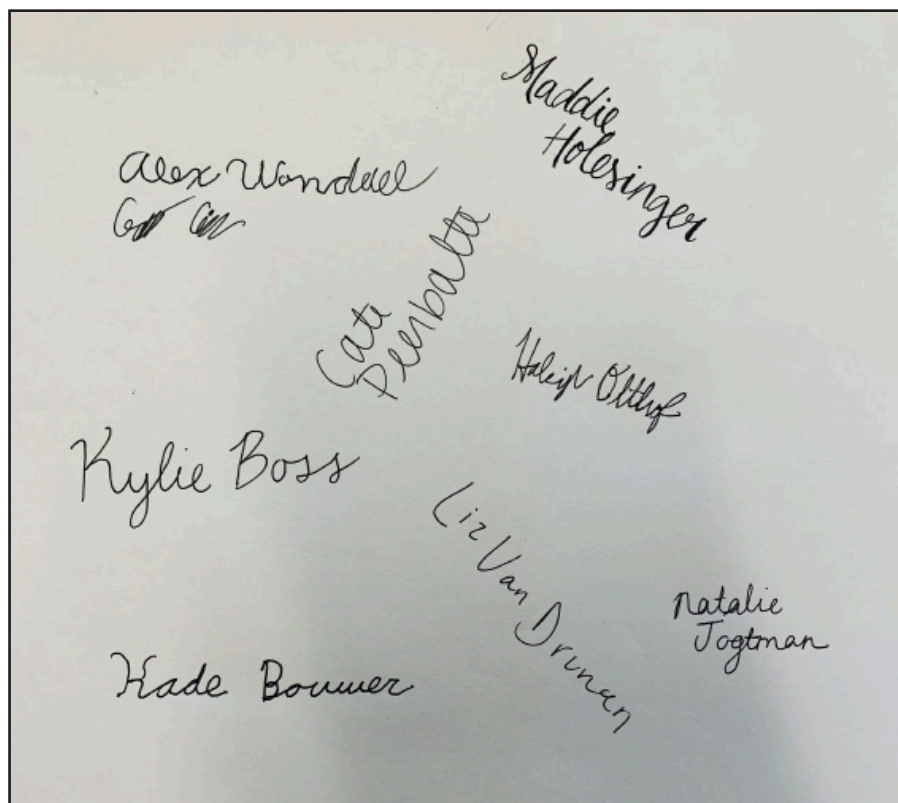
It's one of many paradoxes of the Christian life, much like "for when I am weak, then I am strong": when I am obedient, then I am rebellious. Worldly rebellion almost always becomes accepted, then encouraged, and finally, just plain boring. The rebellion marketed in the sex, drugs, and rock and roll lifestyle has become pretty mainstream outside of this community. But here are some lyrics, (not from a rock song) that are actually rebellious and that will remain rebellious:

*On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand*

I'm not claiming to have mastered this whole Christian rebellion thing, obviously. I still fall short of the glory of God. I'm actually typing out this column in detention right now. However, I have a solid understanding of Christian rebellion thanks to Illiana.

There are a lot of things that have ticked me off about this place. I didn't like how my class and probably many classes behind me lost the chance to compete in postseason athletics. I didn't like how we apparently decided shop classes are expendable. And of course, I didn't like how we spent thousands of dollars to erect a silly rock when our school is in debt and our teachers are underpaid. However, Illiana has taught me, my fellow students, and many students before me what it means to be rebels for Christ. As long as that tradition continues, all my grievances are small potatoes.

Senior Editors Sign Out



Thank you to our faithful readers. You've driven our passion and validated our hard work. We hope you continue to read The Echo for years to come; we know we will!

-The Echo Staff

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

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