

Do our scavenger
hunt on page 5 for a
\$20
Prize!



Photo courtesy of dansdeals.com

the Echo)))

Some former
faculty athletes
on page 6 may
surprise you!

Photo courtesy of
Kara Terpstra



Illiana Christian High School

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Lansing, Illinois

Seniors bond on monumental trip

Riley Goodwin
Co-News Editor

A little after 6:30 PM on Oct. 17, the senior class departed from Illiana to Washington D.C. for their class trip. Although uncomfortable, the bus ride to D.C. held moments the class will cherish for years to come. The journey consisted of storytelling, laughing, karaokeing, and stepping over other students who claimed their territory in the middle aisle. Due to lack of sleep, the first

day seemed to be the longest as students visited several memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, WWII Memorial, Korean War Memorial, and several others. Day two was packed just as heavily with adventure as students traveled to Mount Vernon, Old Town Alexandria, Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, and the Capitol building. Every year, the senior class chooses four students to represent Illiana in a wreath laying ceremony at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. This year, Illiana chose Paul Kamp, Jordan Miller, Karli Petrarca, and Emma West did the honors. “Laying the wreath was the most amazing experience,” said West. “It meant

so much to me to be chosen by my classmates and was such an honor to represent our class to those who have given their lives for our country.” Students shared favorite moments, often through laughter. Petrarca said, “When we were walking to the Holocaust Museum in our free time, Joey Smit turned around to look at something, then completely face planted into a huge yellow pole.” Jared Trivett said one of his favorite moments was seeing Mr. Veldman dancing with a group of seniors in Old Town Alexandria. Another favorite moment of Trivett’s was Mr. Turkstra walking into his room during room checks and seeing Josh Smits running around naked after his shower.

Gracie Bultema said, “I had a wonderful time exploring our nation’s capital and getting closer with the senior

class.” Josh Harris said, “Even though there was a lot of walking, the class trip was very ‘lit.’”



Photos by Tom Ericks

Seniors Malik Evans and Zariah Cross dance with street performers on the cobblestone of Old Town Alexandria.



Steppenwolf cast acts out the courtroom scene from “The Crucible.”

Photo courtesy of stageandcinema.com

‘Crucible’ performance yields pure gold

Kylie Boss
Reporter

85 students from the sophomore class journeyed to Chicago’s northside on Oct. 10 to see “The Crucible” at the Steppenwolf Theater. The group took three buses to the theater and left right after home-room. The trip was organized very quickly, according to sophomore English teacher Mrs. Emily Hillegonds. “We found out about the tickets

2-3 weeks [before the trip], and I emailed them and was put on a waitlist,” said Hillegonds. “They emailed me back the Thursday before we went that we got the tickets. I had no idea if we would get them or not.” Only 85 out of 115 sophomores went, due to the number of tickets available, but sophomores Taylor Benes and Gabby Goodfellow both agreed the trip was worthwhile. “The Crucible” play helped visualize what the book was trying to por-

tray, said Benes. “The sets definitely brought character to it which made it more interesting,” she added. “The Crucible” is a part of the sophomore American literature curriculum. “It was really good,” said Goodfellow. “I really liked how the characters were portrayed and the actors that played them. My favorite scene was the chaos scene where they were judging everyone with Abigail and where Mary was confessing.”

New marketing campaign utilizes student feedback

Haleigh Olthof
Co-News Editor

After the departure of Mrs. Elly Mackowski from ICHS, the school board has hired Mrs. Marie Limback as the new admissions counselor this year, and Limback is working to encourage students to enroll and to publicize Illiana stories. In one of Limback’s latest projects, students were invited to scan QR codes posted in the hallways of Illiana and submit answers to the question, “What one thing should an incoming student know about Illiana?” She said that fewer students responded than she had hoped but that she had sufficient answers by the time she visited Highland Christian School to give a presentation to 7th and 8th graders. “Some were a little bit funny, so that was good to lighten things up a bit,” she said of the responses, “and some were really great pieces of advice.” She is considering posting further QR codes with a different question each week. Limback has also visited Crown Point Christian and plans to visit Calvin Christian, Lansing Christian, and other private and public non-feeder schools from which Illiana students have come. Limback said the move to Indiana won’t change where

Illiana recruits, but “we’re trying to coordinate the message a little bit more.” Limback has also been overseeing Illiana’s marketing, though she said that area is “something I’m learning.” She currently runs the Marketing and Communications club at Illiana. This month, students in the club wrote descriptions of the other clubs at Illiana to be posted on Facebook. Mrs. Valerie Pals is helping Limback to run Illiana’s social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. “We want to tell Illiana stories. It’s more than posting the scores of games,” said Limback. Before Limback accepted the admissions counselor position at Illiana, she was principal and curriculum director at the American School and an admissions counselor at Trinity Christian College. She also assisted with the Christian Schools International accreditation of Illiana, where her children attended. Mackowski, the previous admissions counselor, has moved to Michigan with her husband, who accepted a job at his home church in Dearborn, Michigan. Illiana is still looking to hire a Director of Marketing to work alongside Limback, who will retain the position of admissions counselor.

Despite promised adventure, saying goodbye still hard

The new school. It's all everyone around Illiana is talking about now a days.

With the move set to happen next year, my class is to be the first senior class to graduate from the new campus. Just one problem. I don't want to go.



Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

Say what you want about me. I know I should be grateful and I'm happy that Illiana is getting the chance to expand. I understand that I'm blessed to get to have a new school.

But I'm selfish and I want to finish high school in the place where I have spent the last three years. The place where some of my fondest memories were made. I can walk past every room in this school and think of all of the good and bad memories that I've had in them: the girl's bathroom next to the office where I cried after the second test of Spanish 3; the journalism room where we listened to Christmas music in October; the weight room where I spent six weeks biking when I was injured sophomore year.

Starting senior in a new place is going to make me feel like a freshman again. Everything will be new and I'm probably going to get lost just as I did as a freshman. No one wants to go back and relive those days.

My parents think I'm crazy. I should love the idea of a nice, new building, especially since the current one is falling apart from the inside out.

Grandparents, aunt, uncles, cousins, teachers and complete strangers have all had something to say about it. You're so lucky to be in the new school, everything will be nice and shiny. You'll have all new technology. The cafeteria will be so much bigger. I've heard them all before.

But the new campus won't have my janky locker which doesn't shut and that I've come to love or the crusty old water fountain across for Mr. Lagerwey's room where I fill my water bottle every day. There won't be the cross country locker rooms which are really just big storage closets where we have our team meetings or an Echo room where we spin around on my favorite swivel chairs. We won't hear the constant train horns and there won't be a Burger King on the corner or a Dunkin Donuts down the road.

Now, I'm not completely oblivious. I understand that there has to be a move and that one senior class is going to have to be the first to graduate from the school. I know I could throw a fit and complain for hours on end. But where would that get me? Nothing is going to change because a single junior sees things differently from everyone else. I happen to like this old crappy building and the memories I've made in it. And I'm going to be sad to see it go.



Ms. Bultema laughs as students play a review game with materials she bought for her Spanish class with her prize money.

Photo by Jeff DeVries

Bultema wins \$1,000 prize for classroom

Haleigh Olthof
Co-News Editor

Ms. Sharon Bultema, a Spanish and history teacher at Illiana, has received \$1,000 to use in her classroom through a fundraiser by Burlington Coat Factory's Lansing branch and AdoptAClassroom.org.

Burlington Coat Factory in Lansing used AdoptAClassroom.org

to choose which teacher would receive the money made in their second annual fundraiser, which raised \$200 last year.

"They chose me because I was in Lansing," said Bultema, and then a Burlington employee called her on Oct. 2.

She was skeptical at first, but after two more phone calls with the employee, she entered information about her class-

room on adoptaclassroom.org and received the funds Oct. 9.

Bultema has used the money to buy new, improved mini whiteboards for in-class activities and plans to buy a new podium with wheels and a large hourglass for in-class games.

AdoptAClassroom.org's mission is "to give teachers a hand and provide needed classroom

materials so their students can succeed." Bultema's profile on the site gives information about her classes and lists potential classroom expenses: the mini-whiteboards, technology resources, and new classroom furniture.

Bultema views the surprise funding as a gift from God. "It's really encouraging, and I hope it will enhance my classroom," she said.

Dinner attendees tour, raise funds for ARC

Jordan Bivins
Reporter

On Sept. 30, about 300 members of the Illiana community gathered at the new campus for a fundraising dinner and to tour the building.

There were several activities for the attendees. Children drew pictures and wrote their prayers and words of encouragement on the concrete floor of the ARC. Attendees toured the building and spoke with board members and construction workers. Jimbo's catered the fundraiser, serving chicken, sausage, green beans, and cupcakes for dessert.

Science teacher Mr. Brian

Sylvester said, "The cupcakes were awesome."

Mr. Lance Davids and senior Kyle Zuidema spoke at the event. Davids explained how he wants the building to be built on the prayers of God's people.

In his speech, Zuidema explained that although his Illiana experience won't be shaped by the new building, everyone else's Illiana "experience will be enhanced because of it." Zuidema challenged the individuals to be all in and to give without holding anything back.

Mr. Turkstra explained one of the purposes of the event was to get the next Illiana generation on the campus.



Photo by Penny Smitt

Senior Kyle Zuidema speaks about generosity at fundraiser for ARC.

Computer-Assisted Drawing class visits South Suburban College, INX Incorporated

Dominic Turkstra
Reporter

Illiana's Computer-Assisted Drawing class joined Mr. VanDeel on a field trip marking National Manufacturing Day on Oct. 4. Students visited the Southworks MakerLab at South Suburban College in Oak Forest, heard presentations by professors at the school, and then visited

INX Incorporated to get a glimpse of a manufacturing plant.

Upon arriving at South Suburban College, students listened to three presentations about computer programs and manufacturing. According to VanDeel, "Two of the three were really interesting and kept students engaged."

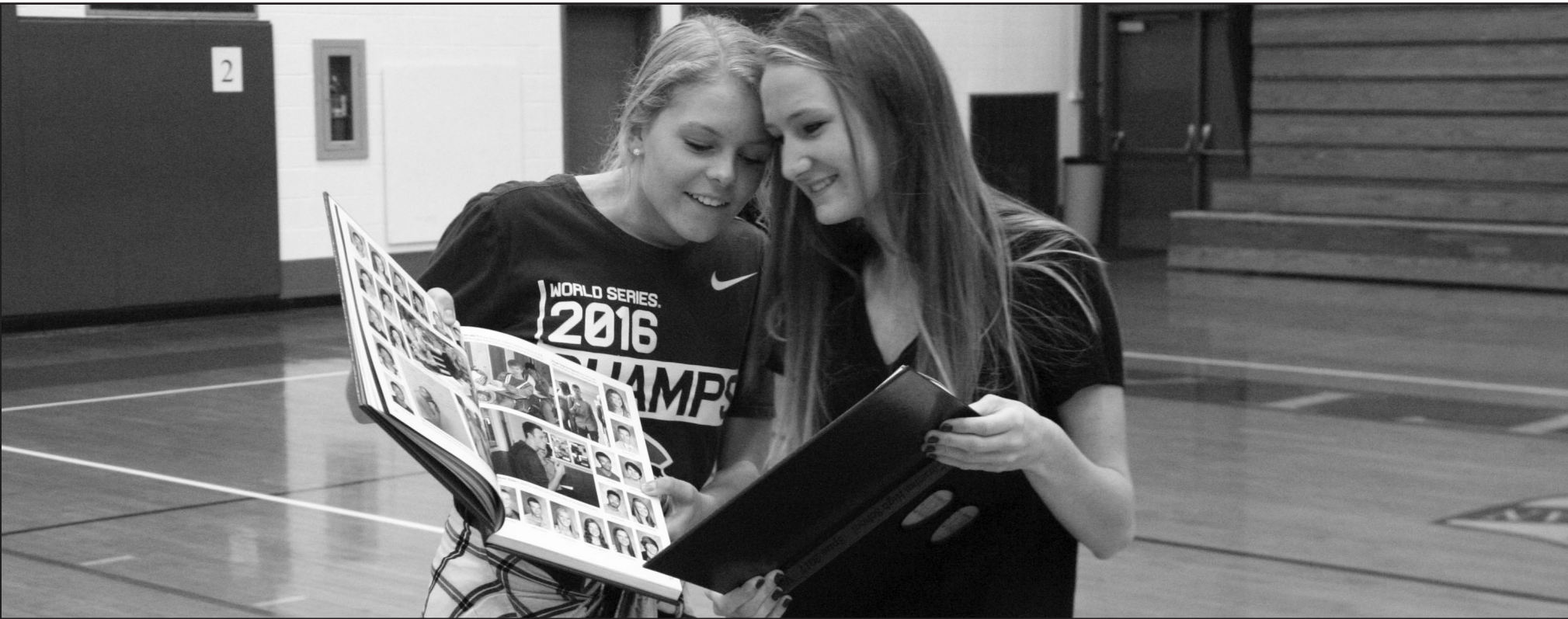
After the presentations, students got the chance to visit the Southworks MakerLab. South

Suburban's website describes the MakerLab as "a space filled with modern and traditional tools that allow users to make just about anything. Tools are easily accessible even to middle schoolers, yet powerful enough to build industrial prototypes."

VanDeel's students heard more about the purpose of the lab and about student access to it. Afterward, they got the chance

to experiment with an online 3D design program called Tinkercad.

Afterwards, students visited INX Incorporated, an ink manufacturing plant. They toured the facility, learning about how ink is made and distributed. More importantly, according to VanDeel, they got a chance to see what a modern manufacturing plant looks like and how it operates.



Seniors Alyssa De Jong and Cambrie Van Roekel smile as they flip through their Spires.

Photo by Jeff DeVries

Students, alumni look back on past school year

Amber VanKalker
Reporter

Illianas yearbook, “The Spire”, brought sophomores through seniors and returning graduates back together as a student body to receive

their yearbooks on Oct. 6. From 7-9 p.m. students wrote in each other’s yearbooks and looked through them. The gym was filled with students, roaring with laughter and engaging in conversations looking back on

last year. Last year’s Co-editor in chief of the Spire, Kassidy Weemhoff, said, “I had a class period devoted for the entire year, one hour every day to work on the yearbook.” The staff started creating the book

in October and continued until the end of the year. Current Spire co-editor, Hannah Last, said she likes working on the Spire staff because “I am a weirdo and I have a bunch of weirdos working with me.”

The Spire party gives Illiana students a chance to all be together one last time. Returning Senior Kayla Vanderzee said, “I like seeing old friends and having the Spire to look back on when I am older.”

Local History students tour greater Calumet area

Jaden Denton
Reporter

Students in local history, taught by Mr. White and Mr. Venhuizen, went on a field trip to visit monuments and historical sites of significance in the greater Calumet area.

Senior Brittany Bonnama took special interest in Michael Jackson’s boyhood home in Gary, particularly in a one way road sign outside the house which has been signed by different people who have visited the house.

“It was lit,” said Bonnama.

A highlight of the trip for Senior Evan Conrad was a number of the statues the class visited in Chicago. One particular statue



Photo by Riley Goodwin

Local History students visited Michael Jackson’s boyhood home in Gary.

that stuck out in his mind was the Great Migration statue, which is a new addition to the trip. The statue is a testament to thousands of African-Americans who moved to Chicago in the early 20th century. Another statue of interest was a WWI monument honoring black veterans. “[The trip] was a great learning experience,” said Conrad.

Local History students take this type of trip three times a semester so they can visit places farther out than their weekly Friday trips allow. Those trips never exceed about an hour and a half. This particular field trip set off at 6:20 am and got back at 4:00 pm. “The trip is a great way of tying in what we do in class, and it always goes really well,” said White.

Right to Life speaker shares powerful testimony at banquet

Cassie Laninga
Co-Photo Editor

The 38th annual Illiana Right to Life Banquet was held on Thursday, Oct.12 at the Avalon Manor. The banquet consisted of a dinner, a short sermon from Reverend John Vermeer, and the keynote speaker, Monica Kelsey.

“The turnout was wonderful,” said teacher Jeff White. “We had more people come than last year. I thought the speaker was very engaging in her speech. It kept your attention.”

Monica Kelsey shared her compelling story and mission with members of the Illiana community who attended. Kelsey uncovered the facts of her birth and

discovered that her birth father was a rapist and that her birth mother felt the only option she had was to abandon her. Kelsey wants to take her gift of life and make a difference. Now she stands with the prolife movement, defending children whose lives are targeted for abortion and abandonment.

“Monica Kelsey had a really good story. Her mission with her business is a really powerful story,” said senior Derek VanProoyen.

Senior Maddie DeYoung said, “Good food. Great mashed potatoes. The speaker was great. Her story was amazing.”

Kelsey also saves lives working as a firefighter and medic.

Donut sales aid Houston church

Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

Student Council helped Go Club to raise money by selling donuts in September for hurricane relief efforts through Hope Church in Houston, Texas.

Neil Zandstra, one of the leaders of Student Council, said how leaders of both clubs wanted to partner more regularly on projects this year. It was

Junior Alex Wondaal, Student Council member, who had the idea to use donut sales to help raise money.

Doug VanTil, an Illiana alumnus donated fourteen dozen donuts from Almiras Bakery at Strack & VanTil in Hammond to help the cause.

Student Council raised \$500 to add to the \$1,731 that Go Club raised through the movie on the lawn event in September.

Illiana alumni live out Colossians 3:17

“And whatever you do... do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Swimming with sharks

Cate Peerbolte

Co-Feature Editor

Ryan VanDerVeen is an Illiana alumnus who is now living and working in Australia designing golf courses for Greg “The Shark” Norman. Ryan VanDerVeen graduated from Illiana in 1993.

VanDerVeen’s journey began at Palmira Golf Club in Saint John. VanDerVeen began working there when he was 13 years old. At Palmira he got involved in course construction.

He attended Purdue University and earned a degree in Civil and Land Surveying Engineering. In his last few years at Purdue, VanDerVeen began working with golf architect Pete Dye on the Purdue golf course.

For the next few years VanDerVeen worked for Dye on projects around the country. He then settled in South Carolina. “While working on a golf course development in the North Myrtle Beach area,” VanDerVeen said, “I was introduced to Greg Norman and his team who approached me to come work with them on an international level.”

His successive promotions, however, have not come without challenges, some of them unique to his Christian faith.

“I almost lost my job for

not being available to work on Sundays,” VanDerVeen said. “I had to stand for what I believed as a young man on my own and far away from home. God rewarded me and that decision was a witness to my coworkers at the time. Another challenge was finding a good church home and ‘family’ each time I moved to a new place or country. God always had a plan and place for me and it took me patience and discernment to find out where he wanted me planted. It has been such a blessing to be in different denominations and cultures, which have broadened my outlook on God’s love and grace for us.”

VanDerVeen has been working for Norman since 2000. He has been around the world designing and building golf courses in places such as Ireland, Spain, Anguilla, Bahamas, South Africa, and Australia.

His work offers him an opportunity to share his faith with many people.

VanDerVeen said, “Working with integrity and respecting people of all levels in the workplace is a great start to opening doors and breaking down barriers. Our job is not to convert others to Christianity but more importantly to be a conduit to let God and the Holy Spirit do their work in people’s lives.”

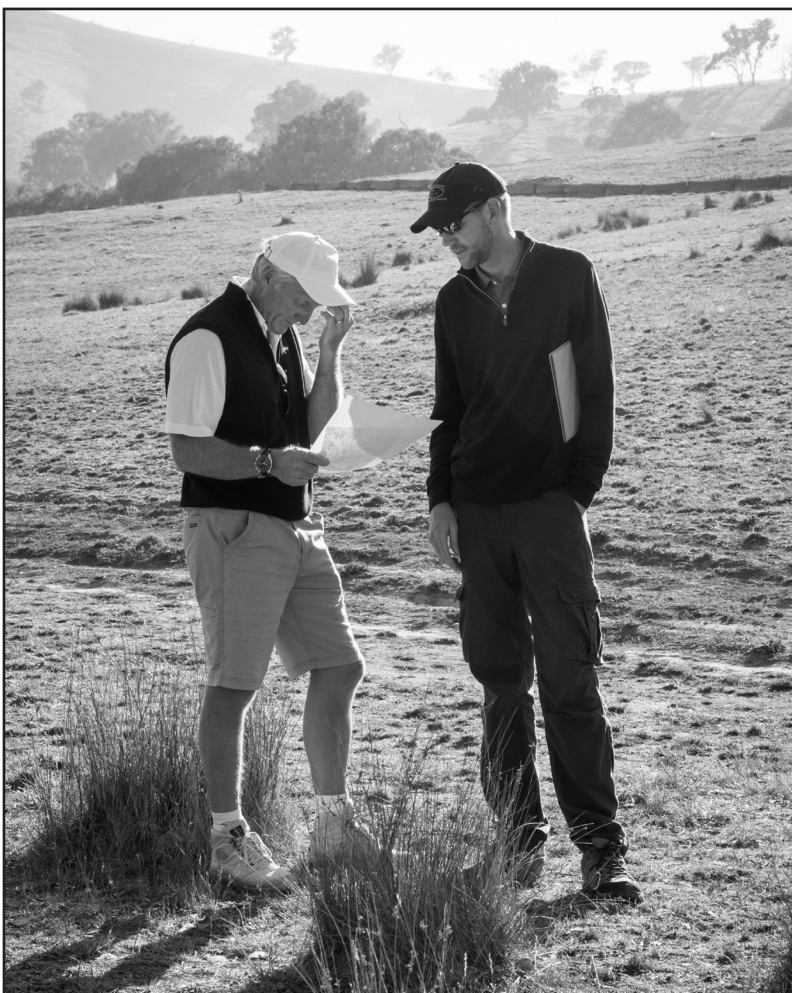


Photo courtesy of Ryan VanDerVeen

VanDerVeen works with Norman on a project.



Tim VanMilligan poses next to a rocket in the test field.

Photo courtesy of Tim Van Milligan

Passion finds purpose in space

Beth Boonstra

Co-Editor in Chief

Tim Van Milligan, a member of the class of 1983, is a real life rocket scientist who started up his own model rocket corporation called Apogee Rockets in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Van Milligan fills roles from President to janitor. To keep the business going he serves customers, manages staff, markets business, fixes equipment, and, of course, designs and builds rockets.

“This is the ‘fun’ part of the day,” he said. “I get to play with toys!”

The corporation makes model rockets which “operate the same way real rockets do” for recreational and educational purposes.

Van Milligan said, “For my

current job, I’m self-employed. So technically, I didn’t need any schooling, although I would say it helped the company to be successful.”

Though he graduated from Illiana with a 2.98 GPA, Van Milligan went on to be selected for the Engineering Honor Society. He said, “Who you are and what you’re going through in high-school does not define you or how you’ll end up in life.”

Van Milligan said he got to where he is because he found something he was passionate about. He received his B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. Then he studied Space Technology at the Florida Institute of Technology while working “at Cape Canaveral launching

the real rockets.”

For someone who has loved model rockets since he was a child, this was a highlight. “Feeling the concussion from the sound waves beating on your chest when the rocket was launched,” Van Milligan said, “was something I’ll never forget.”

Van Milligan spoke specifically of the benefits of his Pre-Calculus, Drafting (now CAD), and Senior English classes. He uses his English skills every day in marketing. He has written 450 newsletters and four books.

Van Milligan added, “If you’re struggling at Illiana, you get a do-over. Somewhere out there is a place where your talent is sought after. Find it. I promise you, it will be worth the process of searching.”

Huizenga called to cultivate and calculate

Liz VanDrunen

Co-Feature Editor

Lynnea Huizenga (nee Woldhuis) graduated from Illiana in 1985. After graduating from Trinity Christian College with an accounting degree she worked for a year and a half in public accounting before she began her current job working for the family business, Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse. There she does all the accounting work for the business and works in the greenhouse from January through May.

Huizenga said that working with a Christian mindset affects how their family views their work. She said, “We look at our work not merely as a paycheck but as what we are

called by God to do.”

Huizenga said, “Many people find it absurd that we are closed on a day (Sunday) that in our industry is one of the most profitable selling days of the week. People just assume you are open on Sunday and often make the drive

out only to be disappointed or angry that we are closed.”

One of the challenges she faces as a Christian worker is “maintaining Christian professionalism and composure” during the spring season which is when a majority of the annual sales come in.



Photo courtesy of visitkankakeecounty.com

A Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse sign hangs in Grant Park, Ill.

Public Art of Chicago Scavenger Hunt

Welcome to Chicago, the city of big shoulders and of public art. Next time you go downtown, try this scavenger hunt. You'll enjoy great art and maybe capture some free Dunkin'. Happy hunting!

Clue #1- Knock Knock.
Go to what is considered
"Chicago's front door."
Modeled after the Latona
Fountain at Versailles, this
sits in Grant Park. Look
for the four sea horses

Clue #2-Prowling on
the north and stand-
ing in defiance to the
south, these bronze
statues guard the sec-
ond largest museum
in the United States.
Be careful, they bite.

Clue #3-Some call this The
Bean, all though it's not of-
ficially named that. If you
look close enough you'll see a
reflections of the clouds.

Clue #4- Resting in Daley
Plaza, this 50 feet behemoth
caused controversy at its un-
veiling.

Clue #5- If you're
brave, pop the "bubble"
on the South Wall of
Columbia College.

Clue #8- On North State
Street since 1921, hangs the
famous marquee that is seen
in many films and artworks.

Rules
To win, you must **take your**
picture in front of each art
piece. IF YOU ARE NOT IN
THE PHOTO, it will not be
accepted. Send all photos to
haveyouheard4@gmail.com
by **November 17.** First one to
complete the hunt by that date
will be the sole winner.

Prize
\$20 Dunkin' Donuts
gift card

**SCAVENGER
HUNT!**

Students put on spot in 24 hour theater

Illiana students join Trinity Christian College for marathon arts event

Natalie Togtman
Co-Arts Editor

Trinity Christian college hosted its annual 24 Hour Play Festival on Saturday, Sept. 30. Three Illiana students—sophomore Gregory Leystra, junior Ben Wiersema, and senior Thomas Ericks—participated in

this production, Leystra helping out help with lighting and sound, and the other two as actors. These Illiana students performed alongside Illiana alumni Noah Venhuizen, Morgan Limback, and Katie Ericks. This production included six, ten minute plays, and shows occurred at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

The actors, playwrights, stage managers, and directors met the Friday night before at 7:30 to get to know each other. Then playwrights got busy, creating their scripts overnight. In the morning everyone returned and spent the rest of the day rehearsing, figuring out costumes, sets, and the technical aspect. Senior Thomas Ericks said, "At the beginning we did

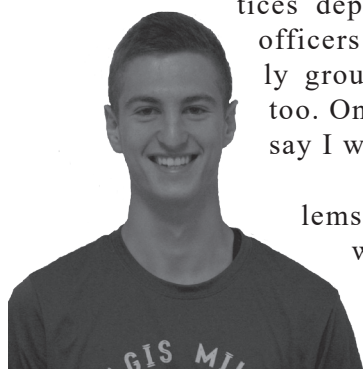
Photo courtesy of Dr. John Sebestyen

The group of students celebrates completing the 24 hour challenge.

not know much about the plays or people we were acting with, but as time went on we learned more about how we could improve our acting and work together well." Art teacher Mr. Jim Kamphuis, who attended the show, said, "It was very impressive. There were times when I had a hard time deciding if the actor was a high school student or a college student."

NFL protests show need for self reflection at Illiana

When I first saw Colin Kaepernick kneel during the national anthem I was keyed off. His blatant disrespect for a sacred tradition made my blood boil. The socks he wore to offseason practices depicting police officers as pigs really ground my gears too. One might even say I was triggered.



Alex Wondaal
Co-Feature Editor

The problems escalated when in a successful attempt to score political points President Trump said all the protesters should be fired. (I cleaned up his actual words for our family friendly population.) Soon entire teams were using the national anthem as a tool to make their voice louder and to #resist-trump. The whole situation seemed like an out-of-control circus where the animals all caught rabies and the performers all got food poisoning.

There are, however, many silver linings to the situation. At least Kaepernick, despite being one of the worst quarterbacks in the NFL, was able to make his voice heard louder than any political columnist, radio host, or T.V. host in the country; I tip my hat to him for that. At least it made Mike Ditka relevant for the first time since the 2005 kids' movie "Kicking and Screaming." At least the situation gave Chicago football fans a reason to talk about football, because no one around here wants to talk about the Bears.

The most important silver lining, though, is the lesson the protesting gave us about the beauty of the 1st Amendment and free market capitalism. If NFL protesters want to butcher their ratings with unconventional protest methods, they can! If NFL sponsors want to cut ties with what many Americans see as the most anti-American sports league, they can! And if millions of NFL fans want to stop watching the games, they can!

The whole circus unintentionally showed that we really are the land of the free.

Unfortunately, there is one group of people who disrespect the anthem without any silver lining. That would be our very own loud crowd. Before every basketball and volleyball game we try to show respect for those who fought, died, or are still fighting for our nation. And we do a much worse job than any NFL protester. They disrespect the anthem with the intention of making our nation a better place. We disrespect the anthem to shove down a quick bite of pizza, take a quick selfie, or get a laugh from a Loud Crowd leader who dresses like a leprechaun, faces the crowd, and acts like a choir director.

If Illiana is going to show respect and thankfulness for our country and those who fight for it, we should do a better job.

People don't always see their teachers and counselors as athletes, but after some digging we found...

Surprise faculty athletes

Question 1: What highschool sport did you play and where did you play it?

Question 2: How did you get involved in that sport?

Question 3: What position did you play?

Question 4: What was your greatest accomplishment?

Question 5: What was your best memory?

Mr. Rick Veldman

1: Baseball at Chicago Christian

2: I had three older brothers, and ever since I was a little kid they played. They pretty much trained me to be a baseball player. I first played when I was eight years old, then little league, and then high school.

3: Mainly pitcher

4: My team won all conference in high school. We won the PSL (Private School League) championship.

5: All around college baseball and all the traveling we did, and my teammates.

Mr. Brian Sylvester

1: I ran track and cross country at TF south.

2: My dad encouraged me. He ran and went to state. He thought that I would like it.

3: I was an average runner on a very good team.

4: I was nothing special to talk about, just an average guy on the team.

5: It (track and cross country) wasn't about the running. It was really about the shenanigans that accompanied it.

Mrs. Kara Terpstra

1. I played soccer, ran track, and did cheerleading and dance. Dance was a club, but we competed at the state level.

2. I ran track because I was good at it and I ran in middle school. I quit, though, when my coach quit and ended up joining soccer because my friends played. I did cheerleading because my sisters did and I joined dance because it was a new club and it sounded like fun.

3. In track, I was in the triple jump, long jump, 100 meter, 200 meter, 4x100 and 4x200. For soccer, I was the left forward usually because I was fast.

4. My greatest achievement would have to be going to state with my track team sophomore year and winning.

5. The workouts in track were crazy. We had to put on vests that were attached to our coaches Bronco and pull the car across the parking lot.



Terpstra jukes around a defender.

Photo courtesy of Kara Terpstra



Bussema (third from left) smiles for a team picture.

Mrs. Helen Bussema

1: I attended Illiana before the United States passed the Title IX. (Title IX gives women the right to play high school sports) We had no organized girls sports, except cheerleading. I had played basketball at Lansing Christian. I came here and had nothing except cheerleading, so I was a cheerleader.

2: Well I was just very active and somewhat athletic, so I got involved in cheerleading kind of by default because there was nothing

else for me to do. It was very competitive to make the squad, so I had to try out a couple times before I made it.

3: We didn't have any positions. We all did the same thing

4: This is a kind of tongue and cheek one. When I was a junior on the cheerleading squad, I did crash through the hoop we made for the boys before the team did.

5: I would say a game where we beat Chicago Christian by one at Chicago Christian.

Mr. Doug Gorter

1: I played soccer and I ran track at South Christian High School in West Michigan.

2: I enjoyed them and played them growing up.

3: I was center half-back—of course, they call it midfielder today—and for track, I did the 100, 200, and 400, and the relays within those distances as well.

4: I was on a 4x200 re-

lay and we set the school record, so I suppose most people call that the biggest accomplishment.

5: I would say at both the practices and the meets, track was enjoyable because there was a wide variety of students there, teammates there, so yeah, I suppose the fellowship at the meets and the practices [was my greatest memory].

Benji Winn Wins Big in Boxing

Jo Mulder

Co-Sports Editor

Boxing is a sport largely unspoken of in the halls of Illiana, so it is no surprise that few students know that junior Benji Winn has been in the ring for around four years, boxing in the heavyweight class.

Winn first got involved in the sport when he went to a boxing camp while in middle school. That is where he met his coach, Alfonso Ratliff, a retired profes-

sional boxer. Winn said he got involved with boxing over that summer to lose weight and stay in shape. The boxing has paid off and he has been in shape since starting.

Winn's coach has pushed him beyond what he thought he could do. On weekdays Winn goes to the South Holland Fitness Center for two to three hours a night switching off between upper and lower body workouts. He also tries to run two miles and "hits the bag" for

three rounds of two minutes every day.

In the ring, Winn has won two fights on points and one by knockout. The worst injury he has received was a brief period of being stunned after taking a punch.

Winn fights in the heavyweight division, and since starting he has a record of 3-0. His last fight was on June 17 this past summer. He and his coach have tried to find another fight since.



Winn works out with the bag.

Photo courtesy of Benji Winn

Cross country teams have big postseason plans

Jo Mulder

Co-Photo Editor

The boys cross country has grown in size this year in comparison to last, and with the growth in numbers come room for improvement for runners.

The team has had a good season either winning or placing top three in most of its meets. Many runners have improved a lot with no change in training. They were also blessed with almost no injuries.

The boys placed first in regionals with senior Austin Ohm capturing first in the race. They will move on to section-

als on Oct. 28, and from there to state.

While the boys team has grown the girls team has shrunk.

They have also had their share of injuries this year. The loss of sophomore Gillian Fiene to a fracture in her leg hit the team especially hard.

The team has run a good race thus far and according to senior Maddie DeYoung, the girls have improved throughout the season. They placed fourth in regionals and will go on to sectionals on Oct. 28.

Boys soccer caps off season with regional championship victory

Kade Bouwer

Co-Sports Editor

The varsity soccer team ended up with a 14-8-1 record, a complete turnaround from last season when they went 7-15.

Sophomore defenseman Max Wegner said, “We clicked a whole lot better this year, and we had great chemistry between all of us.”

The soccer team won their Regional title game 4-0 against Grant Park. Playing without their seniors due to the class trip, they lost in

Sectionals to Hersher 2-5. This has been the seventh time the soccer team has won a Regional title.

Senior forward Josh Smits said, “I feel like we have turned the soccer team around to more of a winning culture in the past couple years.”

“We had a huge amount of talent on our team this year,” said junior defenseman Sam Gaich. “We wanted to say that we were one of the best teams in Illiana history. I believe we can say that now.”

Girls tennis ends strong, sends 5 players down state

Liz VanDrunen

Co-Feature Editor

The varsity girls’ tennis team finished its season by taking fourth in the conference and winning the sectional tournament.

The team sent five girls, one singles player and two doubles teams, down state to play on Oct. 19. Sophomore Lizzie Knot played singles. One doubles team consisted of junior Haleigh Olthof and sophomore Lilly Olthof and the other team of sophomore Caylynn Townes and junior Elizabeth DeYoung.

Varsity coach, Rob Lagerwey said, “We had lost some seniors from last year and I didn’t know how well we would do, but for the first time ever we were able to win sectionals.”

The tennis team ended their season with a 13-7 record.

The JV girls’ tennis team finished its season at the Conference Tournament on Oct. 7, with a record of 5-14.

JV coach Emily Hillegonds said, “I’m proud of how well the team grew this season, especially since many of them had never played tennis before this.”



Sports Catch-ups



Girls Volleyball

Alex Wondaal

Co-Sports Editor

Despite a few tough losses, the volleyball team is hoping to make a good run far into the sectional tournament in the beginning of Nov. with help from better serving and a more effective defense.

Their regular season record within their conference was 4-8.

Junior Rachel Huisman said, “Our record isn’t very good, but we played well, and when we lose, it is in three games. I feel we work hard and play well, but we just barely lose sometimes.”

The team is coached by Nikki VanDyke and led by seniors Sarah Hernandez, Taylor Huizenga, Alyssa DeJong, and Karli Petrarca.

Senior Sarah Hernandez said, “We had a better season than last year. We have worked better together this season.”

In their first regional game on Oct. 24, the vikings defeated Hancock High School in two games.

Boys Golf

Alex Wondaal

Co-Sports Editor

The golf team ended an historic season with a fourth place finish at the state tournament on Oct. 14 in Bloomington, Illinois.

After a solid season marred by two tough duel match losses against Fenton and Homewood Flossmoor, the team came alive and came together in the postseason. Although the best four golfers are scored at a match, the team relied on five main golfers throughout the season -- Lawton Bouwer, Seth Bouwer, Kade Bouwer, Matt Lagestee, and Justin DeBoer. The team swept their conference, regional, and sectional tournaments. Illiana golf had never won its sectional tournament until this season.

Coach Jack Rudenga said this year’s team was the most successful team he has ever coached. “I knew we’d be a good team; I didn’t know we’d have this much success. I’m really proud of them and their representation.” Rudenga also said he was thankful for and proud of the leadership from seniors Jake Pals and Justin DeBoer.

Despite the success of the season, some of the golfers wished for a better performance in the state tournament.

DeBoer has played golf at Illiana for four seasons. He said his best memory of his golf career at Illiana was going down State. “We could have done better [at the state tournament], but it was a really good run,” said Deboer.

Junior Seth Bouwer said, “I wanted to win State, but I was still happy. Mr. Rudinga is a great coach.”



The golf team smiles for picture after second day of the state competition

Photo by Michelle Bouwer

Male Athlete of the Month

Senior forward Josh Smits has played soccer at Illiana for all of his 4 years, including 2 at the varsity level. This year, he led his team to a Regional Championship for only the seventh time in ICHS history.

On the field he has lead his team in the scoring department. He has a team-high of 23 goals.

Junior defenseman Sam Gaich said, “He stepped up when things got tough during games when we were losing, and he helped calm down teammates when they got upset.”



Female Athlete of the Month

Senior Sarah Hernandez played varsity volleyball every single year she has been at Illiana. She moved here from the Dominican Republic two years ago and has been a crucial piece for the volleyball team ever since.

Hernandez was introduced to volleyball in eighth grade when her dad forced her to play. She now loves the game.

As a senior she has lead the team on and off the court, and she received all-tournament accolades at the Manteno Invitational.

Hernandez said, “It has been more fun to have people look up to you. We have gotten tighter as a team this season.”

Editorial

500 years later: Does Reformation still matter?

When couples celebrate fifty years of marriage, they’re not just celebrating the anniversary of their wedding. They’re celebrating the fifty years of marriage that they have experienced since their wedding, how far they’ve come. When the United States celebrated its bicentennial, it wasn’t all about just looking at that first Fourth of July when our country began. We looked at all of the triumphs and tragedies that our country has experienced because of that day 200 years before. Now we stand at the 500th anniversary of Reformation Day, the day Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the Wittenberg Castle Church door on October 31, 1517. So as we celebrate this anniversary, we are celebrating so much more than 95 theses. We celebrate the growth that has happened since then and how it has gotten us to where we are today. Though some may argue that the Reformation only fractionated the church, which is certainly a loss, Illiana embodies the Reformation as an important revolution that allows us to be able to worship as we do every day within these halls. But after 500 years, are

the teachings of those old guys still effective? As a school, the Reformation quite clearly still affects us. The teachings of our school are based on the teachings of John Calvin. We believe what we believe directly because of the Protestant Reformers. Perhaps if Martin Luther had not nailed those theses, the Reformation would have died out and the Catholic Church would rule over the United States. We could be going to Catholic school. Interestingly enough, the Catholic Church itself has also reformed as a result of the Reformation. Luther did not want a new church to be born at all. He simply wanted to rid the Catholic church of corruption. He was not an outsider, wreaking havoc on the Catholic church, but a Catholic who raised these issues because of his care for his own church. As a result, Catholics no longer

sells indulgences and many churches, particularly those in the United States and the West, have reformed many of their teachings and their involvement in politics. The Catholic church has changed little in other places. There are places in the world, in South America for instance, that would greatly benefit from a

people had no idea what the Bible really said because they were fed from the Catholic church whatever the church or political leaders wanted them to hear. The reformers fought for the rights of the commoners to be able to read the Bible and see for themselves the riches of Scripture. Luther translated the Bible into German, the vernacular, and he empowered the individual believer. In doing so, he started in the western world a revolution that went well beyond religion. Democracy may have been born in ancient Athens, but it came of age because of the Reformation. America’s first settlers were in fact seeking freedoms from the oppression of the Catholic church. Our constitution was set up so that the church could not run the country. This idea was not new, but it was something that the Reformation sparked. The Reformation was also a model for future revolutionaries and inspired civil disobedience in the name of individual conscience. October 31, 1517 marks the beginning of the Reformation. When did it end? It didn’t. The Reformation is still

“The Reformation was... a model for future revolutionaries and inspired civil disobedience.”

complete reformation and thus lag behind. They have already experienced a partial reformation in some places, but still need reforming. The Reformation was all about making faith one’s own, having a relationship with God. In the Catholic church of Luther, the Bible and the services were in Latin, making it hard for commoners to understand. For this reason, many

Real confidence no easy stunt

I panic before every cheerleading competition. My sweaty hands linked with my teammates’ outside the gym where we will perform our two-and-a-half minute routine, I breathe deeply, but that only makes me more lightheaded. I run through the stunts and motions in my head, terrified that I’ll make a mistake that will cost my team points.



Haleigh Olthof
Co-News Editor

When those gym doors open, however, I paste a smile on my face and remind myself that I have practiced for this and that my

squad won’t let me down. I remind myself to be confident.

This confidence, like most confidence, is based on trust in both myself and others. As a freshman cheerleader, it took me three long months to learn to fly a liberty, in which the flyer stands on one foot in a stunt. Part of the problem was that I never really expected the stunt to hit. As soon as I got to the top, I was preparing to come down. Another problem was that I “swam,” or tried to balance myself instead of staying tight and letting my bases and backspot control the stunt. I didn’t trust myself or my stunt group. As the year went on, through lots of practice, I learned to stay tight. Now, I rarely swim in a stunt, and I go into almost every stunt preparing for it to hit, though I’m still not perfect: when I haven’t stunted in a while or when we’re trying a new stunt, it’s hard to trust my bases to catch me. Ultimately, though, the stunt only works if everyone performing it is confident.

Cheerleading confidence is easy to see. It’s meant to be seen. But there are other kinds of confidence that one could easily miss: the confidence in oneself that it takes to raise a hand in class; the confidence in one’s friends that it takes to share a struggle; the confidence in God that it takes to keep praying even in the hard times.

On the other hand, some behaviors look like confidence but are only veils over insecurities.

When we don’t take things seriously, is it because those things aren’t worth our attention or because we’re afraid of people seeing us try and fail?

When we brag about our test scores, our athletic achievements, or even our good deeds, is it because we’re so sure of our greatness or because we want others to affirm that greatness?

When we post selfies, is it because we’re confident in how we look or because we crave the raving compliments and heart-eye emojis in the comments?

A truly confident person can be humble because he already knows his worth. A truly confident person doesn’t vie for attention from others because she trusts that the important people in her life, not to mention God, will love her no matter what.

I’ve feigned confidence, but I’ve also gained confidence, through my time at Illiana. In the end, it’s about trusting yourself, others, and God. That kind of confidence isn’t easy, but it’s the only way you can go for an impossible stunt and never look down.

the Echo)))

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Letters to the editor can be submitted to the advisor or sent to the school. All letters must be signed and must not exceed 250 words. They will be printed provided there is enough room and content is not offensive to the general public. Names will not be wfor doing so.

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