



New coffee shop
Troost makes
a splash in
Lansing.
Review
on page
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the Echo)))

Illiana Christian High School



Turn to page 6 to read
about Illiana's new
logo.



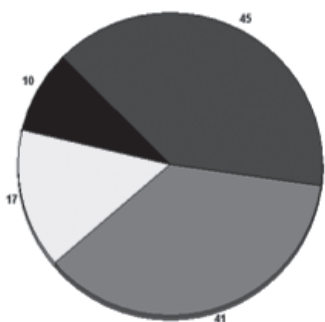
Or read
one editor's
opinion on
page 8.

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Lansing, Illinois

Cell phone free zones pocket student technology



How often do you
use your phone
during class without
permission?

0 times a week
1-5 times a week
more than once a day
at least once a class

Beth Boonstra
Co-Editor in Chief

To remove the temptation that cell phones present to students, several Illiana English teachers have started a new cell phone holder policy this school year. Miss Sara Johnson, Mrs. Emily Hillegonds, and Mrs. Kristy Medema have designed a system of pockets in which their students place their phones upon arrival to class.

"The students can place their phones either frontwards or backwards," said Johnson. "It is in their sightline so they can see it and if they see that they are getting a series of text messages or if their mom or dad is calling them several times; then they just have to raise their hand" and ask permission to check it.

Transfer student Junior Luke Oppenhuis frequently uses his phone during classes to talk to friends at his old school. He strongly believes that he has a right to keep his phone on his person. Oppenhuis said, "[If I were a teacher,] I would let [students] have

their phones because if they're not going to pay attention and listen, it's their fault and they can fail the test."

Senior Jordan Miller said he has little need for his phone during classes and appreciates teachers looking out for students' best interests by creating a learning environment without the distraction of phones.

According to a 2010 study conducted by the University of Michigan, the schools that allow students to have phones, but do not permit their use during class, have 65% of their students using them in class anyways.

According to an Echo survey, approximately 40% of Illiana's students use their phones during class. 15% of Illiana students check their phones nearly every class period. The majority of the students who use their phones during class are texting, closely followed by the use of Snapchat.

Some students were unashamed to admit that they are addicted to their phones. They claim to panic without their phones and can't stop thinking about them, but they don't see this as

a problem. Others struggled to admit that they may care more about their phones than they should at times, one even repeatedly checking his phone and taking a selfie in the middle of an interview.

English teacher Emily Hillegonds is concerned for students' well-being. "I listened to a podcast this summer on how addicting phones can be," she said. "The basic concept was that phones are built like gambling machines. They have the bright lights and flashing messages across a screen." Phone users slowly put more and more "focus and worth on that screen."

As a teacher of sophomore and senior English, Johnson was concerned about cell phone usage for multiple reasons. She's seen Snapchats of teachers taken without their permission and it gives her concerns about photos that students could take of her or out-of-context recordings of her during class.

Johnson said, "When I started

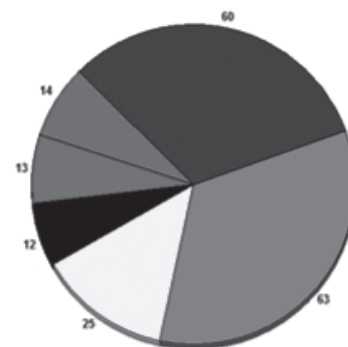
thinking about Snapchat, and its use in class, I started thinking about how easy it would be for a student to take a picture of a test or a quiz and send that picture to other students, and there would be virtually no record of it. I just thought that would be a huge temptation for our students." Johnson has no desire to waste time being the "policeman of cell phones." She doesn't want to constantly suspect her students, so she takes away that possibility.

Johnson said, "It's me eliminat-

ing a bad choice you could make in class or a distraction that you could have in class." She says student response to this policy has been generally positive. She even had a student come to class relieved to give up his phone because the vibrations had been so distracting for him in his previous class.

Johnson also reasons that this policy does not work for every teacher in the school because of different classes' requirement of the use of technology in class, but it works for her.

What are you doing
during class when you
are on your phone?



Snapchat
Texting
Twitter/Facebook/Insta
Surfing the web
Videos/Music
Other

Graphs based on survey of 113 students.

'Shrek' Movie Night gives hope for Harvey victims

Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief

Illiana's first, but according to Go Club sponsor Miss Sara Johnson surely not the last, "movie on the lawn" debuted on September 15, showing "Shrek," as a fundraiser for hurricane relief efforts through Hope Church in Houston, Texas.

Illiana students, faculty, and community gathered on the soccer field. While they waited for the movie to start, students met up with friends and laid out their blankets while teachers and other adults set up their lawn chairs and chatted. Around 110 people came out to show their support, an estimated 80 students and 30 adults. While the movie played, student volunteers worked the crowd selling popcorn.

"Overall it was a great night," said senior Jordan Miller, the president of student council. "The weather was just perfect. A light breeze kept the

mosquitoes away, and temperatures were comfortable. There have been requests for Go Club to plan another in the spring."

ICHS raised \$1,731 in total. The proceeds from this fundraiser went directly to Hope Church to fund its community restoration projects.

The pastor of Hope Church is Roger DeYoung, an Illiana alumnus. DeYoung always wanted to plant a church, and after being a pastor in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for six years and living in Africa for four years, he planted Hope Church in Houston. He has been Hope's one and only pastor for thirty-two years. The area in Houston where Hope Church is located experienced forty-two inches of rain.

"The hurricane stopped everything for five days straight," said DeYoung.

Though Hope Church itself did not flood, about fifty houses and all the first floor apartments within a few



New tutor teacher Mrs. Rachel DeVries assists students in the learning center

Photo by Jo Mulder

Illiana opens doors of Room 113 to new students with different learning needs

Amber VanKalker
Reporter

The Student Services Department is expanding its services to reach farther throughout the school this year.

After the retirement of spe-

cial education teacher Mrs. Rose Medema this past year and Mrs. Kelly Aardsma's move to the Math Department, the stage was set for a brand new team in Student Services.

Two new teachers have been hired. Mrs. Heidi Teach, who is the new Student Services Director, will

have a more hands-on role with each individual student and his or her teachers. Teach will be meeting with teachers and parents to ensure support to students across the school. She will help teachers alter plans and assessments to better meet student needs.

Mrs. Rachel DeVries will be assisting her in the department. She will work primarily in the Resource Learning Center, helping students stay organized and improve their study habits.

Student have said that having their teachers more involved in their exact needs has already been showing signs of more organization, better grades and a deeper understanding of curriculum.

Senior Nathan DeVries said, "With two teachers, they have more time to help and teach."

blocks of the church did. In a town only five miles away from the church, one in every three houses flooded.

The money ICHS raised will go towards rebuilding homes, helping a family in Hope Church's congregation that flooded, and helping to make meals for the people who have lost their homes. Hope Church also plans to help David Homer, pastor of Peace CRC. His house took on three to four feet of water and he is currently living in a trailer in Peace Church's parking lot.

"There are all these houses that are beautiful from the outside, but the insides are destroyed," said DeYoung. "All we could do was hold hands and pray."

Soda tax barely fizzes Illiana

Haleigh Olthof
Co-News Editor

Cook County leveled a tax of one cent per ounce on all sweetened beverage sales in August; Illiana's vending machines' drink prices have risen since the tax became effective.

"Will it stop kids from buying [sweetened beverages]? Probably not," said Vice Principal AJ Turkstra, who also said he doesn't think the tax is affecting Illiana much. He added that a few years ago, vending machine companies replaced sugary

drinks with low-calorie versions.

The vending machines in Illiana's lobby, which now bear signs announcing the tax's inclusion in drink prices, sell 12 oz, 16 oz, 18.5 oz, and 20 oz drinks, so the tax increases the price of a drink by 20 cents at most.

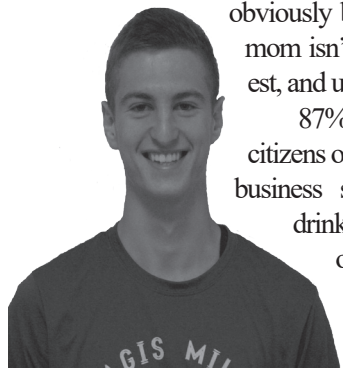
The tax does not apply to milk, chocolate milk, or orange juice sold at lunch. Band Booster concession sales at sporting events will not be taxed either, though higher wholesale costs due to the tax may lead to higher prices for consumers or to curtailed profits for the organization.

Soda tax shows government makes bad parent

What are you, my mom? That seems a natural question to ask Toni Preckwinkle, Michael Bloomberg, and other politicians behind the Cook County sweetened beverage tax.

But then, the answer would obviously be no because my mom isn't illogical, dishonest, and unfair.

87% of Cook County citizens oppose the tax. Any business selling sweetened drinks near the border of the county will lose money. Why pay another 67 cents for a two liter of Coke when an Indiana grocery store is five minutes



Alex Wondaal
Co-Feature Editor

away? And why not buy all your groceries from that store while you're there

The rules about the drinks are equally frustrating. If you want a Gatorade or a Vitamin Water to replenish electrolytes after an hour at the gym, you'll need to choke up a penny per ounce. However, if you want some chocolate milk to go with your cookie before bed, no tax is necessary.

There are some citizens who will completely juke around the tax - those paying with SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps). This means that those pushing for the tax either don't care about the health of poor people, are only implementing the tax to suck even more money from Cook County citizens. Or maybe both.

Probably both.

So the tax is nearly universally disliked, bad for business, frustratingly illogical, unfair, and about as tasty as the vegan, kale, jungle juice that County Commissioner Larry "Picture of Health" Suffredin wants Cook County residents to drink.

Admittedly, I'm a health freak and I live Lake County. I haven't had a pop in four months and I'll never need to lose a penny to this tax. So why do I care? Simple. I dislike it when anyone but my mom tries to do my mom's job. I don't like when people other than my mom try to tell me what to wear, how to speak, when to be home, and what to eat. And when the state does those things, I hate it. The soda tax shows they do a terrible job.

In a culture where over 40% of children are born out of wedlock (Center For Disease Control), homosexuality is normalized, and welfare incentivizes single motherhood, the nuclear family will be less common. A likely replacement for the jobs fathers and mothers should do, such as teachings their kids healthy lifestyles, decency, and morality, is the state. And the state can't even handle a soda tax.

That's why I care about the sweetened beverage tax. It shows when government tries to do what parents should be doing, it does an atrocious job. Mother knows best.

The soda tax is a lose-lose-lose. If you buy soda, you lose money and your health. If you stop buying soda, politicians will call the tax a success resulting in more taxes. If you buy soda outside of Cook County, you hurt your local economy.

However, there is a way to combat the power hungry government that wants to take the role of the parent. Be the most involved, loving, and encouraging family member you can be. And remember government should be treated like a necessary evil, not your mom.



Photo by TOP Soccer volunteer

Seniors Riley Goodwin and Emily Montalvo smile with Hannah Villa after playing soccer.

Parents, students, children appreciate TOP Soccer

Riley Goodwin

Co-News Editor

Hannah Villa, 19, loves few things more than attending TOP Soccer on Friday nights, accompanied by her mother, father, and several volunteers that help Hannah and other children involved in the TOP Soccer program.

"We used to take [Hannah] to TOP Soccer when she was younger, around elementary school age," said Michele Villa, Hannah's mother. "Back then, she didn't do well at all. She'd pound on the plexiglass and scream and cry."

The family decided to take a break from TOP Soccer for

Hannah's sake because they didn't feel it was a great environment for her considering there weren't nearly as many volunteers then as there are today. Later on down the road, Hannah began to show an interest in sports again so they decided to reintroduce her to TOP Soccer again and Hannah fell in love.

Illiana students have been involved in aiding at TOP Soccer for a little over 10 years now and the Illiana soccer teams attend every Friday, in the spring and in the fall.

"I love going!" said junior Sam Gaich. "I try to get a new kid every time to play with be-

cause they're so much fun to be around."

Illiana's soccer coach Chip Bevins started the TOP Soccer program at the Dyer Indoor Soccer Arena but passed it off after a few years. Now, nursing student Nicole Bardoczi runs the program and knows Illiana students well. According to the Illinois Youth Soccer Association, TOP Soccer is a community based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities.

"Even if the soccer teams weren't required to go, I still would because it's a blast!" said Gaich.

TOP Soccer has helped

many mentally and physically handicapped boys and girls better express themselves and burn off any stress or energy they may have been dealing with throughout the week. The program has several positive aspects to it, but most importantly it gives kids the confidence they never would've had before the program. Like Hannah, many kids entered the program lacking confidence and social skills, but are now flourishing with a new sense of hope and passion to do better.

Michele Villa said, "Hannah gets so excited! She says she's going to be a champion and a good kicker!"



Photo courtesy of Illiana's Facebook
Drone captures ongoing construction at new campus.

New campus shows progress

Lauren Curtis

Co-Arts Editor

Construction and fundraising both continue to make progress at the new campus in Indiana.

The underground plumbing and electrical work have been finished, and most of the 1st floor concrete floors have been poured. The precast walls of the ARC and the gym are up, and the interior walls of the locker rooms and the load-bearing walls of the first floor of the classroom

wing have been completed. Iron workers should be able to set steel so work can begin on the second floor soon.

"Everything is on schedule," Principal Pete Boonstra says. "There has been great weather so we have every reason to believe we will be able to move into the building in the fall."

Raising funds remains a priority. The Challenger bike ride was also a success, raising about \$35,000. Over 100 riders participated, choosing to ride either a 10-, 25-, 33- or 66-mile distance. Michelle Sserwadda, who is a member of the fundraising team, hopes that this can become an annual event.

Boonstra relapses, undergoes chemotherapy

Haleigh Olthof

Co-News Editor

After a relapse of his cancer, principal Peter Boonstra has had four rounds of chemotherapy at Ingalls Memorial Hospital, and doctors are hopeful for a cure.

A routine June computerized tomography (CT) scan showed that the cancer for which Boonstra had surgery last year had returned. In July, a positron emission tomography (PET) scan and biopsy confirmed that the cancer had spread to a lymph node in his back.

Given a choice between radiation and chemotherapy, Boonstra said he chose the option that was more likely to produce a cure: four rounds of chemotherapy. Each round consists of seven

hours of treatment a day for five days straight. Two-week breaks between rounds allow for rest. Boonstra said the first of these weeks is spent dealing with side effects, but he starts to feel stronger by the second week.

After Boonstra had completed two rounds of chemotherapy, a CT scan showed no persisting signs of cancer. However, Boonstra's doctor insisted on "not quitting at half-time" and finishing the last two rounds.

"It's been very heartwarming to feel the love of a community around me," said Boonstra. The Illiana community has been supportive by sending notes, videos, and meals. He also said the Illiana faculty has taken over his responsibilities well.



Illiana travelers take a tour of the Alhambra with a local guide.

Photo by Cate Peerbolte

Lunch A outnumbers Lunch B by 16%

Dominic Turkstra
Reporter

This school year finds Illiana’s two lunch periods with an unbalanced number of kids. Lunch A has 255 kids while lunch B has 220.

Vice principal Mr. Turkstra says that a big factor behind lunch A having more students is Mrs. Menninga's band class which can only attend lunch A. Menninga's class consists of 33 students.

However, Turkstra added said that the cafeteria is able to fit up to 300 students. So he says that there shouldn’t be any problems with students finding tables no matter which lunch they are in.

Sophomore Benjamin Mester said that the he didn't mind the imbalance in lunch since he could find his friends right away and that there were many open tables in the lunchroom.

Spanish students experience travel, culture

Jordan Bivins
Reporter

A small group of Illiana students departed from O’Hare airport for ten days of adventure in Spain. The trip was chaperoned by Mr. Knapper and his wife Rachelle.

Junior Genesis Barlow said she had always wanted to travel out of

the country. She said this trip was “a once in a lifetime opportunity,”

Preparing for the trip wasn’t stressful, said Knapper. This was his third school trip. The travel agency the Spanish department partnered with made sure the group was settled and had everything they needed. Prior to the trip, Mr. Knapper provided students with videos, pictures, and

rules for them to go over with their parents.

Junior Matt Fulton said how he noticed how different the culture is from here in the United States. He noticed the people are much friendlier and actually stop to speak to citizens on the street.

The trip was a great experience for Illiana students who hadn’t been

out of the country before. Students traveled to Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, and Granada. The group watched bullfights, visited beaches, and tried new food. Junior Michael Van Milligan said he snapped over 1,000 pictures during the trip.

Knapper said the Spanish Department is planning another Spain trip for the summer of 2019.

Science curriculum changes trajectory

Kylie Boss
Reporter

Due to a change in the science curriculum this year, most incoming freshmen are taking physical science instead of biology.

Freshmen in a standard track will now take physical science, one semester of light physics and one semester of light chemistry, according to science teacher Mr. Brian Sylvester. Sylvester says freshman taking physical science now will have a better understanding of chemistry and physics in the later years of high school. Physics is the most basic science, added Sylvester. To understand all of the others

sciences, physics is a must have.

Guidance counselor Mrs. Helen Bussema said physical science is the standard curriculum in the ninth grade for most high schools, and it lays a better foundation for the next sciences courses to come. Bussema added that the science department had been considering the switch for a while before finally making the change this year.

Freshman Allison Vermeer said that she was “happy with physical science” instead of taking biology. Fellow freshman classmate Ashley Koditek said she believes physical science is “a lot less work” than biology.



A group of boys plays football at Illiana’s fall cookout.

Photo by Jeff DeVries

Burgers, hot dogs, students scorched at fall cookout

Jaden Denton
Reporter

The cookout – ICHS’s semi-annual outdoor picnic for the student body in the athletic fields—occurred on September 19. Student Council once again sponsored the event.

Ben Wiersma, a junior here at Illiana, says one of his favorite parts of the cookout is how different it is from a normal school day. He said, “It’s really nice being able to hang out with everyone and not being separated by two different lunch periods.”

Sherron Hamilton, a sophomore who is new to Illiana this year, is glad to have time outside instead of being stuck inside the school all day. Hamilton also likes being able to grill. She said, “Not many other schools have the freedom to trust their students like this.”

Junior Corey Schoon thinks that the cookout hasn’t changed much since he was a freshman.

“Everyone is still very accepting and open,” Schoon said.

Illiana welcomes Mr. Kuipers, Mrs. Limback

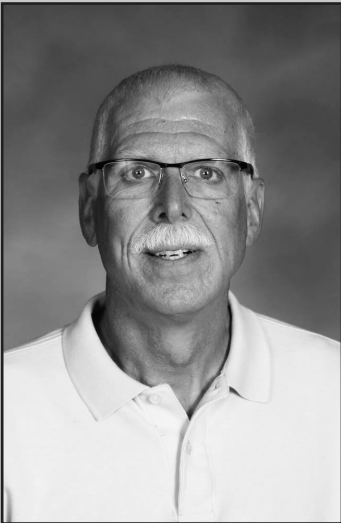
Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

This fall, Illiana gained a new science teacher, Mr. Jim Kuipers, who is currently teaching physics and chemistry.

Kuipers sent the last eighteen years teaching in the science department at Chicago Christian High School and before that spent eighteen years building and selling six different companies in the environmental business.

He said he made the switch to Illiana because of smaller commute and to be able to work toward developing the STEM program here.

He said, “It’s the perfect opportunity here, a diamond in the rough situation with lots of potential and students who have a desire for science.”



Mrs. Marie Limback is the new admissions counselor at Illiana this year.

Limback got her degree in psychology at Trinity Christian College and her masters in distance education from the University of Maryland. She served as an admissions counselor at Trinity for four year when she first started working. Most recently she worked at the American School, first teaching a career planning course and psychology, then she was the principal and lastly the Director of Curriculum.

She says she would love to get to know the students and community of potential students, from the “feeder” grade schools and transfer students, and find ways to bring them together.

She says, “Mr. Boonstra called me, asking if I wanted the job, and I felt that the Lord laid it in front of me as a new opportunity.”

Despite lower enrollement, Illiana administration hopeful for future

Alex Wondaal
Co-Sports Editor

Illiana has experienced a steady decline in enrollment in the last decade for multiple reasons. The current freshman class is especially small at only 108 students. Feeder schools near Illiana have been sending lower percentages of students. Lansing Christian once sent over 90% of its graduates. This year Illiana received only 70% of them. Highland Christian is in the same boat. Calvin Christian has had the most dramatic drop. ICHS once welcomed over 80% of Calvin’s graduates. This year only 16% of Calvin graduates came to Illiana. Crown Point Christian, however, has been sending higher percentages of stu-

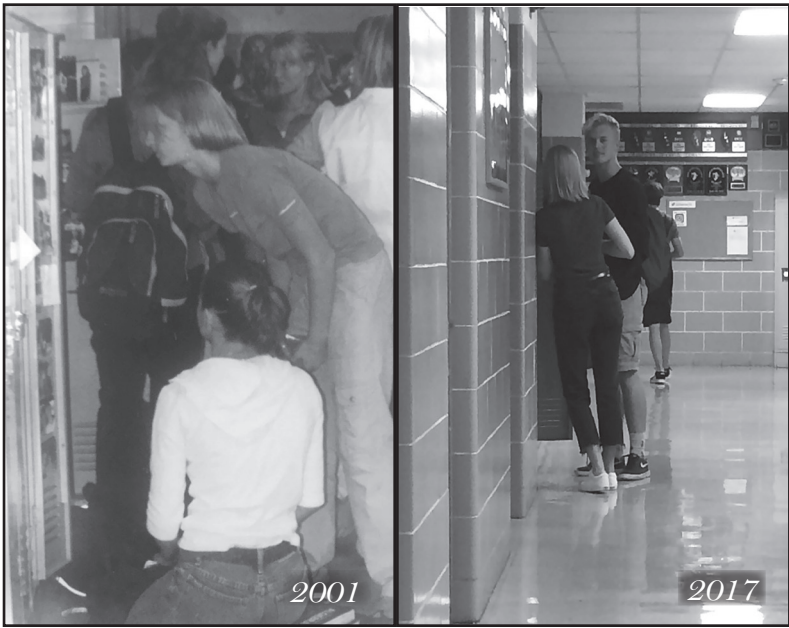


Photo courtesy of 2001 Spire Photo by Grant Gibson

In 2001, Illiana’s students high enrollment made hallways difficult to navigate. No such problems exist today.

dents the last few years. 66% of their last graduating class came to Illiana this year. According to Principal Peter Boonstra, this is due to population decreases in Evangelical churches in areas around Illiana. Boonstra also said other private schools such as Heritage Christian High School and

Covenant Christian High School that did not exist twenty years ago are now competing for students that would otherwise attend Illiana. Another factor Boonstra blames for the decline is the rising cost of tuition and the “ongoing injustice of inadequate funding for Christian Schools.” He added, “[Private Christian School Education] takes a greater sacrifice today than twenty years ago.” He then mentioned that the Illiana administration is working on budgeting for next year, trying to assure tuition sees only a “reasonable increase.” Vice Principal AJ Turkstra said that another factor is “a different level of commitment towards Christian education.” He then added that moving schools is in-

tended not only to increase enrollment but also to keep the community together. He said, “I’m a believer that by moving we’re actually keeping the community together.” He explained that Illiana’s constituency is made up of mostly blue collar workers. “Blue collar guys go where the work is. The work is South,” said Turkstra. Boonstra and Turkstra both stressed that there is no way to know how the new school will affect enrollment until that time comes. They both said they anticipate another drop next year. “We hope that enrollment is going to increase but there could be a small drop,” said Turkstra. Both principals were hopeful that a new location will eventually lead to a higher enrollment.

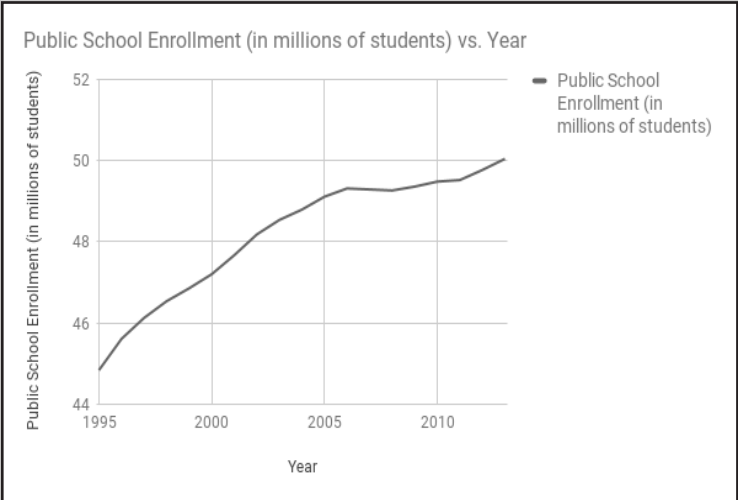
Christian schools across nation facing decline

Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief

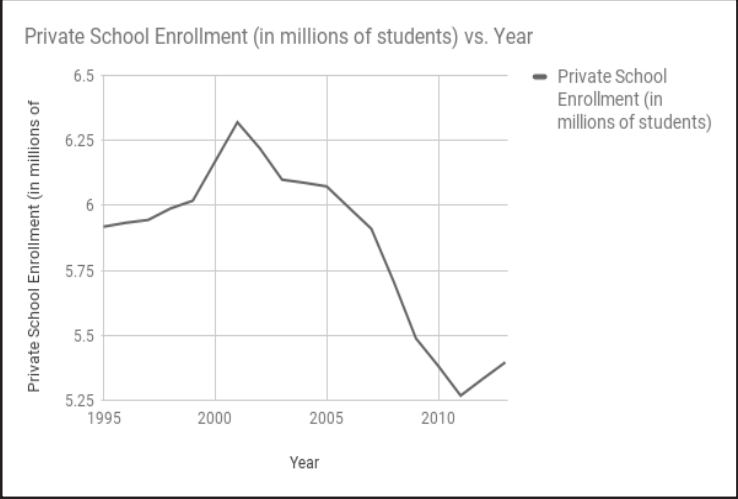
Illiana Christian High School has seen its enrollment decline every year but one since the 2000-2001 calendar school year, but it is not the only school facing such struggles. In fact, ICHS’s struggles reflect larger trends in American society. Both elementary and high school enrollment, for public schools and Christian schools, grew rapidly in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1971, however, it reached its peak, according to National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The increase of enrollment mirrored the baby boom, but after that era, enrollment decreased every year for thirteen years ending around the year 1984. Enrollment then skyrocketed from 1985-2006 hitting record levels every year. After 2006, there was a slight decline in the total public and private school enrollment, but in 2013, enrollment started increasing once again for public education and has been increasing ever since. However, that is not the case for private schools. Private school enrollment

for grades Pre-K through 12 increased from 1985 to 1996, but since then it has been declining. The U.S. recession, around 2008, played a detrimental role as well. During a time when many parents lost their jobs or faced salary reductions, declines in private school enrollment accelerated. “It is accurate to say that Christian Schools International (CSI) schools on average are in a period of stable enrollments, but have not yet recovered from the period of economic recession in the U.S. to growth,” said Jeff Blamer, the vice president of membership at CSI. According to the statistics, however, private school enrollment continues to slide with a projected decline of another 10% by the 2025-26 school year, according to NCES. That rate does represent a much slower decline than that experienced over the last decade. “The greatest decline in enrollment has been in the Northeastern U.S,” said Blamer. “CSI has few schools there, but ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) has seen a significant decline and attributes it to the in-

fluence of secular culture and worldview in that region.” Blamer contributes the decline in enrollment over the past decade to the mobility of families and jobs, which then cause the next generation to move away from their communities and families. He also claims that institutional loyalty has declined with an effect on churches and schools, and that family size is also taking a toll. Another contributing factor is that parents today have many more choices for where they will educate their child. A.J. Turkstra, vice principal of ICHS, agreed with Blamer about the next generation moving away. “More students are going to college and not returning.” He explained that years ago we lived in a bigger world in the sense that people did not travel as far or move as frequently because transportation was not as easy or quick as it is now. Turkstra added that he believed the biggest decline is because there are fewer people that value Christian education. “Churches are shrinking and they don’t talk about or push Christian education enough,” said Turkstra.



The graph above shows the increase in public school enrollment from 1995 to 2013. In the United States, the enrollment increased from 45 million students to 50 million students. It continues to rise.



The graph above shows private school enrollment from 1995 to 2013. Enrollment hit its peak in 2001, with 6.32 million students attending private schools; it then decreased to 5.26 million by 2011. Private school enrollment has since stabilized, with only a slight downward bias projected into the future.

New year, better locker



Photo courtesy of Livingly.com

- You will need:
- 1 Picture Frame
 - Paint of your choice
 - Decorations (glitter, stickers, jewels, etc.)
 - Shower Board
 - Gorrila or Krazy Glue
 - Picture hanger or magnet (optional)

- Instructions:
1. Choose a photo frame. (It can be any size or shape.)
 2. Paint the frame.
 3. Once the frame is dry, decorate it. Use this time to be creative.
 4. Measure the glass of the frame. Then, go to your local hardware store and get shower board in the same size of the glass.
 5. Attach the shower board to the frame using Gorrila or Krazy Glue.
 6. Use the Gorrila or Krazy Glue to attach a picture hanger or a magnet to the back of the frame.
 7. Hang in your locker.



Photo courtesy of Redefinedmom.com

Lauren Curtis
Co-Arts Editor

- You will need:
- 3-4 Cereal Boxes
 - Glue (Hot or Elmers)
 - Duct Tape
 - Decorative/Wrapping Paper
- Instructions:
1. Stack cereal boxes (around the same size) on top of one another. (Make sure they are stacked directly on top of each other.)
 2. Glue them together. (You can use either a hot glue gun or just regular Elmers glue.)
 3. Wrap duct tape around the boxes for extra support.
 4. Wrap the boxes as a whole with decorative or wrapping paper. (Make sure not to cover the openings of the boxes.)



Picture courtesy of JENerationDIY from YouTube.com

- You will need:
- 1 Chunky wooden block letter
 - Paint of your choosing
 - Decorations (bows, glitter, stickers, etc.)
- Instructions:
1. Paint a thin layer of your favorite color on the block letter. (Be sure to let each side dry before doing the next one.)
 2. Once all the sides have been painted, paint another layer. This way the color will be vibrant.
 3. Paint as many layers as needed until the color is vibrant.
 4. Add decorations.

Locker Organization Tips

1. Keep a note pad or dry erase board in your locker. That way, you can keep track of important assignments that are due.
2. Have a locker shelf to organize your books by subject.
3. Keep extra pencils, pens, paper and other school supplies in your locker so that you are always prepared.
4. Use your locker to express yourself. Decorate it with wallpaper, block letters, lights or whatever else you'd like.

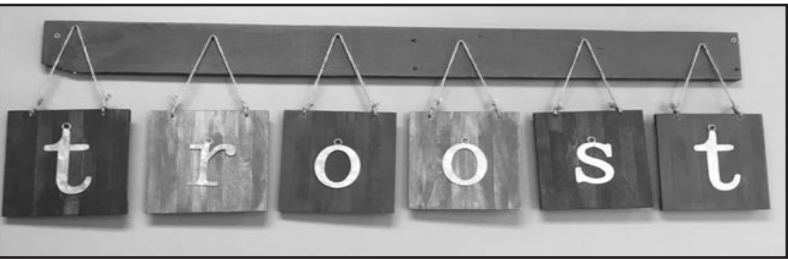
“Troost” means comfort... new coffee shop lives up to its name

Natalie Togtman
Co-Arts Editor

Troost, a coffee shop in Lansing located just off Ridge Road, behind Mancino’s Pizza and Grinders, has the friendliest staff, welcoming customers, and reasonable prices. The customers consist of many teenagers and kids, which makes it noisy at times.

Service is very quick.

Multiple pictures hang on a corkboard. They offer an eclectic mix of photos that celebrate the coffee shop, its owners, and



its customers. The walls range from a light grey to a dark grey. The space is divided into three rooms, two that you may rent out for private events. Those two rooms both include walls that you may write on. The environment is inviting and comforting, almost like stepping into someone’s home.

The food consists entirely of pastries and baked goods, and the menu rotates to new items almost daily. On the Friday I stopped in, the pumpkin cinnamon roll, which is just a regular cinnamon roll with pumpkin icing, was one



Pictures courtesy of Natalie Togtman

of their featured pastries. It offered a perfect balance between the two flavors.

The London Fog Tea consists of Earl Grey tea with steamed milk and vanilla. The flavor and smell of it reminded me of lavender, making for an odd taste. Teas are served hot or cold.

The Pumpkin Swirl Latte includes Pumpkin spice,

white mocha, espresso, milk, whipped cream, and cinnamon. This is a special beverage only available for a limited time. The taste of the pumpkin spice was not overpowering, making it enjoyable. Coffees are served cold or hot, as well.

I recommend going to Troost for its reasonable prices, good service, and great coffee.

Troost Coffee and Tea
Address: 18155 Roy St, Lansing, IL 60438
Website: <https://www.troost-coffeeandtea.com/>
Rating: ★★★★★
Hours: Mon-Fri 7AM-6PM
Sat 8AM to 5PM
Sun Closed
Number: (708) 858-3201

Race for new conference begins

Beth Boonstra
Co-Editor in Chief

Being located in a new state next year, Illiana will have to join a new conference and state association, but so far, ICHS athletic directors have received no invitations to apply to new conferences despite their efforts.

Athletic Director Darren DeBoer has been handling most of the sports transition with the move. He said, "Not being in a conference [only] means that you don't have a conference schedule.... So that means you just have to make up your own schedule, so that's the tricky part."

DeBoer has a bulletin board in his office full of Illiana sports with 16 blanks under each sport. Each of these blanks is a game that must be scheduled before next year. Typically, conference games are scheduled about a year in advance, and schools don't want to schedule non-conference games before they know about their conference schedule. So far,

the board only has three games on it, but more are expected to trickle in as this fall season comes to a close.

Illiana must also join the IHSA (Indiana High School Athletic Association) to participate in postseason events. "We have to apply, be accepted, and then go through the new member process as a part of the IHSA," DeBoer said. "I'm pretty sure they'll accept us right away."

Generally new schools joining the association are required to sit a four year probationary period before they may participate in postseason, but added, "We'll have to appeal... because it's the first time it's happened in any state that we have a private school that moves across state borders and is applying. So Indiana's trying to treat us like we're a new school,... and we're trying to say we've been around forever. We should be able to just participate be-

cause we're a responsible, well-established school." Illiana will not know where it stands with the IHSA until at least August, when it officially becomes an Indiana school and may apply and then appeal.

Multiple factors determine finding the right conference including school size, football, and location according to DeBoer. Many conferences want to have an even number of schools so that each week two schools can pair up without one being left out. DeBoer said, "So if there's six teams to a conference, and they add a seventh, we create problems scheduling-wise for them, for all of the sports, because we're the seventh team. If they have seven, and we make eight, we make a nice match for all of the other ones, but football. Football is probably the driving sport when it comes to conferences, hands down."

Furthermore, Illiana wants to avoid joining a conference with schools more than an hour away because

it can be hard on students, coaches, and families.

DeBoer believes that the Indiana school demographics shouldn't be too different from what they are here with some "monster schools" and other "farm schools." If anything, he thinks that the conferences there may have less of a gap with closer competition.

DeBoer said, "The responses we have been getting are that their conferences are not looking to expand. That's kind of the general reason. It's like if you asked somebody out and they said, 'I don't want to date anybody right now.' ...You don't know what they really mean."

The move may also raise concerns for students intent on competing in postseason or looking for college scouting. Sophomore cross country runner Gillian Fiene qualified for state last year, but has been injured for most of this season. Unsure of whether she will compete downstate this year or in years following,

she still seems content about the future.

"I will still run as part of the team," Fiene said. "I love the girls and coaches, and even though we may not be able to participate in postseason, there are still other races available outside of state." Colleges base most of their scholarships on times, so she her hard work can still pay off.

Other athletes such as state cross country competitor Senior Derek VanProoyen said, "I personally would probably still compete just so I could be in shape for college to continue with the running career, but there wouldn't be as much to look forward to at the end of the season."

Sophomore tennis player and state competitor Lizzie Knot said, "I could have a really great season next year and it won't matter because I couldn't be rewarded for it."

DeBoer hopes that athletes will see that the value of a Christian education is more important than sports.



Photo by Deb Kamp

Illiana athletes pose for picture at Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center

Irons Oaks unifies competitors one last time

Jo Mulder
Co-Sports Editor

On Wednesday, Sept. 13, Illiana sent eleven junior and senior athletes to Irons Oaks Environmental Learning Center which was still wet from the rains.

They joined athletes from other Metro-Suburban Conference schools to form teams of twelve with a student from each of the different schools. The purpose was to build trust and promote relationships among athletes by pitting the students in different scenarios while teaching them to be more "cooperative than competitive," as Athletic Director Deb Kamp put it. They spent four hours there, and as the rain dried

up the teammates grew closer.

One activity had two teammates on two parallel cables suspended in the air. Each person placed his or her hands on the hands of the opposite person. They used each other's weight and strength to slowly walk their way down the wires which were gradually spreading apart. The rest of the team was down below to catch them should they fall.

Illiana has hosted the event for nine years. Unfortunately, the event has reached a bittersweet ending as Illiana plans its move to a new campus and conference.

New logo bags mixed reviews

Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

Illiana Christian High School unveiled its updated logo at the start of the new school year to mixed reviews.

The logo has been simplified to just a shield with the letter I on the front.

The idea for a logo and mascot change first surfaced a year and a half ago. Then athletic director, Mr. Lance Davids, thought that a change in campus brought an opportunity to reconsider the school's Viking mascot.

Davids said, "There are some who don't view Vikings as something a Christian school should be represented by, and if we were ever going to change it now would be a good time."

Vice Principal, Mr. AJ Turkstra, said the idea was sent the administration and public relations committee and that they found "the school community wanted to update the logo and make it more streamlined."

Kevin Bruinsma, from the marketing and graphic design company Visual Communications, talked with the committee about rebranding the school and then designed the new logo.



The logo will be used on all merchandise and apparel for sports teams from now on.

Junior Hayley Smit dislikes the new logo because it no longer displays the word Christian on the front and said, "I feel like

it doesn't set us apart from other surrounding schools. By displaying the word Christian we are showing what is important to us."

Senior Kyle Zuidema likes the logo and said, "We show who we are as Christians by the way we act, not what's on our shirts."

Technology Coordinator and golf coach Jack Rudenga disapproved of the logo and said, "A logo is the face of an institute and it's sad that we removed Christian from ours. Even a cross would have been a good symbol."

Teacher Bill Venhuizen was hoping for a mascot change. "Why is the priority to take Christian out of the shield but not change our mascot?" he asked.

Teacher and former girls basketball coach Tom Knapper said, "I like the previous logo better, but I'm glad they're making it more consistent across the school and sports teams."



Photo by Mary Lagerwey
Lagerweys Pose with bikes after completing Apple Cider Century

Daughter continues Lagerwey biking tradition

Grant Gibson
Co-Feature Editor

Mr. Rob Lagerwey, math teacher, is a lifetime bike enthusiast who in recent years, has passed on his hobby to the youngest daughter - Esther.

“After he shared his passion with me, it became my passion,” senior Esther Lagerwey said.

Esther has been on a bike almost all of her life. She started as any toddler does, with training wheels on the sidewalk and a push from her dad. But she would go much farther down the trail.

Since 2010, Esther has biked alongside her father at the annual Apple Cider Century, a 15- to 100-mile ride. On Sept. 26, 2010, she and her dad biked 25 miles around Three

Oaks, Michigan, the town that hosts the recreational excursion. She slowly upped the mileage, and by 2014, she was biking the whole hundred.

Her dad actually “would keep me going, and talk about a bunch of things. We’d do math problems,” Esther said with a giggle. “And we’d do third roots and square roots, perfect squares....”

Esther’s next-door-neighbor has a philosophy on why biking is the best, and she said that it’s the reason why she loves it too. “It’s ‘the good speed’ because you can still enjoy nature while going a further distance than, say, running,” she said, referencing her neighbor. “It can be a form of transportation, but it can also be exercise. And you can still talk to someone while you do it, so it’s social as well.”

Back in 2A, cross country boys aim high

Kade Bouwer
Co-Sports Editor

The boys cross country team has gotten off to a good start, capturing first at the recent Illiana Invite and also placing first at the Bishop McNamara Irish Conditioner. They also took second out of 32 teams at the Culver Invitational.

After struggling in the 3A division for two years, the team has been bumped back into the smaller 2A division. They plan to come back with a vengeance.

With state and conference approaching in the coming weeks, the team expects to do well in both.

“We should be in the top ten at state and we definitely have a chance to win conference,” said Coach Jim Piaskowy.

“As a team we have been working hard at practices, we feel like we

have a good chance of placing well at state this year and we have the men to do it,” said freshmen Justin VanDrunen.



Photo by Dave Gibson

Senior Austin Ohm wins the Rich Dust Invitational



Sports Catch-ups



Girls Cross Country

Kade Bouwer
Co-Sports Editor

third at the Bishop McNamara Irish Conditioner.

“It is interesting to look at the place you may have ended up in [if everyone was healthy],” said Coach Deb Top. “But we have had some really good new people who I didn’t expect to do this well this early, and that has really helped us out.”

Sophomore Gillian Fiene, the top runner for the team, has been out for most of the season due to a fractured fibula, but she hopes to be back in time for state.

Top said, “We still hope to make it to state as a team with or without her. Hopefully it will be with her though.”

Boys Soccer

Cate Peerbolte
Co-Feature Editor

The Illiana boys Varsity soccer team, a collection of seventeen players, have not lost a home game this year. The team’s record is 5-3-1.

Captain Josh Smits said, “We are a very strong team, but we are also a young team with many talented underclassmen.”

Freshman Jake VanderZee said, “It is awesome knowing that there is a strong team backing you up while playing.”

A highlight for the team was taking 2nd place out of 16 teams in the Rivals Cup Tournament. Junior Sam Gaich said, “The team has been doing a good job of passing and communicating, but we need to work on finishing the shots that we take.”

Captain Jason Schutt has been out with a concussion since Sept. 14. This has been a setback for the team but Captain Garret VanderZee said, “When Jason got injured, Isaac (Gomez) did a really good job stepping up in the goal.”

Girls Volleyball

Natalie Togtman
Co-Arts Editor

The varsity volleyball team, which includes seven juniors, four seniors, and one freshman, went into this season skeptical of how things would turn out because the team only had four returning players.

Coach Nicole Van Dyke said, “Coach Byma and I wanted this year’s team to compete. We have a very tough schedule because we are on the more difficult side of the conference. Our tournament schedule is also very hard. We played the fifth team in the Crossroads Classic.”

The team placed seventh in the Chicago Christian High School Invitational, fourth at the Crossroads Classic in Effingham, and third at the Manteno Invitational. The team has a record of 8-14.

Boys Golf

Jo Mulder
Co-Photo Editor

The varsity golf team has come up strong with a 12-2 record despite the graduation of a few of its top golfers last spring.

Coach Jack Rudenga says he is happy with the team’s new senior leadership. The team has had a good relationship and varsity golfer Lawton Bouwer said, “[There are] a lot of fun guys on the team.”

They have worked on consistency this season and have focused on creating a deep, well-rounded team. Rudenga has continually reminded the players that not only are they representing themselves, but also him as a coach, the team, the school and above all Christ.

The boys are currently tied with IC Prep for 1st place in the Metro-Suburban Conference.

Girls Tennis

Grant Gibson
Co-Feature Editor

a squad of girls advancing to state finals.

Although Esther qualified for state in doubles with sophomore Lizzie Knot in 2016, she won’t be able to attend this year’s state championship tournament because the senior class trips occurs at the same time as finals. Undeterred, Coach Lagerwey said he believes that Knot will qualify in singles and sophomore Lily Olthof and junior Haleigh Olthof will qualify in the state’s doubles competition.

Illiana’s girls tennis, with a 7-5 record as of Sept. 26, is putting in work to help teammates make it to state. With the help of a new theory involving down-the-line shots that coach Rob Lagerwey hopes will help them secure more points, the team is optimistic about

Male Athlete of the Month

Senior Justin DeBoer has played golf for four years at Illiana. His junior and senior season he has played at the varsity level.

Even though he is not the top golfer on varsity, DeBoer has been a consistent scorer and has come in clutch in important matches. In a crucial divisional match against ICCP he led the team with a score of 40, catapulting his team to victory.

Freshmen Leighton Foster said, “He is a good leader, and if we ever have any questions, he’ll answer them for us. He always helps us get better at our game.”



Female Athlete of the Month

Senior Esther Lagerwey has played tennis for four years at Illiana, one at the junior varsity level and three at the varsity level. Her junior year she was a state qualifier.

“It was kind of nerve wrecking at state,” said Lagerwey. “We did lose, but it was a really good experience.”

Since the senior class trip interferes with the state finals, she won’t have the chance to give state another shot.

This year she has led the team on and off the courts.

Sophomore Lily Olthof said, “She is always putting in 100 percent in our warmups, and she is always encouraging us during our matches.”

Editorial

Texas hurricane exposes hypocrisy

The people of Texas were put to the test in how they would handle and react to the horrible storm known as Hurricane Harvey on August 25, 2017. The hurricane tore homes, businesses, power lines, and traffic signs to bits, leaving their pieces scattered everywhere. It flooded homes with water, turning basement and living room floors into tiny ponds. It replaced the streets with rivers, compelling people to use boats instead of cars. Debris covered everything. Battered by wind and water, victims fled their homes.

In the midst of the horror, hundreds of thousands of Houstonians sought shelter in safe and dry buildings. Many institutions opened their doors wide to those in desperate need.

But one did not. Televangelist Joel Osteen's mega-church in Houston, Lakewood Church, announced that its regular services would be closed and listed other places for people to take shelter instead of offering its 16,800 person capacity to victims. After thousands

complained and questioned his Christianity, Joel Osteen finally opened his church to the people.

We, like Osteen, struggle with looking outwardly. We don't always see the people hurting around us. We only see our own needs. Sometimes the best thing we can do is watch and listen. Listen to the needs and hurts of others. Reach out and show others the kindness

Kindness is contagious, and when it spreads it results in better Christlike relationships.

of Christ. We need to offer a hand and take the first step without being asked. Not only do we need to show more acts of kindness and Christ's love, but we also need to act out what we preach. We can repeat what God's word instructs of us, but do we always live it? Joel Osteen preaches every week, but he missed the opportunity to rescue those in need when the opportunity arose. It is easy to judge him for this, and it is even appropriate to do so. But

how often are we, too, guilty of missing opportunities to show grace and compassion?

Despite Joel Osteen missing the perfect opportunity to set a Christlike example, many others knew they wanted to help people right away. Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale, owner of a furniture store in Houston, decided to go out and

rescue victims of the storm. McIngvale gathered up volunteers and used his delivery trucks to pick up people and bring them back to stay in his store. McIngvale saw it as a way to give back to the people who had helped him when he was in need. In 2009, his warehouse was lit on fire. The damage cost millions, but his customers kept him in business. People had shown kindness to him, so he wanted to show kindness to

others as well. Simple acts of kindness can affect people in major ways and change the way they treat others.

The kindness of those customers resulted in McIngvale showing kindness and offering a safe haven to others. He is a great example of just how powerful kindness and compassion are. We cannot live with the mindset of thinking we can't make a difference. Making a difference may not be as hard as we think it is. It can start by picking up books for someone, offering someone a ride, or paying for someone's lunch. Kindness is contagious, and when it spreads it results in better Christlike relationships.

So in the wake of this disaster, let's not emulate perhaps the most famous health-and-wealth gospel preacher today. His actions prove just how shallow his version of the gospel is. Instead, let's be like Mattress Mack. Let's embrace a gospel with hands and feet that get wet and dirty for the sake of love.

They will know we are Christian by our logo? Gimme a break!

Green and white, let's fight! This Loud Crowd cheer isn't telling us to fight over the shade of green we like best or the words in our school logo. This cheer unites us as a school community.

But we aren't united. We are divided over new changes to our school logo. This change was a part of a rebranding process that the school board began last year.

Kevin Bruinsma was hired to design a new branding campaign.

As a part of this campaign he helped design the new school logo. This logo is now on the school website, on documents, and on uniforms.

This logo seeks to update and modernize Illiana's image. The logo has kept the previous shape of the shield. In the center of the logo is an "I" and it no longer bears the word Christian, a change that has bothered a few people and has led to a few heated debates.

I think the whole controversy is overblown. The old school logo's focus point was on the word Christian. Although this word is now absent, we are no less Christian. The school remains Illiana Christian High School. Our school is still founded on the Bible and still works to equip its students with a Christian worldview. And our witness is just as consistent.

For example, on most weekends people watch me run for our cross country team. These watching include family, friends, and complete strangers. When we run, we represent our school because we are an Illiana team. We are associated with our school by our uniforms, tents, coaches, and actions. At each race I see more people that I don't know than people I do.

Before a race my teammates and I come together to pray. Other teams get together and yell loudly to get them excited and put attention on themselves. As a team we only raise our voices to say two words, "For Him."

People notice us. They notice what we have written on our uniforms. But I mostly think that notice how we act. Our behavior will always speak louder than any logo, and our school name will mean nothing if we act like every other high school. If we don't act Christianly, these strangers don't remember us. But if we show Christ's love to those around us, they will.

John 13:35 says "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Christ calls us always to be his disciples. We are his disciples if our logo says Christian and we are his disciples if it doesn't.

The new school logo doesn't have the word Christian in it. But will that change who we are or how we act? No, we are Christians by the way we show the Lord's love not because we are labeled with a word.



Cate Peerbolte
Co-Feature Editor

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 withheld.

Pray for the victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Jose, and Maria, and for the victims of Mexico City's earthquake.



Mexico City

Photo courtesy of wired.com.



Puerto Rico

Photo courtesy of nymag.com.



Houston, Texas

Photo courtesy of wired.com.

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