



Dordt President, Illiana musicians dedicate new building



Wind Ensemble performs "Clouds Set Sail Above Heaven" for Illiana community members.

Photo by Jim Kamphuis

Natalie Togtman

Co-Arts Editor

On Saturday, Sept. 15, about 570 people gathered in the gym to celebrate the dedication of the new school building. The event started at

7 p.m and lasted until 9 p.m.

The dedication included words from President of the Board Don Zuidema, Director of Spiritual Development Lance Davids, Principal Peter Boonstra, and keynote speaker Dr. Eric Hoekstra, the Pres-

ident of Dordt College.

Hoekstra said, "The point of my message was that Christian education matters. It matters beyond our spiritual view and our worldview. It matters in every area of our lives."

People also joined in

music and a time of worship led by Caleb Dutton. The wind ensemble, a cappella choir, and orchestra also performed. After the ceremony, guests enjoyed punch and cake and self-guided tours of the facility.

Senior Lilly Armendariz said, "My favorite part was seeing everyone together. It didn't matter if you were a former student or a current student. It was awesome to see everyone excited about the building."



Photo by Maddie Holesinger

Students Alex Eenigenburg and Jacob Gibson work on recording data from their STEM robots.

Illiana curriculum branches out to STEM

Lauren Woo

Reporter

Four STEM classes have been added to Illiana's curriculum, which will help students build problem solving and critical thinking skills, along with preparing them for different careers.

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The four STEM classes Illiana offers are: Introduction to Engineering and Design (IED), Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM), Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA), and Engineering Design and Development (EDD). All of these classes give the opportunity for free college credit.

IED is the base level STEM class, focusing on developing problem solving and critical thinking, along with

introducing the engineering design process.

CIM helps students understand manufacturing, product design, robotics, and automation.

CEA gives students the opportunity to design, to construct models of, and to evaluate commercial and residential buildings.

EDD prepares students for what they will do after high school by developing career skills.

All of the courses were developed by Project Lead the Way, a nonprofit organization that develops STEM curriculum for schools in the United States. Brent Vermeulen, the STEM teacher at Illiana, has experience teaching these classes at Hobart High School.

Vermeulen teaches all the classes with hands-on learning in mind. In-

stead of written tests, students compile their knowledge into projects. He says, "It's okay to fail; you'll succeed sooner."

Justin DeVries, a junior in CEA, said, "I love this class. It's interesting. Our teacher is cool, and he has lots of experience." He also mentioned that his class has studied different types of homes and they built their own models.

Seth Neumeyer, a freshman in IED said, "This class isn't your typical class." He explained most of what is done in class is digital, and that the class participates in "instant challenges," where they're given something to design with limited supplies and time.

Vermeulen's STEM students from Hobart went on to pursue various careers such as engineering, technology related jobs, and the trades.

New cell phone policy implemented

Taylor Benes

Reporter

The new "away for the day" cell phone policy implemented this year has yielded many positive reviews from students and staff.

To limit ongoing distractions and cheating, students may only use their phones before and after school, at lunch, or when given special permission.

According to principal Peter Boonstra, the old policy was outdated, so debate began on the best way to change it.

The faculty council, an advisory group of teachers, brought up the "away for the day" policy implemented by Timothy Christian. Vice principal AJ Turkstra said, "We heard that Timothy Christian started a new policy, and they're having great success with it, so we decided to try it."

"We did a survey amongst teachers, and there was a resounding positive response," Turkstra stated. "The board felt teachers needed [a better policy], so they approved it."

Many students and teachers give this change a positive light.

"The policy will up productivity within the students," senior Raúl Garcia thought.

"It solidifies my feeling that we have some of the best kids in the world, having a mature response to a rule they didn't see coming," English teacher Sara Johnson stated.

Although a majority are positive, some students disagree with the new change.

"Lunch is the most social time of the day, and I talk to my friends rather than using my phone," junior Kate Mulder said. "I would prefer having my phone during break time."

History teacher Rachel Drost sees only positive.

"People are looking up instead of at their phones," Drost said. "I find my students talking to each other more."

She continued, "I think it's created a better community at Illiana where we are present with each other instead of disappearing into a world in our phones."

Censorship threatens our personal liberties

I'm against anyone, personal or corporate or governmental, limiting freedoms. Recently, the European Union voted on and approved the Copyright Directive, which included a clause—Article 13 of the Directive—that will force all social media sites to input aggressive filters that detect and

remove anything with copyrighted material. Also, throughout 2018, tension has risen involving the censoring that media giants Facebook, Twitter, and

Google have been doing. Since the



Grant Gibson
Co-Feature Editor

companies are only limiting people's speech on their platforms, the move is legal. But legal doesn't mean right.

Social media sites are the only viable platforms for individuals to get opinions across to others on a massive scale. TV and radio are expensive and monitored heavily by the FCC, a government system. Other social media sites are relatively unknown or irrelevant, and they don't provide the outreach that the giants—Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram—provide.

The problem with Article 13 is that a lot of content under the Fair Use Act (which includes but isn't limited to: movie/music reviews, all video gameplay, and memes) won't see the light of day because of the way the filters will work, "disregarding fair use circumstances," according to Polygon. (For example, YouTube already has a copyright filter like this in place, but it only tracks copyrighted material for their respective holders and gives them the decision to leave it up or remove it.) This leaves European Internet culture alone in a dark room, unable to communicate anything involving copyrighted material to other regions of the world. Anyone from YouTube's biggest channel PewDiePie (who feeds off of the site's Fair Use policies) to everyday meme creators will be affected. On top of that, the whole video game industry relies on their games—copyrighted content—to be played and shared on the web to increase sales, which won't be happening in the European Union.

A bent government which doesn't favor the majority of its own people isn't the only problem though. The platforms affected by Article 13—social media sites—have been playing on an uneven field for a while as well.

Social media sites may be owned privately, but they sell themselves by saying that their sites are for the people. Facebook's mission statement is "to give people the power to build community and bring the world closer together." Facebook obviously brought the world closer when it shadowbanned multiple accounts without notice (see PragerU). Twitter's mission statement is "to give everyone the power to create and share ideas and information instantly, without barriers." That's ironic... especially when it banned people for satirical posts (see James Woods) or even for death threats to insects (see @nemuismywife).

Social media sites talk from both sides of their mouth. They blur their own lines, pick and choose which people to enforce which policies on, and go behind the backs of their own users. If they won't change their actions, we should at least advocate for transparency: they should share their algorithms, make public the nature of any and all blocked material, and explain the reasons for the bans. Thus, even if we don't have our freedom of expression, at least we'll have the freedom to judge the information we receive.

We have to decide which we value more—freedom of speech or private corporations' rules. I stand with our freedoms and will not let our government take them from us like Europe did. Instead, I want a government that fights not for people with power (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) but for free speech of the masses, for PewDiePie and PragerU and me and you.



Photo by Lizzie Knot

German students pose in front of Mt. Pilatus in Switzerland

German students climb new height, experience new culture

DJ Gladney

Reporter

Illiana teacher Luke Fennema took 9 students to Germany and several other nations from June 22 to July 5.

Senior Angel Silva said, "My time in Germany was unique and wonderful."

The group visited a number of sites like Berlin, Munich, Strasbourg, and Switzerland.

"It was weird because we didn't speak the language, which made [travel] rather difficult," senior Jake DeYoung said.

Jet lag also proved challenging. Silva said,

"The first day there was bad and most of us fell asleep going back to the hotel because of the time difference."

Fennema said, "We have been learning about Germany's language and culture, and the trip helps us do that. The trip also helped us bond as a group."

Silva's highlights included going summer toboggan sledding in Switzerland and experiencing a different culture.

Silva's funniest experience was when he "accidentally flooded a hotel bathroom and Ben Fabrizius tried to use a hair dryer to dry it up."

Landlopers camp at Tippecanoe

Brianna Rogers

Reporter

Landlopers, a group of nature enthusiasts, went on their camping trip to Tippecanoe State Park last Friday and Saturday, September 21 and 22.

Landlopers is a group of students who come from all classes. These student enjoy

really fellowship and spending time in God's creation.

The group was started in the late 70s and it's now lead by Mr. White, Illiana's history teacher. White was in Landlopers when he was a high school student attending Illiana. He really enjoyed spending time in nature, and when he returned to Illiana as a teacher he took over

the club.

Landlopers go to a new camping ground almost every year. According to campers, this year's site was beautiful and exciting.

"It is always nice to just spend time with friends and get to know other Illiana students who also enjoy camping and nature," said sophomore Alyssa Kramer.

The group also does

many fun things such as fishing, hiking, having campfires, night hikes and sometimes even canoeing. A highlight of the trip was a hike up a fire tower.

Landlopers is an event many students enjoy. Junior Brianna Bernhurst says, "It's really relaxing, exploring God's creation and just having a nice time with people you know."

IMPACT club seeks to include students

Big Brother/Big Sister, Better Illiana, Dorchaeus combine to form new group

Sophia Thompson

Reporter

IMPACT club, one of Illiana's newest clubs, creates a welcoming community within our school that helps build relationships with students who are struggling to find a place to fit in.

IMPACT club exists to create community, to make all peers feel welcome no

matter their race, gender, or disability. IMPACT is an acronym for Including My Peers As a Christian Teen.

A leader in the club, senior Natalie Togtman said, "We've all had a time when we've felt alone, and that's a terrible feeling to have. IMPACT works to make sure students never feel alone in Illiana."

The creator of the club, Mrs. Heidi Teach, started

this club in order to make sure all kids have friends and people to go to in times of trouble. This club combines the Big Brother/Big Sister, Better Illiana, and Dorcheus clubs from previous years to make one club that reaches out to all students. Teach came up with the idea after working in a Chicago public school where she felt like an outcast.

"For ten years I was

on the south side of Chicago at a public school so I know what it feels like to be the outsider. In an all African-American school, I understand what it feels like to not fit in, to not feel welcome. It took a long time to establish relationships with those people. So I am trying to take that experience and try to make kids here not feel that feeling of being left out.



The group prepares to whitewater raft.

Photo courtesy of Emma Wheler

Students, faculty hike Colorado, create friendships

Madison Ceronis
Reporter

Eight students joined Mr. Doug Gorter and Mrs. Suzanne Jonkman on a hiking and camping trip to Buena Vista, Colorado in July.

Students and chaperones travelled by bus to Buena Vista which means “beautiful view”. Going from Indiana to Colorado is a change in scenery. Mr. Gorter men-

tioned that Colorado is not like Indiana. It has fewer roads and people, and it boasts more wide open space.

The trip involved many activities including hiking the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, camping in Buena Vista KOA, sharing devotions, hiking Mount Belford, watching sunsets on the rocks and white water rafting.

Some students mentioned that it was challenging physically but turned out to be fun and they would

go again. They also mentioned it was a great way to push limits and make friends.

Jonkman stated, “The hiking and white water rafting was challenging physically and mentally. I recommend that physical training should be done prior to the trip.”

Jonkman was thankful to go on the trip and enjoyed that students were able to interact with each other and develop friendships.

New teacher, students string together new class

Benjamin Wheeler
Reporter

For the first time in its 73 year history, ICHS is offering students the opportunity to play in an orchestra under the direction of Mr. Andy Anderson.

The group currently consists of ten players; that number goes to eleven on songs when Anderson joins with his string bass.

The orchestra gave its first public performance on Saturday, Sept. 15, at the

new campus dedication service.

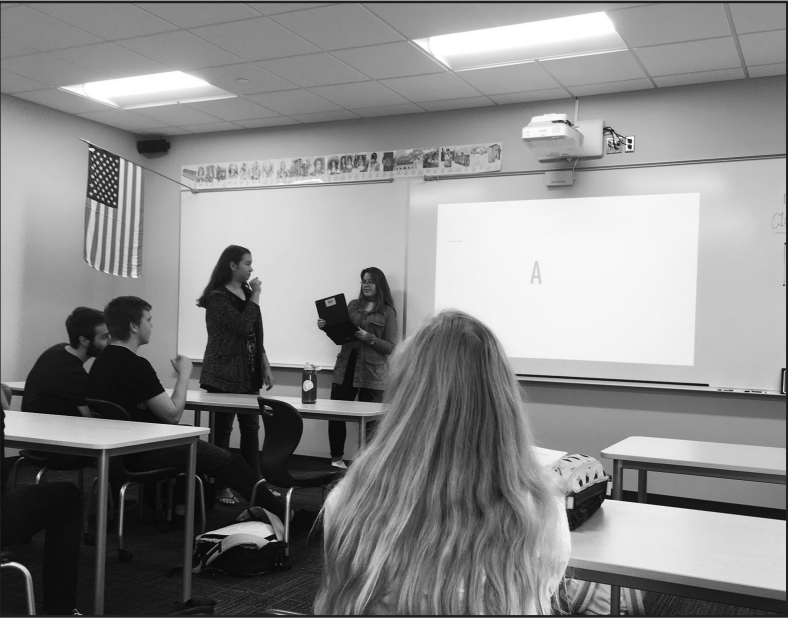
Sophomore Olivia Ipe-ma, who plays violin in the orchestra, said, “Mr. Anderson is very impressive; he is a multi-talented man and a very good director.”

Orchestra is different from band because the instrumentation is different, the primary difference being that orchestra features stringed instruments like violins, violas, and cellos—all instruments that do not appear in bands.



Mr. Anderson directs the orchestra.

Photo by Natalie Togtman



Students play a game to review the signs they've learned.

Photo by Haleigh Olthof

ASL club inspires students, teaches different form of communication

Seniors create club, bring in new members

Nina Verhagen
Reporter

Having discovered their shared love for sign language during musical practice last year, seniors Maddy Holesinger and Summer Rutter co-founded American Sign Language (ASL) Club alongside staff sponsor Cassie Siersema.

“We both think it’s a need,”

said Holesinger. “I think it makes people more aware of what other people are going through.... I think it’s important to understand that other culture.”

So far ASL (American Sign Language) club is the largest club with 27 members. Already the members have found ways to utilize their new knowledge.

“When I was at Top soccer, there was a kid who started doing

sign language and David Gomez and I picked up on that and started signing letters with him,” said junior Lance Mulderink, a member of the club.

Another member freshman Payton Skrezyna said, “I was never really able to talk to my deaf uncle. He would have to write stuff down, but since I started the club, I can now sign to him, and I think that’s super cool.”

Illiana welcomes new faculty members

Samuel Vargo
Reporter

Mrs. Karie Roeda

ICHS welcomed Mrs. Karie Roeda as the new Family Consumer Sciences teacher this fall after Mrs. Piaskowy retired last school year.

Roeda says that one of the reasons she became a Family Consumer Sciences teacher was because she loves cooking and baking. She said people should teach what they like. Roeda also tutored other students when she was a student at Illiana Christian, so she has experience with helping others work through their school work.

“Tutoring other students in high school helped form a love of teaching and helping others in me,” Roeda said.

After Roeda graduated from Olivet Nazarene University, she taught at Grant Park High School for 7 years.

During the summer she works at a farmer’s market in Chicago and has been working there for 18 years. She also worked at a Ford dealership for 8 years before teaching at Illiana.

Roeda says that the main reason she teaches at Illiana is her desire to come back to the place she went to high school. Her favorite part of working at Illiana so far is having good students and getting to know them.



Photo by Haleigh Olthof



Photo courtesy of Melanie Benes

Mrs. Melanie Benes

Mrs. Melanie Benes has joined ICHS as a counselor where she fills the spot vacated by Mrs. Helen Bussema.

Benes says that the main reason for her becoming a counselor is that she loves helping people out when they are in need.

She began her career as a clinical therapist after graduating from Northern Illinois University with a certificate in school counseling. Soon teenagers became her favorite group to work with, so she decided to work on the high school level.

Her first stop was Richard’s High School where she worked for 6 years. From there she went to an alternative school for students who have problems with attendance and are at risk of dropping out.

“Students with those problems are in a state of constant crisis and it seemed like I wasn’t able to help them as much as I wanted to,” she said.

Her favorite part of working at Illiana so far is spending time with the juniors in her homeroom and getting to know the students she counsels.

New campus brings new beginnings

What does Illiana community like about new campus?

Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief

“The windows, because we never had windows in the old office, so we get the sunshine. I can see who’s approaching from the outdoors and it’s just all the natural light that’s great. I do miss being able to see all the students pass the office though.”

- Mrs. Martha Tiemens,
Office Administration

“I love the new gym and locker rooms because now that they’re bigger, we get more practice time. I also love the new equipment, and the fact that the ceilings don’t drip because then we can play all the time instead of cancelling practices or being moved.”

- Sophomore Emily Rozendal

Ten intriguing facts about new facility

Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief

Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

1. There is a third story dedicated solely to storage above the music room.
2. None of the windows in the school can be opened.
3. There is no basement whatsoever.
4. Illiana will spend roughly \$120,000 for 3 year of plants and pond care.
5. The new building has fewer classrooms than the old building.
6. Illiana sits on 37 acres of land.
7. Hallway floors are polished concrete; there’s no tile in any hallway.
8. Our walk-in freezers can be opened from the inside.
9. There are 35 hand sanitizer dispensers around the school.
10. All the lockers can be opened from the inside.



Photo by Jeff DeVries
Principal Peter Boonstra and former board president Bill Hromada cut the ribbon and officially open the new campus.

“The fume hood and the safety showers in the chemistry lab because they are much nicer.”

- Junior Jacob Gibson

“I like the Commons, and all the couches and chairs that we have off to the side to relax at break time.”

- Senior Brian Mock

“We love getting to interact with the students and seeing all the new faces. We also like being able to see our grandkids of course.”

- Karen Huizenga and Leanne Huizenga,
Common Grounds volunteers

“I love the coffee shop and how there is a lot of space in the gym.”

- Freshman Olivia Wegner

“I’m just excited about meeting new people. Meeting new students and staff, because people here are super welcoming and nice, and the students are super appreciative. It just makes me happy to work here.”

- Mrs. Melanie Benes,
Guidance Counselor

“I like how tight everything is because it is a better community space to be in.”

- Senior Seth Bouwer

“Air conditioning and elevators! I have to bring stuff to all places of the school. In the past it has just been walking packages up and down the stairs, but now I can just take my cart. It makes the work a lot easier. I’m also excited about the community areas all around the school, places where students can find a comfortable spot where they can chat with friends or settle in to get some work done. The windows show us a little more of what’s outside. If you leave in the late afternoon you get to see the sunset to the west and there are no obstructions so you can see the sky and it’s just amazing. It’s so cool how God can paint that stuff.”

- Mr. Jack Rudenga,
Technology Coordinator

“My lab is beyond euphoric. Compared to the old, it just is simply amazing. I’m an all around happier person in my new room.”

- Mr. Jim Kuipers,
Science Teacher

“I’m most excited about the gym. Since it’s bigger, and we can fit a lot of people in there, and Loud Crowd is going to be great.”

- Junior John VanRyn



Photo by Cate Peerbolte
Cars drive through the Shoe Corner at the intersection of 109th Avenue and Calumet Street in Dyer, Indiana.

Shoe Corner facts, fictions

Grant Gibson
Co-Feature Editor

The intersection of 109th and Calumet, dubbed the Shoe Corner, has gathered nearly as many myths explaining its existence as it has gathered shoes over the years.

Jim DeVries, a petroleum transporter since 1978 who owned the northwest side of Shoe Corner from 1978 to 2004, said, “We leave at 3 or 4 o’clock in the morning, and one morning, there was a pair of muddy work boots laying in the middle of the intersection. How

they got there, I have no idea. They laid there for about two or three days, and then all of a sudden there were women’s shoes. There’s been shoes ever since—for what reason, I have no idea.”

DeVries says that he experienced the start of the legend, which he claims was around 1992 or 1993, “contrary to what some people say.”

The Chicago Tribune reported in 2009 that it’s been there since the 1970s, according to Saint John’s town manager Steve Kil.

A passerby can see anything

from cowboy boots to basketball sneakers to even sometimes clown shoes.

Other stories come from Saint John residents in the town’s Facebook group. Tom Hausier said he heard that Hanover’s and Lake Central’s cross country teams left their “old stinky shoes near the turnaround area,” the halfway point between the schools. Another resident, Jo Ann Lorenz, said that a couple had a fight in which the woman threw her shoes at his car, but then they made up and drove away, forgetting to grab her shoes.

New State, New Problems

Scheduling, conference problems hit Athletic Department after move

Kade Bouwer
Co-Sports Editor

With moving the campus to a new state, new challenges have arisen for the Athletic Department. Scheduling games has become a lot more time consuming, especially for teams that have switched seasons. Illiana is not in a conference yet either, so that has made scheduling games more difficult.

“The challenge is for sports that switch seasons,” said athletic director Darren DeBoer. “You have no previous Illinois relationships that you can keep. You couldn’t work on this before [the move] because [we] were never in the same sea-

son.”

DeBoer explained that for sports that didn’t switch seasons, like basketball, he could already start scheduling contests with Indiana schools last year. DeBoer said, “But with a sport like tennis, [one of the sports that switched seasons], you can’t do that.”

Athletic director Deb Kamp said, “The majority of our schedules [for this sports year] are Indiana schools and yet we still have our rivalries like Chicago Christian and Timothy. Fall sports are done. Winter sports are done and we are about 50 percent done scheduling this spring.”

Although Illiana doesn’t have a conference yet, DeBoer believes that Illiana is getting closer to joining one.

DeBoer said, “Conference is like marriage. It has to be a good fit for both sides. Both sides have to be willing to come together because if we are going to be a part of this conference, we have to be willing to play these schools not just in one sport, but in all of the sports. We have to make sure it is a good fit for us too. We would like a conference that fits us competition wise and that has levels for each program. We would also like one that is relatively close to keep stress off parents and coaches for driving.”



IHSAA Update

Kade Bouwer
Co-Sports Editor

Illiana Christian High School was granted initial membership in the IHSAA by unanimous vote by the IHSAA Executive Committee on August 21.

Athletic director Darren DeBoer said, “The first step of membership in the IHSAA is what they call initial membership which you are in for four years, and then after that they

review the initial membership and make you full members. Initial membership is the same thing as full membership except for postseason.”

Whether Illiana will try to appeal to get the postseason ban lifted or lessened is still uncertain.

DeBoer said, “We will find the right time and manner to appeal and when the timing is right, we will submit that appeal.”

Athletes make tough decisions after sports seasons change

Alex Wondaal
Co-Editor in Chief

With the switch to Indiana comes new seasons for sports; girls soccer is now in autumn, girls tennis is in spring, boys tennis is now in autumn, and boys golf is in spring. These changes will force some two-sport athletes to narrow their selections down to one.

Senior Ashley Clark decided to play volleyball over soccer this fall. “I want to play volleyball in college, and I enjoy it more,” she said.

She added that varsity girls soccer coach, Chip Bevan wanted her to play both but after further investigation he found playing two sports is against IHSAA rules.

Junior Lance Mulderink will have to choose between golf and baseball in the spring. Mulderink, who has been playing baseball since the age of five, says he will see if his golf skills have diminished since last year and if so, he will stick with baseball.

Senior Jack Davis has decided to play volleyball rather than golf in the spring. He based his decision on the fact that he will be able to play golf much longer than volleyball. “I’m in my prime right now.

My grandpa can still play golf. But I’ll miss the [golf] team. They’re a great group of guys,” said Davis.



Crews continue work on sports complex as the fall sports season winds down.

Photo by Jeff DeVries

Progress made on sports complex, not completed for fall season

Grant Gibson
Co-Photo Editor

Illiana Christian’s new outdoor athletic complex is slated to be completed—aside from bleachers and lights—by Sept. 26, said Mr. Lance Davids, Illiana’s Vi-

sion Director.

Construction started in April this year, when the cold weather broke, thanks to the generosity of over 200 donors, according to Davids. Rainy days like Sept. 6 have prevented workers from finishing what should have been done. Every-

thing so far has been completed on schedule except for the track. The tennis courts’ paint job was also delayed because of rain.

The soccer fields will not see any play this season, however. “The grass needs a fall season to grow,” said vice prin-

cipal AJ Turkstra, but he did say that spring sports should be unaffected and will play normally on the new fields.

In a later phase, the school plans to add another storage building that will be similar in design to the bathroom building already built in the complex.

New program aims to boost athletes’ performance

Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

The Athletic Department has adopted a new sports conditioning program to amplify athletes’ flexibility, strength and speed during their off season.

The program was developed by the Boys Athletic Director, Darren De-

Boer.

DeBoer said, “Coaches were trying to throw their athletes into conditioning, but they didn’t have the time to get a team ready to function and to work on strength. Only having 1 or 2 days in the weight room a week won’t provide the gains they want.”

The eight week program, led by JV boys baseball assistant coach Tyler Borgman, consists of 4 days a week of

training for an hour and a half each day. Two of the days are dedicated to strength training in the weight room and the other two days focus on speed and agility of the athletes.

DeBoer hopes that with this program, athletes will experience fewer injuries that need the attention of athletic trainers. He says that a majority of the injuries that Illiana athletes have

is related to athletes’ lower back, hips, and legs, so the program is targeting athletes’ hamstrings and hips to avoid tightness and potential injury. Any student is allowed to participate in the program, but DeBoer says it is aimed toward student athletes.

DeBoer said, “The biggest difficulty right now is the overwhelming response. We’re maxing out the facility.”



Photo by Dave Gibson

Sophomore Hayden Podlin pushes himself with the finish line in sight.

Boys Cross Country

Kylie Boss

Co-News Editor

The boys cross country team has begun its season with a larger team and optimism for placing well at meets.

According to assistant coach Mr. Kevin Haan, the team of mostly underclassmen has been doing well at meets and placed first place at the new Prairie State Invitational meet, a competition with thirty-eight teams.

“The guys are running as a team....and working together really well,” said Haan.

Although they have been flourishing at meets, the team struggles to find places to run at the new campus, according to Haan.

“We used to be able to run to all of our locations and that would be our warm-up, work-out and cool-down,” said Haan. Now the team has to drive to all the workout locations which leads to a longer practice, according to Haan.

Sophomore runner Justin Van Drunen finds running at the new campus difficult since the track isn’t finished and the public roads are unsuitable to run on.

Sports Highlights

Boys Soccer

Alex Wondaal

Co-Editor in Chief

Faced with a shorter season and new competitors, the boys soccer team struggled with the switch to Indiana but is managing a positive 9-7 record.

The decades-old soccer program has made major changes to its schedule, competing against many new teams. Sophomore Jake Vanderzee said, “You can look at all the stats you want but you don’t know how good a team is until you’re actually playing them.”

One of the team’s highlights was a victory over Chicago Christian in early September but a recent rematch ended in a 0-1 defeat for Illiana.

Senior Sam Gaich said it has been challenging playing multiple games a week with a new shortened schedule.

Boys Tennis

Liz VanDrunen

Co-Feature Editor

The boys tennis team ended its short season with a win against Andrean High School on Tuesday, September 25.

There is only one team for tennis this year with a total of 13 players. The team finished the season with 6 wins and 2 losses. Throughout the season, the team also participated in 3 tournaments.

Freshman Matthew Smits said, “A few difficulties that the team has faced this year is that it would have been a little better with a few more players, but we made it work. Another struggle was trying to find teams to play.”

Because of the lack of a conference, athletic director Deb Kamp has had to work hard to find teams to play.

Kamp said, “It’s been challenging to find school to play. Many of them are even smaller or larger than us, so in order to find better competition we’ve had to send them to Michigan for some competitions.

Kamp said, “The team has been very considerate during the season; they have had to drive to the old campus to practice all throughout the season. The sad thing is the [new] courts will be finished the week after they finish their season.”



Photo by Trisha Boss

Seniors Mackenzie Lich-Enigenberg and Mackenzie Boss prepare to block the incoming ball.

Girls Volleyball

Cate Peerbolte

Co-Sports Editor

Illiana girls varsity volleyball team is trying to stay positive despite not playing in a conference this year. Senior Maddie Wegner said, “Without being in conference games we have had to stay motivated to win because we know we won’t be able to move forward in the conference.”

This year the team includes six seniors, two juniors, two sophomores, and two freshmen. Senior Mickey Boss said, “We have a lot of underclassmen talent on the team this year. It has been exciting to work with them.”

A highlight of the girl’s season was playing the first game in the new gym. Boss said, “It was great having fans come out and support us. Winning in three games made the night even better.”

The team has a record of 10-11.

Cheerleading

Kade Bouwer

Co-Sports Editor

After a solid summer, the cheerleading team kicked it into high gear, taking first place out of six teams at the Lake Central Cheer Competition. They took second and third in their previous tournaments. While the team is excited at how well they have done, some think this team can possibly perform even better.

Freshman Taylor Olthof said, “I feel like we can definitely improve. We start with easy stunts and stuff that we can work our way up to state, so at the moment we are working on just starting and getting through the routine.”

“Since [cheerleading] isn’t a sport in Indiana (it’s a club), we can go to state,” said junior Anna Lenting. “We are hoping to go to state and do well.”

Girls Soccer

Alex Wondaal

Co-Editor in Chief

Starting the season in two highly competitive tournaments, girls soccer stumbled into a rocky 0-4 start. However, after playing more local teams, they were able to lift their record over .500.

After few girls showed up to try-outs at the beginning of the season, Coach Chip Bevan and the rest of the coaching staff decided to stick with just one varsity team.

“Honestly, I was nervous at first because our varsity team was very young, but I’m proud of them for really stepping up,” said senior Emma Slings.

Senior Annie Weemhoff said the team will need to “play as a unit and make better passes” to succeed in the remainder of its season.

Sophomore Mia Cruz said communication will also need to be improved for their last four games.

Girls Cross Country

Kylie Boss

Co-News Editor

The girls cross country team, consisting of only six girls, three of which are seniors, has begun its season struggling to find meets and bring in more underclassmen girls.

Despite these difficulties, the group has been doing fairly well at meets, said Top. According to Top, the team placed sixth out of twenty-five schools at a new meet in Hammond, and they placed ninth in the TF South meet two weeks ago.

“They’re holding their own....with such a small team,” said Top. “This is the smallest team I’ve had with thirty-one years of coaching.”

The move to in Indiana has proven difficult, too, said Top. According to Top, the team only has six meets this year in Indiana, whereas last year they usually had twelve to thirteen.

Sophomore Sydney DeJong said that she has been enjoying her first year on the team.

“We’ve gotten really close with the guys [team,] and they always encourage me to be positive,” said DeJong.

Male Athlete of the Month

Senior Sam Gaich has been a force for the soccer team for all his four years at Illiana. He is a four-year varsity member and has always been in a leadership role on his team. He has had a stellar season this year, including a game winning free kick.

Gaich said, “I help control the field a lot. The ball goes from the defense to me and I play as a forward so they can score.”

“He always pushes us to do better and he makes sure we work as a team,” said freshman Caleb Slings. “He always argues for our way against the [referee] even if he gets a yellow card.”



Female Athlete of the Month

Junior soccer forward Kaylee Evers has been performing on another level this year. After a very strong season last year, she has really kicked it into another gear, leading the team in goals and assists.

“She gives our team shape and she controls the field. She obviously scores the most,” said senior Annie Weemhoff. “She’s the most humble person ever. She will score a goal and tell somebody else good job, but it was all her. She is also a great team player and always encouraging everyone.”



Photo by Grant Gibson

New campus provides Common Grounds

Cate Peerbolte
Co-Feature Editor

Junior Meg Wiersma arrives at school at 7:35. On her way to homeroom she stops at Common Grounds and orders an iced coffee along with a chocolate donut. She charges the \$4 her debit card. She then stops at the cart stationed outside the shop to add two pumps of caramel and two creamers, and she heads off into her day.

Common Grounds, Illiana’s new coffee shop located in the commons area, serves coffee and snacks to students and faculty daily.

Common Grounds serves Dunkin brand hot and iced coffee. Outside of the shop, two self-serve tables are stocked with cream, sugar,

flavored syrups, almond milk, napkins, and stir sticks. Carol VanDrunen is in charge of Common Grounds daily operations. VanDrunen said, “The additives are included in the price of a cup of coffee. The self serve stations have worked well because it keeps the line in the shop moving and customers can make their coffee exactly how they want it.”

Common Grounds accepts cash, debit cards, and credit cards. At break, a cash only window is opened in the main hallway. All of the prices include tax.

The shop sells much more than coffee. Volunteer Gayle Schutt said the most popular items are blue Gatorade (\$2) and Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups (\$1).”

Common Grounds is

open from 7am until the end of morning break, it then re-opens between 2-5. Other items include bottled water (\$1), wraps (\$4), Protein bars (\$3), Protein drinks (\$2.50), bottled iced tea (\$2), fruit (\$0.50) and chips (\$0.50).

Throughout the week different baked goods from Walt’s Food Center are sold for a dollar: Monday, bagels; Tuesday and Wednesday, blueberry and chocolate chip muffins; Thursday and Friday, donuts. There are also homemade gluten free muffins available for a dollar.

Volunteer Gayle Schutt serves in the shop twice a month. She said, “I love seeing the students and interacting with them.”

Wiersma said, “I actually like it more than Dunkin and Starbucks.”

Advice for shopping on budget

Natalie Togtman
Co-Arts Editor

Shopping on a high school budget may be tough, but here are some tips from teachers and fellow students at Illiana:

“If I buy my own clothes, I go to places like Target or thrift stores and modify the clothing I buy. Such as, if I buy jeans, I can just turn them into shorts myself. I don’t buy shorts” - Senior Issy Neibert

“Go to stores that have quality items for lower prices such as Target, Tj Maxx, or sales at department stores. I love to look at fashion magazine. I look at the outfits the magazine put together and try to find pieces like that but for cheaper” - Business teacher Debra Top

“Go to thrift stores! It’s a lot of sorting through items but it’s worth your money.” - Senior Summer Ruiter

“My best tip would be a tip I got from my sister. The idea is to ask yourself ‘What’s the cost per wearing?’ meaning if you’re only going to wear an item once or twice don’t spend a lot of money on it but if it’s something that you believe you’ll wear once a week then I think it’s okay to buy a shirt that’s \$40,” - Bible teacher Mary Lagerwey.

Three discounts students qualify for with student ID

- Forever 21 - 10% off purchase
- Metra - For a train ticket students will pay \$1.25 (a savings of over 80%)
- Marcus Theatres - \$6 movie tickets on Thursdays

Shopping Fair Trade impacts lives

Haleigh Olthof
Co-Feature Editor

Akullu Florence of Uganda defines love as “sharing what you have with another.”

As a child, Akullu didn’t have transportation to school. With no education, she married at 16 to support herself. Then war came, depleting the resources her family needed.

Her life changed, however, thanks to the fair trade movement. Now Akullu works for Krochet Kids, a fair trade company

that pays a livable wage, which allows her “to pay for my children’s school and save to buy a piece of land for my family.”

Fair trade has changed the lives of many like Akullu. It is based on the awareness that “the products we buy and sell are connected to the livelihoods of others,” according to Fairtrade-certified.org. Although lower prices are convenient for consumers, especially people like high schoolers on a tight budget, they are often a sign that a company is paying laborers low wages for their work in unsafe

conditions.

Fortunately, shopping fair trade doesn’t have to mean breaking the bank. Below are some affordable fair trade brands in two industries where justice is especially needed. Check for the fair trade logo on products you buy to discover more fair trade brands.

Coffee: Equal Exchange, at shop.equalexchange.coop, offers a variety of products, including a box of 12 K-cups for approx. \$15.50--about \$1.30 a cup. (That includes shipping; additional boxes are \$7.50 each, and you can get free shipping on your

first order if you sign up for their email list.) Rise Up Coffee Roasters sell varying flavors of coffee in its many forms: whole bean, ground, french press, percolator, cold brew, and more.

Clothing: Krochetkids.org displays the company’s collection of dresses, jumpsuits, hats, apparel, and accessories. Sign up with your email for 25% off your first order. Each purchase is hand-signed by its maker. Other ethical brands include Everlane, PACT, ABLE, and the popular brands Athleta, Gap, and Patagonia. Target has also recently set goals to

have clothing in its brands be ethically sourced and sustainable.



Photo courtesy of wikipedia.org

Editorial

Celebrating Illiana's history and steadfastness

In 1945, Illiana Christian High School began teaching 90 students in two classrooms located in the basement of Lansing Christian Reformed Church. Illiana was prepared to provide education for the first two years of high school, but a surprise influx of students required more classrooms, so the next year, the County Board of Commissioners and Forest Preserve officials leased two barracks in Thornton Forest Preserve to Illiana that were once used by the Civil Conservation Corps. And just like that Illiana grew from two classrooms to six classrooms. By 1948, ICHS had its first building.

Fast forward 70 years later, and that is where we are today, standing in a new facility, but with the same goals and passion to guide and to grow student faith. From learning in two classrooms, to sitting in desks in the barracks, to

dodging orange buckets filled with rain water in the hallways, to this new building, so much has changed, but the school's foundation and mission remains the same. Countless people worked around the clock to raise funds, finding generous

teered their time and energy to bring us to where we are today should be celebrated.

Illiana started because people more than three generations ago believed a Christian secondary education was important for their chil-

“Of course, one thing hasn't changed: the quality of our education because of our teachers and other faculty members.”

donors who share those same goals. Committees and groups met to discuss the future of Illiana. Numerous people sacrificed their time and energy to give students the building they're learning in today. Having a new building to learn in is a reason to celebrate, and those people who volun-

dren, and thanks to their vision, it's still going today. We have much to be thankful for.

For starters, we can be grateful that tuition hasn't aggressively jumped to help pay for our new school. It took a great deal of munificence on the part of donors to make this move happen.

We can be thankful that we don't have to worry anymore about a leaking roof or about not having proper sports spaces to practice in. We can also be thankful for the opportunity to worship with the entire student body and faculty, and for the new programs Illiana can now offer (like STEM) because we have the facilities.

Of course, one thing hasn't changed: the quality of our education because of our teachers and other faculty members. We are surrounded by a body of believers who teach from a Christian point of view, and we are given opportunities to serve and spread Christ's love outside of school weekly. The legacy lives on.

This move is another milestone in Illiana's history, and as Illiana continues to grow and expand, we need to remember to be grateful that Illiana is the same at its foundation and core as it always has been.

Keep government out of social media

Facebook, Google, and Twitter have all been accused of limiting the reach of right wing outlets and ideas.

Conservative political commentator Dennis Prager, founder of the organization PragerU, which creates 5



Alex Wondaal
Co-Editor in Chief

minutes videos explaining conservative viewpoints on political and economic issues, filed a lawsuit against Google for “unlawfully censoring its educational videos and discriminating against its right to freedom of speech,” according to the PragerU website. Dave Rubin, liberal host of “The Rubin Report,” claims his interviews with conservatives have been demonetized by YouTube (a media platform owned by Google).

What the future holds for conservatives on social media, no one can know for sure. However, whether all ideas are protected from here on out, or everyone to the left of Bernie Sanders gets banned tomorrow, government intervention is not the answer. The answer to censorship of conservative ideas is not to abandon conservative ideals. Petitioning for the government to force private companies to act as we wish is a lousy idea, a hypocritical idea, and an unethical idea.

The state does a lousy job of fairly spreading opposing viewpoints to the public. The government defended conservative voices in the past with abysmal results. In 1949 Congress passed legislation called the “Fairness Doctrine” which forced radio stations to air equal amounts of time for liberal and conservative viewpoints. Over the years the system was hijacked by political ads, and the number of radio stations that talked politics, left or right, dropped significantly. If history repeats itself, government fighting censorship and biases would only ruin political discourse in the long run.

American history indicates government intervention devastates even-sided discourse. Using government to ensure conservative representation on social media might seem like a good fix right now, but in the long run it will only make matters worse.

Hypothetically speaking, a bureaucrat paid by government to make sure all ideas are shared on online media won't be too eager to represent people who think the government should tax less.

A private company has the right *not* to speak just as much as a private company has *to* speak. A conservative with any intellectual honesty wouldn't defend a baker's right not to bake a cake and then turn around and demand a company share ideas with which it disagrees. Everyone will just have to seek service elsewhere for their cake and social media (two things America gets too much of anyway).

Government intervention should always be the last resort. There's great irony in conservatives who want to spread ideas about freedom and liberty... by force. Right now, everyone has the option to do whatever they want. Powerful media companies can silence who they want, and citizens have the option to stop using them.

Although social media giants may hush conservative voices, the rest of the internet remains free. We ought to occupy those free spaces first and keep government out of every

the Echo)))

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

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



Photo by Emily Hillegonds

Top from left to right: Cate Peerbolte, Kade Bouwer, Grant Gibson, Jeff DeVries, Kylie Boss, Natalie Togtman

Bottom from left to right: Liz VanDrunen, Alex Wondaal, Maddie Holesinger, Haleigh Olthof

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