



# ILLIANA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY BY THE SCHOOL BOARD

WINTER 15-16



## VETERANS DAY

*Since the end of the First World War, November 11 has been a day set aside to thank the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces, protecting our nation both at home and abroad.*

TO HONOR THESE VETERANS, this past November 11 Illiana students, faculty and local military veterans assembled at the school's flagpole for a flag-raising ceremony, to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and to listen to a short devotional written by Mr. Jeff White. White spoke about John 15:13 which reads, "Greater love has no one than this: that one lay down his life for his friends." (NIV) White explained that even though many veterans did not suffer from wounds received from combat or endure the

***"Greater love has no one than this: that one lay down his life for his friends."***

hardships of captivity, all veterans ultimately serve for a cause greater than themselves. That cause is to secure and defend our nation along with the rights and freedoms we often take for granted. After devotions, the flag was raised by Tyler Schutt and Nate DeVries while Mark

Hale and Jonathan Rietveld played "The Star Spangled Banner."

Once the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all, the students and faculty resumed their usual class schedule, but the veterans were treated to an "all you can eat" breakfast buffet in the Dining Hall. Members of Student Council served food and drink while the veterans enjoyed the ample time available to get acquainted and share stories with each other.

After breakfast came to an end, an all-school chapel service was held in the old gymnasium featuring Illiana alumnus, Marine Corps Captain Tim Vermeer, as the speaker. Vermeer's talk was focused on the service of three Christian men: one who served in World War II, one who served during the Vietnam War and later served Illiana for many years as a building custodian, and a third man with whom he served, but who was later killed in action while serving in Afghanistan. Each of these men held true to their Christian faith when serving our country under the most difficult of circumstances.

***"Thank you to all veterans for your service and sacrifice for our country, and thank you to those who joined us at Illiana on November 11, it was our pleasure to have you here."***







# "SIDEWAYS STORIES FROM WAYSIDE SCHOOL"



sound & set

ON NOVEMBER 5, 6, AND 7, the Drama Department performed "Sideways Stories from Wayside School," a lighthearted children's production which included a lot of unique stage effects. In addition to writing half of the play themselves, director Jeff DeVries and set designer Jim Kamphuis had to figure out how to create a wall-sized teacher made of school supplies, sounds for imaginary instruments, and a playground for teenagers.

DeVries recorded many different sound effects, including singing all the different parts of the songs featured in the play and then using digital effects to make each instrument unique. "It was a challenge," DeVries said. "I had to make sounds like an instrument, but not one that anyone's ever heard of. I think my wife enjoyed hearing me sing to myself like a lunatic in my office."

Senior Katie Ericks, an actress who played one of the make believe instruments, said that after adding the music, "You could really start to see the whole thing come together."

Kamphuis was responsible for engineering Miss Zarves, a giant wall made of school supplies which was built to look like a teacher's face, complete with a moving mouth, a wiggling nose, and spinning eyes. He also created a playground built for "big kids pretending to be little." The challenge was making it safe to be used without actually attaching it to the stage.

Kamphuis explained, "Set design is like building with Legos--everything is interchangeable. You already have the bases, but you add the color and rearrange them."

Calvin Christian School 5th grader Christian Stokes said, "Were those instruments real? Cause they sounded really cool. And I didn't expect [Miss Zarves] to move! All of a sudden, she just started talking!"

-by Beth Boonstra

Written by  
Louis Sachar  
and Adapted  
by John Olive



the performance

SET IN AN OFF-BEAT GRADE SCHOOL, this kooky montage of hilarious scenes warmed the hearts of all who viewed it. The twisted tales ranged from teachers turning into apples to selling toes to mushroom surprises—all of which coaxed laughs out of young and old, bringing everyone back to their youth.

Director Jeff DeVries said, "Everybody in the cast found their character and their part. They brought energy, and in that sense they were great." He also said that he saw many kids from the Thursday morning performance who brought their families back for other performances. "That's pretty high praise that the kids wanted to come back. It shows that the play worked well."

"Overall, I think it went very well," said set designer Jim Kamphuis. "Even with some minor glitches, I think everyone who went to the play had a really good experience." He added that he was nervous about a few technological issues like the disco ball coming down or the microphones not working, but in the end the production was extremely successful.

Over its 5 performance run, 1,696 people attended the play. Ticket sales from the event covered the costs which included make-up, costumes, light fixtures, repairs, and set pieces. The remaining profit will be used to fund the drama department's future productions.

Out of all the hilarity experienced during the play weekend, one performance stuck out to Kamphuis. He thought that the Thursday matinee, attended by grade schoolers from around the area, was especially entertaining. "Those kids had so much fun at that performance. They sang along with everything and clapped. They were a great audience"

-by Cassidy Weemhoff

## A LEGACY & THE FUTURE OF ILLIANA

*Preview Illiana, an open house for prospective students and parents, took place on Thursday, December 3.*

HOW BETTER TO IMAGINE yourself attending a school than to walk the halls and observe live teaching while asking students and administration questions to your heart's content? This is why we have Preview Illiana—we want to help families envision their students here. Vice Principal AJ Turkstra started this innovative style of an Open House five years ago when he realized families needed help picturing their student in high school.

"In our world today, we don't have the imagination that people once had. Nowadays we enjoy having everything scripted for us in video or film, so people are unable to imagine what it's like

for their child. We try to make it real for them by creating this preview and creating this night," Turkstra said.

After a welcome from Principal Peter Boonstra, parents and students were given a tour by teachers. Throughout the evening, families saw different classes in action and the student body at work.

"A parent and their prospective student can go through a typical day and see what our choir, band, social studies class, art class or basketball practice is like," Turkstra said.

In addition to teachers, there were approximately 200 Illiana student volunteers that evening, all helping to bring the school to life. Why do so many students volunteer on this evening? According to Mr. Turkstra, students want to be part of the legacy that is the future of Illiana. And this is true. They see the value of investing in prospective students as they are the future of Illiana – the school they love so much.

As always, if you have any questions or know of someone who has questions, please feel free to email, call or stop in.

Elly Makowski

Admissions Counselor

[elly.makowski@illianachristian.org](mailto:elly.makowski@illianachristian.org)

708.474.0515 Ext. 49

### Interested in Hosting?

ILLIANA IS PROUD to have an active and growing International Student Program. This year we are thankful for the opportunity to welcome nine international students to the Illiana community.

We are currently seeking families with an interest in hosting an international student for the second semester of 2015-2016 and for the 2016-2017 academic year. Why should your family consider hosting? Hosting is a rewarding opportunity to care for, educate and learn from a curious international student as he or she navigates a new spiritual, educational, and cultural environment. Host families receive a stipend of \$4200 each semester. This is equivalent to the tuition for one student so host families can apply their stipend to pay the tuition of their own child.

Please prayerfully consider being a host family for the upcoming semester or for the 2016-2017 academic year. For more information, please contact Elly Makowski.

[elly.makowski@illianachristian.org](mailto:elly.makowski@illianachristian.org)

708.474.0515 Ext. 49







# GOLF OUTING

On September 21, 106 golfers spent the day hitting white balls around Idlewild Country Club to support Illiana Christian Athletics. This was our highest number of golfers in the past 10 years! The weather was gorgeous, and we not only had a lot of fun, but we also enjoyed a lot of good food. Many organizations have golf outings, and I have been asked what I particularly like about our golf outing. Here are the Top 10 things I like about Illiana Christian's golf outing (in no particular order):



- 1 All the money raised goes to support the Athletic Department. Because of the rising cost of athletics, the vast majority of our budget comes from fundraisers like this, so it is a very important day in the year for us.
- 2 The golf outing is always towards the end of September. Fall is a great time of year, and it usually features perfect golf weather. We have been blessed the last few years with phenomenal weather.
- 3 Our outing is held at Idlewild Country Club in Flossmoor. It is a private golf course with which we have been able to work out a really good deal.
- 4 No one leaves hungry. We have a huge lunch and dinner, and not only is the food great, but there is plenty of it.
- 5 We involve a number of our athletes to help run the outing and say thank you. We want the people golfing to see who they are really supporting--our kids.
- 6 We have countless businesses that donate to the outing. This is so huge for us because our businesses are asked by many different organizations for money, yet every year they give and give and give. We can't thank them enough.
- 7 We had 106 golfers take days off of work, spend money on game holes, pay \$150 to golf, and all of them had smiles on their faces. Thank you!!!
- 8 Every golfer walks away with a prize. Some prizes are better than others, but everyone walks away with at least a \$20 prize.
- 9 We have a lot of fun. The outing is another example of the Christian community coming together to support Christian education.
- 10 We are blessed. God has blessed our school and our community, and we enjoy the great task of teaching young men and women about God through athletics. I love my job, and I love seeing these kids come to understand God in a deeper way through all that we do at Illiana.

Thank you for all your love, support, and prayers for Illiana Christian High School.  
Lance Davids, Athletic Director

We used to have a regular feature in the Illiana Newsletter dedicated to Illiana alumni updates. Because of a lack of submissions, we discontinued this feature, but we would now like to resurrect it. Not only is it fun for all of us in the Illiana community to find out what has been happening in our classmates' lives, but it will also help the school to keep our alumni information up to date. We want to hear about new additions to your family, marriages, graduations and more.

It would be great to restart this feature in the next issue of the Newsletter, so if you have an update you would like to share, please send it to us, and we will share it with your classmates. Please include your name and class year with your update. If you are willing, please also give us your address. (Don't worry, we won't publish your address!) Please send your updates and a picture, if desired, to [info@illianachristian.org](mailto:info@illianachristian.org). **Thanks! We look forward to hearing from you.**



## FOUNDATION Memorial Gifts

### IN MEMORY OF:

**Marlys Benes**  
Mrs. KENNETHA DENBESTEN  
Mr. AND Mrs. GEORGE A. DeVRIES  
Mr. AND Mrs. DARREN JOHNSON  
Mr. AND Mrs. ARTHUR G. KRAAI

**Matt Kamstra**  
Mr. AND Mrs. MARTIN BEENES  
Dr. AND Mrs. JEROME BENTZ  
Ms. DOLORES COYLE  
Mr. AND Mrs. RALPH HOEKSTRA  
Mrs. LEANNE J. HUIZENGA  
Ms. ANNA KACZMAREK  
Mr. AND Mrs. DENNIS A. OOSTMAN  
Ms. DIANE M. PAARLBERG

**Clarence Hoeksema**  
Mr. & Mrs. EDWARD C. BREMER

**Simon De Boer**  
Mrs. ANNA M. BROUWER

### IN HONOR OF:

**Ken & Beverly White's**  
50th Wedding  
Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. JON L. HUISMAN

**Rick & Jan De Vries'**  
50th Wedding  
Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. PETER SJOERDSMA

## TUITION Assistance Gifts

### IN MEMORY OF

**Terry Blummer**

Mr. AND Mrs. BRIAN G. BLUMMER  
Mrs. SHARON BUROSH  
Mr. AND Mrs. JOHN A. DEBOER  
Ms. ELLEN ERICKSON  
Mr. AND Mrs. BRIAN D. GOUWENS  
Mrs. LEANNE J. HUIZENGA  
Ms. BETTY J. HUIZENGA  
Mr. AND Mrs. MARK JANIGA  
Ms. DOLORES KAPITAN  
Mr. AND Mrs. SIDNEY KOSTELYK  
Mr. AND Mrs. MARVIN L. LYZENGA  
Mr. AND Mrs. BRETT H. MEJAN  
Mr. AND Mrs. JOHN C. MORTON  
Mr. AND Mrs. JACK PARR  
Mr. AND Mrs. DANIEL P. SCHREIBER  
Mr. AND Mrs. GERALD M. SEBAHAR  
Mr. AND Mrs. DAVID W. SNUCKEL  
Mr. DANIEL WRASMAN



# 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ILLIANA AUCTION

On Saturday evening November 21st, Illiana held its first annual auction. Even though that evening brought one of the worst November snow storms on record-- closing bridges and making travel very difficult-- the Illiana community came out in force, generously and faithfully supporting the event. The proceeds of the auction will be used to support Illiana Athletics and the Christian Aid Fund.

Although the weather outside was frightful, the atmosphere inside was electric! Those at the auction were treated to Culver's chicken, P.I.E. barbecues, and Joel Van Drunen's famous pulled pork. Numerous handmade desserts were also available. Hundreds of items, including smart TVs, yard games, drones, laptops, Blackhawks tickets, Bulls tickets and a few weekend getaways, were all auctioned off to the highest bidder. We are thrilled to report that the auction raised over \$43,000, including \$7,300 for Praise Crowd through the Raise-Your-Paddle opportunity.

The Auction Committee would like to thank the athletes and coaches of our winter sports teams who volunteered their time to set up, take down, greet visitors at the door, and display the items to the bidders during the auction. We would also like to thank all of our corporate and private donors who donated items and funds to make this auction possible. Those who attended the auction and bid on the amazing items that were available also deserve a huge thank you. Your time and financial support will greatly help Illiana athletics. Last, but not least, we would like to give a big thank you to our auctioneer, Curtis VanDrunen, who conducted the auction by himself when his partners were unable to make it because of the storm.

**GOD IS GOOD, AND THIS EVENT IS  
YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW  
HE PROVIDES FOR HIS PEOPLE.**

God is good, and this event is yet another example of how He provides for His people. It was also a great example of the role He asks each of us to play in supporting Christian education. Whether you supported the auction by attending, donating items, volunteering, or in prayer, you were an important part of an evening which clearly showed God's power and providence as funds were raised for two very worthy causes. We look forward to seeing everyone next year at the 2nd Annual Illiana Auction!

Sincerely,  
The Auction Committee





# FALL SPORTS

## Wrap Up

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL** continued to sustain success at all three levels. The Freshmen, coached by Adam Clark, finished 8-7, and the J/V team, coached by Richelle VanderZee, ended the season at 17-11. The Varsity team, led by Nikki Van Dyke and Heather Byma, had an overall record of 17-11 and 11-1 in the Conference, earning them the co-championship title with Timothy Christian. Gina Novotny, Minksey Pruim and Sydnee VanBeek were named to the All-Conference Team, and Sydnee VanBeek was also selected to be the MVP of the Metro-Suburban East Division by the coaches.

**GIRLS TENNIS** J/V tennis coached by Diane Bilyeu, continued to learn and improve, finishing at 2-9 and ending their season by taking 2nd place at the Metro Tournament. The Varsity, coached by Rob Lagerwey, had a stellar season, ending with an 11-3 record, putting them in 2nd place in the Metro Suburban Conference. Named All-Conference were Collette Bouwer, Lauren Carlson, Amanda Eberly, Emily Ipema, Esther Lagerwey, Jensen McGuire, Parker Roeda and Hilary VanDrunen. Because of their class trip to Washington DC, the seniors could not compete in the State tournament, but that did not hinder Illiana's success. The team finished 2nd at Sectionals. Collette Bouwer and Jensen McGuire took 1st place in the doubles division of Regionals and qualified for State.

**GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY** finished second in their division in the Metro Suburban. Named to the All-Conference team were Brittany Groen, Gabby Kreykes, and Cate Peerbolte. The varsity team finished in 12th place out of 25 teams in post season Sectionals. Cate Peerbolte received All-State recognition as well as being named the Illiana MVP. Aerial Shaffer earned the Most-Improved Award, and Juliana Knot received the Spirit Award. The girls' team was coached by Deb Top, Luke Fennema and Laura Perschbacher.

**BOYS GOLF** coached by Jack Rudenga, continued to dominate. The Varsity team had an overall season record of 9-3 and a Conference record of 5-1, placing them 2nd overall in the Metro. Named All-Conference were John Hayes, Curtis Tempelman and Matthew Zandstra. Zandstra was also the MVP and Regional Champion. The team finished their season at Sectionals. The F/S team earned 1st place in the Conference and finished with a perfect 13-0 record. Congratulations!

**BOYS SOCCER** F/S soccer team was coached by Tonny Sserwadda. Their final record was 5-9-3 overall and 5-5-2 in the Conference. Tim Delahunty and Tim Huizenga coached the Varsity team and the team ended their season with a 4-14-3 record and 1-5 in the Conference, putting them in 5th place in the East Division. Awarded All-Conference honors were Chandler Kimmel, Ryan VanderZee and Robbie Zandstra.

**BOYS CROSS COUNTRY** team continues to prove everyone wrong! No matter what division they are placed in, they succeed. Coached by Jim Piaskowy and Kevin Haan, the team had yet another phenomenal season. They finished 1st in the Metro Conference East Division and once again advanced to State despite having to compete in Class 3A. Named All-Conference were Colin DeYoung, Ryan Koontz, Austin Ohm, Jacob Thompson, Derek VanProyen and Nick Wondaal. In Peoria, the team finished 15th and Colin DeYoung finished in 8th place. Named All-Sectional were Nick Wondaal and Austin Ohm. Top honors also went to Colin DeYoung, who was named All Regional, All Sectional and All-State 3A.



## FROM CHAPEL: PASSION AS WORSHIP

*As part of a monthly subtheme on worship, chapel committee asked several students and one teacher to talk about their passion (for video games, for playing the saxophone, for biking) and how that could be a form of worship. Here is what one student said about her passion for art.*

### *"How did you discover your passion?"*

Well, it isn't something I necessarily "discovered." I started to take an interest in arts and crafts as a little kid, and as I grew, I guess it just grew with me. I feel like that's how most passions are-- you never need to go out searching for the things that you love, they just have a way of finding you. Art is something that God has gradually woven into my life, and I thank Him every day for blessing me with my abilities; they are a part of who I am.

The effort needed to take an image in your mind and transfer it onto a blank sheet of paper can be an extremely frustrating process, and it takes me a lot of time, especially since it almost never turns out the way I pictured it. Sometimes I will finish a drawing and fall in love with it and think, "Wow! Look at it! I did something!" Then, over time, I'll become more and more unsure of it, and when tomorrow rolls around, I will think, "Oh my gosh! Why do I try to do things?!" Making mistakes is part of improving.

Every once in a while, I'll make a picture I'm honestly proud of, and I will continue to love it. I think it's okay to be proud sometimes (pride in itself is not a sin) although there is a line, and it can be hard to know when you've crossed it. We are created in the image of God, Who upon creating, acknowledged His good works. If we work hard at something, we can be proud of that creation as long as we know in our hearts that we do all things through Him, Who gave us everything.

I also find that if you have the effort and time, you don't always have a creative idea to work at. And if you have a creative idea, you can't always find the willpower or time to make it happen. It is one or the other, rarely ever both. So the way I keep my passion alive is by taking it with me everywhere I can because sketching doesn't always have to be a stressful, detailed process. Sometimes I'll just draw silly cartoons in my planner for myself and other people to cheer them up, or I'll play a drawing game with my family. It helps me connect with people on a lot of levels. Art also helps me stay calm and listen when I can't sit still or focus.

### *"How does your passion connect to your God-given talents?"*

My God-given talent is my passion. So the question I should ask myself is how am I showing others that

my passion is from God? After all, it's not like I'm going around drawing still-lives of Jesus hanging on the cross, or the nativity scene; I don't think that's necessary for worship. What is important is if you can find some way to reflect God in your work and bring glory back to Him. I am still searching for the best way to do this. It's what I struggle with the most.

There are times when my talent can be a hassle or times when I simply don't feel like trying my hardest. After all, you don't always get to draw what you like. My favorite thing to draw is people, especially famous people. But I know that if I want to improve, I must study all areas of art, even the ones I don't enjoy as much.

My dream (God willing) is to have a job centered on art--I know that seems unrealistic. But I don't know what God has planned for me yet, or if drawing is what He wants me to pursue as a career. For instance, what if when I grow up, I discover I am good at something else? And that goes for everyone here who feels "untalented." Don't say that so soon! God knows your abilities better than you know yourself, and I promise you, He has blessed you with talents; you only have yet to discover them. We're still so young, in the heart of life. I am only 15! I have a whole new horizon of opportunity waiting for me when school is over. Because the world is a lot bigger outside the walls of Illiana, I could find my calling as a vet, as an engineer, as a youth leader or something else. Maybe that sounds overly optimistic, but you never know. That is why God is so wonderful and mysterious. And no matter what, His plans work out for His glory, so you can trust Him.

And if you're confused and stressed about your gifts, bring it up with the One who gave you those gifts, God. He might open your heart to something that's never crossed your mind or guide you to someone who can share their wisdom with you. I pray that God helps you find your passion and helps you use those talents to strengthen not only your own faith, but the faith of those around you.

- Stephanie VanDeel





## The Ribfest

Every year, in conjunction with the fall play, the Illiana Christian High School Foundation hosts the Ribfest. An annual fundraiser for the Foundation, the Ribfest continues to be a great time for the community to come together for an informal, delicious meal.

This year, we served nearly 300 people in the upstairs gym, raising over \$5,500 for the Illiana Foundation. The Foundation uses Ribfest money to offset tuition costs for our families. Thank you to everyone who joined us for dinner this year and for your generosity. We especially thank our underwriters: Dutch Farms, Providence Bank, Lagestee-Mulder, Dunhill Tuxedos, Walt's Food Centers, Stepping Stone Financial, Olthof Homes, Rich and Esther Van Hattem, and Amber Mechanical for making this night possible. We look forward to seeing all of you next year on the first Saturday of November.

Each year, the Foundation gives each family a grant which directly reduces the tuition cost for each student.

This school year, a \$175 discount was applied to each student's tuition account. For more information about the Illiana Foundation and how you can get involved, please contact Steve Holwerda at (708) 474-0515 ext. 41 or visit [www.illianachristian.org](http://www.illianachristian.org).



# THIS I BELIEVE

A Bright Future for Illiana

## FUNDRAISING DINNER

*We are delighted to report that over \$1.1 million in cash and commitments has been received from the "This I Believe" capital campaign fundraising dinner!* With over 500 people in attendance and the level of commitment shown so far, we are excited about the future of Illiana Christian High School and our community. Thank you to everyone who joined us for dinner that night, and thank you to those who made a gift or multi-year commitment to the campaign at the dinner. Wonderful as this amount is, it comes from only some of you who attended. In fact, many of you decided to take your pledge card home with you to consider your level of commitment to the "This I Believe" campaign. As you consider your commitment, please remember that a multi-year gift can make an incredible impact on our campaign.

***Each one of us must step forward in faith and commit to this campaign not only what we think we are able to contribute, but also what we can give beyond our "comfort level."***

For this building project to be successful, we cannot tell ourselves that someone else will pay for it. Each one of us must step forward in faith and commit to this campaign not only what we think we are able to contribute, but also what we can give beyond our "comfort level." Each of us has a different financial situation, but every gift makes an impact. This is a once in a generation project the size and scope of which has not been previously seen by our community. The men and women who sacrificed to build the current Illiana saw a need in our region for a Christian high school. They knew that building this school would benefit the generations after them, and it is on their legacy and strong faith in God that we stand today. It is now our turn to leave a legacy for those who come behind us. Let's step forward as a community and do something beyond what any of us could do alone.

For those who were not able to join us for the dinner on October 30, we urge you to join with us in this historic project. As you may have seen from Peter Boonstra's update, we have an exciting story to tell. For more information, please visit [www.buildingilliana.com](http://www.buildingilliana.com) or you can contact me at (708) 474-0515, ext. 41. I would be happy to answer any questions you have about the campaign and talk with you about your commitment to the legacy we will leave.

*Thank you again for your support of the "This I Believe" campaign.*  
– Steve Holwerda



# DORCHAEUS

**What do Dory (the blue fish from the movie "Finding Nemo") and Zacchaeus have in common? Absolutely nothing!!! However, when you combine the names and the actions of both of the stories, you will discover that more than 100 Illiana students wear blue and white shirts which show their commitment to helping others.**

LAST YEAR we started the Dory program. I got the idea from watching the movie "Finding Nemo" with my kids. I was always struck that in the beginning of the movie, every creature in the whole ocean hung out together, laughing, joking, and having a great time. But when trouble happens, and Nemo is taken, everyone scatters. There is no one to help Marlin find his son except for one crazy blue fish named Dory. Dory helped Marlin and

stood by his side through the hard times. He was really the only friend he had.

It turns out that we all need Dorys in our lives to befriend us and help us. So last year, I decided to form a group of committed kids who would try their best to make sure no one is alone here at Illiana. Now I know that is a lofty goal and difficult to achieve, but we wanted to try. I had about 35 kids sign up to be a Dory. They wore a blue shirt that indicated if you need anything, I am here for you.

However, I realized that it is really hard for kids (and most people, for that matter) to ask for help. We needed to take a more direct approach, and that is where the story of Zacchaeus comes in. I love that when Jesus sees Zacchaeus up in the tree, He takes the bold approach. He says, "Zacchaeus, you come down because I am coming over to your house." Jesus doesn't give Zacchaeus a chance to say no or give

excuses. Jesus just says that He is coming over. It is bold, direct, and awesome.

So, we added that philosophy to the Dory program. We wanted the Dorys to be bolder and more direct. We want them to share the love of Jesus with people and bring that love to them instead of waiting for people to come to them. So that is where the name Dorchaesus comes from. I remember thinking that this name is just dumb enough to work. And did it ever work. Illiana now has 104 Dorchaesus, all of whom want to share Jesus' love with their fellow classmates. Is it perfect? No way. Did some sign up for the free shirts? Maybe. Have we missed some kids? I am sure we have. Are most trying to serve God in the best way they know how? Absolutely. I am very proud of all my students as we try to live the gospel every day, showing the love of Jesus to everyone.

*-Lance Davids,  
Director of Spiritual Development*





## DODGEBALL 2015

GO Club has sponsored a dodgeball tournament at Illiana for the last 7 years. The goal of the tournament is to promote unity in the student body and the larger Illiana community. Each year, the proceeds from the event are donated to a worthy cause in the community. This year, Chicago Christian High School and Trinity Christian College also hosted dodgeball tournaments, with the winners from all three schools competing at a community tournament at Trinity. The proceeds from all four events (totaling nearly \$25,000) were given to Katie Vree, a graduate of Chicago Christian and nursing student at Trinity. In 2011, Katie was paralyzed due to a virus attacking her spinal cord. The money will be used to purchase a standing wheelchair for Katie to enable her to continue her nursing education.



*We thought it appropriate to write a letter of thanks and a word of encouragement to the staff and students involved in the Dodgeball Tournament for Katie Vree.*

**Dear Brothers and Sisters at Illiana Christian High School,**

WHEN OUR FAMILY ARRIVED at Illiana, your parking lot was jammed. We thought that a basketball game was scheduled for the same night, only to find out that the entire lot was filled with people attending the Dodgeball Tournament! We walked into the roar of the packed stands and were in awe of what we were witnessing. The costumes, the number of teams lining the entire perimeter of the gym... what could we say but "This is incredible!" Most of you knew the name of the person you were supporting with this tournament, but few have ever met her. We thought it was important that Katie be there so that people could put a face and name together.

For us as her parents, the night continually unfolded with one surprise after another. The sportsmanship of players was unlike anything we've seen before. We were

very impressed that players walked themselves out of the game when hit with no arguments over calls. It wasn't about the win. It was about the cause. What a

*It wasn't about the win.  
It was about the cause.  
What a display of  
Christian sportsmanship!*

display of Christian sportsmanship! A very heartwarming moment for us was when Mr. Davids announced mid-tournament that Katie was in attendance and the crowd and teams stood to applaud and at the close of the final game, the floor of students rushed to our corner to greet and shake Katie's hand. It brought tears to our eyes...your display was genuine. Thank you.

We were then invited to attend Praise Crowd after the Tournament. Didn't know what to expect, but oh my! What a wonderful time of praise, worship and testimony. That was a very special time for us. Who would think that on a Friday night students would gather to celebrate the Savior and lift up His name? Of all the many choices you had, this is where you chose to be! You are a remarkable group of students and faculty.

At the final Tournament night at Trinity, the Vikings were in strong attendance. We couldn't miss that sea of green! It was another "But wait! There's more" moment. It was a night of shared community. Do you remember the \$500 bucket challenge? If \$500 was collected during the course of one match, a donor would give an additional \$1,000 to the cause. We were sitting to the left of the Illiana student body and watched in awe as students poured down the bleachers to where the buckets were being filled. Students were stuffing bills in at such a rate that the lids had to be opened, and the bills inside had to be compacted down so that more could be stuffed inside. What can we say, but thank you.

There were other moments in the evening that will be treasured for their sincerity and encouragement. We felt it important to let you know that our hearts were touched. It will be a night that we will remember.

**With deepest thanks,  
Dan and Barb Vree**



# HISTORY COMES ALIVE

*All my life, I have grown up hearing about how this country was founded. I have spent countless hours in history class hearing about the founders of this great country. For a long time, I thought that history was not necessary or not all that important, but now all of that has changed. In just a few days, my whole perspective of the United States shifted as I learned new information, I saw things I had never seen before, but most importantly, I made memories that will last forever.*

THE EXPERIENCE I had on the class trip was definitely something I will never forget. One of the things I enjoyed the most was seeing the wonders of America in person: the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the White House. I had seen these places on television and read about them in books, but seeing them up close was a much better experience. In addition to that, I built relationships with people I previously didn't know all that well. I admit that at first, it was a little uncomfortable talking to people outside my friend group; however, after just a few hours, all that changed. It was amazing to see how the senior class became united on the class trip.

Even though I enjoyed experiencing the beauty of Washington DC, my favorite part of the trip was when we met with U.S. veterans at their Memorials. When we arrived, the city was flooded with veterans. There were WWII, Korean, and

Vietnam vets who had come to see their Memorials. Since many of them had never been thanked for their service in the military, it was cool seeing the reactions on their faces when we shook their hands. They were so grateful that people actually cared about the sacrifices that they had made for their country. After this experience, I truly realized how great a country America is. I understood that we have so many brave men and women who were and are willing to lay down their lives for people like me. Now when I look back on these experiences, I realize why America is called "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

--Alaye Hogue



## Illiana are Village People

*Below is an excerpt from an email sent by a new Illiana parent.*

"Even attending the parent conference, what a great feeling to have, knowing that the teachers really know my son. The common theme was about him not turning assignments in a timely manner, but having teachers let me know that as partners in his education together, we would help him reach a goal of improving in this area, left me with a warm feeling. Yes, it does take a village, and Illiana are village people who will have our backs as parents to see that he stays accountable in his school work. I'm falling more and more in love with Illiana....I Am Illiana!"

We aren't the YMCA, but we are ICHS! Illiana really is a village, and I guess that makes us all village people! This is fresh language for the old idea of being a covenantal Christian school where Christian families trust teachers to serve in their place (in loco parentis) knowing that they share a common understanding, perspective, passion, and love.

**Peter Boonstra, Principal**







# Illiana Christian High School

2261 Indiana Avenue, Lansing, Illinois 60438

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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High School



WINTER 15-16

## Quick LOOK

Veterans Day.....	1
"Sideways Stories from Wayside School" .....	2
Preview Illiana .....	3
Golf Outing.....	4
Alumni Updates .....	4
Illiana Auction .....	5
Fall Sports.....	6
From Chapel: Passion as Worship .....	7
This I Believe Campaign Fundraising Dinner ...	8
Dorcheaus.....	9
Dodge Ball Tournament .....	10
Class Trip.....	11

## OUR MISSION:

Illiana Christian High School is founded on the Bible as interpreted in the Reformed creeds. We graduate academically capable young people with a comprehensive Christian view of life committed to the challenge of serving God and others.

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*This Newsletter is published throughout the year for families, alumni, and friends of Illiana Christian High School.*

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