



**With basketball season coming up...**  
Read a preview for girls' and boys' season on pg. 7.

# the Echo)))

## Trend Report...

Read more about Hamilton: An American Musical on pg. 6.



Illiana Christian High School

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Lansing, Illinois

*"Thanks to God whose blessing we seek on every shovel of dirt dug, on every girder set, on every wire strung. We are here to . . . call upon God's continued blessing."*  
-- Peter Boonstra at the ground breaking.

## Fast Finger Friday to return in December

Kendall Smith

Reporter

Fast Finger Friday, the classic homeroom favorite among some of the students, is returning in December.

The game has been conspicuously absent for the first three months of the year. Vice Principal A.J. Turkstra, the games founder and host, explained that he "wanted to update the game with new question and prizes." He also said that the game this year has actual sponsors.

Some homeroom teachers like Mr. Lagerwey, who doesn't even win most of the time, are still excited. Lagerwey said, "It's nice seeing the kids rally around each other to try and figure out the answer as fast as they can."

Another person excited about the game's return is senior Opy Akinbobuyi, who said, "I'm annoyed it's back so late. Even though we don't win a lot, it is still fun to play on Fridays."

But then again there are people like Senior Jak Klapak who just don't really care about the game's return.

"Kids get too excited over it, especially in my homeroom," Klapak said.



Photo by Deb Kamp

In the late morning, on Saturday November 5, future Illiana students dug into the ground, beginning the long process of putting up a building.

## Illiana finally breaks ground

Emma Slings

Reporter

Illiana Christian held a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony at its future location in St. John, Indiana on November 5.

Anyone interested in Illiana and its future was able to gather in the soybean field that would soon develop into Illiana's new campus. Board members, teachers, and current and future students of Illiana took turns turning a pile of dirt with shiny silver shovels.

"With the groundbreaking itself, we were obviously only turning some dirt that was laid in front of us," Director of Development Steve Holwerda said, "but the symbolism [is that we are] taking the next step where God is leading this school to go. It's such an exciting day for our community to be out here to celebrate this together."

Illiana's Board President Paul Lindemulder said that the groundbreaking and development of the new campus is Illiana's most significant task in forty years.

"It's just exciting to see the school I grew up in taking better steps," former Illiana student Josie VanDrunen said.

"There are some limitations to what [Illiana's current building] can do," Holwerda said. "A new building with new technology will be able to take another step forward in what we're able to do for education."

"We won't have to deal with things like ant problems and leaky ceilings... We just need a

new building without all the problems," sophomore Rachel Huisman said.

"I think [Illiana] will be able to see some growth as there's a heavy population out here that doesn't come to Illiana," Holwerda said. "We'd certainly love to offer it to them."

As Vice Principal A.J. Turkstra said, this fall will be the last time beans will be harvested from that field. From now on hearts and minds will be harvested there for Christ.

## Community supports Neibert, raises \$5,000

Tessa Buiter

Reporter

Maddie Holesinger

Reporter

With much anticipation, Illiana's Go Club held its Annual Dodgeball Tournament on Friday, Nov. 11, with proceeds going to help cover the medical costs for senior Abby Neibert, who is battling cancer.

The event was a smashing success raising over \$5,000 by Illiana Christian alone. Neibert said, "It's really great to not to have to worry about medical bills getting in the way of my family."

Of the 32 teams involved this

year, Team USA was the champion for the night. Joining them for the community tournament at Trinity Christian College on Nov. 18, was the next top three teams—Color Rush, Trailer Park Boys, and Chicago Waterboys.

Senior Kyle Schaaf, a Team USA player, said his favorite aspect was, "the atmosphere and how everyone was standing around the court." Even though not everyone had rooted specifically for Team USA, Schaaf said in hopes for the Trinity event, "Maybe we'll have Illiana on our side."

Sophomore Erin Yonkman, a spectator, said she enjoyed the unity, especially "at the end when the other teams stood behind cheering."

This year was the ninth Dodgeball Tournament. The first tournament

had about ten teams and raised money for the Lymphoma Society. Every year Go Club chooses who to support with the fundraiser, but several years passed before the funds went to someone in the community.

Go Club sponsor Sara Johnson said the Tournament really gathered steam in its third year. She said, "The third year we raised money for Kelsy Ebbens, and that is what grew the tournament into this big community event."

Then, on Friday, Nov. 18, the top 5 teams from Chicago Christian and Illiana and 2 teams from Trinity merged together in one dodgeball tournament on Trinity's campus to raise money for Neibert. Illiana team, Trailer Park Boys, consisting on 6 junior boys,

took home the Championship while the winning team from Illiana's tournament, Team USA, got out to the

second place team in the semifinals.



Courtesy of HR Imaging

Team USA members and fan, senior Jason Hillegonds dressed as a viking in USA gear, lifts senior Erik Detmar, after winning the Illiana tournament in 5 games.



## What are holidays like without a home?

**A**round this time of year, people all across the country get together with their families and celebrate the holidays. They eat tons of food, open gifts, laugh, and rejoice together, all of which is typically done in the home of a loved one. But what about those who don't have families? What about those who've been rejected by their loved ones? What about those who have spent their lives living on the streets, barely making it through the day?



**Riley Goodwin**  
Co-News Editor

The holiday season is about giving and thinking about others, but too often we forget about those who aren't as fortunate as us. According to socialsolutions.com, approximately 564,708 homeless people live in America. 206,286 of those people have families that no longer accept them into their lives. Could you imagine being so excluded from your own family that you're spending Thanksgiving or Christmas alone?

Most individuals view the homeless as people who didn't try to succeed at life or people who are too lazy to make a living, but the truth is, a good portion of those people were once successful or had a good beginning, but things went downhill faster than they could manage and they lost hold of their life. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, the recent housing crisis, stagnant wages, mental illness, and domestic abuse are also frequently contributing factors. Almost every student attending Illiana has been given a good start to his or her life and more than likely won't end up homeless, but I'm sure many also know someone who is, or has been, homeless.

Not only is the homeless person being affected, but their families are affected as well. There are mothers out there who don't have the opportunity to eat Thanksgiving dinner with their sons, and little girls who don't get to open up presents with their daddy on Christmas morning. Every single person involved in the situation gets shorted in one way or another.

I often wonder how homeless people handle these situations on a personal level. I wonder what they miss most about spending the holidays with their family. Is it the sound of laughter around the kitchen table? Is it the voice of their grandma saying dinner is ready? Is it the taste of the sweet, tangy cranberry sauce mixed with stuffing? Or is it the feeling of knowing everything is going to be all right? Knowing they're not going to get all of those things back has to be so depressing.

Thankfully, there are thousands of charities across the country that go out of their way to provide clean, warm places to stay, especially during the holiday season. A majority of these charities are funded by churches, so not only are they providing shelter, they're also spreading the Gospel to the ones who need its hope the most.

This holiday season, be sure to hug your family members a little tighter, laugh a little harder, and stay a little longer.



*Juniors Ben Fabrizius and Jordan Miller snicker together as they give blood.*

Photo by Mr. Jeff DeVries

## Blood Drive collects 57 pints

**Cassie Laninga**  
Reporter

For junior Tabitha Adams, donating blood at this year's fall Blood Drive was a brand new experience. Adams said she took this

opportunity to help someone in need.

"If someone needed a blood transfusion, then maybe my blood could help them," said Adams.

Illiana held its annual Blood Drive, which lasted

from first to sixth period on Tuesday, Nov. 15. 70 students tried to donate, but 20 were turned down. A total of 57 pints was collected.

"The goal was forty-eight [pints] and we got fifty seven," said Mr. Zand-

## P.I.E. Board introduces new hot lunches

*Students enjoy the new options like baked potatoes, breadsticks, soup, and mac' and cheese, but some think prices are too high.*

**Jo Mulder**  
Reporter

**Alex Wondaal**  
Reporter

Lunch hour at the cafeteria offers more choices than years previous thanks to Illiana mothers Terri Schaaf and Nichole VanDam.

The new hot lunch options include baked potatoes, breadsticks, soup, and macaroni and cheese. This year hot lunches are served five days a week and the daily options are switched back and forth every week.

The food is not sold for profit, but rather to serve the

students. Last year the program raised only \$15.

Schaaf said her favorite part of serving hot lunch was "seeing the kids at Illiana and meeting new parents."

According to Schaaf, approximately fifty mothers serve lunches throughout the year. For their service they receive a \$200 reduction to their children's tuition. The lunch program falls under the management of The Parents Involved in Education (P.I.E.)

board.

The lunch prices are viewed differently by different people. Junior Ryan Disselkoen said that he buys more lunches now that more options are available, but he also states that some prices seem inflated.

Sophomore Connor Robertson, on the other hand, said that prices seem reasonable to him. And now that there are more options, he said that he buys hot lunch almost every day.

## White brings Chicago history alive through Local History field trip

**Beth Boonstra**  
Co-News Editor

**Natalie Togtman**  
Reporter

Local History, a class taught by Mr. Jeff White and Mr. Bill VenHuizen, explored the history of Chicago from dawn to dusk on Tuesday, Nov. 15. Students had the opportunity to visit historical sites such as the Prudential Building, the Hilton Hotel, The Aeon Building, Grant Park, Roosevelt University, and more.

White, a notorious storyteller, brought the history of Chicago alive with stories and interesting facts about the history of Chicago. Senior Micah Hescott learned, "The Willis Tower was inspired by a pack of cigarettes by the way they're packed together." The original idea was from holding cigarettes and poking them from the bottom so that they'd stand at different points.

Several students that attended the trip agreed that their favorite place was the original bank vault underneath the Board of Trade. Senior Jacob Miedema said, "We were the first Illiana class to go inside the vault, and the vault had just recently been opened to the public."

Senior Hanna VanderWoude enjoyed learning about Maggie Daley Park. "Maggie Daley disciplined her husband, [the mayor], by not giving him enough food. She said, 'You get no food until you figure out how to keep the [children's] hospital open.'" She was so committed to the children that they dedicated the park to her.

VanderWoude said, "There is a funny story behind how the Chicago library was created." Queen Victoria so pitied Chicago after the devastating fire of 1871 that she donated money to have the library be rebuilt, even though Chicago never had a library in the first place.



Photo by Hanna VanderWoude

*Mr. Jeff White tells an interesting story about the history of Chicago outside of the FBI building on the Local History field trip on Tuesday, Nov. 15.*



# Blaauw survives sepsis scare

Grant Gibson  
Reporter

Thanksgiving will be especially sweet this fall for the family of Heino Blaauw, the former pastor of First Reformed and Peace Christian Reformed in South Holland. Blaauw nearly died in the hospital before October’s end.

Heino Blaauw arrived at the Community Hospital of Munster on Oct. 11 around 3:30 a.m. His doctors quickly diagnosed sepsis (a blood infection). Because they didn’t know what kind of sepsis it was, they had to take blood cultures, which took about a day and a half. It turned out that E. coli from the uterine tract had somehow leaked into his bloodstream. Soon after the results came in, he was given heavy antibiotics specific to his E. coli, and recovery started slowly but surely.

Sepsis frequently causes organ failure, and it did to Blaauw. His kidneys stopped working, so Blaauw had to start dialysis. Then came his heart.

Karen Blaauw explained, “When it looked like he start-



Photo courtesy of Rachel Blaauw

Rev. Heino Blaauw sits up in hospital chair with his daughter, Rachel Blaauw.

ed to recover, he coded, meaning his heart stopped.”

After resuscitating him with CPR, doctors rushed him to the Cardiovascular Unit, and used a balloon pump to keep his blood circulating. But the doctors didn’t know if he would live. He was asleep through all of this, he just had a heart attack, and E. coli was still flowing through his system.

“They didn’t think he’d make it, so it’s a medical miracle that he did,” Karen Blaauw said.

Heino survived his heart attack, regained strength, and returned home for celebratory

prime rib on Oct. 29. His recovery continues apace, and he visits the hospital 3 days a week for dialysis.

Families from their old churches, the Illiana community, and even an old support group they ran in Canada - Alpha Teens - have all expressed love for Heino by providing meals, visiting, sending cards, and praying.

Because of the internet, “We had people praying all over the world,” said Karen Blaauw, who estimated that people from 25 nations were praying for them.

Karen especially expressed her gratitude towards

the Pruim family, who are taking care of Sean Zhu, the Blaauw’s foreign exchange student, and Mr. Neil Zandstra, one of Illiana’s counselors, who visited Heino almost every day. The Piaskowy teachers have visited him too.

Karen Blaauw is currently doing “20 Days of Thanksgiving” on her public Facebook page. The theme? Thanking those who helped the Blaauws, from doctors to family.

“I might have to go past Thanksgiving because I don’t think I could get around to thanking everybody,” she said.

# Journalism, Creative Writing showcase writing skills in Wisconsin

Haleigh Olthof  
Reporter

Students from creative writing and journalism classes traveled two and a half hours to the University of Wisconsin Whitewater for a writing festival on Nov. 16 with teachers Mr. Jeff DeVries and Miss Emily Van Stee.

In addition to getting feedback from college professors and professional writers on personal submissions, students shared their work with peers from Illiana and other schools in such genres as poetry, short fiction, song lyrics, mystery, fantasy and more.

This was one of two field trips during the semester-long creative writing class.

“It’s a really fun day full of a ton of different critiques on writing and opinions on writing,” said Van Stee. She said she thought this trip and the class’s field trip to a Chicago festival gives students “a wider perspective in their writing.”

Sophomore Jordan Bivins said he was glad to receive criticism on his writing and learned that “you don’t always have to rhyme with everything” when writing poetry.

Over 700 students attended the event.



Photo courtesy of HR Imaging

Students sing “Take it All” by Hillsong Friday night after Praise Crowd Committee served students Culvers’ chicken strips.

# Praise Crowd takes first steps with “Footprints” theme

Josh Chancellor  
Reporter

The Praise Crowd Board hosted its first praise crowd service of the school year on Nov. 11 after an outstanding turnout at the dodgeball tournament. The school’s auditorium was packed with students singing praise to God.

Mr. Davids, a co-sponsor of

Praise Crowd and the speaker for the event, said that he hopes Praise Crowd events let students know and feel “that they are loved by God and that their sins are paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ.”

Junior Emma West, who sang and helped lead worship, said, “My favorite thing about Praise Crowd is how much it inspires people. After going to one during my freshman year, I saw that Illi-

ana is more than just a school.”

The musicians for that night also had some thought on why they enjoy Praise Crowd.

Junior Aliyah Chancellor, the guitarist for Praise Crowd, said she volunteered to play for “the simple opportunity of just being able to use the talents that God gave me and find the purpose for why God gave me these gifts.”

# Despite low turnout, soup supper raises funds

Lowering tuition bills by \$175, the soup supper eases the pain of tuition bills and fills stomachs.

Caleb Last  
Reporter

Volunteers and members of the Illiana Foundation Board held a soup supper in Illiana’s upper gym on Saturday, Nov. 5, in between performances of the fall play to raise money for the Illiana Christian High School Foundation. The fundraiser took in \$3,572.14.

The Foundation is a fund that has the stated goal “to keep the cost of Christian education affordable into the future.” This year Foundation funds reduce the tuition of each Illiana student by \$175.

Traditionally, the Foundation has held a Ribfest as a fundraiser, but the board switched to a soup supper this year.

Steve Holwerda, Illiana’s Director of Development, said that despite the lower attendance numbers, the supper was overall a success, since people came and enjoyed themselves. He said the volunteers were great and that “without [volunteers and underwriters], none of it is possible.”

Junior Payton Smit said he enjoyed the supper. He needed something to eat in between play performances, and the soup supper was right there. He said he enjoyed his chicken and dumpling soup.

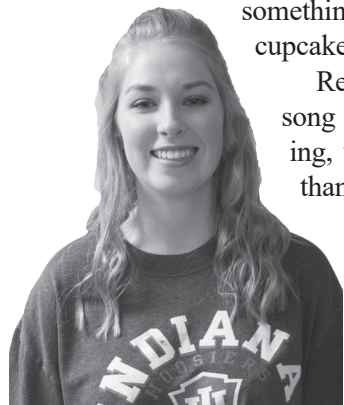
Sophomore Issy Neibert echoed Smit’s reasons for going. She did not have a ride anywhere after the play and the soup supper was right there. She said the supper was good, though she wishes there had been more variety.



# A day to remember: Veterans Day

## What am I thankful for? Freedom

Every year at Thanksgiving my entire family and I sing a song that my little cousin made up. We go around the room and everyone sings what they're thankful for. Every year my grandma and papa say they're thankful for family, I usually say something about food or cupcakes.



Elyse Dunham  
Co-Feature Editor

Remembering that song got me thinking, what am I truly thankful for? Well, my parents, my family, my bed, cupcakes, paint and paint brushes, fuzzy socks, the super cute puppy that I'm hope-

fully going to get one day. But most of those are material possessions. So I thought hard for something that is really important to me, that I could not live without. It didn't take long for one word to pop into my head: freedom.

Freedom is what gives me the right to speak my mind, freedom is what defines America's character, and freedom is what shapes American history. Freedom was in the forefront of our founding fathers minds when they signed the Declaration of Independence. Freedom is what the slaves yearned for every day and it is what they were overwhelmed with once the thirteenth amendment abolished slavery.

But our freedom comes at a cost, the cost was millions of lives throughout all of America's history. So many brave, young souls sacrificed a warm, comfortable house, a child, a spouse, and so much more to fight for the America we live in today. All of those soldiers who died for our freedom should never be forgotten, but I know that I am guilty of taking my freedom for granted. We can't just sit back and let freedom be handed to us. As Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

I don't think that Reagan was suggesting that every person in America should serve in the military, but he was saying something we should all remember: freedom is not free. And freedom is not guaranteed. We need to work to preserve it. One way to do that is to honor those veterans to whom we owe so much thanks. Veterans Day has already passed, but it's never a bad time to say thank you to those people who continually encounter the cruelty of war.

So, next time you tweet something controversial or you register to vote, remember who gave those freedoms to you. Remember all the lives that were sacrificed for everyday things that you never could imagine being taken away from you, like the right to argue your opinion. And when you're making those arts and crafts hand turkeys and writing what you're thankful for on them, be thankful for freedom and the people who secured it.



Photo by Horst Faas, courtesy of CNN.com

Taken in 1965 during the Vietnam War. In Saigon, helicopters protect South Vietnamese soldiers.

## Vietnam veteran's story more complex than that depicted in history textbooks

Juliana Knot

Co-Editor in Chief

A twenty year old Al Hoeksema held the draft notice in his hands.

It didn't surprise him. He was young. He had no degree, he had no wife, and he had no kids.

And it was 1969.

He was going to Vietnam.

Richard Nixon was the president. Both John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson had passed onto him what had started as a minor military conflict. A presidential aide said that at the beginning of Johnson's term, "Vietnam at the time was no bigger than a man's fist on the horizon. We hardly discussed it because it was not worth discussing."

As the years rolled on, and the conflict escalated, and the death toll rose, the small fist had left America with a blackened eye and a war no one wanted to fight.

However, America had to finish what it started. The communist Viet Cong sought to control the southern half of Vietnam. For the United States, it would be another communist victory in the Cold War if the Viet Cong succeeded.

Young men like Hoeksema were expected to fight for their country. Not only that, they were forced to. His only silver lining was that he was drafted into the army. He was not one of the unlucky few dragged into the Marines.

America did not like these soldiers then. To anti-war protesters, the soldiers were baby killers. To patriots, the soldiers were half-hearted bums. Along with the other 648,499 men who were drafted, Hoeksema went to basic training. It was inadequate and rushed. He may have learned how to hold and shoot a gun, but it did not prepare him for the hell that awaited him.

Even if basic training had not

been rushed by the desperate need for new troops, it could have never prepared him fully for combat.

Trudging through extreme heat and humidity, Hoeksema and his unit, the 198th Light Infantry Brigade, lived in constant fear. Fighting and death loomed over them constantly. Soldiers never were sure, never felt safe, never had any sort of ease.

The 198th Light Infantry Brigade sound like American heroes. They sacrificed everything for their country. They fought for the ideals of freedom, liberty, and independence. A politician could use them for a speech on the Fourth of July, as American as the fireworks and apple pie to follow.

But they weren't, according to Hoeksema.

They hated the Vietnam War. As college students protested the war on campuses and got high in their dorms, the 198th Light Infantry Brigade was doing the exact same thing, except in the jungles of Asia.

The unit smoked weed and did opium, partly to take the edge off the horrors of combat, partly to scare the rest of their company. They twisted, pinned, and tied peace symbols, anti-war buttons, and bracelets onto their uniforms. They were determined to be the most anti-war combat infantry platoon ever to exist.

Through a family member back in America, a member of their unit ordered shirts that said "F--k Vietnam" in patriotic red, white, and blue. At a company meeting, the unit donned their new shirts and hid the tall grasses behind the rest of the company. When their company commander radioed them to ask where they, Hoeksema radioed him back, and the company walked out of the tall grasses.

The whole company turned to see a mass of bright, white shirts

walk towards them. After the commander had seen the vulgar anti-war statement emblazoned on the shirts, he told the 198th Light Infantry Brigade to strip. He burned all of the shirts.

The 198th Light Infantry Brigade still thought it was funny.

As anxious Americans sat glued to their TV screens, so these soldiers watched the news for some glimmer of hope that we were winning, in other words, that they'd be less likely to die.

Media reported on body count. The American public listened for the body count. It was how people kept score of who was winning. The easiest way to appear to be winning was to kill more Vietnamese; the t-shirt-burning commander ordered the 198th Light Infantry Brigade to bring in more Vietnamese bodies.

The unit staked out the Viet Cong for eleven days. Finally they caught and captured a Vietnamese man and brought him to their commander.

Their commander stared at the prisoner in rage. By bodies, he had meant corpses.

Hoeksema and his brigade had understood.

The 198th Light Infantry Brigade also attended a village chief's wedding, they discussed religion, and they fought for five hours without a single man dying on either side.

All the while, Hoeksema made short marks on his helmet, counting down the days till he could go home. One by one, the marks filled up the cap, fifty days, thirty days, ten days, five days. Finally he could leave.

He flew home.

His family picked him up from the airport. They also brought home another soldier whose family didn't even show up. Hoeksema described the moment as surreal.

Even in the safety of America, Hoeksema still felt the urge to look over his shoulder.

The unease stuck with him. He no longer had weed or opium to take the edge off. His time doing drugs had left him addicted. Symptoms of withdrawal only intensified his unease.

Hoeksema started walking around his neighborhood at night, paranoid, looking for an enemy that was not there. His family was well meaning and wanted to help, but they just did not understand.

He hated fireworks.

Even forty years later, he still jumps at loud noises.

Restless, Hoeksema went to Calvin College, mainly because the government would pay for it. Ironically, the Vietnam veteran became part of an anti-war group. He spoke. Others listened. It was an outlet for his frustrations.

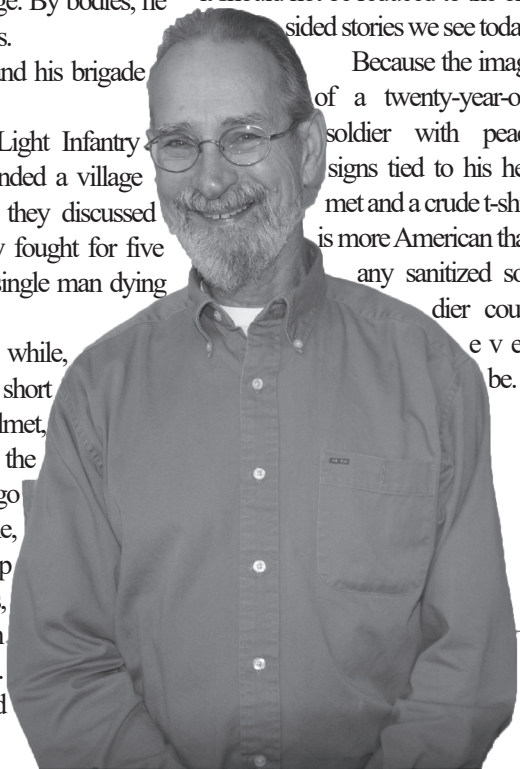
Over four decades have passed since his time in Vietnam, and America still doesn't know what to think of that war. After the Iraq Wars, the country knows the feeling of being in a war it did not want but nowhere to the extent of Vietnam.

And a soldier like Hoeksema doesn't fit a mold. He was neither a dutiful American patriot soldier nor was he a hippie screaming for peace. Somehow, he was both.

For the vast majority of young Americans, when it comes to who Hoeksema is, they frankly don't know or don't care. What they know is the sanitized two paragraph Vietnam section in their textbooks with a paragraph for the soldiers and a paragraph for the protesters.

Vietnam is a war America doesn't tout. It doesn't match the glory of either of the World Wars or the nobility of the Revolution. However, the men who fought in it should not be reduced to the one sided stories we see today.

Because the image of a twenty-year-old soldier with peace signs tied to his helmet and a crude t-shirt is more American than any sanitized soldier could ever be.



Al Hoeksema forty eight years later





Veterans stand in unity around the flagpole during the national anthem at the Veterans Day front lawn ceremony.

Photo by Jeff DeVries

# GO Club hosts Veterans Day Celebration

Liz VanDrunen  
Reporter

Student Council and Go Club worked together to honor the veterans of the community on Nov. 11 by serving them breakfast in the cafeteria and holding a special Veterans Day chapel.

Emily Van Stee, an Illiana English teacher, began the special day with

devotions on the front lawn, followed by the raising of the American flag.

Following the opening remarks, the veterans and their families were escorted to the cafeteria and served breakfast by students. Afterward, Ensign Jonathan Jackson, a graduate from Illiana who currently serves at the Naval Air Station in Meridian, spoke during an all-school chapel about his training and his cur-

rent service to the country.

Go Club had been preparing for Veterans Day since Sept. 1, spreading the word in church newsletters, flyers, social media, and word-of-mouth. Go Club also worked to prepare the program for the day.

Ron Beishuizen, who served in the Coast guard from 1968-1969, said his granddaughter, freshman Lexi Katsilieris, was the one

to tell him about Illiana’s effort to recognize and honor veterans.

The school planned on having 47 veterans come, and ended up with more than 75 people, including veterans and their family members.

Harry DeBruin, who served in the Army from 1970 to 1972, said his favorite part of the day was, “getting together with all

the other veterans and being able to share our stories with each other.”

Sophomore Mickey Boss was one of the students who had helped serve the veterans and their families.

“It was awesome to see the looks on their faces when we served them breakfast,” said Boss. “I really hope that we were able to show how much Illiana appreciates them.”

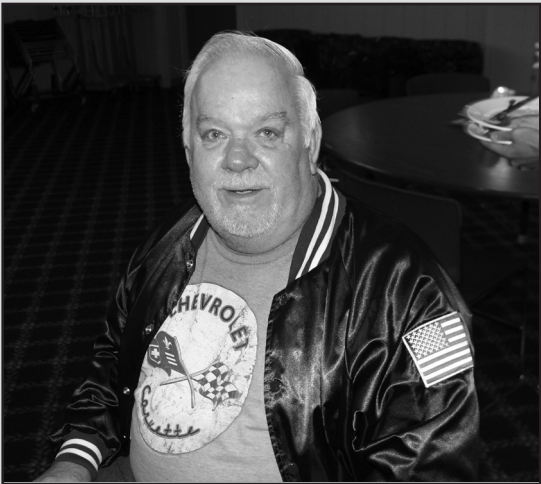
## Unsung Hero’s speak

Asking heros on Veterns Day “What do you see today that makes you most proud of what you did?”

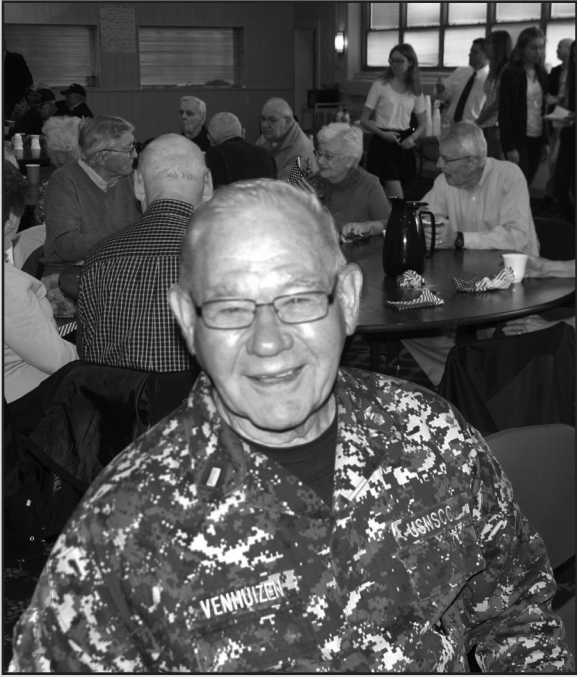


Paul Wiltjer:  
“My flag and my country”

Calvin VanVossen:  
“That I served my country: that’s it, plain and simple”



Harry DeBruin:  
“That I did something for my country.”



Neil Venhuizen:  
“You can’t pinpoint one specific thing; anything you do, you’re proud of it all.”





Photo by Jeff DeVries

*Dr. Stockmann (senior Isaiah Easter) discovers how fickle majority opinion can be in the climactic scene of "Enemy."*

## Political ideas get audience thinking in 'An Enemy of the People'

Kassidy Weemhoff

Co-Arts Editor

Illiana's production of "An Enemy of the People", written by Henrik Ibsen, wowed audiences with focused, thought-provoking performances sprinkled with humor on November 3, 4 and 5.

The central conflict of this play involved Doctor Thomas Stockmann, who discovers the water of his town is poisoned, causing friction between his brother, who is the mayor, and himself. The townspeople are in an uproar over the new discovery, denying the importance of its threat. "An Enemy of the People" forces viewers to wonder

if the majority is always right and what it would be like to face that majority alone.

Both new and veteran actors graced the stage for this performance. Senior Isaiah Easter, who played Doctor Stockmann, said this of his first large role:

"Dr. Stockmann is a very complex character because though he is the protagonist, he very clearly has faults. He is very conceited and shows a lot of self-concern compared to the concern of the town as a whole. You can see that he battles within himself. It was pretty easy to get into that character because that's some of my own struggle... He's also a pretty aggressive character so that was fun. I think that his character is very interesting to say the least."

When asked why he chose

this play, director Jeff DeVries said he chose it because of the political climate of the country.

"A play that is about majority rule and if majority rule is always moral or always right or always wise seemed very timely in the election season that has been controversial and ugly," said DeVries. He also said that his favorite part were some of the lines, "I love the line 'The majority is never right until it does right.'... Some of those things get at fundamental truths that we don't like to acknowledge and that make us uncomfortable. The play gets at the tension that has been part of American democracy since the beginning between majority rule and individual rights. I love some of the things that this play gets you to think about."



Photo by Jeff DeVries

*Dr. Stockmann rears up to punch his brother, Mayor Peter Stockmann, after a heated discussion.*

### TREND REPORT

Juliana Knot

Co-Editor in Chief

Most people don't equate the story of America's first Secretary of the Treasury with that of Biggie and Tupac. But, according to the recent Hamilton documentary on PBS that was composer and writer Lin-Manuel Miranda's first thought when he read Ron Chernow's biography of Hamilton while on vacation. He started writing a rap introducing Hamilton, which evolved into nearly a three hour-long production. Seven years later, Miranda's musical became a Broadway legend, raking in eleven Tony awards.

The Hamilton mania has made headways into Illiana's hallways as well. Junior Esther Lagerwey, a fan, recently saw the musical at the Private Bank Theatre in Chicago. One can often see a Hamilton mug, sitting on the desk of her mother, Bible and English teacher Mary Lagerwey.

The younger Lagerwey said, "Miranda makes this musical unique in that he speaks in the language of today and uses the modern diversity of our nation to portray the Founding Fathers."

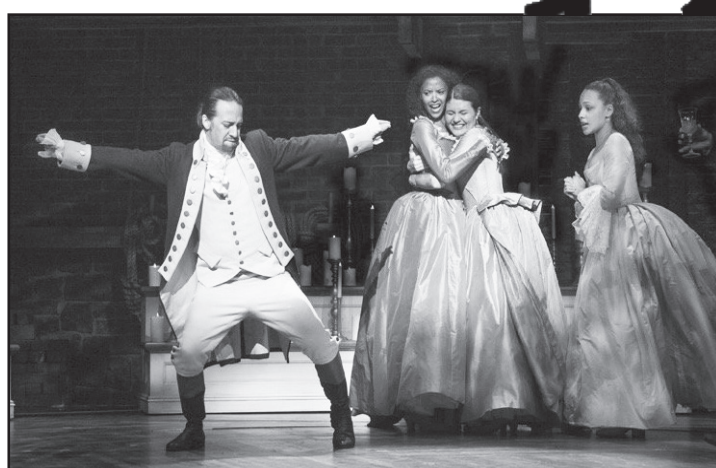
Senior Holly Krajewski is another fan who feels that her knowledge of history has grown alongside her love of Hamilton. "Every song is so unique and tells a little piece of history... I feel like I can tell you ev-

ery detail from the Battle of Yorktown or the election of 1800 because [Miranda] does such an amazing job of bringing history back to life."

Krajewski added that although she has only listened to the sound track, she looks forward to seeing the musical herself on January 2.

Hamilton is a vibrant

take on the beginnings of America through the eyes of an orphan immigrant. Whoever can afford the tickets should definitely see the show. (Or buy me tickets instead.)



Photos taken from hamiltonbroadway.com.

## Music, myths and the search for the Truth

Kanye West described his latest work "The Life of Pablo" as a "gospel album with a lot of cursing." Can he even do that? If he follows Jesus, and reads the same Bible, what makes him think he can change the rules?

Many rap artists have been notorious for claiming God in their music, but still using blasphemy and promoting vulgarity. Am I wrong for listening to this type of music?



Lauren Curtis

Co-Arts Editor

Ever since September 24th

when I attended Chance the Rapper's Coloring Day festival, this question has really been on my mind. A bunch of famous artists were there performing but one that really stood out to me was rap artist Lil Wayne.

He proclaimed that God was above all and that we would basically be nothing without him. After his brief speech he sang a few of his popular rap songs, all of them having blasphemy. At the time I didn't really think much about it. C'mon, I was at a concert and I loved hearing the music. Then it hit me on Monday morning that I might have been wrong. My idea to cover the concert in the school newspaper got rejected because of the intense vulgarity expressed in the most of the performer's music. Truth be told, it made me start to question their Christianity and, honestly my own too.

How could I listen to such vulgarity and call myself a Christian? I love the music, but what am I supposed to do? It bothered me more and more as people came up to me saying my music choices were "unholy" and "negative." "Am I wrong" was on the top of my mind for days, so I did some research.

The more I talked to people the more confused I became on the issue. When talking to Bible teacher, Mr. Mark Dykstra about this topic, he explained to me interpretation is important when it comes to music. Some music influences people to act more godly, other music influences others toward dishonorable behaviour. One song by rap group, NWA, might inspire me to work hard and be successful but inspire someone else to hustle his way out of the hood illegally. Dykstra then proceeded to tell me about how "Christians have no more patent over the musical aspects of life than they do over something like mathematical formulas." All truth is God's truth and if a song--whether it's Christian or not--leads someone to that truth, then it just might be worth listening to.

So am I wrong for listening to music that has blasphemy and promotes vulgarity? Are any of us wrong for listening to that type of music? Truth is, it's hard to say. I honestly don't know. Let's just say this: if a song you listen to makes you use blasphemy, treat females as less than human, hurt policeman as if all cops are the same, or even partake in illegal activities, that song shouldn't be in your playlist anymore.





Photo by JP Peerbolte

Freshman Gillian Fiene runs downstate and finishes 7th place at the state competition on November 5 in Peoria, Illinois.

## Illiana cross program speeds to success down state

Kade Bouwer  
Reporter

The Illiana cross country team sent three runners to the state finals on Nov. 5. Junior Austin Ohm qualified for the boys, while sophomore Cate Peerbolte and freshmen Gillian Fiene qualified for the girls.

At state, Ohm finished 42nd, Peerbolte

placed 78th, and Fiene came in at 7th place. All of the coaches were very pleased with the performances of the runners.

“I am very happy. He [Ohm] did excellent,” said Jim Piaszkowy, the boy’s cross country coach. “There have only been seven runners in the history of Illiana to break 15 minutes at the state

meet and he ran 14:59, so he is one of seven.”

Deb Top, the girls cross country team coach, said, “We wanted to get personal bests, that was our main goal, and Cate did that and Gillian did that.”

As highly as Fiene placed, she did it through pain. She discovered after the race that she had a stress fracture in her foot.

She’d been running the last few weeks of the season with the injury.

Fiene said, “The races leading up to state, I could definitely feel it, but once I got to state, I was running on pure adrenaline.”

“I had no idea,” said Top. “She didn’t say anything. She said it hurt her some, but not a ton. I was shocked she did so well with that.”

## Wrestling team no longer hurting for athletes

As team expands to 18 members

Cate Peerbolte  
Reporter

Illiana’s wrestling team is back to where it was in numbers two years ago. Last year the team consisted of only eight wrestlers. The team now has eighteen wrestlers, mostly freshmen.

New athletes joined for a variety of reasons.

Freshman Brandon Schutt said, “My dad was on the team and he encouraged me to join. It seemed like fun so I went to conditioning.”

Coach Dean Bosman said, “It will be a season of rebuilding. We will focus on building the team back up.” He explained that the experienced athletes will mainly teach basic techniques to the

new athletes. This will allow the new members to learn faster and more thoroughly. It will also allow Bosman to spend time on complex techniques with those who are ready.

With a larger team this year more weight classes will be filled. This gives the team a greater advantage to scoring team points than they had last year. Bosman said, “I’m looking

forward to seeing how this year’s team will measure up against the schools in the larger conference.”

Bosman predicts that it will be a season short on winning, but seniors Jesse Ellis, Noah Rogan, and Isaac Lyzenga have good chance of making it to state.

Bosman said, “The excitement of new wrestlers brings enthusiasm. It should be a fun season.”

# Sports to unite, not divide

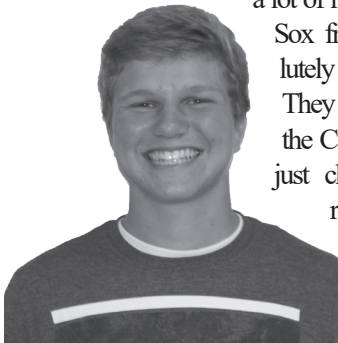
Hello, my name is Luke and I am an avid White Sox fan. This year, however, hasn’t been as tough as you think it would be for a White Sox fan. At least not this White Sox fan. The Cubs won the World Series. I know that’s old news but it struck me how

a lot of my fellow White Sox friends just absolutely hate the Cubs.

They cheered against the Cubs. They didn’t just cheer softly and respectfully but they did it loudly and obnoxiously.

It got to a point to where

I wouldn’t even



Luke Hillegonds  
Co-Sports Editor

watch the game with these friends because they were such jerks about it. I understand that there are teams that people just despise but if they are playing well and you know fans of that team then just let them be. Show some respect to that fan because that is what God calls us to do. We are to rejoice with our companions when they rejoice and mourn with them when they mourn.

Sports are a uniting force especially among schools, cities, and countries. Here at Illiana, we have Loud Crowd games where hundreds of students scream their heads off for fellow classmates. Chicago and Northwest Indiana rallies around the Blackhawks when they make a playoff run and go downtown for the parade when they take home the Stanley Cup. Our country rallies around the U.S. athletes at the Olympics especially this summer as we took home lots of medals, as always.

So why couldn’t we all rally around the Cubs? White Sox fans “had” to cheer against the Cubs. White Sox fans “had” to be totally against the Cubs or else they weren’t good White Sox fans. Really? As Mr. Veldman would say, “ARE YOU KIDDING ME?” It clearly isn’t the duty for a White Sox fan to openly root against the Cubs because the White Sox organization never openly rooted against their rivals on the north side. The White Sox Front Office showed respect for the Cubs organization and fans. The White Sox organization even congratulated the Cubs publicly.

So why do we want to see our friends and teachers feel pain and suffer loss? I get it, sports aren’t that big of a deal, but for a lot of these Cub fans it was almost a matter of life and death. That isn’t healthy, but that’s a different story. People say, “I like all the Cubs players but I just can’t stand the fans.” For a while I said the same thing because Cub fans have always been a little obnoxious and always will be. Life, however, is bigger than sports, and our relationships with others matter more than who wins the World Series and who doesn’t. We should show love to our friends even if they commit a major sin like rooting for one baseball team over another. Get over it. Show some love. Quit acting like it is the end of the world to see the Cubs or any opposing team win it all. Sports are supposed to unite and not divide. So all of us need to quit hating people because of who they root for. We need to be bigger than the hate in our heart.

# Basketball Season Previews

## Girls Program

Girls Varsity Basketball Coach, Tom Knapper is looking forward to coaching another great team. “We have lots of girls with positive attitudes and a good work ethic.” The girls team went undefeated in their conference last season and this season have been moved into a more difficult conference like the rest of Illiana’s sports teams. Coach Knapper looks forward to the post season and the challenge of the new conference

## High Impact Players

Alyssa Murrin, “She has been point guard on varsity the past year and a half.”  
Gabby Kreykes, “She has been on varsity for 3 years, this will be her 4th, she will be a high impact, she is high energy.”  
Deborah Smith, “She will be a tough inside presence.”

## Dark Horses

Eden Schipper and Hope VanProyen “[They] haven’t been in the lights and on the board in the past,... they both play tremendous defense, and they have great attitudes, so if they start to connect in one of these games, they could be an offensive surprise.”

## Boys Program

This boys team is very different from the last couple of teams Illiana has seen, in the fact that they aren’t as strong from the three point line but have a bigger presence driving the lane and causing turnovers with their solid defense. The team has 9 seniors and 4 juniors and are playing a new offense this year. Coach Grant Sikkema says, “They work hard and bring a great positive energy.”

## High Impact Players

Sam Vree, “Looking to have a big season, led our team in rebounds last year.”  
Bo Hofstra, “Great athlete. Will be someone we look to a lot.”  
Ethan Beezhold, “Strong, and athletic”

## Dark Horses

John Eenigenburg, “Works hard, great outside shot.”  
Jared Jonkman, “Strong player who can do damage this year.”



# Editorial

## #Kindness does nothing at all

Mrs. Dykstra can tell you that study after study has shown that teenagers are becoming more and more emotionally and socially withdrawn. This doesn't mean that teens aren't emotional because we all know that's a lie. According to The Wall Street Journal this is because teens are spending so much time on their smartphones and social media.

According to Larry Rosen, a research psychologist who has studied the impact of technology on more than 50,000 children, teens, and adults for 30 years and in 25 different countries. His recent study said, "While empathy can be dispensed in the virtual world, it is only one-sixth as effective in making the recipient feel socially supported compared with empathy proffered in the real world. A hug feels six times more supportive than an emoji."

The trendy hashtags that our generation adores have also aided in desensitizing us perhaps more than we may realize. #Kindness may seem to be a good thing, but in reality many times it isn't genuine. Go to Instagram and search #kindness. Unless you're on a different planet, you're bound to see countless selfies, photos of pets, and the occasional Bible verse meme. News flash! Taking a cute pic of your pooch is not deserving of the word 'kindness.'

What did you really do? #Blankets #staywarm is not going to keep the homeless warm. Putting your phone down, going out in the cold weather, and giving someone a blanket will. Empty hashtags exist only to elevate the person sharing them. We need to honor the words that are in the hashtag by backing them with action for God's glory rather than

“#Blankets #staywarm is not going to keep the homeless warm. Putting your phone down, going out in the cold weather, and giving someone a blanket will.”

our own #Loveall or #equality will not do a thing to help fight the racist and sexist injustices that plague our country, but taking a real stand will help. Educate and encourage others, stand up when you see something wrong, and not so that you can go tweet about your #randomactsofkindness. Hashtags shouldn't just be letters on a screen. They should be made manifest in your actions. Kindness is an action. Love is an

action. GO Club provides plenty of amazing service opportunities just waiting for people to sign up, literally, from TOP soccer to Night Ministries, Ronald McDonald House to Feed My Starving Children. The most devastating thing is when nearly no one signs up, and the service project must be canceled. We let down

those we are serving. Why? Because Illiana, a Christian school, does not have enough kids that are willing to step out into the cold, step into a gym full of children with disabilities, step into a nursing home, take a step down from their pedestals to show some genuine kindness.

Consider this your call to arms, Illiana. Even if you have a stressful schedule and can't make the next Go Club project, make an effort to show genuine

kindness. It's easy when you're up on your pedestal. "Ooo look at me! I'm so #kind and I #help people!" Get over yourself. All you did was lend someone a pencil so that you could look good in front of your crush. Yay you.

Being genuine means being true to what you say you are. When you say that you are #kind, are your actions matching the description in Philippians 2:3? It says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." The big problem with #kindness or hashtags in general is that they're generally about ourselves, when real kindness is supposed to be a humble act of putting others' needs before our own.

James 2 :16 says, "And if you say, 'Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well,' but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?" Couldn't you see yourself saying this to someone? 'Have a nice day!' 'Stay safe!' But the verse makes a very good point. We say things like this so flippantly, but we don't actually stop and help people. If you say, "Have a nice day!" to someone, you should definitely be doing something to make sure that they have a good day!

## Missing: motivation for senior year

### Last seen: freshman year

Junior year is your hard year." As if. I wish. I'm a senior, and I came into this year thinking it'd a lot easier than past years. What I didn't see coming was the stress of AP classes and college applications. In fact, I feel quite blindsided.

Going into freshman year, I was way ahead of my honors biology bug project. My sister, two grades above me, had already suffered, laboring to finish it between school and her tennis practices. After seeing that, I decided that



Collette Bouwer  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

was not going to be me. I completed my project in ease, and only finishing touches remained when the first day of school came around. If you can't tell, I'm pretty proud of that fact, and anyone who has had to do that bug project, they would understand.

When I heard about college applications, I thought I was going to be the same way. Psych. Plot twist. I'm a complete mess. The only application I actually finished was one that offered a free T-shirt if completed by a certain date. I finished it the day it was due. And, I still don't even know how to pronounce the name. It's spelled Houghton, but does the hough make a oo, who, or hue sound?

To add to the stress of college applications, I've also turned in a record number of late assignments for a semester, 3 is the number I reached just last week. I fill out my planner religiously, but somehow I still missed those 3 assignments. This column right here in your hands is one of my late assignments.

Last, but not least, I have no idea what I want to do next year. I change my plans every other day... literally. Every other day.

I'm a mess, and I know very well my lack of sleep isn't helping.

The thing is though, it's okay. I actually got accepted into that college I don't know how to pronounce. Now, I have a backup plan if I need one. I know if all else fails one college wants me. Despite my late assignments, I'm doing well in my classes, and, although though I'm not sure what I want to do with the rest of my life, I have a lot of ideas.

It's okay, but, I don't want to keep going on this way. When I finished my bug project before it was due, I felt so proud. I felt good about myself. The project was off my chest before it could start stressing me.

I've learned a lot over my four years at Illiana, but I find this drive to get stuff done is something I've slowly been forgetting, or at least ignoring. Maybe I'm anxious to leave, or maybe I'm just no longer a nervous freshman so I can handle having things a little less under control. Either way, it's not a good thing to lose, and I'm struggling to get it back. Because, I know I'm just going to face tougher things in the future, and if I can't find initiative to do these easy things now, how will I ever muster it for the hard things?

I don't want those hard things to blindside me the way this year did, so here I am, desperately trying to grab a hold of that drive my freshman-self mastered, but somehow my senior-self lost.

## 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 for doing so.

## Echo Staff is thankful for...)))

Eyesight- Hanna VanderWoude

The Editorial Staff- Mr. DeVries      Car ride jams- Kassidy Weemhoff

Relationship with my family- Riley Goodwin

My mom- Juliana Knot

Sleep- JP Peerbolte

Color- Lauren Curtis

My voice- Beth Boonstra

Toilets- Elyse Dunham

Gardens- Collette Bouwer

Sports podcasts- Luke Hillegonds

My creative and imaginative mind- Andy Sons

Tropical vacations- Jacob Thompson

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