



Pumpkin spice lattes are taking over fall with earthy cinnamon flavors. Read about it and make your own on page 5

Illiana has recently dealt with numerous cancer cases in its community. Read about the stories of Shelly Hernandez and Isaac Lyzenga on page 4.



In midst of national election year,
Class of 2017 explores,
enjoys Washington, D.C.

Grant Gibson
Reporter

Kade Bouwer
Reporter

120 seniors boarded buses and left school on Oct. 18, leaving for Washington D.C. for the annual senior class trip that teacher Jeff White plans every year so they can get a close-up account of the history of their country and appreciate the people that fight for it. The seniors got back Oct. 22.



Seniors Blake Gossage and Avery Riemersma admire the World War II Memorial.

Immense anticipation stacked up as the days to the class trip grew fewer. Senior Norman Standish said, “[Class trip] is going to be action packed. Mr. White is going to have a lot of fun stuff for us to do.” Throughout the trip, seniors got to visit places such as the Capitol Building, the White House, the Smithsonian Museum, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial, to name a few.

Senior Ellie Triezenberg said, “It surprised me how much [visiting the monuments] meant to the veterans, especially the Vietnam vets, that we, as the

younger generation, come to remember and honor them.” While the seniors learned quite a lot on this trip, they also had a lot of fun. Seniors like Ryan Koontz ended up hanging out with people he didn’t really expect to hang out with, and he said that he enjoyed them.

Triezenberg said, “I think that I laughed the whole trip. We were all so tired and slap happy that everything was funny, but I will definitely always remember Mr. Veldman’s singing skills.” While there were many positive aspects of the trip, lots of the seniors didn’t enjoy amount of sleep they received. “In the hotel, you would only get max 7 hours of sleep, compared to the 14 hours of walking a day we did,” Koontz



A member of the honor guard holds the wreath that four Illiana students will later lay in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

said. Senior Bo Hofstra spoke for most of the class when he said, “I’d add more sleeping time if I could.” Mr. White, the trip coordinator and cornerstone, arrived in D.C. a day early to make sure everything from professional tour guides to hotel reservations was good to go for the seniors. Not only did he make last-minute preparations for the current seniors that day, but he also started planning for next year too. Not much has changed from

last year’s class trip, according to White. Many years of having this trip allowed him to “streamline everything so we have a good plan.” “The weather was really good this trip, so we actually got to see mostly everything we wanted to see,” White added. Homeroom teachers of the seniors also helped. As senior sponsors, they bought some supplies for White, organized bus rosters or hotel rooms, and supervised students.

Bible 5 class
brings donuts,
love to Holland
Christian

Haleigh Olthof
Reporter

Mr. Davids’ Bible 5 class and several faculty members traveled to Holland Christian School to deliver donuts and love on Oct. 4, offering support as HCS grieved the loss of Kevin Witte, a teacher and coach there who died in a traffic accident. Illiana students handed out donuts, attended chapel with the HCS students, and received a tour of the school grounds. “In life, in relationships, I felt, it’s always better to actually show up in person,” said Mr. Lance Davids, Illiana’s Director of Spiritual Development. He said the main reaction from HCS was one of surprise. One of Holland Christian’s teachers “saw us, ran up, and just gave me a hug.” Said senior Kayla Vanderzee,

“It was pretty moving . . . They were really thankful, and it made me reflect on my life and see how I need to be more thankful for the small things.” Davids said the idea for the trip originated from a talk he gave in chapel about carrying others’ burdens. “As Christians, we extend far beyond borders and schools. We need to help everybody out.” He said he wanted “to let them know that people care. . . , especially from far away. It shows a little bit of that love.” “They said it made their day,” said Vanderzee. She added that the gesture was even more special to the HCS students because donuts had been Witte’s favorite food. Davids also wanted ICHS students to “learn what it means to carry someone’s burdens, to show up. Yeah, you have to rearrange your day, to be in the mess a little bit with them.” “It was cool to see how we could be a light to them and how they were a light to us,” said Vanderzee.

1.

2.

NONE OF THE ABOVE

3.

4.

5.

If Illiana students voted...
Donald Trump would win
the election.

Illiana's choice for president

Candidate	Votes
Donald Trump	200
Hillary Clinton	40
Gary Johnson	10
Jill Stein	20
None of the Above	160

Based on a poll of 440 students. This survey is the opinion of the student body and in no way reflects the opinion of the editorial staff or its advisor.

Giving honor where it's due

All those careers that could have been made, all those families that could have been produced, all those second chances that could have been given, all those lives that could have been lived.

Standing in front of each memorial in Washington, the Vietnam, WWI, WWII, Korean, one word came to my mind every single time. Sacrifice? No, that's not the first word I thought of. That's probably where 99% of you thought that's where I was going with this. Now please don't flip the page after I said that and think I'm some sort of American hater and hippy. What I said was sacrifice wasn't the first word that came to mind right away. Which is weird, trust me, I know, because sacrifice is exactly what these men did. They gave a number of sacrifices so numerous that I can't even try to count because, well I'm not that smart, let's be honest.

No, the first word that came to mind was honor. These big memorials I was looking at gave honor to these men. But all the names, all the lives that were given, weren't there because they wanted to be honored. They were given because they were just being themselves and doing what they thought was right. Now it's exactly 11:31 on a Sunday night, and I'm operating on little to no sleep, so I may be writing nonsense right now and you may be thinking where I am going with this. Here's where I'm going with this. (Wow, I need to calm my inner Mr. White down)

Honor is a word that gets used in English class, reading an epic poem of some sort. "High respect" is how the dictionary puts it. It is a word that we use to name someone great who died a legendary death. But I think honor should be given out a lot more than that. As I walked down the walls with names written down them, I couldn't possibly read them all. I couldn't possibly remember them all. All I knew was they all deserved honor; that's why their names were on here. I knew no matter if they died saving a 100 men or they died saving none, they died doing something for others.

I believe that honor needs to be given more than it is. Honor needs to be given to parents, honor needs to be given to that teacher who always stays late to make sure you can vent, honor needs to be given to those who continue to make this dark and twisted world just a bit brighter. Now I get it, if you give honor to everyone, then you kind of get rid of the whole special aspect of it all. But honestly if you really think about it, I know so many people who go about their lives just being them, and making a huge difference in the world even though it may not seem like it at the time. The soldiers didn't die because they said "I want my name on a memorial." They died because they were being themselves and trying to be a light in this dimly lit world.

I'm not trying to take away any honor or value to those soldiers who died, because I wish we could do more than just a put a name on a wall. But I'm saying honor is such a powerful word and sometimes we don't always see those who need to be honored. We need to open our eyes a little but more to those who die, who sacrifice, who love, who care, who share, who flat out protect us, and show them the honor they deserve because God knows they deserve it.



Photo by Mary Boonstra

Illiana junior Beth Boonstra stands alone among the many home-schoolers in Illiana's chapel.

Debate? Anyone? Anyone?

Tessa Buiter

Reporter

Students of the Chicagoland area met to exhibit their training at The Windy City Warm Up Speech and Debate Tournament hosted at Illiana

Christian High School on Oct. 14 and 15, but debate teams students from the host school by and large never showed up.

"It wasn't too important," said senior Jordan Brookins. "I really needed time for homework,"

he said when explaining why he failed to make and appearance that Saturday. Junior Malik Evans said he had no ride and vouched for others who he said had homework.

Junior Beth Boonstra,

Clowning around no laughing matter

Kendall Smith

Reporter

Caleb Last

Reporter

What some students are referring to as a "clown epidemic" started at the beginning of October with the oncoming of the Halloween season.

Across the United States, New Zealand, and the British Isles, an extraordinary number of clowns have been sighted, according to BBC News. The number of "creepy clown" sightings have led to a cultural phenomenon with widespread effects. McDonalds announced on Tuesday, Oct. 12, that it was temporarily retiring its clown mascot, Ronald McDonald, because of

the bad associations with clowns.

The phenomenon has also affected schools. Lincoln-Way High School District 210 sent an email to all its families in late September, alerting them to a "clown threat" that had been made via social media. The police were called in to investigate and did make an arrest.

Diana Last, a fourth grade teacher in Whiting, Indiana said, "We aren't even allowed to use the word clown in my school anymore. The kids are just terrified."

Not everyone, however, is so scared.

Junior Dalton Haven said, "I don't really care. I've heard rumors, but there are none near me."

Vice Principal AJ Turkstra said about the clowns, "It's a waste of student's time," a sentiment echoed by many of Illiana's students and faculty.

"It's stupid," said senior Kyle Church. "It's something that started as a prank and someone took seriously."

When asked about why he thinks so many clowns are being sighted, English teacher Jeff DeVries said, "People see what they want to see."



Photo Courtesy of @Clownspotting

A "clown watch" Twitter account references a clown sighting close to school.

Ants invade school, Turkstra takes precautions



Photo by Beth Boonstra

VanStee stomps on an unsuspecting ant.

Natalie Togtman

Reporter

An unusually large number of ants have swarmed a number of students' lockers and teachers' desks this autumn; the infestation has led to calling in exterminators.

"This is the wettest fall we have had in a while," said Assistant Principal AJ Turkstra.

"Illiana is built on sandy soil. With all the rain we have had, the soil has become very wet and the ants are looking for a dry place to go. The rain is causing the ants to come up."

Sophomore Ashley Pigatti said she lost a bag of trail mix because of all the

Illiana's only student to show that day, said she felt "disappointed that so many had committed and didn't come." She explained explained that part of the difficulty of a debate tournament is having to present to strangers, but it's not as hard to talk to strangers when there are other familiar faces.

"It was lonely," Boonstra added.

Despite the difficulties, Boonstra did well for her first tournament and placed 5th overall in her broadcasting speech

Most students involved were homeschoolers who spent weeks (outside of their once a week meetings) preparing for the day-long competitions judged by family members and older friends.

ants that ended up in her locker. Geometry teacher Mr. Bosman also found ants overrunning leftover chips from the school cookout.

The school has hired Anderson Pest Solutions to address the issue. The company normally comes once a month, but in October, they have come twice, hoping the extra treatment will eradicate the ants.

According to Turkstra, Illiana has not been the only place currently suffering this ant invasion.

"[The ants] are giving lots of folk's problems," said Turkstra.

The ants have also unsettled English teacher Miss Emily VanStee, who has been "killing lots of ants."



Photo by Jim Kamphuis
Juniors Johnathan Lightfoot, Cassie Laninga, and Nascha Hladek sign each other's year books at the Spire party.

Students reminisce over last year's memories at Spire party

Liz VanDrunen
Reporter

Last year's graduates joined current students in the upper gym to receive their yearbook and reminisce at the Spire Party on Oct. 7.

Around 83 of last year's alumni were able to return to catch up with their former classmates.

Alumnus Noah Venhuizen said, "There are so many sentimental memories that it's weird being back, but at the same time it feels like nothing has changed."

Last year's Spire staff of about 20 worked many hours to make sure all parts of the school were represented in the Spire.

Last year's co-editor of the Spire, Katherine Boerman-Cornell was hap-

py with how the book turned out, saying that she and her co-editor Joanna Barrera worked on it a period every day from September to the day after school ended, and they were excited to see all their work in person.

"It's incredibly gratifying to see that everyone's happy with it, since we spent so much time on it," said Boerman-Cornell.

This was the current sophomores' first Spire Party, and many expectations were met.

"It's awesome that the math team got acknowledgment in the book. That was my favorite part," said sophomore Raul Garcia, "but I thought there was going to be food there." Sophomore Kylie Boss said, on her expectations of the night, "I thought it would be lame, but it turned out to be really fun."



Photo courtesy of TOP Soccer's Facebook page
Senior Kyle Musch plays with his buddy Carter at TOP Soccer.

TOP Soccer helps kids shoot for their goals

Emma Slings
Reporter

It's 5:30 on Friday night when the lights at the Dyer Indoor Soccer Arena are flipped on and the first participants and volunteers of TOP Soccer trickle in, including players of Illiana Christian's boys varsity soccer team.

Wearing red jerseys with their names and a number, the TOP Soccer kids—players with intellectual disabilities or physical impairments—hit the turf with beaming faces and eagerly search for a volunteer with whom to partner. It doesn't take long for varsity team member and Illiana sophomore Sam Gaich to get snagged by one of the TOP Soccer players.

"You don't know real fun until you play soccer with [them]," Gaich says, excited as the TOP Soccer kids are for the

night.

At the official start of the session, as soon as everyone is there, players and their partners circle up in the middle of the field to stretch. After stretching they gather on the middle line of the field and all run to the far wall of the field. Touching it is their free pass to go and play.

After receiving their free pass, Gaich's partner leads him to the end of the field where a group of animated kids are juking out their partners and shooting on goal.

"The kids are fun and think that they're better than you," Gaich says, "and some of them are!"

"Gooooaalll!" Gaich's partner yells, sliding onto his knees and pumping his fists in the air after taking a penalty kick.

Gaich and his teammates spend the night taking turns setting up shots for their part-

ners and getting scored on by the players' "super kicks." Some even spend the hour just running around the field with their partner.

Gaich believes that it's a good opportunity to interact with kids with disabilities, and he encourages others to attend.

"You can still go even if you don't play soccer," Gaich says. "You just run around with the kids and go with the flow. It's fun!"

The phrase "time flies when you're having fun" applies to TOP Soccer because too soon parents and coaches start bagging up the soccer balls and dimming the lights. Illiana and TOP Soccer players alike linger on the field as long as possible, taking as many shots as they can before having to say their goodbyes. They leave the building looking forward to the next TOP Soccer.

Association votes to complete new campus in phases

Cassie Laninga
Reporter

The school board received the approval to begin construction of the new campus in Northwest Indiana by 91% of voters on Monday Oct. 10 at the Association meeting. That vote puts the Phase 1 plan into action.

Phase 1 includes classrooms to serve 550 students, a large common area for dining, a competition gym, a soccer field, and limited parking. Most athletic fields, a second gym, and an auditorium would be added in later phases until completion of the Master plan.

"We intend to continue pursuing the funds for the entire master campus plan and build whatever we can as fast as we can until the whole project is completed," said Mr. Davids in

an email.

With Phase 1 comes challenges. There are not yet any clear assurances that Illiana's athletes will be able to participate in state tournaments in the first year or two after the move. There will not be a kitchen space for the applied arts classes or an area for the drama department to build and paint sets for upcoming plays and musicals. Backstage issues would also be a problem. These are just a few potential difficulties the move poses.

"Initially, it'd be a step back from where we are now," said Mr. Kamphuis. "Hopefully it will be temporary." Kamphuis said one potential solution may be to place a pole barn outside to store, build, and paint things in.

Although the first plan does not include specific areas like an audi-

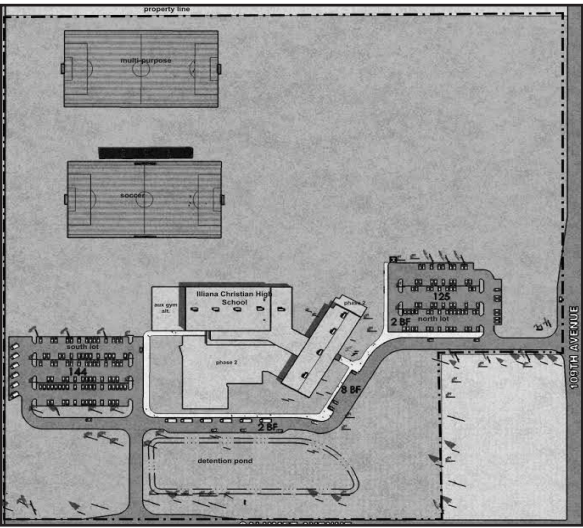
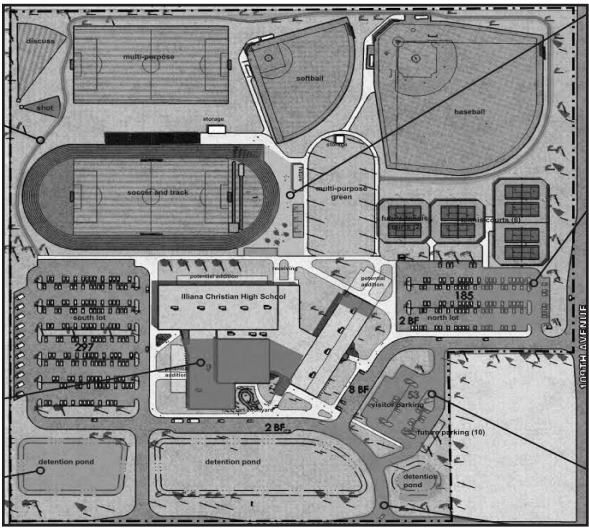


Photo left is phase 1 of Illiana's new campus. Photo right, phase 2, is what's expected when the new campus is finished.



torium, there will still be rooms to serve as temporary spaces for things like shop classes and art classes. The cost of Phase 1 will be covered by the \$20 million raised from donors along with a borrowed \$5 million in long term debt.

"For a lot of people it's exciting

and wonderful," said Mr. Boonstra. "But for a lot of others it will be a tough change."

Many changes will come with the move, including a bus service, more required school days, and a possible increase in tuition to pay off debt.

"I think it's a good decision,"

said Freshman Eddie Spoelman. "A lot of people are moving out that way and our school could grow."

The Board plans to have Phase 1 built by the fall of 2018, meaning this year's freshman and sophomores may graduate from the new school.

Cancer can't kill community, faith, love

Hernandez finds joy in God's plan through battle with cancer

Beth Boonstra

Co-News Editor

Entering the humble block building that houses the pre-school, she opened the iron door as she had hundreds of times before, but this time it came off its hinges, crushing her against a masonry wall. Pinned, she waited until others finally lifted it off. She could already feel the goose egg emerging as she was rushed to the emergency room. The accident may sound brutal, but Shelley Hernandez, a missionary in the Dominican Republic, describes it as a blessing.

"If it hadn't been that door falling on my head, who knows when I would have found out I had cancer.

So I am very thankful for that door.

"My journey has been a real roller coaster ride. I was diagnosed with cancer last September and within three weeks I was on a plane coming back to the states. That was a very emotional day, since I was leaving my life of the last 22 years. I was leaving my husband and two children. But as I look back, I can definitely say that was the best thing to do."

Shelley Hernandez, an Illiana graduate, grew up in South Holland before she became a missionary in Santiago, Dominican Republic. She volunteered for Santiago Christian School where she met her husband, Guillermo, a Dominican. The tuition at Santiago Christian was too high for many families in Santiago to afford.



Photo courtesy of Sarah Hernandez

Hernandez poses with one of her favorite nurses.

Shelley believed that all children should have the opportunity to attend a Christian school, and so Pathway to Jesus School, or Colegio Caminito de Jesús, was born. It started as a simple pre-school at Guillermo's church and grew from there. Thirteen years later, it provides Christian education for preschool through seventh grade to over 260 students.

When Hernandez went to the emergency room on that fateful morning of August 25, 2015,

doctors had to do a head scan. Although the scans showed no damage from the injury, radiologists spotted several suspicious lesions.

"My blood work also showed certain red flags for cancer," Hernandez said. "They sent me to do some other tests, including a biopsy, which confirmed I had cancer."

Hernandez suffers from multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood. The cancer develops lesions and invades the bone marrow. According to The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, "These bone lesions weaken the bone, causing pain and increasing the risk of fractures. Bone loss frequently accompanies multiple myeloma."

"Back in December," Hernandez said, "I had a rod put in my leg, from my hip to my knee, to strengthen that bone because I have a tumor on my femur. I have recovered from the surgery, but because I still have the tumor, it causes pain when I walk, so unfortunately I limp."

Hernandez added, "Doctors have told me there is no known treatment for this kind of cancer and it almost always recurs. However, there are methods to decrease the occurrence and severity of symptoms and to prolong life."

Hernandez always stays positive, even if what she's saying is that she is going to have this disease for the rest of her life. "I would be lying if I said it doesn't take a toll on me. I try my best to stay as positive, not only for my sake, but for the sake of my kids, my family and those around me. But I do have bad days. Sometimes I worry about what would happen with my kids and what would happen with the school if the Lord decided my time was up. But then I remember that God is in control and that His plan is perfect."

Hernandez was accepted into a clinical study at the University of

Chicago that will last two years. She has already undergone five long and treacherous months of chemotherapy. Two of the drugs are pills and another is an IV drip. She takes the pills for three weeks straight while also going in twice a week for the IV. Then she is given one week to rest before it all repeats. Repeat, repeat, repeat. The chemotherapy can completely wipe out the cells in your body, so in April, Hernandez spent sixteen days in the hospital to receive a stem cell transplant.

"I definitely experience the side effects," Hernandez said. "When I first started the chemo, I had difficulty eating. Nothing tasted good and I didn't have an appetite. I actually lost 30 pounds during that first phase. Other side effects include exhaustion, constipation, diarrhea, nausea, and migraines. I can't complain though. They are things I can handle.... I can't do everything I used to, but I thank God that these side effects don't limit too much what I can do."

Hernandez continues to be a blessing in the Dominican Republic even if she can't be there. She maintains communication with the school. Her regular work includes sending newsletters to supporters, finding sponsors for kids at the school, organizing fundraisers, writing reports, doing all of the official government paperwork, managing payroll, and praying for everyone there.

Hernandez said the hardest part of cancer is its effect on her family. When she was diagnosed, her family made a sad, but necessary decision: Shelley would go back to the states to live with her mom, but Guillermo would stay behind to work. Their children Mark and Sarah, 14 and 16, would follow Shelley several months later to start at a new school in a different language.

"It has been hard for the kids to move here and adjust to a new school and culture, but the transition has gone well."

Still, being separate from a loving husband and father has been hard on their family.

Hernandez said, "I have peace, and I know that God is in control. He has a purpose for this, and my job is to just trust. So that is what I am doing."

No trace of anger in her voice, Hernandez added, "This cancer has actually strengthened my relationship with God. You hear about people going through cancer, but you never think it will happen to you. When it does, it is so easy to ask God, 'Why me?' I would be lying if I said I have never asked that question. It's crossed my mind when I think of the Dominican or when I miss the school. It's crossed my mind when I can't do everything I would like because of my sickness. It's crossed my mind when I experienced something painful. But thankfully, I haven't dwelt on that question. Instead, my focus has been on God and His plan for me, which includes this cancer journey. I have learned so much."

And Hernandez has learned new ways to depend on God. Things are so out of her control that she has nowhere else to turn. "God has been more than amazing. Every time I sit in that chair to receive chemo, every time I get blood drawn, every time I have a painful surgery, every time I suffer side effects, I remember that God is with me. He gives me the strength I need for each step, each day. I am thankful for everyone who prays for me or supports my family. But above all, I am thankful I have a God who loves me, who is in control, and who has told me, 'Don't worry. I got this.'"

Lymphoma threat awakens fears

Reminder cancer might strike anywhere

Luke Hillegonds

Co-Sports Editor

It is a rainy day in Pompano, Florida and Isaac Lyzenga and his brother Ben swim in one of the hotel's pools after playing tennis in the rain. Isaac and his family are in Florida on Spring Break to watch Isaac's brother Daniel play in a baseball tournament. Isaac is enjoying his first time in the Sunshine State even though the week is overcast. He is also waiting for some test results, and the doctors are sure to be calling soon.

It is mid-afternoon and the sun is finally starting to peek from behind the clouds. Mr. Lyzenga comes down to the pool and calls in his deep voice, "Isaac and Ben, you guys ought to come up here." Mr. Lyzenga is crying. They take an elevator ride that feels like forever for Isaac because he rarely sees his dad cry. Something is up. In their room, everyone is crying. The results are in. Isaac

has cancer. A deadly one. Lymphoma.

They cry for 15 minutes or so. They say a prayer and begin to pack. They leave the hotel at about 5:30 EST and head over to pick up Daniel from the hotel where he is staying with his baseball team. As they leave Florida, the slogan "the Sunshine State" feels like a cruel joke. They drive through the night stopping only to get gas and Chik-Fil-A. Isaac receives texts from his friends and the hashtag "prayforisaac" is posted all over Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. The drive is long, and they arrive at their house in Lansing at about 9 A.M. CST.

Isaac goes to an appointment at 11 A.M. with Dr. Scher at Highland Medical Center in Highland, Indiana. Dr. Scher explains that Isaac will have to have surgery to remove the lump in his neck. Dr. Kent at Rush Hospital says the same thing. He has had the lump for about 7 months but that means nothing. They think it's lymphoma. It needs

to be removed. Soon.

The Lyzengas choose Dr. Scher to perform the surgery simply because he will charge less than Dr. Kent. The surgery is scheduled for April, which gives Isaac a few days to relax and stay home from school. He plays PS3 and watches Netflix because he needs something to take his mind off the surgery. In the back of his mind, he feels anxious and for good reason. The doctors say it is lymphoma.

Surgery day arrives and everyone is nervous but no one shows it. Many from Isaac's family come to the surgery. The ride to Highland is anxious but the conversations are about normal things. Still, everyone has the same thought in the back of his head. This could go horribly wrong because, well, it is lymphoma.

Isaac arrives at the medical center and is brought into a waiting room. A nurse gives him a shot which will make him relax but she misses the vein the first time. It hurts, but it is the least of his concerns. She hits the vein the second

time. Isaac then receives anesthesia. He begins to feel out of it and finally goes under as he is wheeled into the surgery room. The family waits and prays for the battle Isaac faces: a battle against lymphoma.

The surgery lasts for about an hour and a half. Isaac awakes to the news of a good surgery and a vanilla angel doughnut. He devours it. The doctors at the Highland Medical Center send the tumor to the lab at Rush Hospital. The doctors at Rush start the long process of seeing if the lump is dangerous. They will verify if Isaac does in fact have lymphoma.

For the next two weeks, Isaac's life is back to "normal." The doctors at Rush finish their tests. The results come in. Mrs. Lyzenga receives the news. It is great news. It is the answer to prayer they are hoping for. She texts Isaac to tell him the results before his

fourth period history class. Isaac calls her back after fourth to find out what the results mean exactly. He can play baseball again. His family will celebrate with pizza for supper. They will celebrate because the tumor is benign. It is NOT lymphoma.

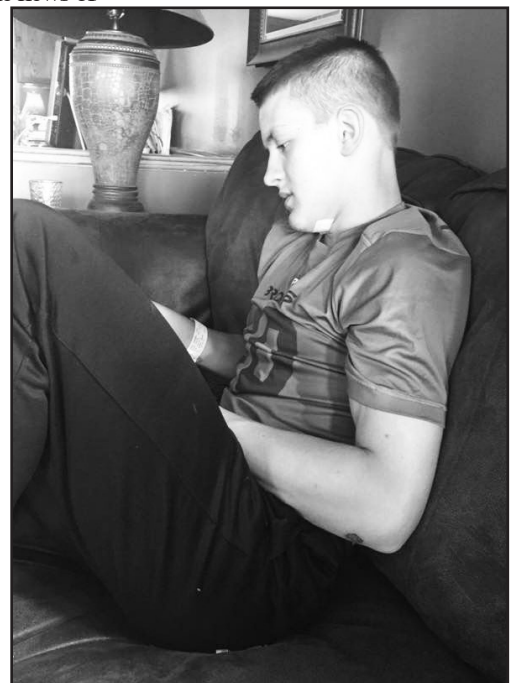
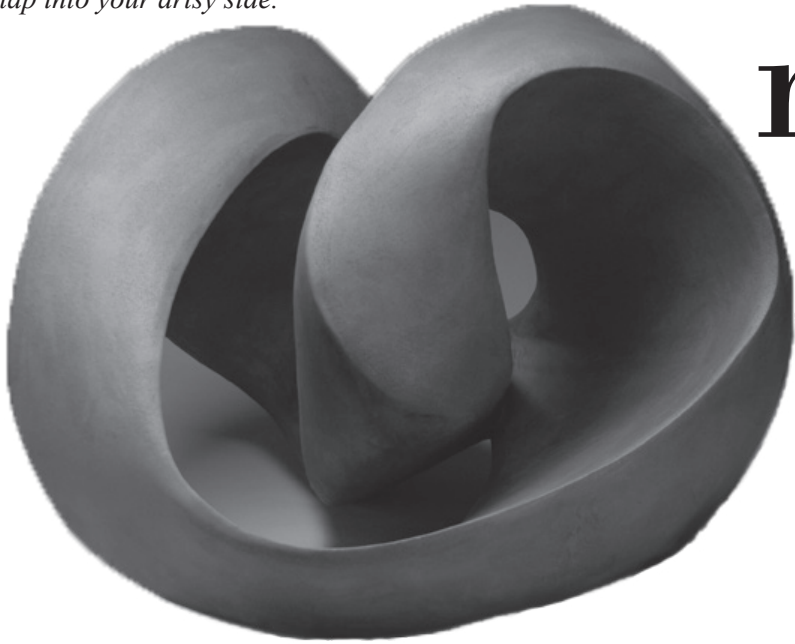


Photo Courtesy of Isaac Lyzenga

Isaac recovers at home after his surgery.

Most of you have probably visited the Art Institute of Chicago to explore modern art or indulge in the creativity of some legendary artists, but have you ever thought to discover art outside of those walls? We desire for you to expand your knowledge and exposure to other types of artists and different art galleries around you. We also encourage you to observe different types of media and emerging artists in your community. Here are a few exhibits to consider next time you want to tap into your artsy side.



“Perpetual” by Jerilyn Virden is on display at the Ann Nathan Gallery.

Chicago Cultural Center: The Visual Arts Program in the Chicago Cultural Center hosts a unique blend of contemporary and historic art pieces in a variety of media. Underrepresented artists of the Chicagoland area are a focus of the center which gives emerging artists a platform to display their works. There are multiple gallery spaces within the Cultural Center including the Yates Gallery and Michigan Avenue galleries to name a few. 78 E Washington St, Chicago, IL Mon -Thurs: 9-7 Fri-Sat: 9-6 Sun: 10-6



You can see “The Fantastic” by Krista Franklin at the Chicago Cultural Center.

ECHT: This River North district gallery displays fine contemporary sculpture and glasswork. ECHT is home to a number of glasswork artists and encourages the awareness and development of the arts. From large blown-glass pieces to detailed porcelain sculptures, this gallery exposes viewers to a different, but still beautiful, type of artistry. Welcoming to students and young artists, ECHT is a must-visit for those who have a passion or interest in sculpture. 222 W Superior St, Chicago, IL Tues-Sat: 11-5

This glass piece [pictured right] entitled “TODAY” was created by Katja Fritzsche and is on display at ECHT gallery.



The “Carnival Maiden” made by Alan Emerson Hicks stands tall at the State Street Gallery.

State Street Gallery: The State Street Gallery located inside of Robert Morris University across from the Harold Washington Library is considered the outlet for art education in Chicago. Each month the university finds new well-known artists to do work for the theme of the gallery. Paintings, drawings, sculptures, title murals and collages depict the theme. This month’s theme is “Crazy 8 Artists’ Carnival”. Eight artists use art to interpret the carnival theme in their own unique way. The artwork shown is nothing close to ordinary. 401 South State Street, Chicago, IL Mon-Thurs: 10-6



“The Ice Cream Eaters” by Mark Coggins located at the Union Street Gallery.

ART matters

Ann Nathan Gallery: The Ann Nathan Gallery, located in the River North district of Chicago, presents mixed-media displays of contemporary realism such as paintings, sculptures, and studio furniture. This loft-like setting is friendly to students and gives viewers a chance to observe many different artists whose works rotate year by year. Right now, the exhibition of African Tribal art is a main feature that draws crowds to this centrally located gallery. 212 W. Superior Chicago, IL Tues-Fri: 10-5:30 Sat: 11-5



Canvas to our imagination

“The Earth without art is just ‘eh’.”

The number of times I’ve seen this phrase slapped on some social media post, rolled my eyes, and kept scrolling is probably too many to count. But aside from it’s seemingly generic tone, this phrase captures an important lesson for us millennials.



Kassidy Weemhoff
Co-Arts Editor

Our community has not taught the importance of art, leaving the world just “eh.” Art is

dying and it needs to be revived.

Whether it be drawing, painting, sculpture, music, or theater, arts are invaluable to the development of the human brain. Studies show that educating children in the arts helps them to do better focusing and channeling creative ideas. Also, the tendency to be successful increases dramatically for those introduced to art early on.

Teaching the impressionable minds of the young students in our society about art is incredibly important if we are going to be a generation known for creativity and hard work and not for Snapchat and short attention spans.

My first time at an art gallery was truly inspiring. The exhibit was full of local high schooler’s work. I was in awe that these kids who were my age could create something so powerful and thought-provoking. I wished I could be that talented.

What I learned from those two hours of looking at art was that we can’t lose this aspect of life. We, as young, fully-functioning members of society, should expose ourselves to this world where we can feel everything and experience anything.

American writer Henry David Thoreau once said, “The world is but a canvas to our imagination.” If we take this idea of “art” and we really learn it, observe it, and feel it, we can become more creative beings.

God gave us brains to think and to create. Let’s use the tools he’s given us, shall we?

TREND REPORT

Lauren Curtis
Co-Arts Editor

Mix cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and cloves, and what do you get? Pumpkin spice! Found in things from lattes and

Spicin’ up October with Pumpkin Spice

milkshakes to Extra gum and Skittles, this mixture of spices is taking over October. So far this month, companies such as Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts have been using pumpkin spice in their coffees to add a different kind of flavor to the drinks. They didn’t just stop there, though. Dunkin

Donuts now has pumpkin spice glazed donuts and McDonald’s now has pumpkin spice pies. What other pumpkin spice recipe ideas will they come up with to sell? Only fall time will tell.





Photo courtesy of @zmcnaryfishing

Zach McNary and Jake Patton hold up their fish as they place second in a fishing tournament on August 27.

Zack “McGnarly” doing what he loves

Alex Wondaal

Reporter

Zach McNary, an Illiana junior, is making a name for himself in the world of fishing; he competes in tournaments all over the Midwest and beyond with support from sponsors such as Nuthreadz and 911 Custom Lures.

McNary tries to compete in fishing competitions as often as possible. You can find him battling for the largest fish on his bass tracker two to three times a month (more often in the summer than winter). However, even if he can't make any competitions, he still hits Indian Lake in Michigan nearly every

weekend for the love of the hobby. Fellow junior and fishing expert Jake Patton is McNary's go-to fishing partner for competition and recreation.

Commenting on making a career out of the sport, McNary sounded determined: "I'm hoping to fish pro or do something within the industry," McNary said.

McNary, or Mc-Gnarly as his friends and fishing buddies call him, has over 1,600 followers on Instagram and follows 3,000. You can find his page labeled @zmcnaryfishing. His page has hundreds of posts, many of which promote tackle company 911 Custom Lures and clothing company Nuthreadz.

"I'm a field staff member,

so I'm promoting products in exchange for discounts and jerseys," said McNary.

McNary has countless fishing stories, and he had trouble choosing the best one, but when asked he spoke of a recent story with Patton. They were near last place in a tournament when "we went into a back bay and... suddenly Jake caught a huge bass with only 2 minutes left," said McNary. They won the competition.

McNary went on a Texas trip in mid-October and is planning a Missouri trip for November.

To McNary, the best part of fishing is "teaching kids that don't think it's [fishing] that fun, that it's one of the most fun sports."

Undefeated golfers capture regional title

Riley Goodwin

Co-News Editor

Illiana's 2016 boys golf team did an exceptional job this season, winning the conference and the regional title.

"We had a lot of fun and a lot of successes, especially with varsity ending the season with 13-0 and junior varsity with 15-1," said

Coach Rudenga.

Since 1966, only four prior teams reigned as regional golf champions. This year's team was the fifth.

"The season went very well," said junior Jake Pals. "The whole team stayed a great group of friends and we encouraged each other throughout the entire season."

Junior Justin DeBoer said the season went great and was very suc-

cessful. He also added that the best part about the golf team as a whole is how encouraging and close everyone is, especially after a rough match.

"Going to state as a team was something I was hoping for, but we didn't accomplish that," said sophomore Seth Bouwer. "Still, the team encouraged each other a lot and we missed a good portion of school so it was an overall good season!"

Bev White.

White's job at as ticket-taker at Illiana is one she enjoys, allowing her talkative, kind-hearted spirit to shine. A member of the support staff, White volunteers at most Illiana home sporting events by taking admission money at the door.

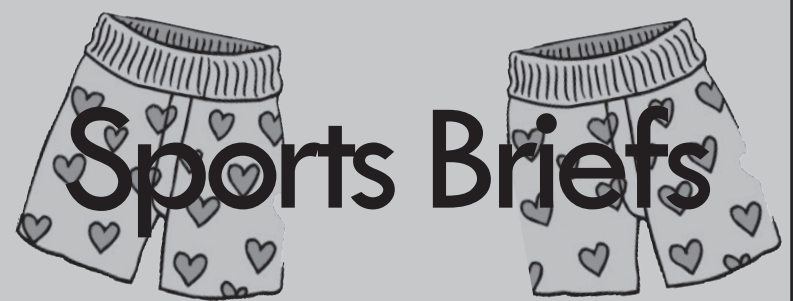
Twenty-two years ago, White was asked if she would be interested in the position. Gradually, White has become the sole attendant and for good reason.

"She is a great employee for

us because she is a member of the Illiana community," said Illiana athletic director, Mrs. Deb Kamp. "She always has a smile on her face, she is responsible, and she is just a great representative of our community."

"I enjoy it because it is a Christian environment, and most of the children are respectful," said White. "The job brings me back to when I was in school."

Seeing familiar faces, meeting new people, and often staying to support the teams makes her job worthwhile.



Sports Briefs

Josh Chancellor

Reporter

Illiana's boys cross country team has had a successful season. They placed second in conference.

Coach Piaskowy said, "The season so far has gone... as predicted. There haven't been any surprises."

When asked what drives the team to do better than in previous years, he said the goal was to do as well as last year's team; they want to be like them. He referred to last team as "winners" and that they want to win just like them.

Piaskowy said that senior

Ryan Koontz and sophomore Alex Wondaal have stepped up and junior Austin Ohm has been running the fastest time on the team.

With the state meet coming up soon, the country team's biggest opponent is itself according to the coach. The team is competing in a different sectional because they were moved to bigger class division in the state competition.

"It is going to be difficult to make out as a team," said Piaskowy.

In the end he said, "It's all about making it [downstate] and that this year all you want to do is get there."

Girls XC

Jo Mulder

Reporter

This year, the girls cross country team put in blood, sweat and tears to have a great season, and despite some struggles with injury, they stormed through conference competition to become champions.

At the conference meet, the girls took first place and three of the top five runners came from our school. First place went to freshman Gillian Fiene, third went to sophomore Cate Peerbolte and fifth went to junior Maddie DeYoung.

Over the course of the season, more than half of the junior varsity team received some kind of mi-

nor injury; some were new and some were nagging, old injuries coming back to haunt them.

According to DeYoung, the injuries were partly due to some of the girls pushing themselves too hard.

"The running is [trying]," said sophomore Kylie Boss.

Coach Luke Fennema said that the team tries to minimize injuries by warming up with stretches and easy, short runs. Fennema stressed, however, that the best way to stay healthy for a meet is to get good sleep and eat healthy meals.

The girls had a great time as a team, and there hard work was rewarded as the times of the group decreased throughout the season.

Boys soccer

JP Peerbolte

Co-Sports Editor

The Illiana boys' varsity soccer team finished its season with a 7-15 record. The change in conference did not help the boys' record. The new conference with larger schools provided more difficult competition.

A highlight of the season was defeating Lincoln-Way West, a team ranked in state, 4-3. Lincoln-Way West is a large school of over 1,300 students.

Junior Josh Smits said that

playing the tougher competition helped make the Vikings play better as a team. He added, "You don't get better from beating teams eight to zero."

Senior Kyle Musch said, "We learned to work well together and made friendships that will last forever."

"They [coaches Chip and Todd Bevan] made practices more enjoyable and made us want to get out there every day to play soccer," said Smits. Musch and Smits both said they like where the new coaches are taking the program.

Maddie Holesinger

Reporter

Sprinting through the doors of Illiana to take refuge from the blistering cold outside, the student shoves her hands into her pockets to scrounge up enough money to get into the game. She is being shoved into one person after another, as impatient people try to squeeze inside to reach the warmth. She finally nears the table, and her eyes fall upon a friendly face. Meet Mrs.



The varsity girls lay in a circle as part of their pre-game routine on October 6 for senior night against Fenton.

Photo by Juliana Knot

Volleyball rallies around Abby on senior night

Cate Peerbolte

Reporter

At the first Loud Crowd game of the year on Oct. 6, the girls varsity volleyball team defeated Fenton on a night dedicated to Abby Neibert and to the seniors on the team.

The night began with a dedication to Neibert. Senior Gina Novotny said, "Abby is very important to us, and we love her very much. We want her to know that we are thinking and caring about her. It is the least we can do."

Neibert could not be at the game because she was receiving her third round of chemotherapy that night.

"I feel the support of the school and her friends," said Carol Toren, Neibert's grandmother. "It's encouraging that the school put this together for her. The prayers of all the students are so uplifting."

At the game, the volleyball team collected donations to purchase an iPad for Neibert. She can use the iPad to read and occupy herself during the

long hours in the hospital. The \$720 goal was reached that night. Extra donations were given to the Neibert family in the form of restaurant gift cards.

"I feel that God put Abby at Illiana," said Janet Balka, Neibert's aunt. "He knew this would happen and that this community was placed in her life for this reason."

Thursday night also honored the eight seniors on the team. "They [the seniors] en-

courage us when we are down, and they don't focus on mistakes but look ahead," said junior Karli Petrarca.

Senior Eden Schipper said, "I'm sad it's my last season. The bond we make as a team is so strong. But it's fun to watch the juniors grow from this year to next."

The girls varsity volleyball team has a season record of 14-19. Regionals were held on October 25. The volleyball team lost to Peotone.

Why no girls golf?

The IHSA offers it, girls want it, So why no team?

Beth Boonstra

Co-News Editor

"I'd play golf if there was a girls team," said senior Kassidy Weemhoff.

Senior Gabby Kreykes agrees, adding, "If there was a girls golf team, I think more girls would be doing it, but since there is only a boy's team girls don't want to be with all the guys."

That's one of the reasons why senior Elva Qin, a long-time golfer, decided not to go to the third day of boys golf tryouts. "It's harder to hit from the boy's tee and to compete with them and it would not have been fun to be the only girl."

"We would love to have a girl's team," said varsity golf coach Jack Rudenga, "but you need four players for a team score." Although half a dozen girls have competed on the boys golf team over the years, there's never been at least four girls openly interested in it. If fewer than four girls want to play golf, they have to try out for the boys team and keep up with them for the whole season, until they compete in the girls golf tournament.

Girls athletic director Deb Kamp has always been open to the idea of having a girls golf team. She greatly encourages girls golf as a sport that offers the highest scholarships of any other sport in the nation.

"I don't know," said Kamp. "Maybe we have to do better advertisement, but we'd love to see it happen."

When taking sign-ups for golf tryouts, Kamp and Rudenga have been very intentional in asking if anyone is interested in trying out for golf. They've also sent out emails to parents and students every few years asking specifically about girls that would be interested in playing golf.

Knot, Lagerwey earn trip down state

Jacob Thompson

Co-Sports Editor

The girls varsity tennis season wrapped up with 2 state qualifiers and a solid record of 10-5. The two qualifiers, Lizzie Knot and Esther Lagerwey, with a doubles record of 14-4, played well in their sectional, taking 2nd on Oct. 16. The team took third at sectionals with an overall score of 14 points, Chicago Christian had 18 points, while Providence Catholic had 26 points.

Competing for state on Oct. 20-22, the doubles partners didn't win a game but they expressed being there was an honor and an excitement in itself. They went 6-3, 6-2 in the consolation bracket match against two sisters, Alison Bowman & Anna Bowman, of Gales-

burg (H.S.).

Knot, a freshman, has been phenomenal in her first year jumping up to playing second doubles. While Lagerwey in her third year comes with experience and leadership that helped mesh the two together into a winning package.

Collette Bouwer and Jensen McGuire were the team's first doubles but because of the senior class trip could not make it to the sectional or state competition.

"My goal to start the season was to go to state," says Esther Lagerwey. "I had seen my sister go in past years so I knew what to expect. Everyone is super serious about tennis so the experience for me was great and I know Lizzie values the experience as she looks on to qualify as a sophomore."



Photo courtesy of @lizzie_knot13

Esther Lagerwey and Lizzie Knot pose for a picture on October 14 after advancing to the state competition.

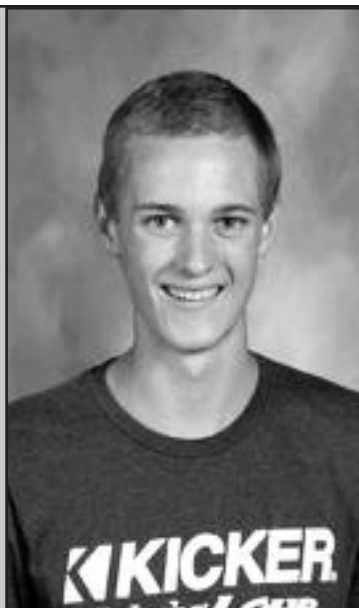
Male Athlete of the Month

Austin Ohm is Illiana's fastest runner this season. He took 22nd at the First to the Finish Invitational, first at the Illiana Invite, and received all-regional honors.

"I have enjoyed bonding with the team this season," said Ohm. "Every year brings new challenges and we have overcome them as a team."

Ohm has helped Illiana's boys varsity team have a successful season. "I don't know what we would do without him," said sophomore Alex Wondaal. "He always brings a positive attitude to practice and makes the tough miles more tolerable."

"I look forward to running at sectionals," said Ohm. "I hope to advance to state and I would like to break my 15:12 personal record at state."



Female Athlete of the Month

Senior Gina Novotny has been playing volleyball since fifth grade. She was the libero for the varsity team, and teammates say that she was a leader. This year she made all-tournament team at the Chicago Christian Tournament as a senior which she added to her list of previous accomplishments which include all-conference as a junior, all-tournament team at Manteno as a junior and all-state Christian school 2nd team.

Gina says about her volleyball career at Illiana, "Illiana volleyball has had a huge impact on my life and I'm sad it has to end, but I'm thankful for all the memories, and the people I've met and got a chance to get closer to and for the coaches. The coaches have had a huge impact on me and always believed in me."

Editorial

Hey, Chicago, what do you say? Cubs finally won today!

Sticking with the Cubs has been no easy task the past years, decades, or should we say century? The Cubs have definitely had their lows. It’s not been an easy run the past 108 years, and, if you have been watching, it probably looked more like a labored trek, or maybe just a stand-still, than a run. Nevertheless, Cub fans didn’t let anything diminish their love for their team.

This love doesn’t come out of nowhere. Family and friends pass it down as a birthright.

Neil Zandstra said, “My love for the Cubs was born when my dad took me to my first game when I was a kid.”

Similarly, Jared Trivette, junior, said that his dad and his uncle were always big fans, so they raised him up in their ways.

It’s kind of amazing when you think of it. The fact that people have stuck with the Cubs this long is shocking. Devoted White Sox fan, Jeff White, doesn’t understand this loyalty. He sees the Cubs as a bad product.

White said, “We Sox fans, we’re pure. Because here’s the deal: you don’t give us a good product, we aren’t’ going to give you our

dollars. But for Cubs’ fans, ‘Oh, you put a lousy product out there? Oh, we’ll keep buying tickets, we’ll keep buying jerseys.’ They keep throwing their money away.”

Maybe, but most Cubs’ fans would consider White a sell-out. For Cub’s fans, their relationship to the team is similar to a marriage—for better or for worse till death do us part.

“They’re lovable losers. There’s always hope for next year.”

Senior Cassie Ianconelli, one of those fans who’ve stuck with the Cubs, said, “When Derek Lee and Ted Lily and all them were on the team, I would still watch even though they had their lows. I was still always rooting, and so were my mom and grandma. And now since they’re winning it’s amazing.”

Zandstra explained that despite the lows, he always has had hope. He said,

“1984, 1989, 2003, and 2015 all were fun years filled with major playoff disappointments. I stick with them because like most Cubs fans, I am extremely loyal.”

Trivette said, “They’re lovable losers. There’s always hope for next year. Through the bad, you just look forward to the future years because they have good prospects.”

And this year is that future year all Cubs fans have longed for. All their hope, determination, and preservation has the potential to finally come through for them.

As Ianconelli said, “It’s just so cool to actually see them go this far since they haven’t gone this far in, what, a hundred years?”

Seventy-one, actually, but who’s counting?

Zandstra said, “Because I have seen so many tough

years and have been disappointed so much in the past, it’s a blast when the management and players produce such great baseball.”

Sticking with the Cubs through all their highs and lows up until this point only makes the arrival at the World Series sweeter. It’s no wonder that everywhere you go in Chicago W flags fly proudly and that every radio station is talking about the Cubs. They have waited and held on to hope for so long, and finally redemption is in sight.

Now, as the Cubs enter the World Series, some worry that they will disappoint, but even then, if they do, the fans will continue having hope as they always have.

Zandstra said, “I have high hopes that they will win their first World Series Championship since 1908. But, if they don’t, there really is ‘always next year’ because the loveable loser culture has been changed to a winning machine.”

Their hope will live on. Probably not for the band-wagoners, but people like Iaconelli, Trivette, and Zandstra, they won’t let go of this hope.

“It’s a way of life to have hope,” said Zandstra.

Finding hope in season of despair

America seems to have embraced hopelessness.

In the face of a depressing election year, rising terrorist threats, and the ever increasing popularity of the Kardashian-Jenners, nothing is looking up. Opinion polls from the last decade all show the same trend:

Americans are becoming more pessimistic year after year. A survey from the Public Religion Research Institute in 2015 found that 49% of Americans believe that the country’s best days are in the past.



Juliana Knot
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Granted, I am one of these Americans. I thoroughly dislike both of the major presidential candidates and the two third party candidates. Nor can I stand that aforementioned famous family and refuse to write their last name any more.

The sense of bitterness has seeped into culture so deeply people are turning to dark humor. Everything I read drips cynicism. From the headlines of the Chicago Tribune to meme pages on Instagram, people genuinely believe things have gone hopelessly wrong, and the only response is to laugh bitterly at the void in front of us.

Even going to church has taken a pessimistic turn. Over my lifetime, I’ve seen our congregation steadily shrink. Our average age is 65. I can count the number of high schoolers on two hands. I’ve wondered if I might see the end of our 150 year history in my lifetime.

By the end of some sermons, I’m not feeling the hope of the gospel that we talk about so often. It’s not that my pastor doesn’t faithfully preach the Word. He does, and he does so well. What gets me is that even though he does preach faithfully and boldly, my church is still small.

The pessimism would win if it weren’t for the Doxology.

At the end of every service, my dad takes the bulletin and guides my older brother David to the last song printed in black.

David is twenty years old and mentally handicapped. His reading level is probably that of a second grader. He still needs my father’s guiding hand, tracing the words as we sing.

But his singing doesn’t show that.

He belts out “Praise God from whom all blessings flow” with so much joy and trust. Every note that comes from his mouth spills out hope. Afterwards, he grins from ear to ear, proud of his performance. He reaches to hold my dad’s hand and doesn’t stop smiling until we start walking out of our pew.

In a culture of cynicism, David has hope. While Americans think it’s in vogue to wallow in bitterness, David embraces joy. Even as the world seems to fall apart, David has trust.

His trust isn’t in himself. If it were, his hope would be empty. He’s as flawed as either of the two presidential candidates or that family that shall not be named. Instead he places his trusts in the God from whom all blessings flow, the God who swallows cynicism with hope, the God who crushes death and brings life.

The gospel of joy and hope and trust shouldn’t make sense in a church with dwindling numbers or in a country that seems bent on destroying itself. But, when I look at my brother singing off-key a 400 year old hymn, I see hope for a world that wants to believe otherwise.

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.

Enjoy the fall play)))



by HENRIK IBSEN

Adapted for American stage by ARTHUR MILLER

Performances on Nov. 3, 4, and 5
at 7:00 pm.

Tickets are \$7 (On sale at break in room 111.)

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