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Illiana Christian High School

Volume 70 Issue 2

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Lansing, Illinois

## Old enough to visit, old enough to vote

*Seniors take  
annual class trip to  
Washington, D.C.*

**Beth Boonstra**  
Reporter

Illiana seniors enjoyed their class trip to Washington D.C. from October 20-24. They squeezed in a lot of touring in under 4 days. They visited the Pentagon Memorial, the Capitol Building, the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, Ford's Theater, The Martin Luther King Memorial, the Washington Monument, The White House, and much more.

Senior Lorna DeWindt said, "It was so interesting to learn about our country in a more visual way than just learning about it at school."

This year's class trip had the highest percentage of class attendance ever. Mrs. Helen Bussema said, "I loved watching all different groups of seniors mix it up every day and get to know kids in their class they didn't know well before this trip."

Senior Brent Verhagen

said, "It was good to get to know people in a non-school environment."

Mr. Jeff White, organizer of the trip, said, "The student cooperation was outstanding and the behavior in the hotel was excellent. Many people

95%  
of the  
Class of 2016  
attended  
678  
miles from  
Illiana to D.C.

spoke very highly of the students and the school."

Bussema said, "My favorite part was watching our students as they shook hands with and thanked veterans at the different war memori-



Source: Illiana Facebook Page

Senior Joanna Barrera touches the names of the fallen soldiers at the Vietnam Memorial.

als. It was clear the students were impacted by the memorials and truly appreciated the veterans they met, many of whom were elderly and in wheelchairs."

Each year four students are selected to lay a wreath in Arlington Cemetery in honor of the unknown soldiers that have died.

Seniors Joe Barrera, Ashley Murrin, Lorna DeWindt, and Garret Lytle laid the wreath this year.

DeWindt said, "The fact that these soldiers died for our country and their families don't even know where

they are and we don't know who they are makes me cherish lives more and makes me feel a ton more respect for soldiers."

Senior Kathryn Boerman-Cornell was reminded that "we should never take for granted the enormous sacrifice that the men and women in our armed forces undertake."

The trip was not only educational, but also entertaining. One of Verhagen's favorite moments was seeing Connor Moss accidentally step on a goose as they were running around on Roosevelt

Island.

Boerman-Cornell said, "While we were sitting down for dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe, the presidential motorcade went by." You never know what will happen on the trip, but there is sure to be plenty of fun.

When Senior Joe Barrera was asked what he'd say to students thinking of going on the trip in the future, he said, "Definitely go. I understand that money can be an issue, but try to sort it out.... It's life changing. You learn a lot about your country and the costs of freedom."

## Go Club blanket drive proves sweet, sticky success

**Riley Goodwin**  
Reporter

From Oct. 5 to Oct. 9, Illiana Christian's Go-Club held the first ever blanket drive to provide blankets, sheets, and pillowcases for the local homeless shelters.

"My family takes home blankets from PADS to wash them and I noticed a lot of them were really dingy and

weren't exactly blankets," said junior Abigail Neibert, who brought the idea to Go-Club. "I came up with the idea so that the people could have something nice to sleep on."

In order to get students to bring in blankets, sheets, and pillowcases, Go-Club needed to find an incentive for the student body. Every blanket students brought in counted as 5 points. Every set of sheets counted as 3 points, and pillowcases counted as 1 point.

If the student body earned 50 points, freshman Maddy Holesinger would get a pie in the face. If they earned 100 points, sophomore Austin Ohm would get pied. The goal was to reach 500 points so Vice Principal

Turkstra would get pied.

On Monday, Oct. 12, around 100 students gathered on the front sidewalk to see the "pie-ing" take place.

When asked how he was chosen to get pied, Ohm explained that he didn't exactly have a choice. It was either him or Beth Boonstra, so he decided to "take one for the team".

English teacher Miss. Van Stee, who also got pied, said the only way it could have gone better would be if she didn't get so much whip cream in her ear.

In total Go-Club collected 80 blankets, 41 sheets, and 27 pillowcases, earning us 550 points. The blankets, sheets, and pillowcases were donated to PADS.



Photo Credit Jeff DeVries

Junior Christian Pelke laughs at Ms. Johnson's reaction to the cream pie he put in her face. In the background, Mr. DeBoer recovers from his own pie-ing.



## Girls ask guys; standards too high

**T**wirp—Illiana’s version of a Sadie-Hawkins dance where the girls ask the guys to a play—is a fun thing where the girls can finally show the guys how they want to be asked to homecoming. They go all out. I honestly think some of the Twirp-posals are grander than a lot of legit proposals.



**Collette Bouwer**  
News Editor

One friend of mine took a cotton T-shirt wrote a bunch of girls names on it. Her name was in permanent marker while the others were in washable marker, and she put it

in his locker with a sign saying “Wash it to find out who is asking you to Twirp.”

Another friend presented her boyfriend with a fish saying “out of all the fish in the sea, I pick you to go to Twirp with me.” Some people baked sweets and wrote “Twirp?” in frosting. One girl put a piece of paper in a cupcake saying “twirp?”, and the guy ate it. Personally, I would prefer the baked goods but without the paper.

We even had a Twirp-posal contest last year to see what girl could out-shine the rest. The winner made a sign and held it up at the sidelines of her boyfriend’s soccer game. There were better ones, but I think they won because they were one of the “cute” couples that held hands around the halls.

Why do girls put so much effort into a Twirp-posal for just dinner and a play? I don’t know. I’m the type of person who likes to keep things very low-key though, so I’m probably not the right person to ask. While a lot of my friends went all out, I sent a text. To be honest, when I see girls putting so much time into a sign, baked good, or other Twirp-posal, I say a quick prayer that the boy will say yes.

I prefer small Twirp-posals. I like just genuinely asking. Just asking means I draw less attention to myself, and it makes the possible rejection more on the DL. Just asking does have its problems though. If the asker doesn’t go all out, the person being asked might not know that the asker is serious. From personal experience of laughing when someone asked me to homecoming without a grand gesture, trust me.

Looking back at it all, it makes me laugh thinking about how crazy some of those Twirp-posals were. I thought some of the Twirp-posals were borderline weird, but I still felt pressure to go as big as my friends. I put so much thought and time into Twirp freshman year trying to figure out a weird way to ask even though I never wanted to do anything big in the first place.

Twirp is fun and I recommend that everyone goes, but as for the Twirp-posals, don’t get too weird. Also, don’t let it consume you. Twirp is a fun light hearted event. Don’t put pressure on yourself to go all out, and if you are the type of person who wants to go all out, great. Do it. But, please, for my sanity, don’t make your Twirp-posal as big as a wedding proposal.

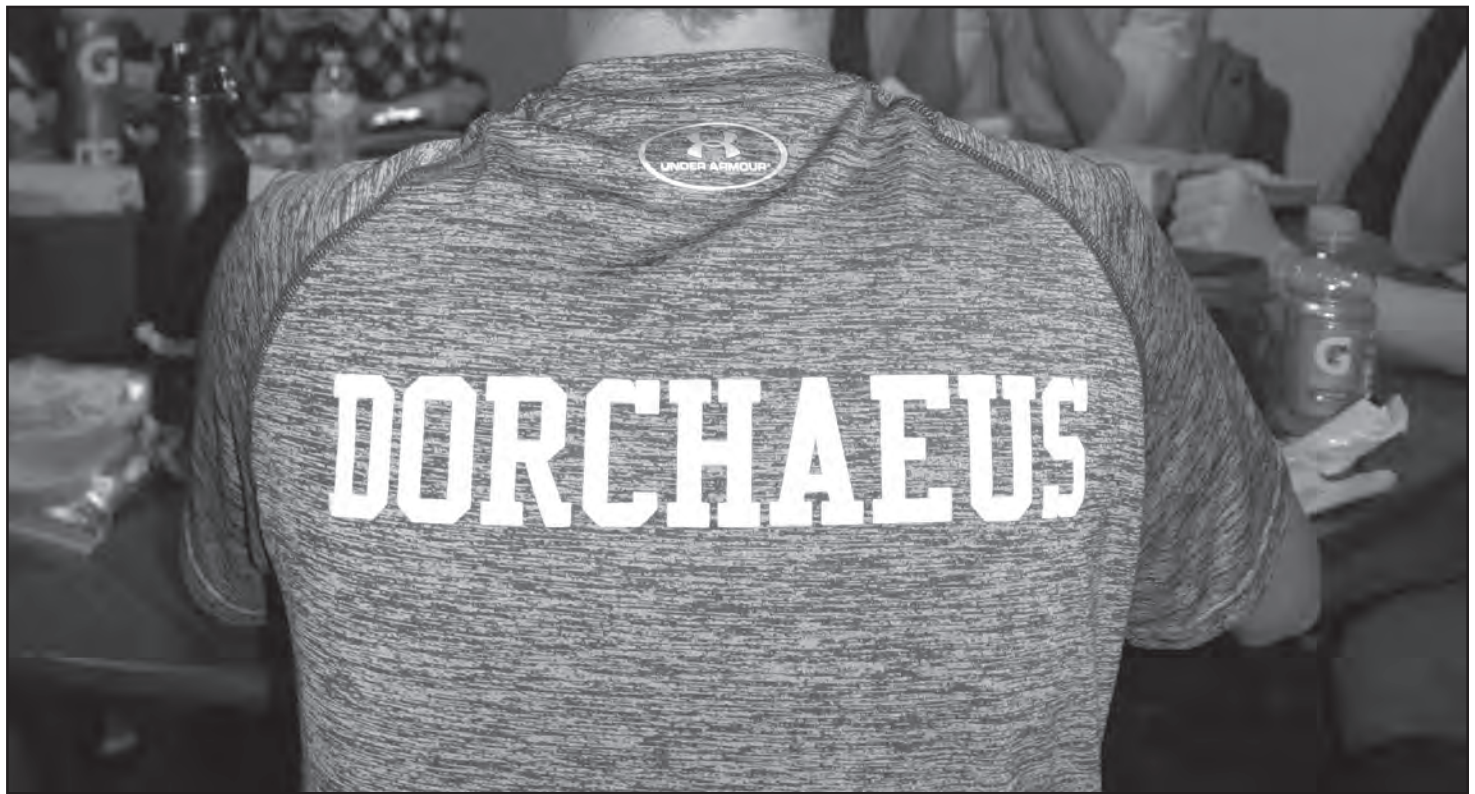


Photo by Collette Bouwer

*Sophomore Andrew Feikema wears the shirt that Mr. Lance Davids provided to all members of the Dorchaeus group. These shirts help other students find a Dorchaeus when they need a helping hand.*

## Dorchaeus insuring no student feels alone

**Mikerra Hall**  
Reporter

Spiritual director Lance Davids has introduced a new program titled “Dorchaeus,” in which a group of high school students volunteers to look out for the well-being of others. As of now, the group consists of around 102 Illiana students whose ages

vary.

All grade levels are welcomed to be a part of the Dorchaeus group; volunteers only need to have a passion for helping others.

“This group of students makes sure no one is alone in anything,” said Davids. “We do this because we care about others and about their ex-

perience here at Illiana.”

Though everyone needs someone who cares, this group is specially targeting incoming freshman students. Freshman may not know anybody; the goal of Dorchaeus is to make these new students feel comfortable and welcomed here too. Each member of Dorchaeus is assigned a

freshman student to welcome and to care for. Not only do the members of Dorchaeus welcome the new students, they also pray for or even with the students.

“We feel like we’re not the only ones with problems,” said Garret Lytle, a senior member of Dorchaeus. “This is why we help.”

## Choirs, bands show off hard work

### Choir, band students leave conductors content

**Josh Klapak**  
Reporter

On Oct. 15 a concert for Women’s Chorale, Concert Choir, and Symphonic Band was held at Illiana Christian High school.

Both the Concert Choir and Women’s Chorale were conducted by Mrs. Sliemers who had positive comments for both choirs. She said, “The concert choir did a good job, especially since it was their first concert, which can be scary, but they tackled it well.”

Sliemers added, “I picked music that had variety and would help build up musical skills.”

The Symphonic Band, conducted by Mrs. Menninga also performed. “They did very well,” Menninga said. “They played strong and all together.”

Menninga added, “I decided I wanted the band to play music that was a little difficult, but also playable.”

At the end of the concert both Mrs. Sliemers and Mrs. Menninga said that they received a lot of positive feedback from the audience.



Photo by Collette Bouwer

*Mrs. Sliemers directs the concert choir as they sing their second song of the concert.*

### Jazz Band highlights second concert

**Victoria Sonowo**  
Reporter

On Oct. 24, the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, A cappella Choir and Chamber Singers performed in concert.

The band, under the direction of Mrs. Menninga, and the choir, under the direction of Mrs. Sliemers, gave outstanding performances, showcasing the talents of various students.

Senior Jonathan Ri-

etveld, a member of the Wind Ensemble, said, “When preparing for these concerts, I like to practice a lot, especially when it comes close to the time of the concert.”

Different pieces were played and sung at the concert such as Buenaventura by Steve Hodges, Hide Not Thou Thy Face by Richard Farrant, and Killer on the Keys by Lary Neeck.

Junior Erik Detmar and

Sophomore Jordan Miller both were eager to hear the audience’s reaction to the song Sicut Cervus by G. Palestrina, a song in Latin, because they thought that it was pretty cool.

The audience seemed most really to show appreciation when it came to the jazz band’s turn to play.

“Apart from my daughter singing, I really enjoyed the Jazz Band,” said Mrs. Michelle Guiliani.



# Students celebrate life at Right to Life Banquet

Lauren Curtis  
Reporter

On Thursday, at Avalon Manor, about 100 Illiana students and staff attended the Illiana Right to Life Banquet where Mike Spencer was the headline speaker.

According to Sophomore Ermeh Ogom, the banquet has really “opened eyes to some of the students and made them think differently about abortion.” She added that the speech at the event, given by Mike Spencer, gave her something to think about.

Speaker Mike Spencer is a Detroit native who considered himself “pro-choice” until he witnessed an aborted fetus in a garbage can. The sight drove him to pray for God’s forgiveness and now he champions the unborn. He’s served as a pastor for 23 years and has sought to awaken the

church to the “plight” of the unborn.

In his speech, Spencer described abortion as an “unspeakable terror,” labeling it “the least talked about injustice in America.” He also said that abortion is “hurting the ones who need our help the most.” Throughout the speech he mentioned that abortion is murder, and he even recalled his own story of seeing an aborted baby girl in the trash. Spencer said “If abortion is not evil, one is left to wonder what evil is.”

History teacher, Jeff White, who encouraged students to attend, said some students have gone to the banquets with open minds and the Holy Spirit has changed their hearts on the subject of abortion.

“Christians need to speak up,” White said. “There’s a Holocaust going on, and 3,000 babies are dying a day.”



Speaker Mike Spencer, the keynote speaker, delivers the story of how he became pro-life to a captivated audience.

Photo courtesy of Illiana Right to Life Facebook page

Sophomore Brianna Rogers said, “He [Spencer] made very good points about abortion and the words he used were very effective.”

Sophomore Emma West described the speech as “life changing and inspiring.”

“The banquet is a celebration of life,” said White.



Brian Meyer, Nick Byrd, and Elijah Emanuel take the recycling out of Mr. Dylkstra’s room during eighth period clubs.

Photo by Collette Bouwer

## Going green, making green

Josh Smits  
Reporter

“I have no idea,” said senior recycling club member, Bryan Meyer after he was asked what happens to the recycling after Recycling Club takes the school’s papers to the recycling bins. He and his friends around the lunch table joked about them breaking down the papers school, but none of them knew what actually does happen, they were not alone.

Here at Illiana, we use what is known as the Abitibi Paper Retriever to recycle. Illiana has a recycling club consisting of 6 seniors who go door to door taking teacher’s used papers. After that, the papers are simply brought to the back parking lot and dumped into the green recycling bins. What those students don’t know, and most students around Illiana, is what happens after that. That is where the Abitibi Paper Retriever steps in. Abitibi Paper Retriever is a

common recycling service that you will see throughout your community in those green recycling bins. Abitibi serves as a win-win-win to all those who take part. Not only does it take recyclables off of your hand and conserve energy, but the company also pays people for it. According to suburbanwasteservices.com, Abitibi pays people by a scale of 0-3.99 tons equals 5\$ per ton, 4-7.99 tons equals 7.50\$ per ton, and 8 or more tons equals 12.50\$ per ton.

## Illiana to build up foreign exchange student program

JP Peerbolte  
Reporter

Over the last few years, the number of foreign exchange students at Illiana has grown significantly.

The path many foreign exchange students take to study here begins when they contact an agency to find placement at an American school. At Illiana we also have students from other countries that did not go through an agency.

Neele Polokma is an example of a student that did not learn of Illiana from an agency. Neele is from Sassenberg, Germany, and her older sister went to Illiana in 2013.

Most exchange students, however, come to us through an agency. Illiana lets agencies know that the school is interested in exchange students, and agencies contact Illiana if they have a student that wants to study here. Illiana often connects with students by working with three American agencies: Partners In Learning, United Exchange Services, and Pacific Link.

These agencies help connect students interested in studying in

America with schools at which to study. Illiana’s new Admissions Counselor, Ms. Makowski, works with Mr. Turkstra and Mr. Boonstra on the exchange student program at Illiana. If a student is interested at studying here, he or she interviews the school and the school interviews the student.

Mr. Turkstra said that during the interview process, the school and the student are trying to see if they would be a good match for each other. Turkstra added that he looks for two main things when interviewing exchange students: a Christian background and English proficiency.

“The school benefits when there are different cultures represented in the school,” said Makowski. “Diversity is very beneficial to everyone involved. Having international students here, we learn from them and they learn from us.”

Exchange students stay with host families while studying at Illiana. These families provide the international students a home away from home.

Illiana currently has nine international students and is looking to increase that number, said Makowski.



# Get up, go out, do something

Today, October 30, is National Speak Up for Service Day. There are many other national days, some stupid and some with deep meaning, but this day stood out to me as important. This day “is being established to recognize the importance of telling others about the need for young people to be actively involved in community service” says nationaldayscalendar.com. What have you done in the past few months to help your community grow? Did you help clean up a nearby park? Did you help out at a soup kitchen? Did you read to kids with disabilities? Then this is your day.



Elyse Dunham  
Co-feature Editor

For those who haven’t done anything of this sort, why not? Are you too busy? Do you not know how to get involved? Are you just procrastinating? Well, I want to encourage you to go out and do something today to help someone in need. Just something simple like paying for someone’s Dunkin’ Donuts or giving a stranger a compliment. No matter how big or small the good deed is, just do it.

Proverbs 3: 27-28 says, “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, ‘Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you’—when you already have it with you.” This verse is saying that if you have the resources and the ability to help others, then start making an impact now. God has blessed with all we need and we should use what He has given us to bless others.

For example one day when my mom was pregnant with me and she had to go to the grocery store. She was worn out, because I never stopped dancing in her womb. She was about to load the car with groceries when a stranger did it for her. My mom has never forgotten that: she said that it was just what she needed that day. Something like that requires almost no effort, yet it still made a huge impact.

If being uninformed of where you can get involved is one of your setbacks then here are some examples of organizations that help people in need. American Cancer Society-Relay for Life is an organization devoted to preventing cancer through research, education, and service. You can try to get involved with it by being a part of the planning committee and helping out with events. You can search Relay for Life on Google to get involved as a volunteer at their events.

The Awestruck Experience is a group faithful to getting teens involved in serving the community around the Crown Point area. They have a week long project called Project Awestruck that involves 8th grade through high school students in service projects. At the end of the week they have a music festival to celebrate all of the work that was done. You can sign up online in December to be a part of this week long event.

Cedar Lake Ministries is a place that ministers to people through day camps and other various camps for youth and adults. You can get involved by putting in an application to be a counselor in training and help oversee youth camps. This is a great opportunity to get involved with other teenagers in the area and not only minister to others but also grow in your own faith.

Stop making excuses and help someone. You don’t have to make a huge commitment if you think you’re too busy. Just do something simple for someone and see how it makes you feel. You never know what someone is going through, even something simple can make someone’s day like how a total stranger made my mom’s day.

# November National Days

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 National Deep Fried Clam Day  National Cook For Your Pets Day	2 National Deviled Egg Day  Traffic Directors Day	3 National Housewife’s Day  National Sandwich Day	4 National Chicken Lady Day  National Candy Day	5 National Doughnut Day  National Men Make Dinner Day	6 National Nachos Day  Saxophone Day	7 National Bittersweet Chocolate with Almonds Day 
8 National Cappuccino Day 	9 National Scrapple Day	10 National Vanilla Cupcake Day  National Forget-Me-Not Day	11 National Sundae Day  Veterans Day	12 National Chicken Soup for the Soul Day	13 National Indian Pudding Day	14 National Pickle Day
15 America Recycles Day	16 National Fast Food Day  National Button Day	17 National Baklava Day  National Take A Hike Day	18 Mickey Mouse Birthday	19 National Play Monopoly Day 	20 National Peanut Butter Fudge Day	21 National Adoption Day
22 National Cranberry Relish Day	23 National Cashew Day  National Espresso Day	24 National Sardines Day	25 National Parfait Day	26 Thanksgiving  National Cake Day	27 Black Friday  Buy Nothing Day	28 National French Toast Day 
29 Electronic Greetings Day	30 Stay Home Because You’re Well Day	Monthly:  National Inspirational Role Models Month National Adoption Month National Alzheimer’s Disease Month				

## Echo staff’s National Day recommendations

### Mini Golf Day June 7th



foresthillsgolfr.com

Who doesn’t love a good round of mini golf? If you don’t, then it’s your loss. June 7, when its nice and toasty out, grab a club, a ball and a couple of friends, and you will have a lot of memories coming toward you. Mini golf is the Cadillac of all summer activities. So when June 7 comes around and you have nothing to do, you can hit us up and we will take you on in a round or two.

When your sitting down, on a cold, snowy night, what’s best but a mug of chocolate milk. Yes, you may say hot chocolate is better, and yes I would agree with you. But once in a while, you need some good chocolate milk. Chocolate milk is even better after a day of work or a hard workout. Truemoos or Nesquik is always a great way to go. That’s why we declare February 4 Drink Chocolate Milk Day.



chocolatemilk.me

Drink Chocolate Milk Day  
February 4th

### Adventure Day April 9th



lasvegastrom.com

Have you ever wanted an excuse to go on an adventure? If you do, then this is your day. This day is for doing things you’ve never done before, getting over your fears, and having fun while doing it. Don’t make any more excuses for why you’re not doing something that pushes you out of your comfort zone. Take this day and make it yours. Get over whatever is holding you back, and take this opportunity to do something that you’ve never done before.

Jumping in a pile of leaves brings everyone back to their childhood. So today, Oct. 30, let your inner child come out and let loose. Rake up a pile of leaves, which helps out your parents, and just jump in it. If you’re having a bad day, doing this will brighten it up. You’re never too old to jump in a pile of leaves.



mastercoaches.com

Jump In a Pile of Leaves Day  
October 30th



# Falling into autumn

‘Tis the season of cozy sweaters and all things pumpkin-spiced. Whether your favorite fall activity is carving pumpkins, making hot cocoa, or trying to survive a haunted house, the cooling weather stirs up autumnal desires in everyone. Here are a few ideas to satisfy your fall cravings:

Fun:

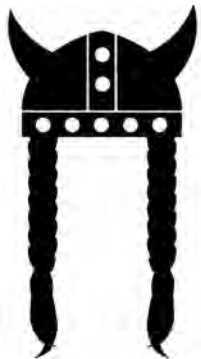
## County Line Orchard:

County Line Orchard, one of the most popular destinations during fall, provides a great way to get into the autumnal spirit. From picking apples to trying to decipher the Blackhawks themed corn maze to biting into a scrumptious pumpkin donut, this attraction is worth the drive. Located in Hobart, IN, the 40-acre orchard grows 30 different varieties of apples. You can pick apples in the U-Pick orchards or buy a bag in the orchard’s store. General admission is \$1, but other activities are available for an extra cost.

## Kregel’s Pumpkin Patch:

Kregel’s Pumpkin Patch is newly located in Lowell, IN, and on weekends offers hourly hayrides along with different activities for every person. Kregel’s sells gourds, honey, mums, hay bales, and more fall necessities at their farmstand located in the big red barn out front. Other attractions include the animals, which vary from new born chicks to goats to horses that you can ride for \$5. Head over to Kregel’s not only to pick out the perfect pumpkin and browse the array of goodies for sale, but also to enjoy quality family time and the crisp weather this fall season.

# ASK VICKY VIKING



## When more than friends is less than cool

Dear Vicky,  
Help! My friend recently told me that he likes me and I don’t know what to do about it. I don’t know how to deal with this news. Should I pretend he never said that, or should I open my mind to the possibility of dating? How do I know if I like him too or if I only like the attention he gives me? If I agree to try being more than friends, I’m afraid our friendship will be ruined if it doesn’t work out. If I decide I don’t want to date him, how do I let him down gently? I’m in desperate need of guidance.  
Thanks,  
Loved and Lost

Dear Loved and Lost,  
Thanks for the question! Now, calm down and let’s see if we can come up with something that will help.

First, make sure that you get a good night’s sleep before you make any decisions. Being emotionally unstable can badly affect your decision-making skills. Clear your mind so that you can figure out what you want from the relationship.  
Next, I would say to keep an open mind; some of the best relationships start out as friendships. If you feel a connection with this guy, it doesn’t hurt to try it out! Now, if you are just considering dating him because you “feel bad” for him then that is a different story. If there’s nothing there, then tell him you don’t see a future with him in that way. He should appreciate that you’re not leading him on or leaving him hanging without a response.

The threat of ruining a friendship is definitely the hardest part of this situation. I’d say that this guy already put it on the line by telling you he liked you. Hopefully you two are close enough that whatever happens you can remain friends. Just be honest and see where it takes you. Go with your gut. Put aside any guilt, pity, or fear and really ask yourself how much you’re attracted to him.

My final piece of advice would be to make sure that this guy will make you a better person. He should always bring out the best in you and bring you closer to God. Do not start a relationship just for the physical aspects, but to see what you want in the future.

Loved and Lost, remember that you’re just in high school and even though this seems like a big deal, it will likely mean little in the long run. Don’t be afraid to try new things, but stay true to yourself and everything will be O.K.. Hope this helps!

Yours Truly,  
Vicky Viking

Do you need advice? Contact Vicky at [vickyvikingilliana@gmail.com](mailto:vickyvikingilliana@gmail.com) or write a letter and turn it in to Mr. DeVries’s mailbox located in the office. Thank you!



## Caramel Apple Puppy Chow

Adapted from Miss Smart

Ingredients:

- 1 box Apple Cinnamon Chex
- 1 bag butterscotch chips
- 1-2 T coconut oil
- 1/2 c. peanut butter
- powdered sugar

Directions:

Melt together butterscotch chips, coconut oil, and peanut butter. Pour into bowl with chex. Use a spatula to combine. Once chex is coated, pour into a large gallon bag, that you can seal up, with powdered sugar. Shake shake shake!

Food:

<http://misscasionally.blogspot.com>

## Dutch Apple Pie

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- ½ cup quick-cooking oats
- ¾ cup butter, melted

Filling:

- 2/3 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 ¼ cups cold water
- 3 cups sliced peeled tart apples
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

In a large bowl, combine the flour, brown sugar, oats and butter, set aside 1 cup for topping. Press remaining crumb mixture into an ungreased 9in. pie plate; set aside.

For filling: combine the sugar, cornstarch and water in a large saucepan until smooth; bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in apples and vanilla. Pour into crust; top with reserved crumb mixture.

Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes or until crust is golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.



<http://www.tasteofhome.com>



## Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Muffins

Ingredients:

- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1(16 oz) can pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 ¼ cups vegetable oil
- 3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 12 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips (regular or mini)

Directions:

In large mixing bowl beat eggs, sugar, pumpkin, vanilla and oil until smooth.  
Mix dry ingredients together and mix into pumpkin mixture. Fold in chocolate chips. Fill greased or paper-lined muffin cups ¾ full. Bake at 400 F for 16-20. Let cool before taking out of pan.

<http://www.food.com>



# It's not always the end of the world

As I sat in the back of our old Chrysler minivan crying, my mom tried to console me that getting cut wasn't the end of the world, but to my 6th grade self it was. It was a Friday, and I had just completed the final day of tryouts for Highland Christian's soccer team, and I was utterly crushed to find out I was one of the few kids who hadn't made the team. At the time, making this team meant the world to me because all of my friends would be spending their time laughing and having fun on the soccer field while I sat home bored out of my mind. So as the tears flowed down my face, I began to feel like I had been to be rejected from not only the soccer team, but also my friends who would be bonding on the team I had been unable to make.



**Jacob Thompson**  
Co-Sports Editor

(Side Note: Looking back I can't see why I was so surprised that I had been cut seeing how I had never played an organized game of soccer and was a shorter and [believe it or not] clumsier version of myself today.)

So as I sat around the house that weekend sulking, crying, and of course eating to drown my misery, I my mom walked into my room and tried to make me feel better. She asked if my disappointment resulted from a fear of being inactive, and I responded with a "yes" because I didn't want to talk about all the feelings of rejection that were building up in my little body. Then she smiled (of course she knew that wasn't actually it) and asked if I would be interested in doing cross country. I remember thinking something along the lines of "what in the world is that?" So I remember saying I wouldn't be interested in any sport unless it was soccer, but throughout the weekend my mom convinced me to at least go to the meeting on Monday during break.

At the meeting I remember looking at all the kids standing in the room and I had no idea that a few of those kids would become some of my best friends. I also learned at the meeting that cross country was running (I still like to use the joke that I had hoped it was skiing) and that I would learn to love it more than I would have ever imagined.

At the time I had no idea that being cut from the soccer team would ultimately be one of the best things that has ever happened to me. Because of getting cut I have had the opportunity to earn two state trophies, run with five state champions, and compete on varsity as a freshman. Most importantly I met some of the greatest friends I have ever had. I look back and realize that through what seemed like a bad situation God was in control and had a plan that I myself couldn't have formulated better.

Whether you're cut from a sports team, from a certain role in a play, or even from a friend group, look at it from the perspective that God is in control and has a perfect and set out plan that you can't see right now. There's a saying that hindsight is 20/20. Have trust that God will be faithful and someday you can look back and praise him for what seemed like the end of the world.



Photo by Deb Kamp

Listed in back from left to right: Coach Rudenga, Zach Huisman, Norman Standish, Luke Hillegonds, James Zandstra. Front left to right: Erik Detmar, Curtis Tempelman, John Hayes, Matthew Zandstra

## Golf team has strong season but poor postseason

**Juliana Knot**  
Co-Editor in Chief

Varsity golf ended its season finishing eighth out of twelve teams at the sectional tournament on Monday, October 12. The team's final record was nine wins and three losses.

Junior Varsity also finished its undefeated season by taking first at both the Metro-Suburban Conference tournament and the St. Rita confer-

ence tournament.

Varsity coach Jack Rudenga said it was disappointing that no Illiana golfers qualified for state. "People were down [on themselves] because of how close they were. Luke Hillegonds made it into the sudden death qualifying round but was knocked out."

According to Hillegonds, he hit his tee shot into the water which ended his chances for state.

Senior James Zandstra echoed his coach, "We all

could've played better... ,but Broken Arrow is a tough course."

Despite the rough finish, Rudenga said he was proud of his team's work this season. "We not only had great athletes but also a lot of great people," he added.

Rudenga also said that he was optimistic about next year's team. "The future looks good," he said. "Three juniors played in both regionals and sectionals."

The Junior Varsity

also is looking to build off of its already successful season. Freshman Seth Bouwer said, "I would like to get back to golf in the spring so I can improve a lot."

The sectional tournament marked not only the end of the season but also the end of high school golf for four-year Varsity senior Matthew Zandstra.

"It's kind of crazy to think that I won't be playing for Illiana anymore," Zandstra said. "I'll miss it."

## XC boys gearing up to take on sectionals

**Luke Hillegonds**  
Co-Sports Editor

The boys cross country team is coming off a 2nd place and 3rd place finish in state the past two years. That was in 2A though, and this the team must compete at 3A.

Running against bigger schools doesn't seem to faze the runners. They took second place at Regionals on Oct. 24 and are running in Sectionals on Oct.

31.

Sophomore Austin Ohm, said, "I was a little bit mad at first when I heard that we got moved up, but we as a team are ready and up for the challenge."

He also added, "We plan on advancing out of sectionals and placing in the top 15 teams down state."

The whole team seems to be up for the challenge and is going into sectionals very confident.

Junior Ryan Koontz added, "It doesn't matter what class we are in because we are going to run as best as we can every time. We are always going to compete at a very high level, and it doesn't matter if we are in 1A, 2A, or 3A."

If the team advances from Saturday's sectional competition, the boys will be participating in the state tourney on Oct 7.



Photo by JP Peerbolte

Sophomore Derek VanProoyen races at the Illiana Invitational.

## Zandstra and Kimmel come up big for soccer

**Luke Hillegonds**  
Co-Sports Editor

Chandler Kimmel and Robby Zandstra have played soccer with each other all the way from 6th grade until their last season together which recently ended with a loss in Regionals.

Zandstra was a defender while Kimmel

was a forward. Both said that they loved playing with each other and loved playing soccer. However, they both made it clear that soccer was about more than wins and losses. Their favorite parts of soccer were not scoring goals or winning, but rather meeting new people and making new friends.

"Soccer is mostly

about the people you play with and the relationships you make with your teammates," said Kimmel.

Kimmel and Zandstra both think very highly of each other. Kimmel added about Zandstra, "He has such passion for soccer but an even better compassion for others."

Zandstra said of Kimmel, "He gives 110% ef-

fort 110% of the time."

Kimmel and Zandstra do not plan on playing soccer in their collegiate years. Instead they want to pursue education and a degree. Kimmel looks to attend Liberty University and study in business management and real estate. Zandstra hopes to attend Marquette University and study physical therapy.



# Volleyball team seeks regional championship

Collette Bouwer

News Editor

After developing mental toughness, the girls volley team has been unstoppable with a record of 25-9, and a 1st place finish, tied with Timothy Christian in conference.

Coach Nikki Van Dyke said, "[Our biggest struggle] was finding that cohesiveness... and mental toughness in the middle of the season, and since we've found it, we've been unstoppable."

Junior Deborah Smith said, "We were focusing too much on ourselves and our individual games, but we learned that we need to focus on us doing well as a team rather than as individuals."

Senior Sydnee Van

Beek said, "We have so much talent on the team. We just needed to bring it all together and play as a team."

After finding their mental toughness, Van Dyke said, "Our biggest strength is that they fight. We can be down five points at the end of a match and these girls somehow squeeze out a win."

Junior Gina Novotny said they've gotten very consistent, and that their hitting and serves are their strong suits.

As they enter the post season, Van Dyke says they are going to take it one game at a time and that "one of the girls' goals this year is to win regionals... and see what happens after that."

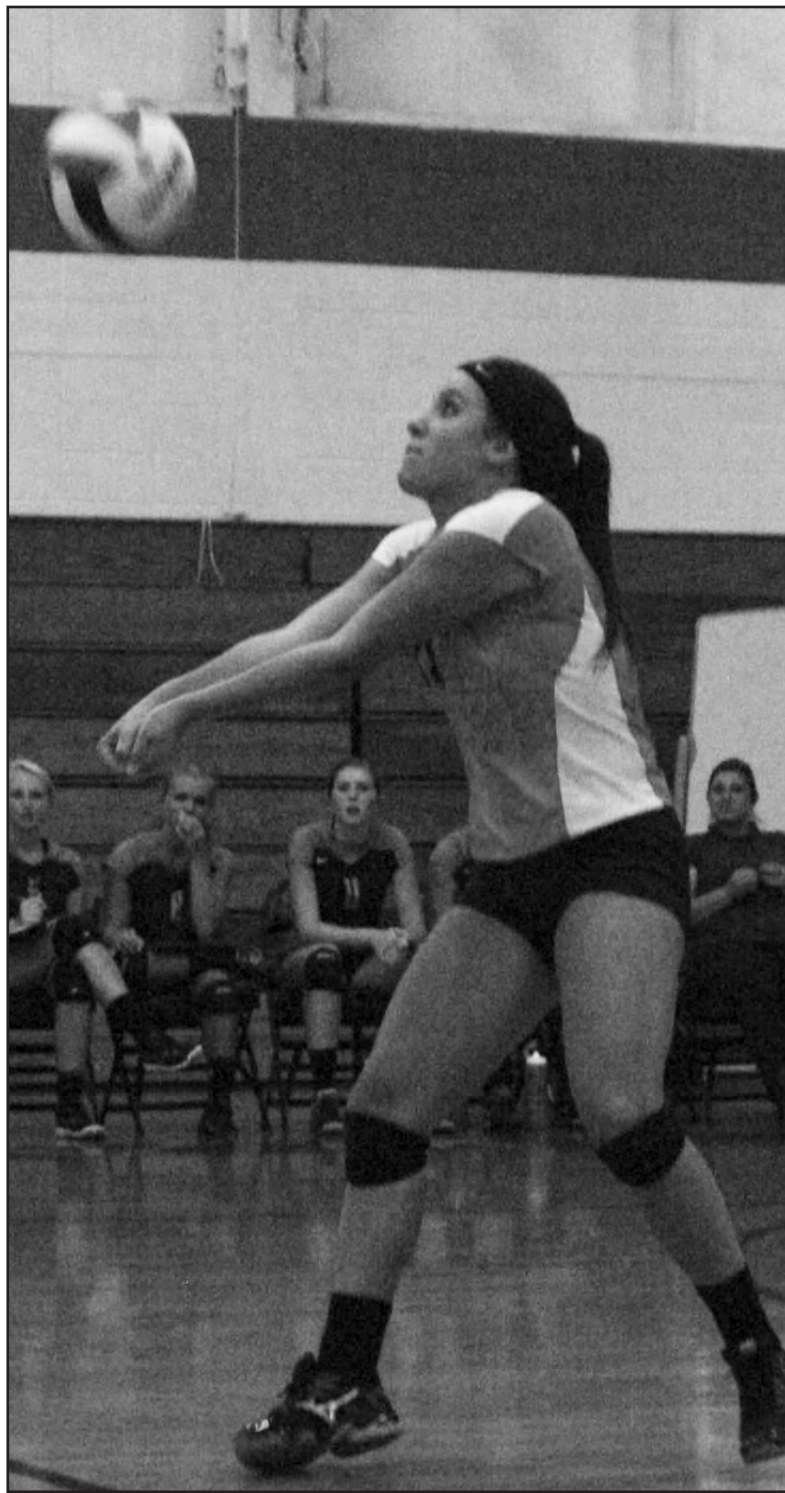


Photo by Juliana Knot  
Junior Gina Novotny bumps the ball against Chicago Christian on Sept. 10.

## XC girls team takes second in regionals

Jennifer DeBoer

Co-Editor in Chief

On Oct. 24, the girls' varsity cross country team took second place and freshman Cate Peerbolte took all regional honors. They lost to Lincoln Way West.

The previous week, the varsity team took second place at its conference meet on in East Chicago losing to Chicago Christian. The JV team took first place.

Senior Brittney Groen, junior Gabby Kreykes, and Peerbolte took all conference honors at the meet.

Peerbolte, new to the cross country family at Illiana, says that she loves the community that it offers. She said, "It really welcomed me into my freshman year." She added that the team challenges her to keep getting better.

Groen, the only senior and four year veteran, says that she feels a need to be a leader.

"We need to stay positive and remember not to get negative," Groen said.

# McGuire and Bouwer find redemption

Hanna VanderWoude

Photo Editor

This year Illiana's varsity girls' tennis team did well sporting a 12-3 overall record and a 4-1 conference record. Tennis coach Rob Lagerwey explained that although the team didn't do as well as last year, he thought his players did well considering they didn't have their six seniors for sectionals.

He also said that juniors Collette Bouwer and Jensen McGuire were the only two players to qualify for

state. Although they didn't place, Bouwer said that it was tough competition and she was proud of her doubles partner, McGuire.

"I'm proud of Jensen and myself this year because last year we were so close to qualifying for state, but didn't, so this year was sort of like redemption," said Bouwer. She added that she and McGuire came in first in conference and first in sectionals. Although they didn't place, she was still happy with the way they played.

"We helped each other out when the other person

needed it. We went in and played our best," said McGuire. She also said that she felt she and Bouwer played really well.

"We weren't expecting to place in state, but looked at it as an experience to be there, as well as face better competition for future matches," said McGuire.

Lagerwey said, "The season turned out well. While not perfect, 12-3 is a good record. We are the smallest school in our sectional, but even without our seniors, we finished 2nd out of ten schools in sectional play. They played well."



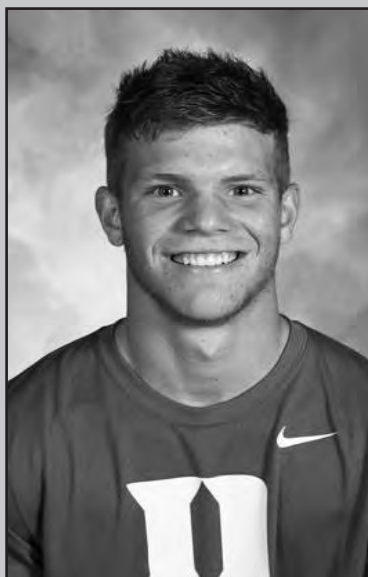
Photo by Michelle Bouwer

Jensen McGuire and Collette Bouwer smile after qualifying for state and getting 2nd as a team at Marian Catholic.

## Male Athlete of the Month

Since freshman year Mathew Zandstra has always been a standout for the Illiana golf team. Earning a number of honors including many first place finishes in conference and non-conference matches with many rounds under par, Conference MVP as JR & SR, and Illinois State Regional Individual Champion. But one of Mathew's highest achievements was setting the Illiana School scoring record with an average of 37.3 on 9-hole courses his junior year.

"Mathew is one of the best golfers to ever enter our program," Coach Jack Rundenga stated. "He has medaled in a number of tournaments and even made it to state his first two years. He definitely deserves some recognition for his play over his career."



## Female Athlete of the Month

Cate Peerbolte is only a freshman running on varsity, and many of her teammates have said she is the best runner on their team. She has had the most consistent finish times and had a great year of running so far. This year she achieved All-Conference and All-Regional honors. She seems to have settled in even though she is running as a freshman amongst older teammates on varsity. She said, "It was a little intimidating running varsity at first because we have a lot of good runners, but it is a lot of fun, and I really enjoy it."

Teammate Gabby Kreykes added about Peerbolte, "She is a good runner, and she is always striving to get better. She is dedicated to running and she works hard every day."



# Editorial

## Past and present students affect Illiana’s future

The class of 1995’s reunion was this past month. 20 years ago, when the media center was a library, the internet was new, and Mr. White and Mr. Veldman still had hair, the class of 1995 ruled the hallways the class of 2016 rules right now. It’s hard to fathom how much has changed since 1995.

Yet so much remains the same. Students still don’t do their homework until the class period before it’s due. They still love when a teacher does something stupid like having her phone go off during class. They still follow the latest trends from music to clothes. And they still sit in the same chapel chairs that have been there since the school opened almost 70 years ago.

Teachers like Miss VanStee, Mr. DeBoer, Mr. Gorter, and so many more weren’t here yet. Mr. Wiers and Mr. VanEk were icons, both feared and favored by the students.

So what? Every history teacher will say that we learn from our past, so what can we learn from the last 20 years plus?

Well, we can learn that even though the people

who graduated in 1995 are about 38, they weren’t so much different from the students here right now. They went through similar experiences and had to deal with some of the same teachers. They lived through the OJ Simpson trial, a trial where a professional football player was accused of killing his ex-wife. Now, we are living through Patrick Kane, a professional hockey player, being accused of raping a woman in his New York residence.

Then President Bill Clinton ended 28 years of favored treatment of Cuban refugees. Earlier this year, U.S. and Cuba resumed diplomatic relations as the Cuban embassy in Washington D.C. was reopened. Teenagers in 1995 lived through President Clinton’s health care

proposal. He lost it. We are living through the experimental stages of Obamacare.

We don’t even need

Of course, we shouldn’t just compare ourselves to the people that preceded us, but also look up to them and realize that we represent them now. Though they aren’t the student body anymore, they are still a part of Illiana’s story along with everyone who ever attended or worked here. That is the point of reunions, isn’t it? To reconnect and remember the school whose history they helped shape.

Current students need to remember that our actions matter. Our actions represent the past as much as the present and future student body. What we do in high school will affect not only the rest of our lives, but also Illiana Christian High School’s story. What we choose to do, or not to do, will influence future generations of students here. Who knows, maybe in another 20 years when the current seniors have their reunion, they will look on the class of 2036 and remember the good old days when they ruled the hallways.

to look that far to find ways we are similar to those students.

In 1995, the math team won first place at regionals and got 10th at state. Last year’s math team won first at regionals and got 11th at state.

Even a few of the 1995 students stuck around and are still walking Illiana’s hallways today. Our very own Mr. Lance Davids was a graduate of 1995. The class of 1995 is a great example of how even when we graduate Illiana, our history remains a part of it.

“Current students need to remember that our actions matter.”

# Responding to evil with silence

Few things are eerier than standing in silence with several hundred people. Crowds are supposed to make noise. At the prayer vigil for the Lansing woman recently abducted, raped, and left for dead, the crowd was mute.

Given the context, it’s understandable. The group gathered at Trinity Lutheran Church to pray for a woman who came home from work to find a man robbing her house. He attacked her with a hammer, raped her repeatedly, strangled her until she lost consciousness, and dumped her on US-20. Before leaving, he set her on fire. When she woke up, she was still burning.

This man was Carleous Clay, a parolee who went to Oak Glen United Reformed Church. The church gave him physical and spiritual assistance as he transitioned from prison.

Soon after, the Village of Lansing issued a statement on its website. “He should have never been paroled here in the first place,” the spokesman said. “And he should not have come to our community.”

Let’s be honest. The Village is saying what everyone thinks: “I want ex-felons to adjust, but I want them to do it anywhere but here.” But they have to go somewhere, and to say “anywhere but here” feels like unacknowledged selfishness.

Not that I don’t feel the same way. I don’t like Carleous Clay. My aunt was abducted, raped, and murdered while she was studying in New Orleans. Carleous Clay reminds me of the man serving a life sentence for my aunt’s death. I understand the anger behind the Village’s statement.

But such unchecked anger changes nothing and does nothing. Evil isn’t just “out there.” Everyone can be evil. We cannot avoid another Carleous Clay by shutting the doors to Lansing. We’d be locking ourselves in with another one.

But what worries me just as much is the opposite response—knee-jerk forgiveness. Those who are eager to forgive Carleous Clay have no right to do so. Nobody except the victim, her family, and God himself has that right. People should forgive, but that forgiveness is for their own enemies, not other people’s. Forgiving Carleous Clay is not our business. It’s hers.

And if she does forgive him, something that requires remarkable strength, he still deserves punishment for his crimes. Often, forgiveness is equated with innocence. They aren’t the same. Carleous Clay is a rapist. He took a match to a woman’s body and let her burn. He will be tried and found guilty. And I hope that he never walks out of jail.

If I sound angry, that’s because I am. What happened to this woman is evil. But we are still called to love. There is no love in hating Carleous Clay and every parolee that steps foot in Lansing. But there is also no love in ignoring this woman’s suffering with cheap forgiveness.

I don’t pretend to know how to straddle this line between mercy and justice. That question is bigger than me, bigger than the Illiana community. Maybe that explains the crowd’s silence.



Juliana Knot  
Co-editor in chief

# the Echo

## Editors-in-chief

Jennifer DeBoer  
Juliana Knot

## News

Collette Bouwer

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Elyse Dunham  
Andy Sons

## Arts

Kassidy Weemhoff

## Sports

Jacob Thompson  
Luke Hillegonds

## Photos

Hanna Vander Woude

## Advisor

Jeff DeVries

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

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

# Corrections

In the September issue, the Echo staff incorrectly spelled Mr. Arjen Vreugdenhil’s name in a headline. We regret the error.

In a photo on the sport’s page of the September issue, the Echo misidentified junior Kayla Vander-Zee as junior Hanna Vander Woude. We regret the error.

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