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Read about concussion protocol on pg. 7.

# the Echo)))

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Former student's ongoing journey to the big stage on pg. 5.



Illiana Christian High School

Volume 71 Issue 1

September 30, 2016

Lansing, Illinois

## Illiana squeezes out funds for Capital Campaign



Future Illiana students, Atikilt and Zinabu Bosman, sell lemonade on Illiana's front lawn Labor Day to raise money and awareness for the capital campaign.

Photo by Beth Boonstra

### Campaign raises six million in matching gift challenge

Alex Wondaal

Reporter

The Building Illiana Campaign Committee reported that the campaign has now received gifts and pledges in excess of \$19.8 million dollars. Over \$6 million of that was raised in the last month through a matching gift challenge.

As a result, the school board has called for an association meeting on October 10 where it will seek permission to begin phase 1 construction with \$20 million in pledges and a \$5 million dollar long-term loan.

Principal Peter Boonstra said that if the proposal is approved, "we're hoping to get phase 1 completed so we can move in by the Fall of 2018."

The total project is projected to cost around \$35 million, but the school will be ready for students already after the \$25 million spent for phase 1. Some facilities deemed less vital—such as athletics fields and the auditorium—will be built after students begin to attend.

## Illiana takes lemons and makes lemon-aid

Emma Slings

Reporter

Illiana was able to raise \$3,654.13 for the Capital Campaign thanks to the Lemonade Stands that were scattered throughout Illiana halls and across four different states over the Labor Day weekend.

The fundraiser, the bright idea from a second grader and promoted by the Capital Campaign Committee, led to fifteen stands across the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin. Volunteers were given

a "Lemonade Stand" sign and set up shop with a free-will donation for whomever wanted to enjoy a refreshing glass of lemonade. The purpose of this fundraiser was to raise money for Illiana's new campus and to spread the news of Illiana's exciting future in hope to get more people interested.

Vision Director Lance Davids said, "I like getting everyone involved-- kids, older people, the whole community."

Miss Johnson, sponsor of Go Club, which held a lemonade stand, added,

"[We remind] people in the community that the new Illiana isn't just for us-- it's for everybody. Hopefully one day your kids will go to Illiana. So, it's that idea of let's excite future generations!"

Mrs. Nikki Van Dam ran a stand at Crown Point Christian's park with the help of Lisa Flipse and future Illiana students. She explained that they wanted to run a lemonade stand because they are excited about the new school and wanted to help in any way they could.

"My favorite part of working at the stand was raising money for the new school. God is on the move here and it's so exciting to be a part of!" Van Dam said.

Sophomore Lawton Bower helped run a stand at Indian Lake in Michigan with his cousins, who are future students of Illiana. Bower believed that he and his cousins benefited from the experience because they got to be a part of the process and will get to experience the outcome of the fundraiser-- a new Illiana Christian campus.

## Bus service ensures no student left behind

Josh Chancellor

Reporter

The school board has begun to run a bus service between Calvin Christian School in South Holland and Illiana's campus in Lansing.

Plans for this service have been in the works for a while now, but this year the school has put the plan into action.

Vice Principal A.J. Turkstra

said, "This bus service was created out of a gesture to the northern end of our service area to let them know we haven't forgotten about them and want to help them." He added that this service will continue even after the school moves to its new location.

The riders consist mainly of freshmen with a few sophomores.

Sophomore Kharris Hudson, who rides the bus, said, "I think it's good and helps kids to be able

to come to school on time."

She added that she has a few friends that she knows on the bus and everyone is pretty social.



Photo by Collette Bower



## Blind eye to violence

This year marked the fifteenth anniversary of 9/11. The day was commemorated with memorial services and national mourning for the 2,996 people that lost their lives in the terrorist attacks. But fewer people noted what else happened on September 11, 2016: the number of shootings in Chicago for 2016 surpassed 3,000. In all of 2015 there was a total of 2,980 Chicago shootings, a huge and tragic number, but we've already surpassed that and it's only September!



**Beth Boonstra**  
Co-News Editor

Too often we read all of these statistics or see breaking news coverage about violence and crime, and intellectually we acknowledge the problem, but then we just go about our day like nothing is different.

Why don't we care? How have we been able to become so numb to the constant violence?

Maybe we need to humanize the problem. We need to stop, for a minute, and start seeing those numbers not as statistics, but actual people.

On September 11, 2016, 18 year old Kee-Ke Fleming was attending a small vigil for a 23 year old man that had been shot two days earlier. While mourning the tragedies of Chicago violence she herself became a victim on the exact block where her friend had been shot. Two other teenage boys, 16 and 17, were also shot and wounded, but are recovering. Kee-Ke was not as fortunate. In the midst of remembrance for a national tragedy, who stopped to mourn Kee-Ke?

As a senior and point guard at Corliss High School, fifteen minutes away, Domic Hal-lom, was shot at two separate incidents within three months in 2008. The second time, after already being hit by two bullets, he literally had to play dead to fool the masked shooter. Several days later he was shot a third time, and then again several years later, and again. Chicago Tribune reports, "For the sixth time in less than a decade, Hallom, now 27, was shot, but this time he died of his wounds." That was Saturday, September 9, 2016.

And it's not just shootings, violence and crime across Chicago are up. On Sunday, September 11 a woman came to my church in tears. She had just lost her three daughters in a fire. An arsonist set fire to their alarm-less apartment building in the middle of the night. Her husband, now in critical condition, jumped from the third story trying to save the three month old girl. Baby Melanie didn't survive the fall. Her sisters Madison and Shaniyah, 4 and 7, were killed in the fire, too.

How many more stories must we hear before we start to care. Chicago needs our prayer. And the victims and their friends and families need our comfort and condolences. If you've never been to a vigil or placed flowers at a memorial for someone you know, consider yourself blessed. But even strangers need your strength and condolences. Stop and pray when you see the news of calamity. Pray for justice. Often times prayer is a last resort, but why can't it be the first thing we do? The Bible makes it very clear that prayer is powerful and necessary so don't underestimate it.

By all means, lay those wreaths for those who died on 9/11, but don't forget all those that are being murdered, those who live in terror, every day. Change starts with you. Feel something. Do something.



*Tabitha Davis enjoys ice cream served by student council members at the Big Brother/Big Sister ice cream social.*

Photo by Juliana Knot

## Big Brother/Sister Program welcomes students

**Jo Mulder**  
Reporter

New transfer students and freshmen from non-feeder schools gathered over cold ice cream and warm conversation at 7:30 p.m. on

Aug. 22 as they were welcomed into their new school by the Big Brother/Big Sister Program.

According to program co-director Kim Mesman, the new students were paired with a current junior or senior. The night gave new

## New COP in town helps students explore careers

**Caleb Last**  
Reporter

**Cate Peerbolte**  
Reporter

Illiana's Career Opportunity Placement, commonly known as the COP office, is returning after a year hiatus with a new director, Mrs. Nikki VanDam.

The COP office is for students to experience different career choices. The office does this by sending students to various jobsites in which they are interested. For example, VanDam says that a pair of Illiana students who are interested in becoming doctors might observe surgeries on human cadavers.

According to Mr. Peter

Boonstra, the "long and glorious tradition" of the COP office was inactive during most of the 2015-2016 school year because the school simply could not find another volunteer to take up the mantle. The COP office did manage to send one group of students out before the end of the school year.

John Eenigenburg participated in the trip that visited Holland Corporation located in Crete, Illinois. The group toured the plant and learned how mechanical engineering can apply to a career.

"[The visit] sets apart what you hear from what actually is," Eenigenburg said.

Before taking over the COP office, VanDam helped with the

students a familiar face to look for in the halls, and it allowed current students to take their new peers on a tour of the school, giving them tips about how things work and answering any questions they had.

It was effective night, said Mesman, but she also added that the program could be better organized. She added, for example, that she did not know whether these pairs had met up on their own time after the night.

However, according to junior Malik Evans, he and his little brother did meet up all the time. Evans said that others would also come and ask questions, so the night helped make the school feel "more like a family."

New sophomore Parish Townes said he and his big brother were both on the Golf team and that they talked often. He said that the program made him feel comfortable with his school life.

Senior Josh Boender said that after that initial meeting, he and his "little brother" did greet one another in the halls, but since then his partner seems to have adapted to the daily life in Illiana.

hot lunch program at Illiana. VanDam stated that she loves volunteering here and in her words, "It makes me feel good that I can give back and help the students in any way that I can." She will be coordinating all of the COP visits this year.

The COP office has been a privilege enjoyed by Illiana's students for over 25 years. The school can run this program, said Boonstra, because of our fantastic student body. They are so well behaved that many local businesses will allow Illiana students to visit.

The visits the COP office sends students on are often in groups, since it is more practical for both Illiana and the cooperating employees.

## New Dress Code

**Grant Gibson**  
Reporter

Illiana Christian's Board of Directors has initiated a new dress code rule that states that "leggings, jeggings, and yoga pants are only allowed if worn under a tunic, skirt, or dress that [is at least fingertip length]."

Regarding students wearing leggings, Board member Richelle VanderZee says the rule is in place because "as Christians we want to make sure we're presenting ourselves as modest."

The student body has mixed opinions on this topic. Some miss having the freedom of wearing such clothes, while others think that the rule keeps everyone's modesty in check.

"You should be able to make the conscious choice of what you want to wear," said freshman Courtney Collins. "If you feel it's inappropriate, if people around you feel it's inappropriate, then it should be your choice to change it or not."

Bible teacher Mark Dykstra said of the new rule, "I think God cares about modesty, so we should try."

Illiana is not the only school addressing the fashion trend. Chicago Christian High School also has a similar rule, which was set in place late last fall. Students there can't wear leggings unless they have a fingertip-length dress.

## Golf outing up to par

**Kade Bouwer**  
Reporter

Ninety-two golfers hit the links Sept. 19 at Idlewild Country Club for the Illiana Golf Outing, a fundraiser for Illiana athletics.

Each year the Sports Boosters, a group of parents and athletics supporters, sponsor three major fundraisers, and the golf outing is one of them. This year the golf outing raised around \$18,000.

According to Athletic Director Darren DeBoer, "[the golf outing] went pretty well; the only thing you can't control is the weather, and the weather was great".

The competition in the "best-ball" tournament was intense this year as the winners, Lance Davids, Jack Davids, Tim Huizenga, and Terry Groot, squeaked out a win with an sixty-one, beating second place by two strokes.

Lance Davids, former Athletic Director, said, "It was the first time in thirteen years I haven't been in charge of [the golf outing], so I could just play, not worrying about the details. I was able to practice before, which made a difference."

## Roof to weather storms without repair

**Maddie Holesinger**  
Reporter

The Building and Grounds Committee has decided against replacing the roof on the east wing of the school, instead setting aside \$30,000 to make minor repairs to prevent future leaks.

An ice storm during last year's Christmas break opened a Pandora's Box of problems as the roof leaked from dozens of spots into numerous classrooms. For months, drip buckets populated the second floor. Eventually, a restoration company was hired to help clean and dry up the mess.

Deterioration of roofing materials and insulation led to the leaks, according to Vice Principal A.J. Turkstra. He added, "We are hoping to get in a few more years without replacing [the roof]."

Roofers now make monthly roof checks to fix any problem

areas they see. Also, a contracted company sweeps the pools of standing water to drain areas after each rain.

Turkstra said, "The problem is with the deterioration of insulation materials, because when that sags, it makes for pooling and [water] finds a way through a small crack."

The leaks last year did affect learning and were a distraction for students.

"On a scale of one to ten, it was a seven distraction," said Miss Emily VanStee, an English teacher whose room was affected.

Distractions aside, the school is safe, Turkstra said. Air quality tests show no problems with mold.

Buckets will continue to be a go-to fix this winter because of the inability to do

much more when there is snow on the roof.

"I was so proud of the student body last year and how resilient they were," said Miss Sara Johnson, another teacher whose classroom was affected. "If they were getting dripped on, a lot of the time they would just move their own desk and put a bucket in that spot instead."



Photo by Jeff DeVries



## Enrollment exceeds expectations

Tessa Buiter  
Reporter

Illiana Christian High School’s administration is pleased with higher student enrollment than projected for this year. Illiana has 518 students to teach this year as opposed to the 512 anticipated. Last year Illiana’s administration had anticipated 520 students but started the year with only 518.

According to Principal Peter Boonstra, the planning is easier because numbers are so close. It is better to reach higher than the goal than to fall short of it.

For figuring the projected number of students, “we use a complex formula,” Boonstra said. This includes asking feeder schools how many students are in each grade and how many 8th graders plan on attending Illiana. Charts with other data and percentages of attendees from previous years also are used to create a projected enrollment for a new year.

According to Boonstra, the increase of students came from “different places than expected.” This is in part because of Illiana’s new program with Glenwood Academy, he added.

These students attend Illiana for a variety of reasons. To sophomore Abby Duesing and freshman Sydney DeVries, the drama department and musicals looked appealing. Sophomore Kyann Rule, a transfer from Chicago Christian, spoke of interest in possible leadership positions. Coming to Illiana from Glenwood Academy, both sophomore Geno Camacho and freshman Diamond Davis look forward to participating in sports.

## New TP brings soft surprise

Kendall Smith  
Reporter

Students and teachers discovered a soft surprise waiting for them for their return to school this fall—bathrooms stocked with 2-ply toilet paper.

Many people have not noticed, including Vice Principal A.J. Turkstra, who said, “I didn’t even know we changed.”

At least a few students, however, did. Seniors Justin Gaddis and Eric Detmar both noticed the upgrade. Detmar commented, “It’s soft.”

Janitor Duane Kamstra is the one responsible for the change. He explained the reason for the change was two-fold. First, the previous brand of toilet paper is no longer available. In addition, the new toilet paper, despite its higher quality, is cheaper than the old.

“Nothing but the best for Illiana,” said Kamstra with a chuckle as he noted the new paper is “comfy and absorbent.”



Juniors Ben Fabrizius, Jason Schutt, Austin Clark, and Garret VanderZee, play Spikeball at cookout.

Photo by Jeff DeVries

# Eat, play, grill: students enjoy fall cookout

Liz VanDrunen  
Reporter

Natalie Togtman  
Reporter

The annual fall cookout, sponsored by Student Council, was held on September 20 in the athletic field to give students time to enjoy the weather and each other.

For an hour-long combined lunch period, around 520 students and faculty gathered on the lawn to barbeque, take pictures and enjoy each other's company. Those with cars were able to park them along the north side of the field and bring in their own grills.

According to Vice-Principal A.J. Turkstra, our cookout is unique.

Turkstra said, “When you

mention our cookout to TF South, the administrators over there they look at us like we’re nuts to have 500-600 students all on lawn with barbecue grills. We are probably the only ones in the area that can pull off a cooperative effort like that.”

Student Council sold hot dog kits and chips to students. Their goal was to help out the students with lunch since many didn’t have the access to grills

that others did. Any profit they received goes toward homecoming expenses and the freshman and senior breakfasts.

Senior Avery Riemersma said, “It was nice not being trapped inside all day.”

Also freshman Cassidy Derks noted that while she enjoyed talking with friends, she was unaware that the students were going to be allowed access to the grills.

# Speaker’s story inspires at Right to Life banquet

Beth Boonstra  
Co-News Editor

The Illiana Right to Life Committee, an organization with representatives from over eighteen reformed churches in Illinois and Indiana, hosted their thirty seventh annual Illiana Right to Life Banquet on Thursday, Sept. 22 at Avalon Manor. The banquet has been educating Illiana students for more than twenty years.

According to sophomore and first time attendee Ashley Pigatti it was a “fun and eye-opening experience.” Her favorite part was listening to the speaker and hearing her story.

“Many students told me the speaker resonated with them,” said Mr. Jeff White, co-coordinator of Illiana’s Right to Life program. “She was authentic and honest. She spoke from the heart and not a script.”

The speaker was Angela Minter, President and Co-Founder of Sisters’ For Life, a Christian organization that advocates for unborn children and their parents faced with the crisis of an unplanned pregnancy. “God told me,” Minter said, “I didn’t call you to part-time baby saving.”

Perhaps the most inspiring thing

that draws the audience towards her as a speaker is her willingness to open up about her own abortion experiences.

“I paid money for two of my babies to be killed when I was seventeen and eighteen,” she said shamefully. “And now I’m standing here as the keynote speaker.” The story Minter shared was how she got from one place to the other. Minter had her first two abortions in high school. “I was so uneducated,” she said. “I immediately regretted it, but I didn’t know what else to do.”

Later in college Minter became pregnant again. She went to the abortion clinic, but didn’t have enough money. So student services gave her money for the abortion, but when she went back to the clinic she was even farther along so the procedure would be more expensive. Then her grandpa died and she couldn’t get the money. Finally her father found out, and he insisted that she and Parnell get married and have the baby. Minter said that the Lord kept putting stumbling blocks in front of her so that she would have this baby. That was when she called her daughter up onto the stage. “Does she look like a living human being to you?” Minter questioned the crowd.

“She went from being voiceless to being a voice for the voiceless.”

Her daughter, now thirty, works with her mom counselling young mothers considering abortions.

After Minter began working for the Right to Life cause, she invited her father to come to a father/daughter march for life on father’s day. The objective was to display the importance of a father’s role in their daughters’ lives.

“Afterwards my father said he needed to talk to me about something, something he wasn’t proud of. He told me, ‘In 1965 I took your mother to an abortion clinic.’” By the time they found out it was a botched abortion it was too late to try to abort again. When Angela’s mom gave birth, they arranged for a social worker to come and pick up the baby. Her mother didn’t want to be there when this happened so she left it to her husband. Waiting for the social worker, her father sat there watching the baby.

“I couldn’t do it,” her father said. “You lifted your head up.” The baby they had tried to abort was Minter. Minter’s head continues to be lifted up by the Lord, as she speaks to inspire and save hundreds of lives.



Photo by Jeff DeVries

Mrs. Terpstra takes attendance for the third period chemistry class

## Science teacher brings chemistry to classroom

Juliana Knot  
Co-Editor in Chief

Q: Where did you teach before teaching at Illiana?

A: I taught at Crown Point Christian for a year, Munster High School for three years, Hanover for a year, and T.F. South for three years.

Q: Do you notice anything different about Illiana?


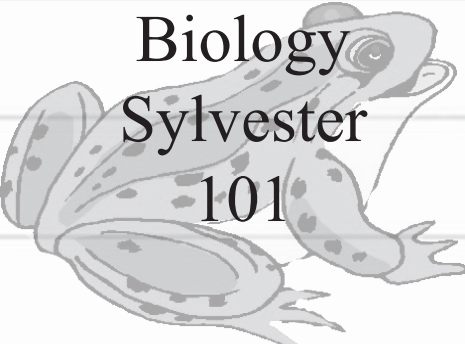


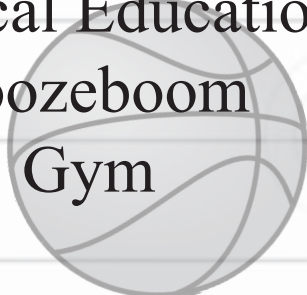
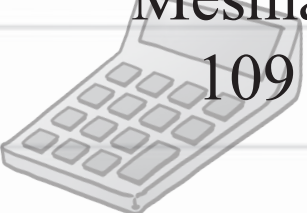
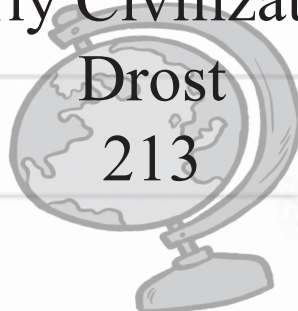
A: Being at the public school for ten years, there’s a huge difference in being able to share your faith; putting that element with chemistry is huge.

Q: Why do you like Chemistry?

A: I like the atomic level of God’s world, and I like the math behind it.



# Freshman Year Survival Guide

<i>Period 1</i>	 <p>English 1 Van Stee 208</p>	<p>“Keep all your papers and always read [Miss Van Stee’s] board. Be in the topics.” --Summer Ruiter</p>
<i>Period 2</i>	 <p>Biology Sylvester 101</p>	<p>“Make sure you do vocab notecards because they’re extra credit. Do the homework and study for the tests, and it should be an easy class.” --Jacob DeYoung</p>
<i>Period 3</i>	 <p>Art Kamphuis 003</p>	<p>“Make sure you get your sketches in on time.” --Micky Boss</p>
<i>Period 4</i>	 <p>Computer Skills Top 201</p>	<p>“If you understand the concepts, work ahead.” --Julia Oostema</p>
<i>Period 5</i>	 <p>Physical Education Roozeboom Gym</p>	<p>“Do what Boom says, listen, give 100% effort, and participate.” --DJ Gladney</p>
<i>Period 6</i>	 <p>Algebra 1 Mesman 109</p>	<p>“Always ask questions when we’re going over homework in class, then [Miss Mesman] will explain it better.” --Regan Lyzenga</p>
<i>Period 7</i>	 <p>Early Civilization Drost 213</p>	<p>“Take really good notes and pay attention to everything [Mrs. Drost] says.” --Calie Ritzema</p>



# Gospel vibe, hard work scores success for local musician

*S. Joel Norman, singer, songwriter and talented musician, graduated from Illiana in 2002. After leaving Illiana, he continued to work on his musical career and eventually grew his successes exponentially. When asked to name a breakout moment, Norman explained that many thought it was when he had a job as a music teacher, or when he played with Eddie Money, or when he was featured on WGN, or when he headlined the House of Blues, but to him, it was gradual. He referenced the saying, "It takes ten years to become an overnight success." Norman admits he's still on his journey as a musician, but meanwhile his music is impacting many people.*

## When did you know you wanted to be a musician?

Well, I never thought I could actually be a musician and "make it." So I got a real job after college and it was awful. I got a job at Trinity as a theater tech, art and music guy, but they changed the job so that I set up Macintosh computers all day and it wasn't a good fit. I hated it so much I never [renewed] my contract and said I'd rather be poor than unhappy. I actually called dad and told him that I wanted to resign my con-

tract, that I just want to make it as a musician. My dad just said, "Well, if you can do it, do it," so I tried it.

## What did it take to get to this point? How did you find a producer? Can you explain the process?

It took a lot of grit. You really have to believe in what you're doing and work your tail off to make it work. Being an original artist is much like a pastor called to start a church. You see a status quo, you believe you have been given something unique to offer, you surround yourself with like-minded people that both contribute (like elders, which is like your fellow players) and experience (like the congregation, which is like your audience).

I also firmly believe in having mentors. I had several great mentors throughout my career and drawing from their experience and listening to their wisdom was key. Without

that I would still be poor, or unemployed living in a van by the Cal Sag.

Producers are everywhere. They're a Facebook message away. But getting a producer, or being signed to a record label, or making several national TV appearances is not your "ticket out." You have to be willing to work at it harder than you've worked at anything, and that's when you'll find true success. That's also when it's the most fun.

## Does your music have any Christian aspects or in any way reflect your faith?

My music has a very prominent gospel sound. Growing up I went to hymn sings, Gaither concerts, and listened to a lot of black gospel music. Believer or not, one can't deny how much soul is in those sounds. By using that sound and drawing from those sources, I found I could add a depth to my music that was more transcendent. But I don't overthink it too much. It just tends to spill out.

How does your faith affect the way you work as a musician?

As a musician, you meet all types of folks, many of them ex-



Photo courtesy of lakeshorepublicmedia.org

*S. Joel Norman plays for "Midwest Beat Studio" at Lakeshore Radio in March of 2016.*

tremely colorful characters from colorful walks of life, and they have very colorful things to say. They have ideas that are definitely not discussed at Illiana. At first, I was closed to what they had to say, rarely actually listened, and cited my faith and my knowledge of both scripture and the dogmatic interpretations thereof to both wall myself in safely and perhaps influence my peers toward salvation.

I don't do that anymore. Christians claim to have the corner on ultimate Truth. If that truly is the case, then there's no reason I shouldn't listen to others' ideas and see how the faith stands up to them. A blind faith is a dangerous one, and I don't believe God wants ignorant or isolated followers. So now I listen to others, and educate myself, and my faith has changed

for the better because of it.

## What are some good memories you have from Illiana?

Mr. DeVries was one of the teachers who taught me how to channel energy and restrain myself because I was a bundle of energy and pretty out of control.

I also really enjoyed playing in band and singing in Chambers. Another thing I liked was being known as the traveling musician and singing to girls as a part of singing telegrams.

## What advice would you give to those students who are trying to pursue a career in music?

Work hard. There's no right way to do it, other than work hard. The songs you write or perform have got to be so important to you, people are compelled to listen. The first songs you write will likely not be great, so cut yourself some slack. But do it.



Photo courtesy of Joel Norman.

## TREND REPORT



Photo By Lauren Curtis

*Brianna Rogers and Jazmine Wallace use the flower filter to take a silly picture.*

# Snapchat filters make photos more fun

Lauren Curtis

Co-Arts Editor

Used by everyone from celebrities like Dj Khaled to the guy or girl next door, snapchat filters are the new trend sweeping the nation since 2011, young people have been using snapchat as a form of communication between friends. Recently snapchat has made some upgrades to its app to bump up

the fun for all users. Magazine articles, live event streaming, bitmojis (self emoji's), and the main attraction of the app - the filters. With these filters, people are able to spice up and their snaps. The flower crown and dog face filters are two of the most popular. You could be a bunny one minute then change the filter to become a beautiful princess the next. It's all up to you.



Photo by Lauren Curtis

*Editors Lauren Curtis and Kassidy Weemhoff use the flower headband filter.*



Photo by Lauren Curtis

*Morgan Lindemulder and Alexis Katsilieris smile with the flower filter.*

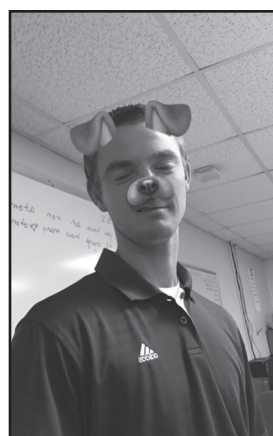


Photo by Lauren Curtis

*Teacher Mr. Haan takes a mean photo with the dog filter.*



Photo by Lauren Curtis

*Taylor Huizenga and Tori Terpstra make pouty faces together with the dog filter.*





Photo by John Fiene

The varsity cross country team takes a picture after finishing second at North Creek Meadows on September 17. From left to right: Maddie Holesinger; Zariah Cross, Juliana Knot, Gillian Fiene, Cate Peerbolte, Liz Van Drunen, Carla Lopez, Cambrie Van Roekel, Maddie DeYoung, Nascha Hladec.

# Young talent boosts girls XC

**Collette Bouwer**  
**Co-Editor in Chief**

With the help of young talent, girls’ cross country plans to go full sprint into the rest of the season. Everyone on the varsity team, made up of mostly underclassmen, ran between 200 and 300 miles this summer, helping the team get off to a strong start.

Right now, their biggest problem is the gap between the top five runners. Top

runner freshman Gillian Fiene said they are working on closing the gap between the first and fifth runners, and they are well on their way with many of the girls running their personal bests in recent races.

Despite the gap in times, the team is stronger than normal because all the girls came in already conditioned and ready for the season.

Coach Deb Top said, “We still have a pretty

young team, but the girls that have returned have really been much stronger this year...So that’s been nice. I could see [improvement] right away. A couple of the girls took minutes off their times from last year.”

Sophomore Cate Peerbolte also testified to the summer running. She said, “[Summer running] makes us stronger with endurance, and now we get to work on our speeds, and that will drop our times real quick.”

# Switch in conference division brings new challenges

**JP Peerbolte**  
**Co-Sports Editor**

This sports season the Metro Suburban Conference has two new divisions. The conference was previously divided into east and west divisions, but the east and west titles did not necessarily correlate with where a school was located.

The conference is now divided into blue and red divisions.

Athletic Director Darren DeBoer said the blue division is more competitive compared to the red division.

Illiana is in the blue division because of our stronger athletic programs. The blue division will provide stronger competition for our sports teams.

Tennis Coach Rob Lagerwey said his athletes can’t play as defensively because with stronger opponents “we have to bring the game to

them.”

“[Being in the new division] is nice for the junior varsity team; the larger schools we play have larger teams,” said Lagerwey. In previous years the JV team didn’t always get to play, because smaller schools had fewer players.

Even though long-time rivals Timothy and Chicago Christian are no longer in our conference division, we have an agreement still to compete with them.

# DeBoer takes over as Athletic Director

**Kendall Smith**  
**Reporter**

Social studies teacher Darren De Boer has recently taken over Mr. Davids’ previous position as the Boys Athletic Director for the school, allowing Davids to work as Vision Director for the school’s capital campaign.

Girls Athletics Director Deb Kamp works with DeBoer in his new role, and she said that he shows “good potential in leadership.”

Principal Peter Boonstra, wanting Davids freed up for the capital campaign, tagged DeBoer for the A.D. position because of DeBoer’s extensive work with athletic teams here and

elsewhere. Boonstra said the “timing was wonderful” for DeBoer to step in.

“The real reason I’m doing this is because I care about the student body,” DeBoer said. DeBoer hopes to stay in the position even when the new campus is built. But for now he said he is content with helping students whenever he can.

# Sports Briefs



# Boys Golf

**Hanna VanderWoude**  
**Photo Editor**

Illiana’s boys golf team has had an impeccable season so far. The team ended its match season with 13 wins and zero losses and ended division play with six wins and zero losses. The team started their post season with a conference tournament on Wednesday, September 28.

“[The team] has worked very hard and pulled together. I appreciate the leadership of the seniors,” said Coach

Jack Rudenga. He explained that the team is one of the top three favorites in its division and one of the top three teams in regionals.

Luke Hillegonds stayed in the #1 position throughout the season with the lowest average score of the team.. He said the team had been easy to lead, that they have been the most competitive and best teammates he has ever had.

Rudenga said, “It has been a great group of players to get to know and compete with. We have had a lot of fun.”

# Girls Tennis

**Jacob Thompson**  
**Co-Sports Editor**

Girls tennis is off to a solid start with a record of 6-5 overall. Led by seniors Jensen McGuire and Collette Bouwer the team is looking to finish the season strong. Freshman Lizzie Knot and Lily

Olthof are solid contributors to the team as well.

“The girls have really stepped up this year,” senior Jensen McGuire says. “Everyone needed to play big because of the loss of some really good seniors. The young girls did. We also have bonded really well as the season went on.”

# Girls Volleyball

**Luke Hillegonds**  
**Co-Sports Editor**

The varsity volleyball team has an overall record of 10-12 and a conference record of 3-3. According to senior Maddie Maatman, their record doesn’t show how close they have been several times. She added, “Our record is fine. We are in a bigger conference which

makes things more difficult. And we are pretty close to beating some big schools.”

Assistant Coach Heather Byma said, “It took a while for our team to believe in themselves because we were used to having one big stud. Without one stud, we are so equally balanced that it keeps other opponents on their toes because any girl can be trusted to finish a crucial play.”





Photo by Dave Gibson

Kyle Mulderink races around the turn at the Illiana home invite on September 17.

# Despite losing leaders, boys XC runs strong

Juliana Knot

Co-Editor in Chief

After the loss of its one and two runners, Colin DeYoung and Nick Wondaal, the Illiana boys cross country team is looking to rebuild. According to Coach Jim Piaskowy, the bigger loss is not the fast times that the two alumni ran but rather the leadership they provided. Sophomore Alex Wondaal echoed the statement and said, “It’s tough to replace their leadership, but the seniors have stepped up, especially Ryan Koontz. He ran a lot of mileage over the summer and orga-

nizes stuff for the team to do.” Senior Ryan Koontz said that he and the other seniors, Jacob Thompson and JP Peerbolte worked to be the leaders that last year’s seniors were. That leadership shows itself in working harder during practice. Junior Austin Ohm said, “Everyone has to work harder. Last year we put in full effort, but Nick and Colin gave us first and second place victories that we could fall back on.” Junior Derek Van Proyen added, “We have to fill the void they left and grind it out.” In addition to the loss of DeYoung and Wondaal, several other factors hurt the team’s chances at qualifying for state. The four Lincoln-Way public high schools are now merged into three high schools. Previously, Illiana faced only one of them. Now they face two of the Lincoln-Ways, both having very strong teams. Illiana is now ranked lower in sectionals then in the past couple of years. Piaskowy said, “Last year we had about a 70% chance of making it to state. This year we have about 50% chance.” Despite the worse odds, Piaskowy remains optimistic for the team. “I think we’re up for it,” he said. “We always run well when the chips are down.”

# New soccer coach rekindles passion for game

Riley Goodwin

Co-News Editor

Coach Chip Bevan has returned to Illiana to help rebuild the boys soccer program. While Bevan may be new to the boys, he is a familiar face at school where he has also coached the girls soccer team for a number of years in the past. “It was a God’s plan,” said Bevan. “Three years ago I had to stop coaching because my job had become too time-consuming. I retired from my regular job January 1st, and three weeks later Mr. Turkstra called me

looking for a soccer coach.” “He’s a great coach for many reasons, one being he is always willing to try new things when old things don’t work,” said junior Jesse Hoekstra. “He focuses on building his team’s morale and heart.” As a coach, Bevan focuses on the team giving its best shot and putting forth as much effort as possible. His main goal this season is to win a regional title and to continue to go as far as the team can in the state tournament. “He is harder than any other coach I’ve had. He is teaching us more than soccer; he’s teaching us about life,” said junior Jason Schutt. Senior Juliana Knot played for one of Bevan’s team last year. She recalled him as a passionate and disciplined coach. “He’s good at being serious,” Knot said. “Before he coached our girls, we had a lot of players who were apathetic, but the next season, he sat us down and said, ‘Hey, this is serious. You’ve got to care.’” Knot added, “He changed our training, he improved discipline, and he gave us back a midfield. We played a very complete game under him.” Bevan hopes to bring that same type of improvement to the boys program.

With head injuries on the rise, coaches and athletes are. . .

# Following protocol

Haleigh Olthof

Reporter

From NFL football to Little League baseball, coaches and players have become more aware of the dangers of head injuries to athletes. The same is true here. Concussion protocol for Illiana athletes has been critical in treatment of several head injuries over the past year, said Melissa Vargas, Illiana’s athletics trainer from Athleticco. At least twelve Illiana students have suffered concussions in the last year, said Vargas. These students were involved in many activities, including basketball, soccer, wrestling, cheerleading, drama productions, and gym class. Vargas’s first response to a potential concussion is to have a student go through a checklist of twenty common symptoms and rank severity on a scale of 1-6. Vargas then administers a Standardized Concussion Assessment Test (SCAT), which measures symptoms, orientation, memorization, concentration, balance, and delayed recall. The final test is digital. In order to participate in sports, athletes are required to take a 30-45 minute computerized impact baseline test, which analyzes the brain in several areas. After a concussion, the student retakes the test, and the comparison of the results gives a more accurate evaluation of brain activity than a subjective test like the SCAT. Said Vargas, “The test is kind of foolproof... There’s no way to fake your symptoms or fake not having symptoms.”

A doctor prescribes restrictions concerning the classroom. These restrictions and those pertaining to athletics make up the school’s return-to-learn and return-to-play policies, which are state mandated, according to Deb Kamp, Illiana’s Girls Athletic Director. Some students, like junior Beth Boonstra, have suffered more than one concussion. She tolerated a mild concussion during gym class and a severe concussion in a soccer game, both during her freshman year. She recalled questioning about her symptoms and the date. “I said it was March when it was April. I was pretty out of it,” laughed Boonstra. Her personal doctor diagnosed her with a major concussion. When she released Boonstra to play, Vargas eased her back into soccer using daily exercises. For some students, like senior Jessica De Young, the situation isn’t as straightforward. She received her concussion while skiing over a weekend and didn’t recognize the injury until she returned to cheerleading. Since the season was almost over, she took only the physical SCAT, not the computer baseline test.

## Male Athlete of the Month

Junior Josh Smits loves playing forward for Illiana’s Varsity team. “Forward is the best position,” says Smits, “Everyone is working for you to get the ball and score.” He currently has 10 goals and is the lead scorer on the team. Josh has been playing since he was very young in the Homewood Flossmoor Rec league, and has always enjoyed playing soccer. Smits said the team has come together with the help of new coach Chip Bevan. “Great group of guys to play with,” Smits says, “I’m excited to see where the program is going to go in years to come.”



## Female Athlete of the Month

Senior Jensen McGuire has been playing tennis since she was in 4th grade and has always been very passionate about it. She carried this passion into high school where she and her doubles partner Collette Bouwer have been very successful becoming conference champions 2 years in a row and qualifying down state her junior year. McGuire goes into detail about how much tennis has had an influence on her high school career and years saying, “it’s the different people and the teams and the bonding that has really made tennis fun for me. Winning was always fun and going to state was unforgettable but just bonding and making memories is what will stick with me for years to come.”





# Editorial

## Money talks; Illiana students shouldn't listen

At Illiana, some families have money, and some families do not. Nothing is shameful about having money. Nothing is shameful about not having it. There is something shameful, however, when the "haves" show insensitivity toward the "have nots."

They don't bully or ridicule the poor. They just seem ignorant that people exist— yes, people in this very building— who have less money than they do.

For someone whose parents are making a decent salary, both homecoming and banquet are stress-free. Wealthier students argue about details like "Should we go to the Cheesecake Factory or the Lighthouse?" They fail to imagine the pressure their friend with a limited income faces as friends advocate for a fancy dinner, brand new dresses, and renting a limo. For the rest of the group, all of those things may be no problem. For some, it is a burden they can't shoulder.

Or how about athletics? If team captains expect the team to buy a Dri-fit long sleeve, Nike sweatpants, and a t-shirt, costs can easily go over a hundred dollars. That doesn't even factor in coach gifts, daily runs for fast food, and travelling costs. It gets expensive, and athletes feel forced to pay up or feel left out. The team keeps stacking on costs as if everybody's pockets have no bottom. They

don't realize that some of their teammates can't afford half of the gear costs, let alone the full price.

The common thread running through both of these scenarios is that both the team and the homecoming group are blinded by the privilege that comes with their wealth. They think, "I can afford it, so everyone else must be able to as well."

This privilege not only blinds

**"In a culture that values people based on their annual paycheck, we should create an environment that values people for the uniquely gifted image bearers they are."**

people during sports and dances, but also in everyday conversation.

"Your Android keeps messing up the group chats. Why don't you just buy an iPhone?"

*It took me three months of work to save for my current phone and plan. How am I supposed to afford an iPhone just like that?"*

"Why aren't you going on class trip?"

*My family doesn't have \$590 lying around. My parents are al-*

*ready paying for tuition; they can't possibly cover this too.*

"You have a car. Why don't you just drive there?"

*That's my family's only car; and my parents are using it tonight. I also have to cover gas whenever I drive it, and gas prices just shot up.*

"It's a Saturday night. Give your self a break. Why are you always working?"

*College is next year already.*

to come out of these conversations. It just isolates the poorer person more and more.

Knowing this, can Illiana's "haves" become more sensitive and compassionate to the needs of others? The answer doesn't lie in the rich becoming hobos or hating themselves for their money.

Instead, students should first look at themselves honestly. Has God blessed you or your family with money? If yes, then acknowledge that not everyone can say yes to that same question. After acknowledging the privilege that comes with the blessing of wealth, be sensitive. Don't flaunt it in attitude or dress. The money is God's; honor him with how you use it. Not only does this show respect to the Lord, it also destroys the atmosphere of one-upping or keeping up with the Jones's.

Also, be sensitive in speech. Think before you speak. If you know that you have more than others, don't talk as if everyone's parents also make six figures. Don't place your expectations of wealth on someone else.

If Christians are to stand out from the world noticeably, this is one way they can do it. In a culture that values people based on their annual paycheck, we should create an environment that values people for the uniquely gifted image bearers they are. We can then create a true fellowship of believers.

## Turning my transfer trauma into help for others

What the world am I doing here," I thought as I walked into Crown Point Christian School in the 7th grade, for the first time.

I wore bermuda shorts and a fitted, plain, orange shirt, and I pulled my hair back into a messy bun. I didn't want to attract any attention. It was my first day at Crown Point Christian School, and my stomach held the entire butterfly exhibit from Brookfield Zoo inside it. Nevertheless I took a deep breath and walked under the long awning to the front doors of the school.



Collette Bouwer  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

A blast of cold air and unfamiliar faces greeted me. I briskly walked to my locker, shoved my stuff into it in the quietest way possible and then just kind of stood there. As I stood against the cold, purple and yellow lockers, I watched everyone else talk to their friends about their summers. I saw right across the hall a group of girls being typical middle school girls bouncing around and laughing in unison. And I stood there alone. I started mentally to prepare for a horrible day. That's when a girl with a wide smile and two dark brown pig tails came up to me and asked my name, my schedule, and what school I came from.

That girl, Emily, turned my whole day around. She latched on to me, and I latched onto her. I still ended up crying in the middle of that first day after going to the wrong class, but Emily prevented me from spending all of that first day in the bathroom wiping my eyes.

Emily introduced me to her friends. They took me trick-or-treating with them, and we all dressed up in old prom dresses. One made me a blue ornament with my name spelled out in glitter for Christmas. They invited me to sleepovers, and they always talked to me at break.

That first day, Emily took a risk. She had no idea who I was or what I was like. She didn't know yet that I still bit my nails and was afraid of the dark. She didn't know what baggage I had or what baggage I was going to get. She showed me love anyways. She spent all of that day by my side and became friends with the new girl.

Eventually, we grew out of our friendship, but when I look back at it, I'm still extremely thankful for Emily and those girls. Their kindness is tucked away in the back of my mind, revisited when I see old pictures. Then this year, after I met a senior transfer student, I looked at the board hanging across from the office, and I thought of what Emily did for me. I thought of little Collette entering a new school with her head down to avoid the unfamiliar faces and what it felt like looking at everyone else who already had their friends. And I thought of Emily bouncing up to my locker and pulling me along right next to her for those first few months.

I want to be Emily to other people. I want to latch onto people like she latched onto me, but, goodness, it is hard. When I try to be like Emily, I can never fully do it. It's hard to drop everything else and fully devote myself to a person I don't know. So, for a while, since I couldn't do it perfectly, I didn't even try. Now, I'm trying to be like Emily in the little things I do. I want to be the new kids' friends. I smile at them in the halls, and tell them to come over at break. I want them to feel wanted. I ask them where they came from and if they play any sports. I don't want people to go unnoticed the way I tried to go. I want to latch onto them, and I want everyone else to latch on to them too.

Because if everyone is a little like Emily, no new student will ever feel lonely.

## Pray for Abby



Photo courtesy of Will Neibert

Senior Abby Neibert was recently diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer. If you would like to follow her treatment, the link below will bring you to her blog. Please pray for her and her family as they go through this difficult journey.

<https://abbysyellowribbon.wordpress.com/>

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

### the Echo)))

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