



# Fine Arts anthology lives on...line

Rachel Bultema

Reporter

The shutdown of Illiana's campus for the rest of the academic school year brought about the loss of many springtime events including the annual Fine Arts Festival. Students, instead of submitting works and performances to be critiqued for judges, have submitted works to fine arts sponsor Mr. Jim Kamphuis so that he and co-sponsor Mr. Jeff DeVries can put together a digital Varia.

The Varia, a print anthology of fine arts entries, has gone digital. Doing so allows student artwork to be shared with the whole community even though we are apart. It also eliminates any limit on the number of entries in the Varia as, ordinarily, not every students' entry would make it into print. This year, however, all 166 submissions will be included. The digital ver-



Photo by Sydney DeVries

*The Fine Arts Committee, who contacted judges and created plans that were cancelled, remains in high spirits.*

sion will also include hyperlinks to recorded voice and instrumental performances.

Kamphuis said he expected a decrease in performance categories, but the virtual Varia has proven to be an opportunity

for students to get creative with performances as seen in students finding a way to use various apps as means to record and share performances.

As exciting as the new opportunity is, it doesn't come

without obstacles. Many students have faced new difficulties pulling material together for the digital Varia, and they have faced disappointment with losing the traditional Fine Arts Festival.

Senior Matthew Huizenga

said, "I am disappointed that we couldn't have a traditional festival, but I believe that this is a great alternative all things considered."

The co-sponsors for Fine Arts see this digital Varia as a sort of experiment. DeVries said, "The circumstances this year have allowed us to try something new, and that always presents possibilities. I think if the digital Varia finds an audience, we may want to go that way even more in the future. Perhaps we could record live performances from the recital and include them as part of the Varia."

Though students are disappointed about not having a physical version of the Varia, many of them are looking forward to seeing it online. As senior Sydney DeVries said, "It's kind of like seeing the pointillism painting 'A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte'; it's cool to see online, but more impressive to see in person."



Photo courtesy of Illiana's Facebook Page

*Illiana alumna Haleigh Olthof helps lead Spanish Immersion camp.*

## Plans to continue Viking Academy put in place

Adam Gibson

Reporter

Viking Academy, Illiana's one-year-old summer camp programs for elementary school-aged children, is scheduled to run from July 13 through July 31, but

those plans are still subject to change under directives from Illiana's leadership and/or restrictions put in place by the State of Indiana, according to co-directors of Viking Academy Jenna Dutton and Cassie Siersema.

The spread of COVID 19

has awakened concerns for health and safety of staff and campers, but the school custodial staff has worked hard to make the campus safe. They have sanitized the entire building, and during Viking Academy's run every room and piece of equipment will be sanitized. Camp leaders will also be trained to be mindful of wearing masks and social distancing.

Illiana custodian Duane Kamstra said they are using nontoxic sanitizers and will continue to clean during the summer if the camps occur. Furthermore, each classroom will have accessible hand sanitizer and every surface will be cleaned according to government standards.

According to Siersema, certain options from Viking Academy, such as Chicago Experience, must check with government rules and other leadership to see if running the camp is safe and if attractions like zoos and museums are still open. Other camps hosted at Illiana, however, should still work perfectly, said Siersema.

Dutton said a refund option will be available to families that have signed up already but now opt to keep their kids home.

Dutton, however, added, "We hope that kids can come and enjoy the summer as they've been stuck inside for the last couple months."

## End of year events to occur unconventionally

Olivia DeYoung

Reporter

An unusual end to the 2019-2020 school year has sparked debate about the best way to hold the annual awards assembly and send off Illiana's graduating class of 2020.

This year the annual awards assembly will take place over four days starting on May 26. Illiana will break the assembly into four parts: department awards, athletic awards, senior and memorial awards, and scholarships. Student activity awards will appear in a graphic posted later. Illiana plans to post the assembly on Instagram, Facebook, and Youtube.

On May 7 Principal Peter Boonstra emailed a survey to the parents of Illiana seniors with three options for graduation that the education committee and Boonstra created.

Option one is to cancel graduation entirely. Illiana would send home caps and gowns, diplomas, and a congratulatory letter. Parents would be refunded the \$25 graduation fee.

Option two is to hold an online ceremony. It would be pre-recorded and likely posted at the original graduation time on June 5. Many aspects of a traditional graduation, including

a keynote speaker and student speakers, would be part of the video.

The last option is to hold the service on July 31. Graduation would take place in Illiana's main gym, and it would look similar to previous graduations. Illiana would still adhere to social distancing guidelines, taking precautions such as limiting attendance.

Principal Peter Boonstra said the third option is his preference because "that would be more meaningful."

As of May 12, the parent survey results overwhelmingly favor an in-person graduation.

Senior Tavares VanKuiken said he wants an in-person graduation because it "gives all of the seniors a chance to say their goodbyes to everyone."

Senior Anna Lenting agreed with VanKuiken.

Lenting said, "For some students, the graduation ceremony is the last time they will see their classmates before going to college, so it is important that Illiana students have this opportunity to spend one last evening with their class."

Boonstra said, "I regret that we won't have as much tradition, but I'm hopeful that we can still make it a good and meaningful graduation."



# Give control to God

Even though this school year isn't ending like any of us thought it would, it's still coming to an end, and with that comes change for us all. For some, it's entering another year of high school with harder classes, more homework, but also the opportunity to hang out with friends at dances, games, and practices. For others, it's going to college or getting a full time job.



**Lauren Woo**  
News and Arts Editor

No matter what, the future can be intimidating. I like to think I have everything planned out, but if this year has taught me anything, it's that I really don't have control over the future. None of us do.

This can be incredibly difficult to accept. Recently I have been struggling immensely because I want to have control. I want to have a plan. Especially while approaching college and thinking about my career and life after, I want to be able to ensure I do well in school and get a good job the minute I graduate. And this desire for control isn't just limited to huge things like my career. It comes into play just thinking about plans for this summer, or even what I want to eat for dinner. And these small things that seem the easiest to control, like wanting to go to Dunkin' before work, can be the easiest example of our lack of control. I can't help it if there's a traffic jam and don't have time to stop for coffee anymore.

Living like we can be certain of any of our plans can be very unhealthy. It makes us unhappy, disappointed, or frustrated when things aren't going our way.

Although it may be tricky, especially in a time when unexpected events are happening all the time, we have to try and relinquish our false sense of control. We aren't, after all, the ones with control, God is. And while we may not like being powerless, God having the power can actually be incredibly comforting.

Even when things aren't going how we wanted or expected, we know that God is still very much in control. As it says in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." God makes that promise to a people trapped in captivity in Babylon. I'm guessing that their plans were probably different from God's. But God had not forgotten them, and he promised that all their hardships, even their captivity in Babylon, were part of a plan to do well to them. God's plans may be mysterious, but they operate out of love.

That doesn't mean quit preparing because God will find a way for you to get into the college of your dreams, or quit trying because God will make sure you get the lead in the musical. Rather, if you're doing your best in all you do, you can have comfort in the fact that, no matter what happens, God still has a plan for you. As Proverbs 13:6a says, "Wise people think before they act; fools don't." Make preparation for the future, but have hope that when things aren't going as expected because God still has everything under control.

So as we come to the end of another school year and we look into the future, let's try not to stress about things over which we have no control. Let's not waste each day worrying about everything that could go wrong the next day. Matthew 6:34 says, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Instead be confident in God's plan and purpose for your life, and that he has it all worked out, no matter how chaotic things seem to get.



Photos courtesy of Jenna Dutton

## Video montages honor seniors, staff, grandparents

*Marketing Director Jenna Dutton produced three videos to brighten the lives of the Illiana community.*

**Valentina Lopez**  
Reporter

Director of Marketing and Events, Jenna Dutton, wanted to keep "the whole [Illiana] community's spirits up," when she decided near the end of April to make and release on social media a series of videos to honor the seniors, the staff, and students' grandparents.

The idea for the seniors video was driven by the desire of wanting to give those

students some encouragement.

"By having the teachers send the seniors messages," Dutton said, "my hope was that the Seniors would be encouraged and know we are still thinking of them."

And it seems that it worked.

"I loved every second of it," said senior Josh Payne. "I would just want to thank all the teachers for their unconditional love and

support."

Similarly, the "Thank you to Teachers" video was inspired by how much the teachers miss their students.

Dutton explained, "I thought it would be a good idea to show some love to our teachers by having the students thank them and show some support."

According to Dutton, people have generally responded positively to the videos.

School counselor Mel-

anie Benes said that the "Thank you to Teachers" video put a smile on her face. "It made me realize how much I miss the students. They have such a big impact on my life, so seeing them helped motivate me to keep pushing forward and reminded me of why I'm doing what I'm doing."

"It was nice to get emails from grandparents saying how much they loved watching [the grandparents video]."

We can expect at least one more of these videos coming from the seniors in May, Dutton said.

## Ways to care for spiritual health while churches are closed

**Jessica Bergfors**  
Reporter

Caring for yourself spiritually can be difficult and different during this time. Churches are closed and the daily devotions aren't read to students by their homeroom teacher. Still, many ways exist to strengthen one's faith right now.

Lance Davids, Director of Spiritual Development, said on some levels it

is easier to care for yourself spiritually. You have more time to read, pray, study and journal. Churches are also live-streaming, so people can watch many different services.

"The biggest thing is you have to value it," said Davids. "If you don't value your spiritual life, you are never going to commit to growing."

Davids recommends keeping a schedule and

mixing up what you do. One day listen to Christian music, the next day journal, and the next listen to a sermon. Mixing up what you do will keep everything fresh and new, he said.

Mark Dykstra, Illiana Bible teacher, is still gathering with his family for virtual church every Sunday. He has also been reading everyday books and authors that have inspired

him. Dykstra suggests digging into homework as a devotional practice that will help students find their place and serve within God's world.

Illiana Bible teacher Mary Lagerwey said, "Do the spiritual disciplines that will make you more of a disciple. Strengthen your faith muscles by using them even when the resistance seems stronger than the growth."



# Ways to improve productivity during stay-at-home order

Liz Aje  
Reporter

E-learning, though around for over a decade in some form, is a new phenomena to many students and teachers, and for some students it can be overwhelming opening their Chromebooks and seeing the assignments they need to complete.

But don't fret. With a little help, students who are struggling to be productive can get themselves organized and stay on top of their homework. Mrs. Rachel DeVries, who works in our Student Services, suggests that students look at Google Classroom and write down all their assignments for the day on a

notepad so they can make a plan. "Sometimes seeing it on paper rather than all over the Google Classroom boxes makes it easier to focus," DeVries said. "It's also really rewarding to scratch off when something is 'done!'" Sometimes students find the amount of homework feels overwhelming or they feel

frustrated that they are not understanding the material. English teacher Mrs. Kristy Medema suggests taking a walk to regroup. "On stressful days, I take many walks around the block with my dog; it helps me get back to work," said Medema. It can also be helpful to see how other students are managing their time. Sopho-

more Katherine VanDrunen said she tries to start her homework by 11:00 a.m and finish before dinner. VanDrunen said, "Having a set place where you do your work is helpful to stay on task and stay focused. I also try to work ahead when I can so I can have lighter work days later in the week." said VanDrunen.

# International students share unique struggles of quarantine

Kylee Cruz  
Reporter

When Illiana abruptly shut down Friday, March 13, because of the coronavirus pandemic, students returned home. While the pandemic has inconvenienced traditional students, it has left a handful of international students who left their home countries to study in the United States scrambling and confused. Foreign exchange students here at Illiana are trying to find strength during this difficult time during the COVID-19 pandemic. As foreign exchange students stay in their host families home, this pandemic has made it difficult for them to travel home over the next few months. Senior Eddie Huang, who

comes from China, said, "I have been talking to my mom more often because she is a little worried." Huang added, "The only change is that even if I am able to go back to China, I will have to be quarantined in a different city for 14 days." Huang said he booked a flight in May but it got cancelled. He is trying to book another one now. Sophomore Tony Jin said, "So the pandemic did change my plans. I planned to go home this summer, but I won't go home now." Jin said when COVID-19 first hit his home country of China, he and his parents were worried. Jin added, "There should be a way to go home, but it may be hard to come back to

America [if I go]. It's hard being separated from family but the only thing I can do now is stay safe. I still keep contact with my family. I call them more often nowadays to make sure they are safe." Freshman Kevin Truong, a native of Vietnam, said, "I'm starting to be more worried about myself now since my country is reopening its activities, and things in the US do not seem to [be getting] better." Students like Jin, Truong, and Huang are experiencing the same anxiety as ordinary high school students, but they are having to navigate the difficulties while their families are half a world away. Truong added, "I need my family the most during times like this to find comforts, but I [am not with them]."



Photo courtesy of wfi.com  
Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb, pictured Mar. 19 announcing K-12 school closures until May.

# Administration decides to end instruction early

Olivia Oostema  
Reporter

Principal Peter Boonstra said Illiana will conclude the academic year early, on May 22, out of the desire to "finish strong." From difficulties with administering exams remotely to estimates of student and teacher endurance with eLearning, many factors contributed to the decision. The resolution was made by Boonstra with input from the Education Committee and recommendations from faculty. Illiana was able to end early because of a waiver issued to Indiana schools by Governor Eric Holcomb. The 20-day waiver reduced the number of required in-

struction days to 160. Several days cut from Illiana's calendar included Go Day, Grandparents Day, and a review day before exams, so instructional time wasn't lost by their removal. Teachers have continued challenging students with meaningful learning and students have gotten "a fair amount of learning done," said Boonstra. However, he added, they were restrained from finishing the fourth quarter with the impact intended because learning from home "simply is not as rich and full as learning in class." Students have the ability to catch up on unfinished assignments through May 29 when grades are finalized.



Photo courtesy of Illiana's Instagram Page  
Senior Eddie Huang poses with his host siblings, freshman Audrey and sophomore Trey Girolimon.



# Comments from the Class of 2020

## Answer key:



*PIP: Post-Illiana Plans*  
*SC: Secret Crush*  
*SIF: Senior Year*  
*in Five Words*



**Nate Bakker**  
**PIP:** Autobody Repair/Business Owner  
**SC:** Lexi Terpstra  
**SIF:** Swing and a miss.

**SIF:**  
**Courtney Collins**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

ness major, exercise science minor.  
**SC:** Taylor Olthof  
**SIF:** Blowoff, disappointing, YMCA, money, Veloster

**Taylor Benes**  
**PIP:** Attend Purdue University for English Education and Film and Video Studies.  
**SC:** Ben Wheeler  
**SIF:** Thanks, worldwide pandemic. Very cool!

**Andrew DeBoer**  
**PIP:** Go straight into working at F&M Transfer as a diesel mechanic and semi driver.  
**SC:** Audrey Yonkman  
**SIF:** But wait... there's no more

**Anna Delahunty**  
**PIP:** College for chem, become a forensic chemist.  
**SC:** Matthew Smits, Seth Neumeyer  
**SIF:** Challenging, exciting, memorable, fun, unpredictable

**Rachel Bosman**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Jessica DeBoer**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Sarah Dennis**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Chiquerra Brown**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**

**Coy DeJong**  
**PIP:** TIU football, Busi-

**Jaden Denton**



**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**  
  
**Daniel DeRamus**  
**PIP:** To hopefully pursue a job in either sports management, or massage therapy.  
**SC:**  
**SIF:** Short, Eventful, Fun, Memorable, Stress-free

**SIF:**  
  
**Sydney DeVries**  
**PIP:** Going to Trinity Christian College to major in Nursing.  
**SC:** He doesn't even go here...  
**SIF:** Still amazing, despite the coronavirus.

**Cassidy Derks**  
**PIP:** Continue Studies at Purdue Northwest, studying Hospitality and Tourism Management.  
**SC:** Nick Boersma  
**SIF:** Crazy, Sad, Coronavirus took over

**Trent DeVries**  
**PIP:** Trades  
**SC:** Faith VanRyn  
**SIF:** Memorable, fun, corona, shortened, break

**Justin DeVries**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**

**Olivia DeYoung**  
**PIP:** Purdue University (West Lafayette)  
**SC:** Zeus the Drug Dog  
**SIF:** Good story with unexpected ending.

**Nicholas Dykema**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Luke Eenigenburg**  
**PIP:** College at PNW.  
**SC:** Kaylee Evers  
**SIF:** Coronavirus Coronavirus Coronavirus Coronavirus Coronavirus

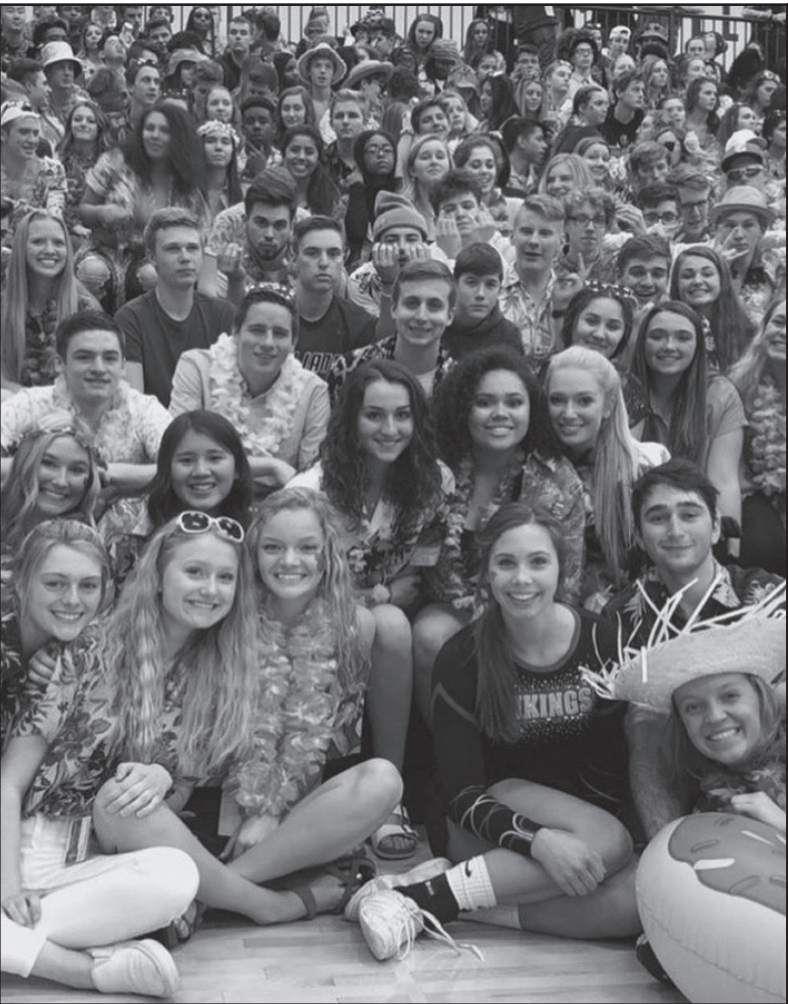
**Kaylee Evers**  
**PIP:** Olivet Nazarene University to play soccer.  
**SC:** Luke Eenigenburg  
**SIF:** Unexpected

**Logan Frederick**  
**PIP:** Joining US Navy in early 2021  
**SC:** Faith VanRyn  
**SIF:** Anyone have a Chrome-Book charger?

**Kennedy Gaddis**  
**PIP:** Nursing  
**SC:** Anthony Maurello  
**SIF:** Fun, short, memorable,







amazing, sad

**Jacob Gibson**  
**PIP:** Attend Indiana University  
**SC:** Faith VanRyn  
**SIF:** Short, fun, Coronavirus, Call of Duty, sleep

**Erica Gillespie**  
**PIP:** Going to Purdue Northwest & studying psychology  
**SC:** Simon Molenaar  
**SIF:** Not what I had expected.

**Justin Gladstone**  
**PIP:** Going into some kind of Trade School.  
**SC:**  
**SIF:** Different, unique, strange, crazy, sad

**David Gomez**  
**PIP:** I will be attending Depauw University where I will be majoring in nursing and I'll also be playing soccer.  
**SC:** Faith VanRyn  
**SIF:** Legendary, funny, eye-opening and sad

**Gabrielle Goodfellow**  
**PIP:** Studying nursing and Spanish at Bethel University in Mishawaka, IN.  
**SC:** Matthew Smits  
**SIF:** Crazy, different, incredible, fast, exciting

**David Haak**  
**PIP:** Working part time while studying computer science at Purdue Northwest.  
**SC:** Meghan Smit  
**SIF:** Was fun while it lasted.

**Ronald Hamilton**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Sherron Hamilton**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Christopher Hayslett**  
**PIP:** Go to college to be a Sports Analyst or Detective.  
**SC:** Sabri Lopez, Kaylynn Koontz  
**SIF:** Good while it lasted.

**Amanda Horner**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Eddie Huang**  
**PIP:** College  
**SC:** Anna Lenting  
**SIF:** Fast, fun, repetitive, easy, different

**Cody Huisenga**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Matthew Huizenga**  
**PIP:** Attending Trinity Christian College, majoring in accounting, and minoring in theatre.  
**SC:** Zeus the Police Dog  
**SIF:** No! Bring back the milk

**Jacob Ipema**  
**PIP:** Going to Dordt University to study Agri-business.  
**SC:** Audrey Yonkman  
**SIF:**

**Amber Jackson**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Lexi Katsilieris**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Brennen Kelly**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**James Klapak**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**



**Josiah Knoll**  
**PIP:** Going to and graduating college  
**SC:** Annalise  
**SIF:** Interesting, informative, salient, fun, unforgettable.

**Lizzie Knot**  
**PIP:** I plan on going to Calvin University to play tennis, and I will be studying German and accounting.  
**SC:** Matthew Smits, Greg Goodfellow, and Josh Vis  
**SIF:** Best class in Illiana history.

**Benjamin Kramer**  
**PIP:** To work.  
**SC:** Kaylee Evers  
**SIF:** Not quite what I expected.

**Tierza Leeson**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Anna Lenting**  
**PIP:** I am attending Purdue University Northwest to study elementary education.  
**SC:** Luke Haan  
**SIF:** Ended fast, but still fun!

**Aaron Lewis**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Gregory Leystra**  
**PIP:** Going into construction.

**SC:** Do I look like a person who has a secret crush?  
**SIF:** Coffee, Build, Fix, Coffee, coronacation

**Morgan Lindemulder**  
**PIP:** Going to Fox College to study Veterinary Technology.  
**SC:** Noah Boersma, Max Meter, Tim Schaaf  
**SIF:** An amazingly fun ruined adventure.

**Valentina Lopez**  
**PIP:** Attending Grand Valley State University and majoring in Advertising and Public Relations with a minor in communications or majoring in Social Work with a minor in Psychology.  
**SC:** Adam Gibson

**SIF:** The first 3/4 were great.

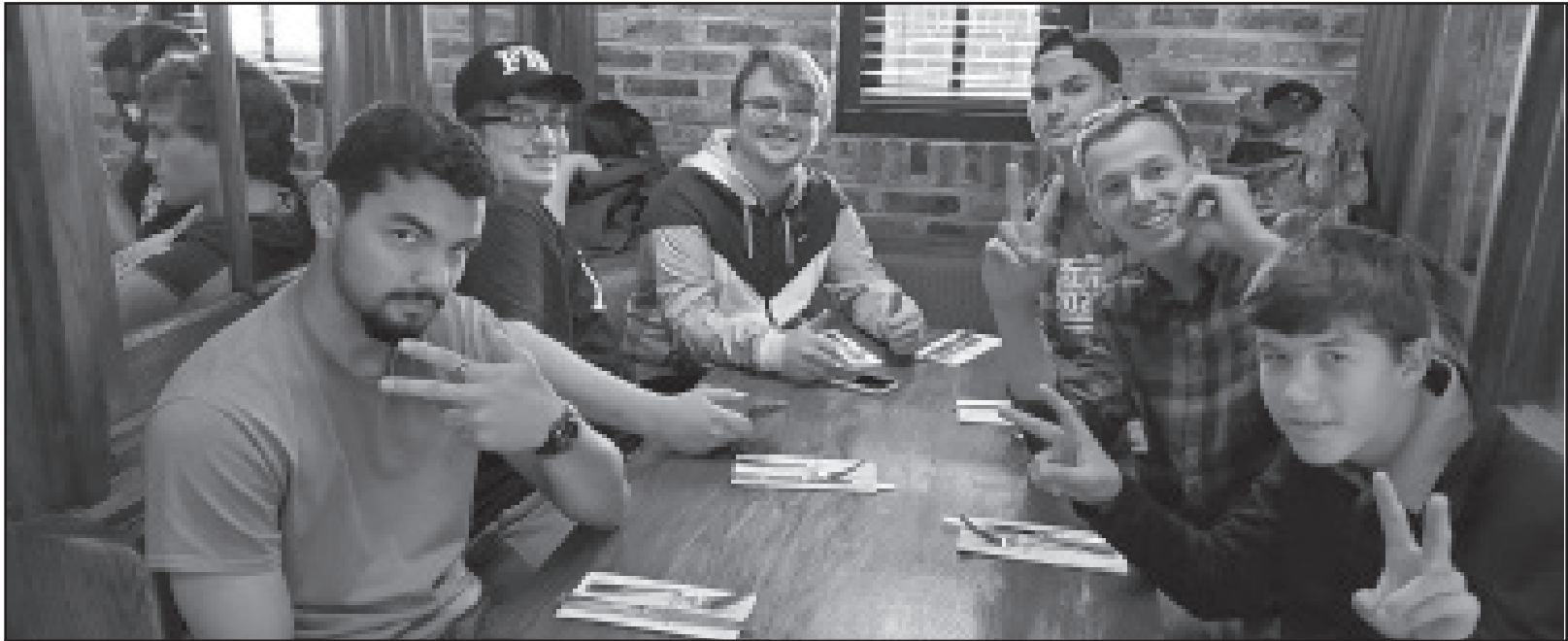
**Josh Matiscik**  
**PIP:** Attending college at Trinity Christian, majoring in Accounting, and playing men's soccer.  
**SC:** Abby Mejan  
**SIF:** Fun, Boring, LONG, blow-off, exciting

**Anthony Maurello**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Benjamin Meter**  
**PIP:** Going to college at Purdue Northwest to study finance  
**SC:**  
**SIF:** Something no other senior class has experienced before.







**Allison Meyer**  
**PIP:** Dordt University to study Animal Science Pre-Vet  
**SC:** Matthew Smits  
**SIF:** Fun, memorable, great, ended abruptly

**Madison Miller**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Katelyn Mulder**  
**PIP:** Go to college and study accounting.  
**SC:** Sammy Kooistra  
**SIF:** Crazy, senioritis, nostalgic, quarantine, procrastination



**Lance Mulderink**  
**PIP:** Study at Purdue.  
**SC:** Cameron Evers  
**SIF:** Totally a waste.

**Kristine Neumeyer**  
**PIP:** Attend Liberty University to major in nursing.  
**SC:** Ian VanBeek  
**SIF:** Risky, interesting, tiring, sentimental, friendship

**Felix Obialor Jr.**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Lily Olthof**  
**PIP:** Going to Hope Col-

lege to study Exercise Science/Kinesiology in hopes of going to grad school afterwards to be a Physical Therapist!  
**SC:** Cody DeJong  
**SIF:** Irrelevant - only need one word.

**Autumn Olthoff**  
**PIP:** I'm studying speech, language, and hearing sciences at Purdue University.  
**SC:** Mason Post  
**SIF:**

**Joshua Payne**  
**PIP:** College  
**SC:** Erica Gillespie  
**SIF:** Fast, Bittersweet, Best Time of high school.

**Grace Peterson**  
**PIP:** I plan on attending Valparaiso University to study Biology.  
**SC:** Eddie Huang  
**SIF:** Unforgettable, Christ-centered, Joyous, Insightful, Quarantine.

**Te’Nia Phillips**  
**PIP:** To go to college and major in business administra-

tion.  
**SC:** Eddie Spoelman  
**SIF:** Something that I won’t forget.

**Lucas Polmen**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Karina Rebb**  
**PIP:** I am attending Columbia College Chicago.  
**SC:** Timothée Chalamet and Eddie Spoelman  
**SIF:** Not the ending I expected

**Riley Rogan**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Kennedy Rogers**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Zach Rozendal**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Alex Sanchez**  
**PIP:** Go to college, play soc-

cer, graduate, and then move to LA.  
**SC:** Sabrina Lopez  
**SIF:** Monkey brains soccer Mexican beans

**Tim Schaaf**  
**PIP:** Trades  
**SC:** Faith VanRyn  
**SIF:** “I miss going to school”

**Brandon Schutt**  
**PIP:** Purdue University getting a degree in Law and Society.  
**SC:** Cameron Evers  
**SIF:** Wait, it is senior year?

**Meghan Smit**  
**PIP:** Going to Purdue Northwest.  
**SC:** Seth Neumeyer  
**SIF:** It was kind of short

**Eddie Spoelman**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Jake Staal**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Dante Sullivan**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

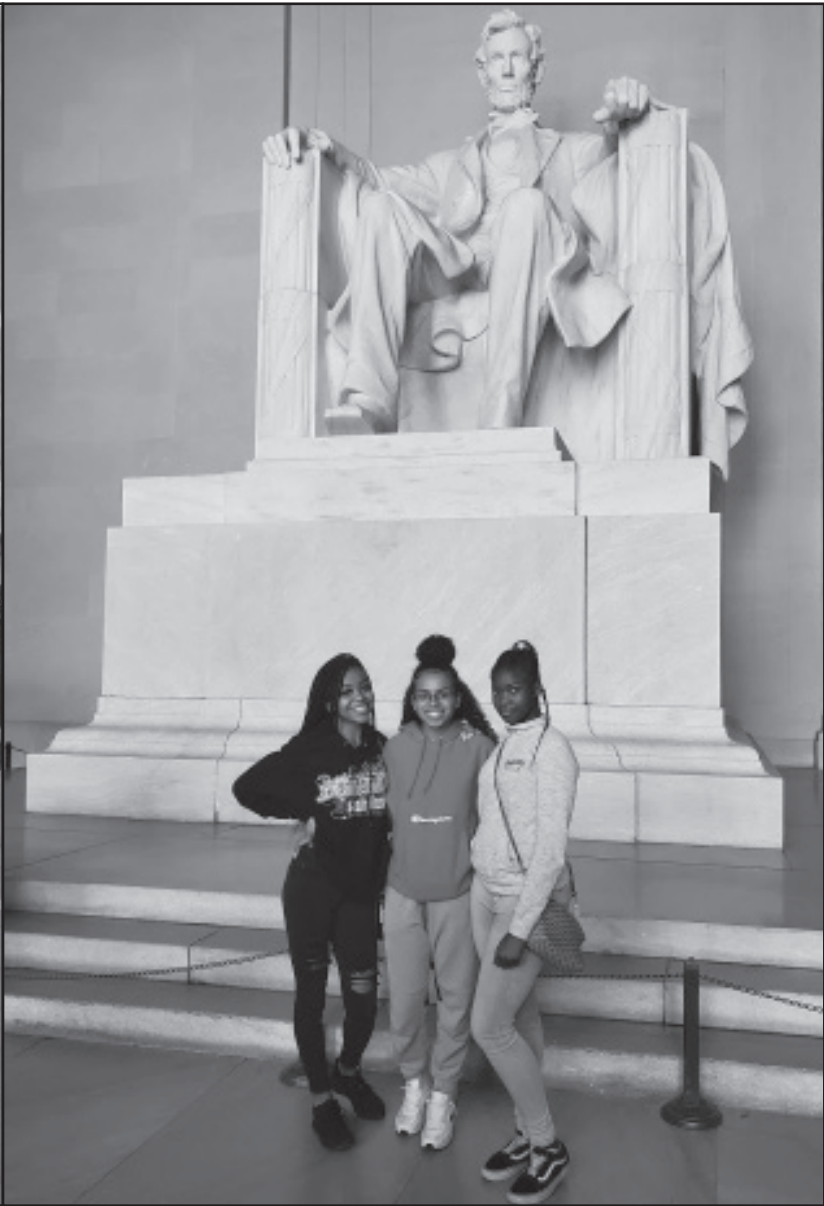
**Adam Swets**  
**PIP:**  
**SC:**  
**SIF:**

**Kayla Sylvester**  
**PIP:** Purdue University College of Pharmacy.  
**SC:** Ambrose Resa  
**SIF:** COVID-19 can eat my shorts.

**Aaron Taylor**  
**PIP:**







SC:

SIF:

Lexi Terpstra

PIP: I am going to Trinity Christian College, and I am going into the nursing program.

SC: Seth Neumeyer

SIF: Exciting, funny, memorable, awesome, disappointing

India Terrell

PIP: Move back to Alabama and start my internship at an adoption agency.

SC: Rome Flynn

SIF: Life changing but still fun.

Wendy Teune

PIP: Live long and prosper

SC: Pablo

SIF: Unpredictable, stressful, adventurous, quick, memorable

Caylynn Townes

PIP: Going to U of I

SC: Eddie Huang and Logan VanEssen

SIF: It is what it is.

Dominic Turkstra

PIP:

SC:

SIF:

Amara Ude

PIP:

SC:

SIF:

Camden VanBeek

PIP:

SC:

SIF:

Travis VanDrunen

PIP: College (PNW) for Civil Engineering

SC: Madison Ceponis

SIF: Corona caused this terrible mess

Matt VanEssen

PIP: Attend Purdue Northwest for Computer Engineering.

SC: Ava Lindemulder

SIF: Glad I lived through it.

Nick VanEssen

PIP: Attend Purdue Northwest for Computer Engineering

SC: Anna Holleman

SIF: Ended bad, not gonna lie.

Amber VanKalker

PIP: Taylor University- Major in business marketing and minor in communications.

SC:

SIF: What day is it today?

Tavares VanKuiken

PIP: College of DuPage or Purdue Northwest baseball and study nursing.

SC: Arden DeGraff

SIF: Amazing until quarantined or whatever.

John VanRyn

PIP: PNW BABYYY

SC: Maya Ganser

SIF: The last good class

Lucas Vazquez

PIP: I'm going to Covenant College in Georgia to become a mechanical engineer.

SC:

SIF: Chapel boy hoards toilet paper.

Angelina Verastegui

PIP: Attend Indiana University in Bloomington to study nursing.

SC: Eddie Huang

SIF: Was fun while it lasted.

Ethan Verhagen

PIP: To be a pilot.

SC: Faith VanRyn

SIF: Crazy, exciting, destroyed, wrecked forever.

Eason Wang

PIP: Go to Calvin University

SC: Echo members :)

SIF: Joyful, Playful, Unlucky, Sleepy, Unique

Max Wegner

PIP:

SC:

SIF:

Meg Wiersema

PIP: Paul Mitchell for Cosmetology

SC: Parker Schutt

SIF: Busy, sad, unexpected, interesting, chaotic.

Ryan Williams

PIP:

SC:

SIF:

Juanita Wilson

PIP: I'll be leaving for the U.S Navy July 7.

SC: Lowkey Ethan Verhagen was kinda cute.

SIF: First fun, now it's depressing

Jacob Winters

PIP:

SC:

SIF:

Andrew Witvoet

PIP:

SC:

SIF:

Lauren Woo

PIP: Go to Purdue for college then enter law enforcement.

SC: Nick Dykstra

SIF: Not a complete train wreck.

Riley Woodward

PIP:

SC:

SIF:

Cade Yonkman

PIP: Purdue Northwest.. ROAR PRIDE BABY

SC: Brenna Thompson

SIF: Cookout= Office x 5= Saturday School

Madeline Zandstra

PIP: Be somewhere else.

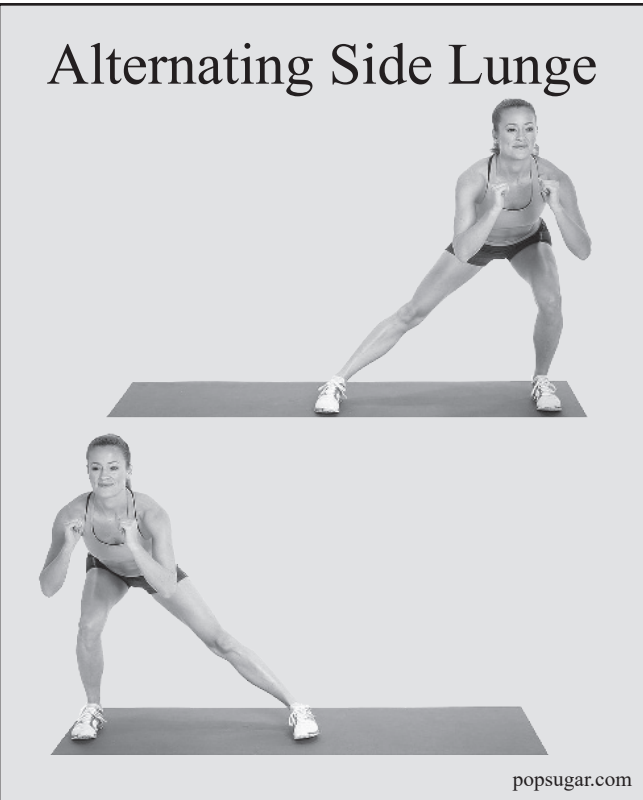
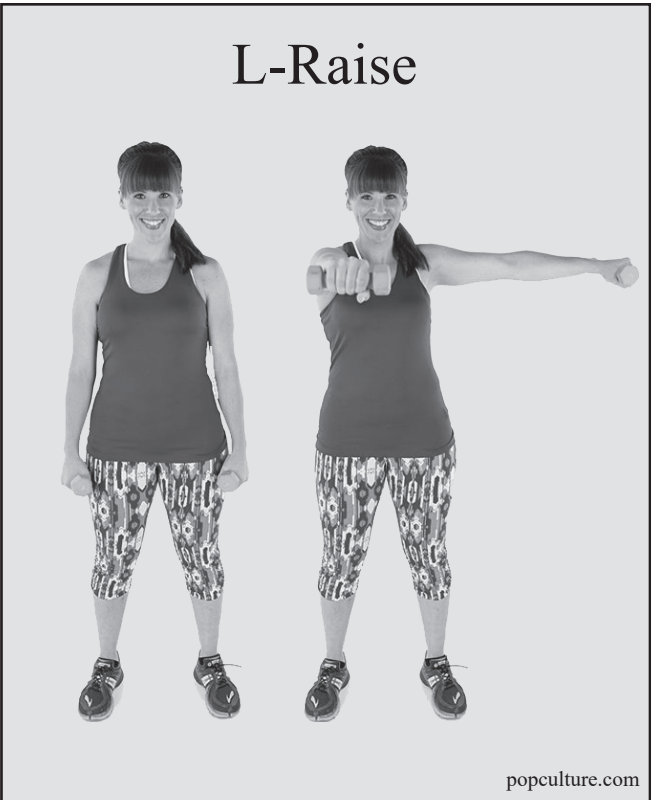
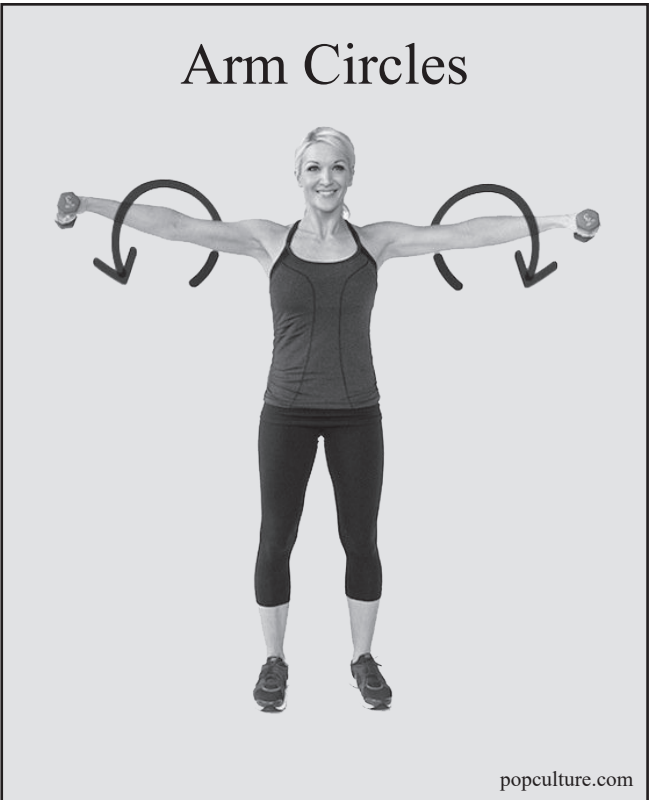
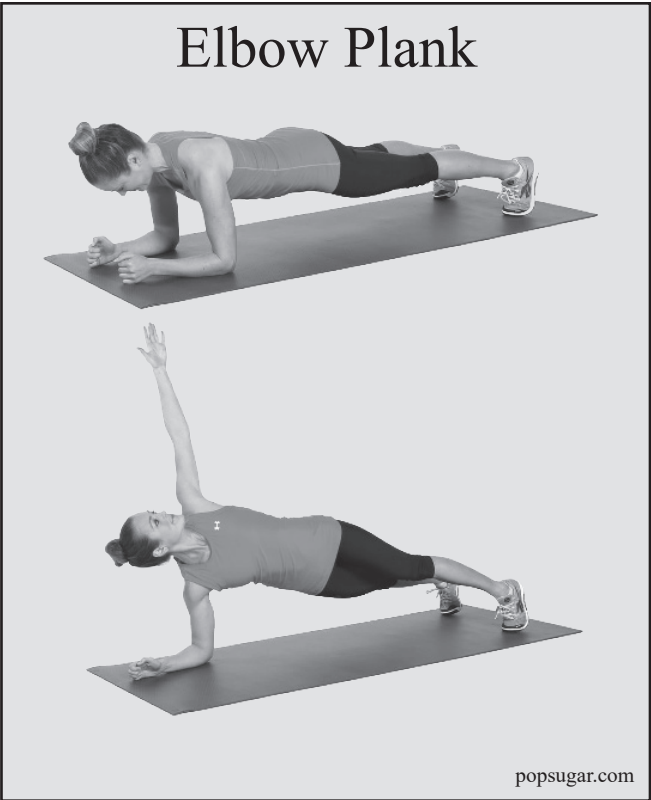
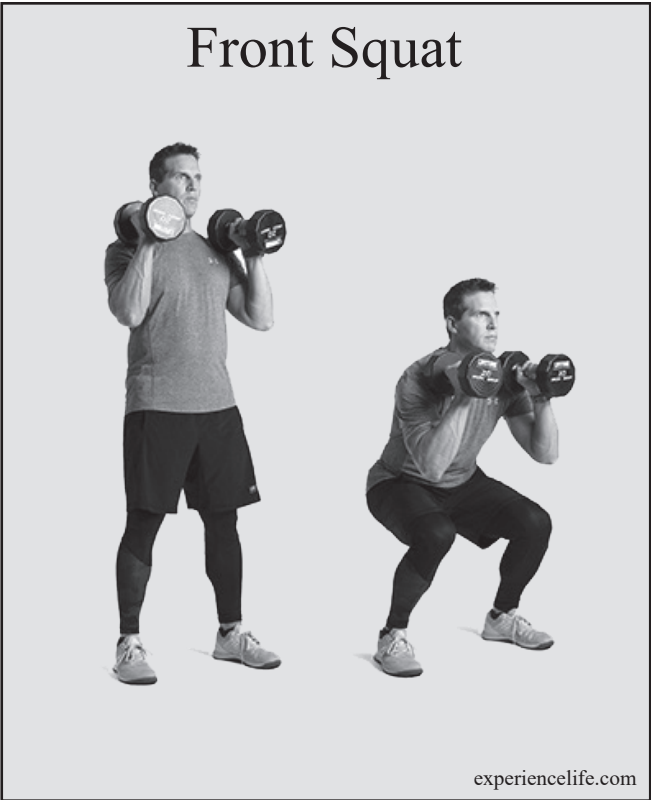
SC: You wouldn't know him. He's from Canada.

SIF: Yikes, wow, oh no, oops

# 5 exercises to stay in shape while staying home

Madie Ceponis  
Feature Editor

Sophia Thompson  
Sports Editor



## How spring athletes are staying fit

Madie Ceponis  
Feature Editor

Sophia Thompson  
Sports Editor

**Leighton Foster-** “I have been able to go to my church 4 times a week and get around 500 shots up a day and lifting weights daily. I have also been joining

Zoom calls with AAU four times a week where we work on ball handling and core work. Also some of the Illiana guys have been running a Zoom for the people in the program to get better.”  
**Kacie VanKalker-** “For softball I have been going to the fields when it’s nice out and just getting a few swings and playing catch. For volleyball I’ve been

taking private lessons and meeting with friends to practice.”  
**Anna Gouwens-** “I workout everyday to stay in shape, and I do a lot of hitting and fielding drills with my brother and dad.”  
**Jenna O’Brien-** “I’ve been working out, running, and doing cardio. I also have been hitting and pitching with my dad. I got the opportunity to play with a

couple of the baseball players to keep practicing.”  
**Maddy Rodgers-** “I play outside with my sister, but I also run and use a setter’s ball, which is just a weighted volleyball to keep practicing and keep my hands in condition.”  
**Leah Davids-** “Right now, I’m working out about 5 days a week. For cardio, I will either go

for a run if the weather is nice or I’ll watch a cardio video. Then I’ll focus on different muscles each day trying to build some strength and get toned.”  
**Natalie Scott-** “I have been running around my neighborhood everyday, as well as playing catch with my brothers and dad. I also have been doing the workouts I have been given for my gym class.”



# Editorial

## Be kind to incoming freshmen

The 2019-2020 school year is over, and after four years, the seniors are moving on to other plans. That means that there's a new group moving in: freshmen.

As the remaining three classes of Illiana Christian, you may be saying to yourselves, "Finally! We're moving up the ladder!" But don't fall into the trap that many classes of Illiana have fallen into: forgetting about the freshmen.

It's not a very welcoming approach to ignore these students. In fact, it's not a good approach at all. Why do we choose to be big, bad bullies as upperclassmen, rather than being kind and compassionate young adults? Even those who don't bully freshmen are often guilty of just ignoring them.

Think back to your first day stepping into Illiana's halls. You were entering a new school, and you weren't sure what to expect from your classes or your peers; you were in an unfamiliar building with teachers you had never had before. The senior boys sported beards, and the senior girls seemed to have no books, walking around with purses and not a care in the world. Many people were taller, more muscular, more developed than you. Going to

a new and bigger school was tough as it was, but seeing so many older students walking around was suffocating. It almost felt like we were moving among an alien species.

That odd mix of awe and alienation is what most high school freshmen have felt for as long as high schools have existed, so why not choose to be welcoming to

“...small acts of kindness enfold people into the Illiana community”

these students who haven't navigated the environment you are already accustomed to? Instead of being intimidating, be friendly.

If a student is struggling to carry her Honors Geometry book, Spanish 1 binder, and sheet music, lend her a hand. Directed at a freshman, that act of kindness may ease her anxiety and build her confidence. If you see a student who is spending time reading in the English commons, ask him if he might be interested in auditioning for the fall play. These small initiatives could change these students'

high school careers. That girl could go on to be Student Council President, and that boy could go on to be the lead in a spring musical.

At the very least, such small acts of kindness enfold people into the Illiana community. They let new students know that they are seen and that they matter.

Instead of being known as

love to everyone who walks through the halls because some of those students may never have seen it before.

For some of you, these freshmen could become classmates, teammates, and even friends. You must not immediately write them off just because they are younger than you; rather, take time to introduce yourselves and to be inclusive. Remember, you once stood in their shoes. The hardship you once faced of navigating a new place with new people has been passed down to this new group of students, and it is your duty as upperclassmen and as followers of Christ to be welcoming and kind.

You've probably heard it many times, but do unto others as you would have done unto you. You're not in high school very long, only four years. Try to help these freshmen to have the best start to these four years simply by being friendly to them. Help them feel like they belong.

Be the people to next year's freshmen that you wanted to have as upperclassmen when you were the new kid on the block; your hospitality will be a testament to your character, and your kindness could change their lives.

## Mental health: we must talk about it

It was a normal day for second grade Taylor. She walked up the stairs to Mrs. Buteyn's second-floor classroom and put her backpack and lunchbox away in her cubby. Then she ran to the bathroom and threw up for the next twenty minutes. She proceeded to go home afterwards.



Taylor Benes  
Editor in Chief

Just a typical day in my life.

Anxiety takes many forms. Some people shake, others have racing thoughts, and some feel pain, among many other symptoms. I am one who feels debilitating pain, specifically in my stomach. Before doctors knew it was anxiety, they thought it was lactose intolerance, stomach ulcers, and a million other things. In fourth grade, I had to get an endoscopy, a procedure where a camera is put into a person's stomach to search for ulcers, but the doctors couldn't find anything wrong. I was then diagnosed with Irritable Bowel Syndrome, or IBS.

For years after that diagnosis, my pain continued, still unidentified as anxiety. I continued to miss school because of sickness and pain, and the anxiety continued into high school.

My medical mystery may not surprise experts, for mental illness often goes misdiagnosed, but it surprised me. I was surprised it took me until sophomore year to get diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety Disorder because both of my parents are counselors. My parents see individuals with mental illness every day, yet they never noticed I also struggled. I had all the symptoms, so why was I diagnosed so late?

It's because I never talked about it. Even the very best counselors, *even the very best counselors who are also your own parents*, cannot read minds.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. I am aware of my mental health, but are you? If you are struggling, don't let your pain go unnoticed like I let mine. The quicker you find help, the more likely treatment will prove beneficial.

After letting my anxiety build up for so long, I was unable to sit still in class. I woke up every morning doubled-over in pain. I spent my mornings curled up on the carpet in my room. If I would have gotten help earlier, I may have been able to spend more of my days in class rather than teaching myself at home.

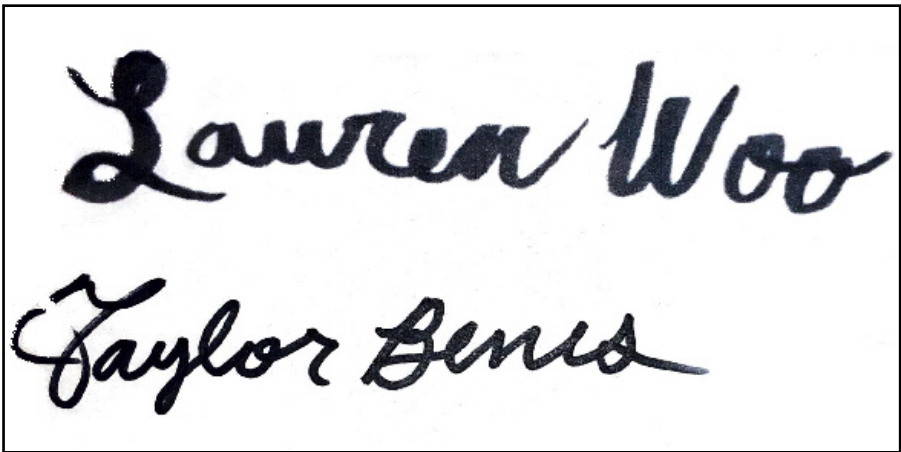
I know that asking for help is scary. I am a very independent person, so telling someone I can't manage on my own made me feel weak. But I learned I would rather feel weak than not feel at all. I bottled my pain and my emotions up for so long that the first day I went to therapy, my therapist said, "Wow. We've got a lot to unpack here."

Bottling up emotions only makes things worse. It's still something I struggle with every day. I'd rather keep it all to myself to appear strong, but sometimes, we've all got to call our favorite person and let it out.

Mental health is just as important as physical health. Anxiety can cause as many physical symptoms as a person with chronic pain, and they will steal your life if you don't stop them. It's easy to tell someone about a broken leg, but it is difficult to tell someone that your brain causes you pain. That's what this awareness month is for. Let's talk about mental health and make it less taboo. It's not okay that people who are struggling think that they need to be silent about their pain.

Learn from my stubbornness and ask for help if you need it. Call a friend. Email a teacher. Tell a parent. Battles are better fought by an army, not alone.

## Senior Editors Sign Out



Thank you, readers, for driving and validating our passion for writing and journalism. We hope you continue to read The Echo long after we leave.

- The Echo Staff

*the*  
**Echo)))**

Editor-in-chief

Taylor Benes

News

Lauren Woo

Feature

Taylor Benes  
Madie Ceponis

Arts

Lauren Woo

Sports

Sophia Thompson

Advisor

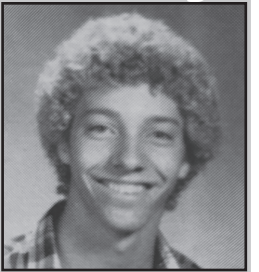
Jeff DeVries

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.

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





# Teachers cope with quarantine

Wauren Loo

Noodle Enthusiast

Due to COVID-19, we have all had to adapt to a new, isolated form of life. For many, this adaptation has led to the formation of new hobbies, dedication to forgotten projects, or learning new skills. We spoke to some of Silliana's teachers to see how they're coping under quarantine.

Mr. Goug Dorter, math teacher, has discovered the end of the Mandelbrot set, something previously thought to be impossible. "It was really incredible," Dorter said. "I just kept zooming in, and eventually, it just stopped!" He is being recognized for this incredible achievement later this year with a Nobel Prize in Mathematics.

Dr. Kim Juipers, science teacher, has bought fourteen new horses in the past week, all named after a different card game. "Well, I love horses,"



Science teacher Dr. Kim Juipers is pictured with his favorite horse, Uno.

Juipers said, "Now my time is well occupied taking care of them all." He said his favorite is his new Shire horse named Uno.

Mr. Srian Bylvester, science and STEM teacher, has rebuilt his house, twice. "I was bored," Bylvester said.

His daughter, Sayla, a senior at

Silliana, said, "It was really annoying. We had to sleep in the garage. The house is nice, but I'm just worried that if quarantine doesn't end soon, he's go-

ing to rebuild it again."

Her dad laughed and added, "Actually, I'm working on a program right now that would allow me the 3-D print the house."

Mrs. Lary Magerwey, Bible teacher, has cooked cuisine from over 130 countries. "I'm cooking my way through the globe," Magerwey said. "So far, it's been a success!"

Her husband, Lob, a math teacher at Illiana, said, "I can't complain. The food is fantastic!"

Two teachers, Mr. Hevin Kaan, science teacher, and Mr. Fuke Lennema, have completed similar accomplishments during quarantine. Both have run the distance of over 13 marathons since quarantine began.

"I just love running," Kaan said. "It's an excellent way to stay healthy!"

"I listen to Deutsch music while I run," Lennema said. "My favorite song to run to is Le Li La."



Zeus rests patiently while getting his photo taken in the Student Services room.

## Police dog Zeus found wandering Silliana halls

Wauren LooHoo

Pokemon Master

Zeus, the beloved police dog known for sniffing backpacks and lockers while patrolling the halls of Silliana

with a smile, was found roaming Silliana's empty corridors last week.

History teacher Mr. Weff Jhite, who had come into school to spend time dusting his bobble-heads, dis-

covered the police dog and spent the day chasing after Zeus.

"With his police training he's elusive!" Jhite said. "I walked in the main office doors, and I could see him sniffing the Ebenezer stone. Either the stone was stoned or Zeus was getting ready to mark his territory. I ran in to stop him."

Recounting the experience, Jhite's face took on a 1,000 yard stare. He added, "Then he locked eyes with me and charged! I had nowhere to go, so I shimmied up the Ebenezer stone itself while Zeus snarled and barked below me, nipping at my ankles."

Eventually Zeus relented and wandered off. Then Jhite, with the aid of custodian Lart Aambert and a couple of mops, tracked down Zeus and cornered him in third floor storage, where they also discovered what looked like Zeus's bed. It is unclear how long Zeus has been living in third floor storage, or how he managed to unlock and open the door to get inside of Silliana.

"It seems that Zeus missed us all so much he couldn't stay away," said principal Beter Poonstra.

After catching Zeus Jhite drove him home to the police station.

When asked his side of the story, Zeus refused to comment.

## Students swamped with E-learning work

Baylor Tennis

Mrs. Hillegonds Impostor

Ever since eLearning began, students claim they have been bombarded with homework from their classes, resulting in much frustration for both teachers and students.

One email from a student to Bible teacher Lary Magerwey reads, "MRS. MAGERWEY!! HOW COULD YOU? YOU HAVE GIVEN US CRAZY AMOUNTS OF BIBLE 4 HOMEWORK EVERY DAY! HAVE SOME GRACE! I HAVE LIKE AN INSANE AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK FROM YOU TEACHERS EVERY DAY!"

Magerwey said, "I cried when I got that email. The use of ALL CAPS made clear to me that I was expecting too much from my students, though I have to admit it surprised me. All I had assigned was a 5-minute journal write and about 30 minutes of reading."

One senior boy, who asked to remain anonymous, explained, "So I go to work at 6 a.m. and don't get home until 4. Then I've got to shower, eat supper, and check-in with my friends. I don't see how the school can expect us to do seven hours of homework at night."

Silliana principal Beter Poonstra said he takes student complaints seriously. He said, "We are in the midst of a pandemic, and our school has had to resort to eLearning. These conditions, of course, will necessitate a large number of our students starting full-time summer jobs early, and

Silliana's teachers are going to have to adjust their expectations accordingly."

Not all teachers are as sympathetic to the plight of their students as Poonstra and Magerwey.. Science teacher Kim Juipers said, "One of my students sent me a picture of his working from home setup. Four Mountain Dews, a bag of Fritos, and three computers in front of him: one with the Google Classroom up, the other two with Fortnite on them. That would explain why he doesn't turn in any of his work."

Many students have different explanations for why their work isn't getting done on time.

Junior Robyn Banks said, "You can't get TikTok famous by not posting! I'm almost at 100 followers. After that, it's over for you guys. I still get my homework done, though. I have a great system: five minutes of homework, then 45 minutes of TikTok. It's foolproof! And if I don't get to something, I can just ask my teachers to reassign it or cut me some slack in how they grade it. Fame doesn't come easily."

"The teachers don't understand how much of a toll this pandemic has taken on us," freshman Mike Rohsopht stated. "I don't get out of bed until noon. They need to chill with the homework. It's not like we're in school. I have other stuff I want to do..."

In regards to Rohsopht, history teacher Dachel Rost said, "He hasn't turned in a single thing. I don't even think he's enrolled in my Google Classroom."