

## Dodge ball tournament raises \$2,000 to fund mission trips

Hailey Ross  
Reporter

Costumed teams filled the gym and fans filled “skyboxes” on Friday, Oct. 16, for the annual dodgeball tournament.

Dodgeball, a night of competition, costumes, and companionship, raised about \$2,000 to help fund mission trips this upcoming school year according to Sara Johnson, Illiana’s Director of Missions. Johnson also organizes the tournament every year.

The tournament was different this year due to COVID-19, but the players were still excited to take part.

“I’m super excited, but it’s going to be weird not having people in the stands,” said junior Natalie Scott before the tournament began.



The American Girl Dolls prepare to dodge, duck, and throw their way through the tournament

Photo by HR Imaging

The absence of spectators in the gym was, in fact, the biggest change to the night. Only players, referees, and supervisors were allowed into the gym.

Those who wanted to view the night’s events had to rent “skyboxes” which were classrooms in which the games were telecast. In these spaces, spectators could even order concierge services, ordering

pizza, candy, and soda.

The games themselves, of course, are only part of the reason people come. Another major attraction is the fun themed costumes and creative names the students come up with for their teams.

“I looked good,” said junior Maxwell Meter from the team Fairly Dodge Parents “I had a crown and everything.”

However good Meter may have looked, his team did not look good enough to capture the title for Best Costumed. That award went to The Majestic Muses.

In the play itself, the championship game came down to a titanic battle between the defending champions, The Destroyers, and The Country Boyz. The Country Boyz prevailed.

## New voucher rules change focus from attendance to community service

Madie Ceponis  
News Editor

The administration has overhauled the exam voucher system for the 20/21 school year, changing the voucher requirements from good attendance to hours of community service.

The recommendation came from an ad hoc committee of two parents, two school board members, and four teachers who have helped create ICHS’s plans for doing school safely in the midst of a pandemic. The committee noted that students should stay home if feeling ill or exhibiting symptoms, and the old voucher system encouraged students to attend even when sick. So the old system was scrapped. Instead, students will now have to serve 10 hours of commu-

nity service each semester and uphold a B+ average in class to receive an exam voucher.

Linking the voucher to community service also helps push the school’s vision to grow passion for God, people, and the world, according to Ms. Sara Johnson, the school’s Director of Missions. For the foreseeable future the voucher system will be linked to service.

There are about 17 pre-approved non-profit organizations from which students can choose to serve, according to Johnson. Students will set up an appointment with an organization of their choice to serve, and after serving, they will fill out a log sheet to be signed by the supervisor. Johnson will then collect the sheets. Service hours can be completed during the regular school year through the weekends or also during summer and fall break for the fall semester voucher and Christmas and spring break for the spring semester. Students may complete 10 hours each semester, or may complete all 20 hours in bulk.



Photo courtesy of Illiana’s Facebook Page

Seniors Damaris Dumont, Nina Verhagen, and Isabella Verastegui brighten Park Place residents’ days with their sidewalk chalk art.

## Students decorate sidewalks, bring joy to Park Place

Gracie Jania  
Reporter

Mr. Neil Zandstra and a group of students visited Park Place Residential Home to decorate their sidewalks with encouraging sayings and Bible verses in colorful chalk, on Wednesday, Sept. 23.

This gave students the opportunity to connect with the senior citizens during the pandemic. “[The residents] wanted us to come back every other week. You could see the joy in their reaction,” Zandstra said.

“I thought it would be nice to draw motivational things and help out people,” freshman James Noble

said.

Some of the residents came outside or stood on their balconies to talk to the students. Junior Sydney Groenewold, who attended the trip, said this was her favorite part, along with when the group would write out the residents’ favorite Bible verses outside their windows.

“We tried to brighten their day,” Zandstra said. His motivation was “bringing joy to the people being isolated and cooped up and sharing the love of Christ through the artwork.”

Groenewold said, “I really wanted to cheer up the people at Park Place and this seemed like a cool way to do it.”

## COVID-19 claims new victim

Senior class trip proves untenable in the face of numerous restrictions

Rachel Bultema  
Feature Editor

On Aug. 31, Mr. Jeff White, senior class trip organizer, sent out an email to Illiana families detailing the cancellation of the senior class trip to Washington, D.C, because of the pandemic.

In his email, White wrote, “It is with great disappointment that I have to inform parents, faculty, and most importantly students that we will have to cancel the senior trip 2020.”

White said that there was no “final straw” when it came time to cancel the trip. Rather, shortly before the announcement, many options were “coming through” as hotels and attractions were working to find alternatives or to make accommodations that would have allowed safe travel. White was also considering visits to other open memorials to replace some closed exhibits students usually visited.

Then, as White put it, “Things were beginning to unravel.” Conditions changed. For example, the boat cruise could not accommodate more than 50 passengers. In addition, the mayor of Washington D.C. put Indiana on the quarantine list.

Tour guides also warned White about safety concerns due to civil unrest that had taken place.

Parents have reportedly thanked White for the decision to cancel the trip. Some had been reluctant to let their children go on the trip before the cancellation so the cancellation made the decision for them.

Different hotels, restaurants refunded deposits.

White would like to revisit some ideas about a senior trip in the spring, but he said nothing is guaranteed.

“I don’t want to even start planning anything or even considering anything until maybe February,” said White.



## Future plans require knuckling down in here and now

Being a senior this year, I have come to the realization that next year I will be away from Illiana and putting my education to the test. Now Illiana sets us up very well for college (so I have been told), so I am ready to tackle that.

Growing up you get the question, “Do you know what you want to do after high school?” I always knew the answer to that. I want to



**Madie Ceonis**

**News Editor**

help people by working in the medical field. At first I wanted to be a nurse practitioner; they are a step under a doctor, but lately I have thought that if I’m going to school for that long I will go all the way.

I have decided to go for being a neonatal doctor. (For those of you who do not know what that is in simpler terms it is a “baby doctor.”) And that means I will have to diagnose conditions of the newborn after birth that may include breathing problems, infections and birth defects. I will also help premature babies with major health issues and who must rely on the physician to manage and coordinate their health care.

But the schooling is very intense; to be a doctor, I will have to complete four years of a bachelor’s degree program, four years of medical school and five to seven years of residency work. So I plan to apply and get to attend either Purdue or Indiana University for the first four years, and med school hopefully apply and attend the University of Chicago or Northwestern University. Purdue has the best nursing and engineering program, but IU has the best pre-med school in the area, so I am leaning more towards IU. I want to stay local, because the first few years of college one can get distracted and I do not want to fall into that temptation.

Because the schooling is intense, I will have to work harder than I ever have before, and I will have to strive to be the top of my class to get into med school. To get into med school I would have to of finished the first four years of pre-med and have a 3.0-3.5 GPA, have good TOEFL language score (which is testing on reading, listening, speaking, writing, combine all four English communication skills), letters of recommendation, extracurricular activities and a minimum MCAT exam result. After med school comes residency/fellowships.

As it is senior year, I am ready to take this on next year, put my knowledge to the test and make a change. Being able to help the vulnerable babies, and hopefully save them, will be a high stress and emotional job, but I think it will be well worth it.



Photo by Jim Kamphuis

*“Big Sister” mentor sophomore Ashley Kaczmarzewski chats with freshman Kaylin Buczkowski.*

## IMPACT helps new students adjust

**Sophia Thompson**

**Sports Editor**

This fall Illiana’s IMPACT club is hosting a program called Big Brother, Big Sister that invites upperclassmen to mentor an underclassman. The upperclassman is instructed to give advice and be a safe person for an underclassman to talk to.

The program stems from Illiana’s Dorcheus club that ended when Illiana left the old campus. The idea was the same, to provide a mentor to underclassmen. This program aims to provide a comfortable environment, safe for underclassmen to air their feelings

and create a relationship with upperclassmen.

Freshman Mackenzie Mulderink said, “Big Brother, Big Sister has made the transition from 8th grade to freshman year much easier. It has helped me develop a relationship with my big sister. She has shown me how welcoming Illiana is.”

Mentors are expected to interact with their underclassmen multiple times a year, whether that is buying them something from Common Grounds, writing them an encouraging note, or spending time with them at break, according to Teach.

Mulderink’s “big sister,”

sophomore Angelina Daniel said, “We have so many things in common, and I’ve come to really enjoy coming to see a note in my locker. Makenzie plays volleyball, which I enjoy but I’m really bad at it. I believe we got along well.”

This program is not only for members of IMPACT. Anyone can participate either as a mentor or an underclassmen. Sponsor of the club, Heidi Teach said, “The program is for anyone who wants to join. Whether their mentor buys them a muffin or takes them out to coffee, it’s a way for freshmen to have someone to lean on.”

## “Hey! Can you sign my yearbook?”

**Hailey Ross**

**Reporter**

The Spire Party, the annual celebration of the release of the new yearbook, took place on Friday, Oct. 2. This year’s party had many different twists and turns due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many safety precautions were set into place during the night of the party. Entrants were required to wear masks, and a police officer working security handed out masks at the door to people who didn’t have one.

The night was also split into two parts in order to keep the number of people gathered at once within state guidelines. Sophomores and juniors could

pick up and sign books from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Seniors and alumni showed up between 6-8 p.m.

People followed the rules, and they seemed to have fun while doing so.

“I was excited to see upper class friends,” said senior Michel Moore, Jr.

Thijs vanBelle, a junior, said, “I hung out with friends.”

Spire co-sponsor, Mr. Jim Kamphuis, said, “It was nice to see the graduates again, especially since last year I had a senior homeroom.”

This year’s yearbook sported an Avengers/Marvel Comics theme that, according to Spire co-sponsor Jeff DeVries, have proven popular among students.

“I’ve heard a lot of positive and excited comments about the design of the book. That is gratifying for last year’s editors, Matthew Huizinga and Sydney DeVries, who put a ton of effort into the book.”



*Senior Valerie Disselkoen signs a friend’s yearbook.*

Photo by Jim Kamphuis

## School board cancels Sadie’s dance as precaution

**Rachel Bultema**

**Co-Editor in Chief**

Sadie Hawkins, a recent addition to two dances Illiana offers, has been cancelled for the 2020-2021 school year.

This year, some student council planned-events have been cancelled, and some postponed. The Sadie Hawkins dance, which was scheduled for Oct. 16, has been cancelled after student council sponsors Mrs. Kelly Aardsma and Mrs. Sharon Praveen met with Principal Mr. Peter Boonstra to ask whether the dance could happen. Boonstra brought the matter before the school board, which nixed the event.

According to Praveen, the school board cancelled the dance because it didn’t want the safety precautions taken at school to be compromised by an after school activity.

The Student Council has decided not to reschedule the dance for this year, though they may try again next year. They are currently discussing other options such as game nights or movie nights “to bring the spirit back”, according to student council co-president Jenna O’Brien, though nothing has been decided.

Student council will try to put on a homecoming and junior-senior banquet this year, though.

Student council co-presidents Jaxson Smit and O’Brien have expressed sadness over the loss of the dance, but said they understand the reason.



# Marketing team promotes Illiana through ‘green chair’ stories

*Illiana alumni share their stories on how Illiana has made a significant impact on their lives.*

Aubrey Porter  
Reporter

Illiana’s social media advertising team has partnered with teachers, alumni, and students to produce promotional videos that give these individuals a platform to share their “Illiana stories”. Over the course of the past few weeks this green chair, seen by many students on Illiana’s Instagram, has been the start of a campaign called #IllianaStories, otherwise known as “green chair chats.” It will initially be launched in celebration of the 75th anniversary of Illiana. One alumni from each decade that Illiana has existed will be challenged to share how Illiana has impacted their lives. After those initial interviews, the chair will then be open to any student, teacher, or

alumnus that feels called to share their story. These Illiana Stories were inspired by “I Am Second,” a series of videos that takes Christian celebrities and athletes who then share their walk with Christ. Mrs. Jenna Dutton took this concept and reworked it for the Illiana community, resulting in this new campaign. Dutton hopes these videos will reach parents who are considering enrolling their children at Illiana. “We can use [the videos] for not only social media, but also for admissions so people can see how Illiana has impacted it’s students, teachers, and alumni,” Dutton says. Dutton is continuing to seek out and would be happy to meet with any student that wants to share how Illiana has made a significant impact on them.



This is the chair used in the green chair stories videos. Photo courtesy of Illiana’s Facebook page.

## eLearning option extended into second quarter

Gracie Jania  
Reporter

Since the beginning of the school year, elearning for students has been an option. Now Principal Peter Boonstra and the Return to Learn Committee have decided to extend the opportunity for students to learn from home into the second quarter. “There hasn’t been any significant change in the intensity of the Covid crisis,” Boonstra said. “We wanted to make it available for students to choose elearning or in person.”

Sophomore Serenity Medina, an elearning student, said, “I think it’s very useful; [the teachers] are trying the best they can.” Boonstra also said that it is unknown if the current rules will be held in place until a vaccine is available. “I think normal is coming,” he said. “I just don’t know when.” Though elearning is a useful and safer option to learning, there have been some complications for students due to not being at school. For example, Medina explained that “there are assignments in class that I can’t participate in.”

Medina is using the eLearning option as a backup plan as a precaution if cases rise at Illiana, which might also be the case for other students as well. Many of the students using elearning live with someone who is at greater risk if he or she would get the virus, so distance learning provides another layer of protection. The virus continues to present new challenges to the school and community, but Boonstra doesn’t let the adversity shake his faith in God or the school’s mission. Boonstra said, “God is using this virus somehow to advance His kingdom.”



English teacher Miss J. explains a concept to the eLearners in her class. Photo courtesy of Illiana’s Facebook page

## Anti-racism committee hosts cultural intelligence training

Olivia Oostema  
Co-Editor in Chief

Illiana recently created a anti-racism committee to combat racism through initiatives including cultural intelligence training. The committee, consisting of two school board members, two teachers, Principal Peter Boonstra, and a community member, was formed over the summer after the killing of George Floyd. Floyd’s death sparked outrage, prompting protests against systemic racism across the nation. These events also prompted some Illiana alumni to use social media to share negative experiences they had in high school. Committee member Jeff DeVries said that from his perspective, without these events, the committee, “without a doubt,” wouldn’t exist.

Members of the committee were charged with implementing six specific tasks, according to DeVries. Their first task was to contact alumni who had had negative experiences at Illiana because of racism. Through emails, a group of teachers reached out to twenty-eight alumni and met with ten to talk about how they were hurt. Their second job was to implement cultural intelligence training for the school board, faculty, and staff. Over fall break, representatives from the Cultural Intelligence Center, an organization that assists businesses and schools in improving their cultural intelligence, led the training which provided teachers with strategies to cultivate an inclusive climate, said anti-racism committee member Rachel Drost.

Boonstra said that the training provided teachers with tools and strategies to affirm and incorporate students “regardless of race or differences.” “It’s not enough to want [to be welcoming to all students]; you have to develop the skills to do it,” he added. The committee’s third item on the agenda is organizing a special day, school wide cultural intelligence workshop to engage with students on racism. The goal, according to DeVries, is to give students the tools to grow more and more into a biblical vision of Christ’s diverse Kingdom as it is displayed in the New Testament. The workshop is scheduled to take place on the first day of the second semester after Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Fourth, the committee plans to engage churches and communities in their efforts toward cultural intelligence. Illiana’s issues with race and diversity reflect the culture of a community, said DeVries. The committee’s fifth duty includes creating a safe place for students to report racism, sexism, and bullying. This group would allow students to report unfair treatment and find an advocate— someone to walk with them and advocate for them when going to authority figures might be difficult or intimidating. Finally, the sixth task, which is yet to be addressed, is to look at Illiana’s curriculum to ensure that people of color are represented. The last few tasks, said DeVries, are in the “incipient stages of planning.”



# Get outside or stay in with these fun fall activities

Fall has arrived, and many are eager to get in the spirit of the season. Some wish to soak up the great outdoors before winter arrives while others prefer to get festive for fall while staying in. No matter your preferences, there are a variety of fun fall activities accessible in the area.

## For the outdoor adventurer

Love the outdoors? Looking for a fun day outdoors with friends?

Keep it classic and head over to a pumpkin patch. Located in Lowell, Illinois, Kregel’s offers traditional fall activities such as a hayride, a corn maze, and a petting zoo. Delicious homemade kettle corn and apple cider donuts are available in the picnic area.

Kregel’s is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays through Saturdays and from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays until closing day, October 31. Masks are re-

quired.

County Line Apple Orchard, located in Hobart, Indiana, is a fall staple for many. Visit Peter the pumpkin-eating dinosaur, ride around on piles of hay, and romp through the soybean maze. Although the U-pick apples are now sold out, the orchard continues to offer U-bag and prepackaged apples. The orchard also offers pumpkins for 40 cents a pound. The Big Barn is open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and many attractions like the kids’ farm, bee yurts, and the corn and soy-

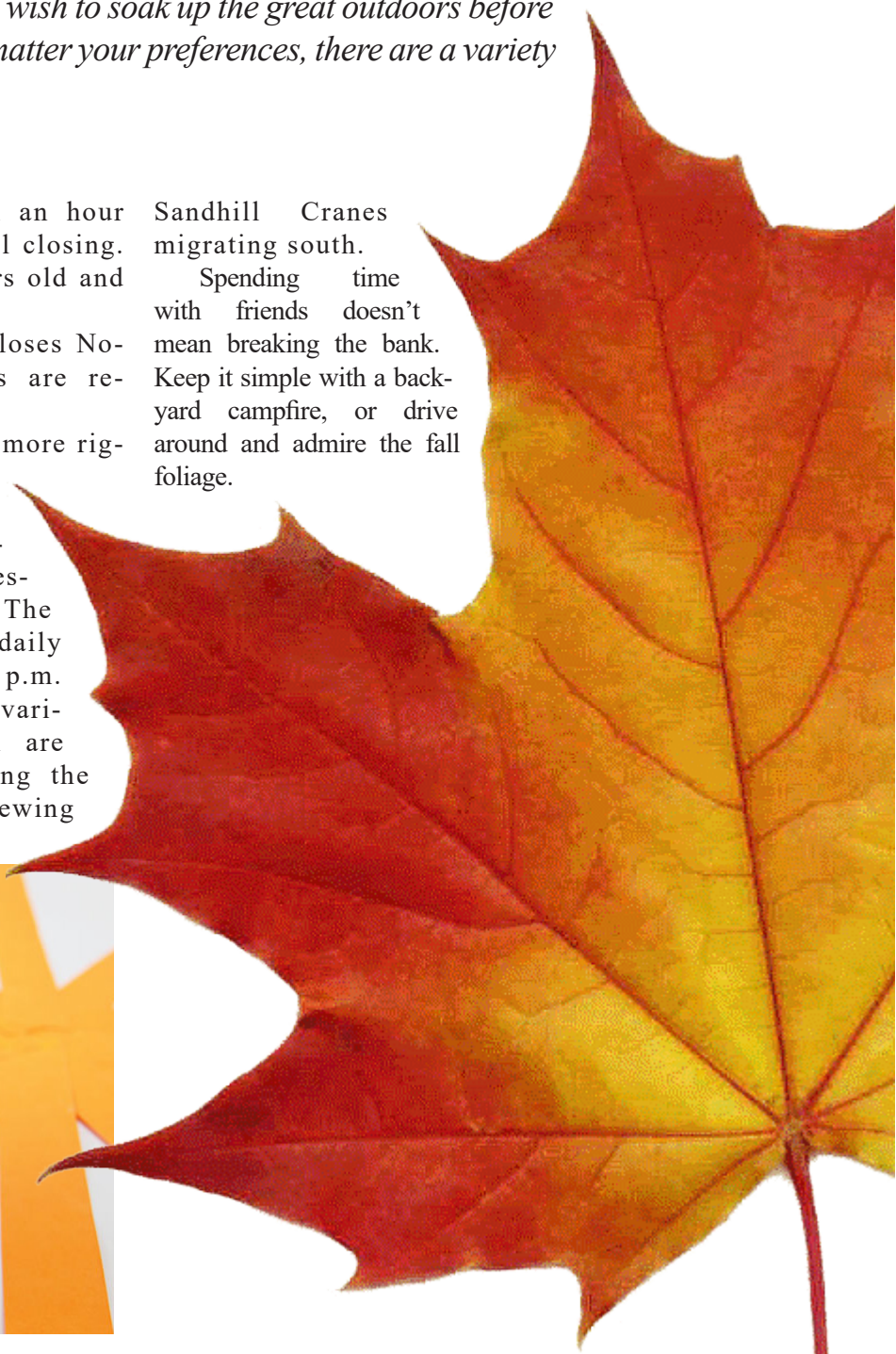
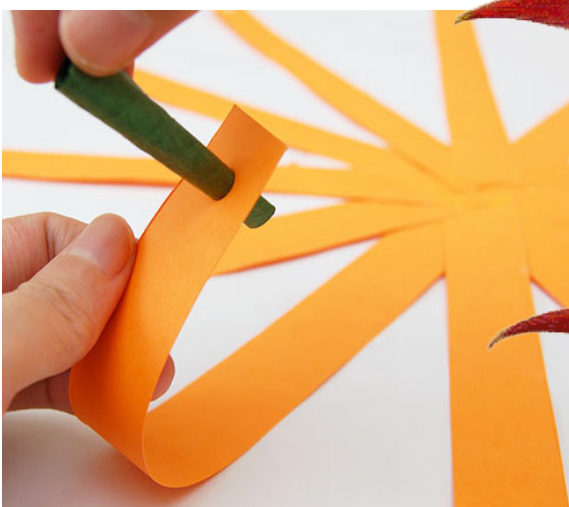
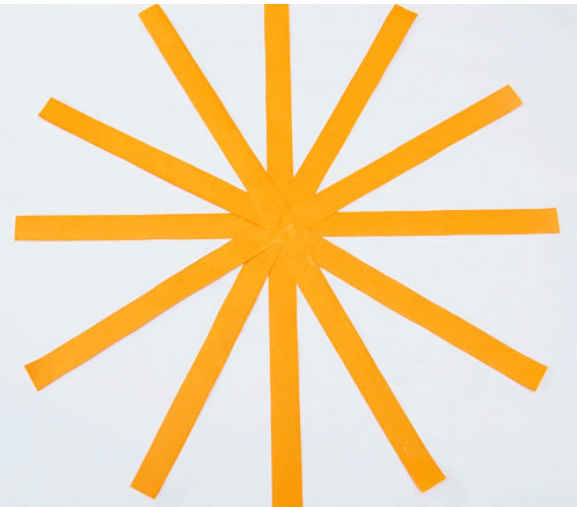
bean mazes open an hour later and last until closing. Children two years old and younger are free.

The orchard closes November 1. Masks are required upon entry.

Looking for a more rigorous activity? Try hiking at the Indiana Dunes National Park in Chesterton, Indiana. The Dunes are open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The park offers various trails which are prime for admiring the fall leaves and viewing

Sandhill Cranes migrating south.

Spending time with friends doesn’t mean breaking the bank. Keep it simple with a backyard campfire, or drive around and admire the fall foliage.



## For the homebody

You don’t have to leave the house to have a good time! For those who’d rather stay home or enjoy more laid back activities, cozy up with the following suggestions:

Grab your favorite fall snacks and plop down in your pajamas and watch a classic thriller movie like Hitchcock’s “Strangers on a Train,”

or, for movies to watch with the whole family, opt for “Frankenweenie” or “Coraline.” Fill your house with the sweet scent of fall spices and bake delicious pumpkin muffins with the featured recipe. Carve pumpkins or get out your hot glue gun and make your own fall decorations with the following craft.

## Decorate for the season with DIY pumpkins

Olivia Oostema  
Arts Editor

- Supplies:
- A sheet of orange construction paper (9” x 12”)
  - A bit of green (or brown) construction paper
  - Scissors
  - Glue
  - Hole punch
  - A green pipe cleaner

1. Cut the orange construction paper into twelve 1” x 9” paper strips.
2. Arrange the strips in a circle and glue them together at the center where they meet.
3. Punch a hole close to the tip of each of the twelve

- paper strips.
4. Make a stem out of a green (or brown) rectangle of construction paper (about 2” x 2.5”). Roll this into a cigar shape, with one end a bit smaller than the opposite end. This smaller end should be able to fit into the holes created in the previous step. Glue the edges of the paper in place.
  5. Put the stem in the hole-punch of the first strip. It should fit snugly. Continue to place the stem into the rest of the holes, applying glue between layered strips when necessary.

## Taste the season with homemade pumpkin muffins

Information:  
Author: Sara Welch  
Prep time: 10 minutes  
Cook time: 15 minutes  
Servings: 12  
Calories: 288 kcal

Ingredients:  
2 eggs  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1 cup pumpkin puree  
¾ cup vegetable oil  
1 ½ cups all purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
½ teaspoon baking powder  
1 ½ teaspoons pumpkin pie spice  
½ teaspoon vanilla extract

¼ teaspoon salt  
1 ½ cups semisweet chocolate chips  
Cooking spray

Instructions:  
1. Preheat the oven to 400o F. Use paper liners or coat a 12 cup muffin tin with cooking spray.  
2. Place the eggs, sugar, pumpkin puree, and oil in a bowl. Whisk until smooth.  
3. Add the flour, baking soda, baking powder, pumpkin pie spice, vanilla extract, and salt

to the bowl. Stir until combined.  
4. Fold in 1 cup of chocolate chips.  
5. Divide the batter evenly among the 12 muffin cups and sprinkle the remaining chocolate chips over the tops of the muffins.  
6. Bake for 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Test readiness with a toothpick.  
7. Cool for 5 minutes in the pan, and transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Recipe courtesy of Emma DeBoer.



# BRIGHT IDEAS FOR DECORATING

*Students express  
creativity with “TikTok”  
inspired LED lights*

Rachel Bultema  
Co-Editor in Chief

## Car lighting

LED light use isn’t restricted to indoors, though. It’s possible to decorate outdoor patios, driveways, and even cars with the lights. Senior Jaxson Smit has done

this by decorating his car’s console with the lights. Another option for automobile decoration is decorative illumination of the floorboards of the vehicle. The LEDs can also be used on the underbody of the vehicle, another popular choice.

From the time of TikTok’s creation, to its disappearance from the app store, many trends have arisen from the social media platform. From popularizing dance moves like the “whoa” to songs like “Old Town Roads” by Lil Nas X, it’s impossible to deny the influence TikTok

has had on today’s teens. One trend that has stuck around since not long after TikTok’s popularity boom, are colored LED strip lights, or as some have dubbed them, “TikTok lights.” Here are a few ways ICHS students have used LEDs for decoration:



Photo by Jaxson Smit  
Senior Jaxson Smit colors the inside of his car with LED lights

## Implementing instrumental illumination

Some LED lights can be activated by music. If the music is loud or beat is loud enough, some LED strips will change colors. This inspired junior Thijs van Belle to create

a light bar for his drum set. This way, whenever he hits a drum, the lights change color. He created the effect by wrapping the LEDs around a dowel rod, covering them

in saran wrap, then wrapping cotton batting around the creation before sticking it inside of an acrylic tube and placing the tube in front of the drum set.



A homemade LED fixture illuminates junior Thijs van Belle’s drum set

Photo by Thijs van Belle



Photo by Priya Sen  
Sophomore Priya Sen’s bedroom displays one way to decorate with LED lights

## Decorative interior lighting

One of the more common uses since their popularization is room lighting, and many teens have begun using LEDs in their bedrooms. This can be done in multiple ways. One of the more popular ways is to simply line the top of the walls with the lights. Though, users

should be careful as improper set up can attract bugs to the lights or behind them. The adhesives some lights use can also damage the wall. Walls aren’t the only place in a bedroom for LED lights, though. They can also be used on or behind a mirror or under the bed.

# Music programs down in numbers, not in spirit

Gracie Jania  
Reporter

Aubrey Porter  
Reporter

This year Illiana’s Music Department has undergone a decrease in enrollment, affecting the students and directors involved.

This decrease in enrollment affected students in several ways. Junior choir member Parker Schutt said there was a risk of each section of the choir

not having enough people. However, they are managing to pull the pieces together. Another effect was the class organization and practicing situation. Junior band member Rachel VanderZee said, “With fewer members, it’s easier to hear mistakes... which also means I have to practice a lot more than I have the past two years.” The orchestra, unlike the others, has benefited from an increase in numbers with a net gain of

three members. “This is the biggest jump in numbers for the orchestra,” Said Mr. Andy Anderson the orchestra director, “It’s been a good thing for me. The feeder schools have equipped the students to jump right in.” The directors have an idea of why this numerical drop happened. “I know the number one thing is schedule,” Mrs. Rachel Monroe, the band director, said. “A lot of students are gifted in other things and they want to explore that.

I’m supportive of that.” Still, the lower numbers do present challenges. “In band, you need balance; if you don’t have that, it’s difficult to achieve the sound that you’re going for,” Monroe said. Having fewer players makes that harder. Covid has changed things for everyone, including the music department. “We have to wear masks and can only sing for a portion of the rehearsal,” Mrs. Sliekers, the choir teacher, said. They have also been

doing handbells as a resort to singing. Choirs are also feeling the effect of lower numbers. Choir director Kathy Sliekers said, “When you have smaller numbers, students are less confident. You have to be conscious about if they are confident when singing a part.” Though the number of members dropped, the directors are looking up. Monroe said, “You have the opportunity to grow... It is such a good year for opportunity.”





Photo courtesy of Justin VanProoyen

Senior Justin VanProoyen runs at Semi-State, where he took 13th place overall and qualified to to run for the state championship.

## ICHS athletes finally get shot at postseason

Aubrey Porter

Reporter

This year Illiana's athletic department has gained the ability to compete in a postseason after years of consulting with the IHSSA.

This accomplishment has affected players that are now seniors, who initially thought they would never have a chance to participate in a postseason for their whole high school career.

Senior varsity soccer player Jake VanderZee notes that this new opportunity brought his team together because they "all had a common goal. Even though we all set goals for ourselves throughout the season, we knew we were all working up to the same objective."

Senior Maddy Rogers, player on the varsity volley-

ball team, says "We only lost one senior this year, so most of us already know we play well together. We also have a really good chance of winning which is really exciting...our coach can't even sleep at night."

The process of admission into the IHSSA began a month after Illiana's confirmation of the construction of the new campus in 2016 and in August 2018 Illiana would be granted it's membership. According to the IHSSA handbook, schools with new memberships must wait four years before they are eligible to participate in a postseason. To many players dismay, this delay would result in no state tournaments for their whole high school career.

Since Illiana had moved across the state border, the athletic department argued before the IHSSA in fall of 2019 that Illiana should be

an exception to the four year law. Athletic directors Darren DeBoer and Deb Kamp argued that Illiana was a "transfer school," not a new school, and therefore should be exempt from the law. Finally, in May of 2020 Illiana was granted the opportunity to participate in Indiana's state tournament in the fall of the 2021 schoolyear.

This is an accomplishment for players, Illiana's athletic directors, and the school as a whole. "It gives teams a goal to shoot for at the end. It also makes [the players and coaches] feel accomplished, and like they can fit in with all the other Indiana schools," DeBoer says. As a whole, this achievement has brought the school together, and this story will be told for generations that attend Illiana.

## Annual Athletic Department golf outing raises \$20,000

Madie Ceponis

News Editor

Illiana Christian High School's Athletic Department held its annual golf outing on Sept. 21 at Briar Ridge Country Club in Schererville. The event, planned by Athletic Director Darren DeBoer and his assistant, Mrs. Bonnie Trepton, raised over \$20,000 through both entrance fees and event sponsors, according to DeBoer.

About fifteen volunteers, including a handful of stu-

dents, ran the event. Student volunteers helped to spread sponsorship signs around the course, set up "beat the pro" holes, and ran bean bag toss and other games near the clubhouse. About 15 volunteered to help from students, staff members and even a parent.

Golf coach Brent Vermeulen said that the golf outing is important to Illiana not only to raise money for athletics, but also as a way to get involved with

the community and Christian businesses.

"Being the golf coach and having a passion for golf, I think golf is a great way to make connections with in the broader Illiana community," Vermeulen added.

"The golf outing is important to our school because it shows others in the community that Illiana students strive to get involved and raise money for our school," said senior Emma Olthoff.



Photo courtesy of Illiana's Facebook page

ICHS athletic director Darren DeBoer and golf coach Brent Vermeulen stand chatting in between shots at the Golf Classic.

## Girls volleyball has strong season, high hopes for future

Sophia Thompson

Sports Editor

Girls volleyball was excited that for the first time in two years, they had the opportunity to compete in postseason games and tournaments.

Although the team lost sectionals and were not able to compete in further games, they are focusing on the good things this season brought to them. Senior Taylor Carlson said, "For my last year, we had an amazing season and made lots of memories together. We grew in our volleyball skills as well as our communication with each other and got better as the season progressed. This was our first year competing in postseason and even though it didn't go as planned, it was a great experience to go through with the team."

The team finished its season with a record of 20-6.

"We were all very grateful to be able to play as many games as we did," said senior Kacie VanKalker. "Our team had many well rounded players and strong team chemistry. Also having our first Indiana postseason gave us all something to look forward to."

Their coaches played a big role in helping the team succeed. Senior Stephanie Huitsing said, "The coaches really focused on bettering the team as a whole. They were always encouraging us and supporting us about what we could achieve if we continued to work hard and try different plays."

The seniors feel that they are leaving the underclassmen in good hands and think they will continue to grow in the next few years. "They will be fine, we have a lot of good freshmen so I don't think there is anything to worry about for the future of the team. I am excited to see what they do for Illiana's volleyball program," said senior Madison Rodgers.



Photo courtesy of Kacie VanKalker

Varsity girls volleyball players celebrate with each other after scoring against Bishop Knoll.



# Sports briefs



## Girls Soccer

Sophia Thompson  
Sports Editor

Illiana girls soccer was forced to adapt to having only a varsity team this season. Despite this obstacle, the girls have found ways to fill any empty spots due to the lack of girls. Senior Chloe Weemhoff said, “Our team this year was very flexible and was open to change constantly. Our formation changed a few times to improve our playing. That couldn’t have happened if the team wasn’t flexible. All the girls worked

really hard to get better at every position they were put in.” The team has also found their coach to be an anchor for them, especially through the COVID pandemic. Weemhoff said, “Coach Behn has made sure we follow the guidelines that come with COVID while still allowing our team to bond and play together well. Positivity and caution were the main two things that kept our team safe and playing well throughout the season.” Although not making it into the postseason, one game in which the team showed excellent talent was that against Covenant Christian.



Photo by HR Imaging  
*Taylor Albert races an opponent to the ball at the home game against Northridge High School.*

Weemhoff said, “At Covenant we worked super hard and came back to tie the game. It was really rewarding to see our hard work and team chemistry pay off as we played an evenly matched game.” The final record for the girls was 8-5-1.

## Boys tennis

Hailey Ross

Reporter

The boys varsity tennis team finished its season with a record of 9-4 through the regular season. Some of the games in the season had to be canceled due to covid concerns at other schools. Coached by Michael Eberly and Adam Bloesch, the boys worked hard together throughout the season. “I have always loved teaching and coaching tennis,” Coach Eberly said. “It’s a delight to coach young and talented players who maintain a healthy respect for each other while also possessing an inner hunger to improve, compete, and have fun.” “Everyone stepped up this year, especially the underclassmen,” said junior Matthew Smits. The boys also had fun in addition to working hard on the court. “My favorite parts had to be the bus rides,” said junior William Gibson, who played on the junior varsity team. Despite having a good year, no players advanced out of state sectionals.

## Boys cross country

Madie Ceponis  
News Editor

The 2020-2021 boys cross country has had a tremendous season, winning various invitationals and advancing through regionals to semi-state where they

placed 13th overall. Senior Justin VanProoyen finished 14th at semi-state meet and is now advancing to the State championship. The team captured first place finishes at the Wheeler High Invitational and the Hobart High Invitational. In their last regular meet of the

season, the Vikings defeated North Newton, where Brady Vroom placed 1st with a time of 17:01, Fritz Olthof 4th with 17:54, Justin Van Prooyen 5th with 18:06, Logan Boersma 6th with 18:13, and Nolan Bouwman 14th with 18:42. In their first postseason appearance in three years,

they finished 4th as a team in sectionals and qualified for regionals. “Coach Ramos has done a great job coaching this season,” senior Justin Van Prooyen said. “I have also been impressed with the freshman and their progress this season.”

## Girls cross country

Madie Ceponis  
News Editor

The 2020-2021 Girls Cross Country season has come to an end, and freshman Avery Olthof advanced to semi-state and placed 50th overall. The Vikings had a bit of an up-and-down season, but they showed steady progress throughout the year. A team highlight was capturing the second-place trophy at the North Newton Invite, where freshman Avery Olthof finished first, sophomore Faith VanWieren finished third, and sophomore Alex Vis captured fifth. “Our team did very well



Photo by HR Imaging  
*Sophomore Faith VanWieren runs at the North Newton Meet.*

over the year and improved a lot,” said Vis. “We all got a lot faster by the end of the year and I couldn’t be prouder of us. It is our legacy that we always tried our best in meets and that we worked to the best of our ability.”

Sophia Thompson  
Sports Editor

For the first time in two years since moving to the new campus, Illiana boys soccer has had the opportunity to participate in post season games. The team made it to the sectional championship and played Kouts on Oct. 10 at Covenant Christian. The team lost this game, ending the season by a score of 2-0, Kouts taking the win. Senior Kyle Clark said, “Losing sectionals was a bittersweet ending to our season. Our team played exceptionally well and I look forward to seeing what

## Boys Soccer



Photo courtesy of Kyle Clark  
*Senior Jake Vanderzee keeps the ball away from his opponents and anticipates where he is passing next.*

all the team can do in the upcoming years.” Their overall record for the season was 9-8-2. Senior Fletcher Bandstra said, “It was a fun sea-

son. It was nice finally getting to play for a state title and although we didn’t get the outcome we wanted, we still had a great season overall.”

## Male Athlete of the Month

Senior Justin VanProoyen has run cross country since seventh grade, and competed for Illiana’s team all four years. This season he led his team to its first ever Indiana semi-state appearance and qualified individually for the state meet. He qualified for state his freshman year in Illinois, and now he is the first Illiana athlete to qualify for state in Indiana. “I remember thinking of him as ‘Derek’s little brother,’ but he wrote his own chapter in Illiana history,” said girls cross country coach Luke Fennema. “Justin always sets an outstanding example for the team in discipline and preparation. He works hard to be the best runner he can be. I hope he leaves the legacy to train hard and keep improving for next year’s upperclassmen.”



## Female Athlete of the Month

Freshman Avery Olthof ran for the girls cross country team for the season of 2020-2021. She was the only girl runner from her team to qualify for semi-state. Though only a freshman, Olthof has emerged as a clear leader for the team. “During the summer I already knew she was going to be a great long distance runner and do something big,” said senior Dorianne Smith. Coach Luke Fennema said, “Avery has been an amazing asset to our team. She shows amazing perseverance even when she wants to give up.”



# Editorial

## Wearing masks protects community

As Christians, we are called to care for the sick and needy. In fact, when Jesus gives a parable about judgment day in Matthew 25, he paints a stunning picture of the importance of such care: “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’.... Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. . . . Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me’” (Matthew 25: 40-45).

Certainly “caring for the least of these” in a pandemic would include being mindful of people with suppressed immune systems or other underlying conditions that put their health at risk. If we refuse to wear a mask to protect others, can we tell our creator on Judgment Day that we truly did our best to care for others?

Though we may be blessed with a full, strong immune system, not everyone is. In fact, many people are immunocompromised. People who have severe asthma, heart conditions, Lupus, diabetes, organ or bone marrow transplants, all fall into this category, as do the elderly. It may not always be visible or apparent that someone has a weakened immune system, but

this doesn’t mean we can forget about them. We should help protect them because they are people who deserve to be safe.

Despite some peoples’ best efforts to stay safe at home, their efforts may not be enough. By refusing to wear masks in public, we may be putting their lives at risk; our actions may have unintended

that it is necessary in order to stop the spread of the virus. Even if we don’t fear contracting the virus, others with whom we come into contact do. If wearing a mask makes others safer, then we can afford to wear one for a few hours at school or thirty minutes in a store.

The real issue is selfishness. When we refuse to wear a mask,

of staying home, went to visit, say, a Dairy Queen. These students would risk passing along the virus to innocent bystanders like patrons and employees. An asymptomatic employee then risks passing the virus to every customer he serves and to family at home. Instead of one student having the virus, the number could be close to fifty or more.

Not only does this behavior affect workers and patrons, but it also affects students. All students returning to e-learning isn’t out of the question, which could be detrimental to some students learning; not every student does well with remote learning. Students would lose out on experiences again; no Loud Crowd, school dances, senior pranks, senior ditch day, or making memories with friends at break and lunch.

Some people view this kind of selfishness as some weird celebration of individual freedom, but such an argument misses the point. As people have pointed out in the past, your freedom to swing your fist ends where my jaw begins. To claim the right to go mask-less when doing so puts other people’s lives in peril is a strange kind of right. And, frankly, not the kind of right for which Christians should be arguing.

If we refuse to wear a mask to protect others, can we tell our creator on Judgment Day that we truly did our best to care for others?

consequences. According to health.ucdavis.edu, we can still transmit COVID-19 if we are asymptomatic. Not even knowing we are sick, we can spread the disease. How can we choose to put other peoples’ lives at risk because wearing a piece of fabric over our mouth and nose is “uncomfortable”?

Teens, too, must be responsible during this pandemic. Often, teens do not wear masks or social distance while together. Some say that mask-wearing is uncomfortable, but we must acknowledge

we are making clear that we only care about ourselves and our own comfort.

If students, for example, gather for a party and no one wears a mask, they share food and drink, pass a Juul back and forth, and talk closely, they are essentially begging to pass the virus. And once they pass it on to each other, it leaves that party with numerous people and the potential to harm others who never went to the party. Or imagine if people quarantining for the virus, instead

## Reading for brighter future

When I was a little kid, every Friday morning in the summer, my mom, my sisters, and I lugged our giant tote out of the closet, filled it with books to return, and drove off to the library. We entered quietly and worked our way through the endless aisles of books, always stopping to sit on and admire the giant zebra bench that guarded the children’s section. Afterward, we’d go to the summer reading table to trade in our reading points for treasures: plastic water whistles that looked like birds, cheap pens wrapped in colorful plastic designs, bookmarks that said “Readers are leaders!”

That phrase, “readers are leaders,” was everywhere when I was a kid. And although it’s a cliché, it’s true. According to the Huffington Post, research done by neuroscientists at York University, shows that reading is “the best predictor of life income, career options, even life partner choices” and more influential than an individual’s socioeconomic background. Readers are more likely to go to college, earn higher life income, and have better career options. The research also said that fiction readers are better at understanding people, have higher empathy, improved self-esteem, and better social skills.

Sadly, many Americans have lost their love of reading, and the number of American readers is on the decline. The Washington Post said that leisure reading has decreased over 30 percent since 2004. From 2004 to 2017, the number of male readers has fallen 40 percent and female readers have dropped 29 percent. Among children, boys especially are reading less, and score lower than girls on all measures of literacy, said the Huffington Post.

The Washington Post ominously concludes that “the converse [to reading]... is higher unemployment and dependence on social welfare, antisocial behaviors and increased crime rates.” These harsh words display a blatant truth: if the amount an individual reads is a major determinant in their success and social abilities, then Americans going to become less and less successful.

Evidently, reading is crucial to an individual’s success and well-being. But here’s another great reason to read: for personal enjoyment. Reading has played a major role in my life since I was a little kid who went to the library every Friday. Books make me laugh and cry, and keep me afloat amidst seas of stress and waves of worry. They inspire me with beautiful tales of what life can be, and show me the reason for each scene of life even when the rest remains a mystery.

Stories bring greater depth to my life, and they can do the same for you.

So please, for your own sake, read.



Olivia Oostema  
Co-Editor in Chief

the

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Can you find the five fall emojis hidden in this picture?



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