

the spectator

A Publication of Illiana Christian High School

WINTER 2022



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Legacy Archive*

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ILLIANA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Challenged to Serve

Illiana Christian High School is founded on the Bible as interpreted in the Reformed creeds. We graduate academically capable young people with a comprehensive Christian view of life committed to the challenge of serving God and others.

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The Spectator is a quarterly publication of Illiana Christian's School Board. The purpose of this publication is to share the story of Illiana Christian High School and to strengthen the bonds among our extended school community in support of Christian education. **The Spectator is mailed free of charge to alumni, families and friends of the school.**

Our address database is always being updated. If you would like to update your contact information or if you know of someone who would like to receive *The Spectator*, please contact Cassie Siersema and we will be very happy to update our database accordingly.

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NO MORE INJUSTICE

✦✦✦ PETER BOONSTRA, *Principal*

FOR THIRTY YEARS I have been longing for justice to be served for families of faith who, in good conscience, could only send their children to a Christian school and so paid the full freight in Christian school tuition as well as the full freight in taxes. Justice is finally flowing for these families at Illiana Christian High School! Here's the story:

I come from a long line of preachers and teachers (and a few farmers). One of my grandfathers was a Christian school principal and I have read articles of his about the inequity of school funding in the United States. He was not talking about the inequity between rich and poor areas, although he felt that inequity was deeply lamentable. He was mainly concerned with the inequity between secular schools (that received all their support from public coffers) and Christian schools that were entirely funded by parent tuition. This inequity put enormous financial pressure on poor families making a choice of conscience for Christian education. This inequity was decried by my grandfather almost 100 years ago. As I grew up I heard this same protest from my parents. They paid all their taxes but received no benefit for the education of their children. The school where my mother taught was fully accredited and employed only certified teachers keeping up, essentially, with the requirements of public education, and yet there was no relief or assistance for families that were saving the state thousands of dollars.

Then, ten years ago, vouchers were first introduced in Indiana. They were not really directed at correcting this long-standing injustice but intended to create an option for families who were stuck with low-performing schools. And, initially, they were targeted toward the poor in the low-performing schools. This past spring that voucher program was dramatically expanded to include not just low-income families but families that we would readily recognize as middle-income. In my view, this expansion is, at long last, directly addressing the injustice that my grandfather lamented 100 years ago. Today's Indiana voucher for the first time addresses the inequity of school funding not just to give the desperate a way out but to begin to make right what has been a century-long injustice.

I am well aware that some of us fear the government intrusion that might come with vouchers. Such fear is reasonable and warranted and demands that we be on guard against intrusive requirements that would compromise our mission, but at this time that would be only a fear. To receive vouchers we need to be accredited, employ certified teachers, and teach about the constitution. These are not odious intrusions but reasonable expectations that the state's funds also serve the state's interests.

As the voucher story was taking shape in Indiana, Illiana Christian High School moved across the state line in 2018 and our families first began to receive state vouchers. Recognizing the obvious inequity that would now befall our families from Illinois, we were able to secure commitments to fund a parallel voucher program for our Illinois families who were ineligible for the Indiana voucher

program. This truly opened up financial access to Illiana for all our families and ensured that the benefits toward equity in Indiana were being extended equally to families from Illinois. This year we were able to provide our Illinois families with vouchers along with the same rules of eligibility as the expanded Indiana voucher. Meanwhile, almost 100 of Illiana's students are now receiving \$500 scholarships (funded by donations) as a pathway to receiving a full Indiana state voucher next year. All of this is coming together with the result that next year for the first time more than half of Illiana's families will probably be receiving a voucher to attend Illiana! In my view, this is the kind of access and equity that my grandfather dreamt of 100 years ago! Perhaps one day all families will be able to freely choose a school for their children. In the meantime, it is very heartening to know that the injustice that burdened my grandfather's heart 100 years ago is today being set right at Illiana Christian High School.

“THIS EXPANSION IS,
AT LONG LAST,
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THE **INJUSTICE**
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SOCIAL MEDIA DILEMMA

⋮ LANCE DAVIDS, *Head of School*

I HAVE SPENT A LOT OF TIME over the past few years talking about the words we use. It has taken on an even more intentional focus this year regarding social media. I have said many times most of the problems we deal with that involve our students at school start, continue, and are made worse by social media. It is something that we as a school and the Illiana community have decided to tackle head-on.

We have spent a lot of time this year wrestling with our students' unhealthy use of social media. Even though social media involves screens, gifs, emojis, and memes, in the end, we are still using our words. Day after day, week after week, the words we use on social media are used to tear down, decrease our value, and just flat out hurt each other. So many times when kids are called out for what they post, they say things such as "it was a joke", "it's funny", or "it is not that big a deal". Well, it is a big deal and it's only getting bigger. We have addressed it and will continue to address it. We all need your help in talking to our kids and grandkids about social media and the words we use.

I think we, as the Illiana Community, can challenge ourselves to do a few things. First, let's model good social media behavior for our kids. We are always setting examples and maybe we take the lead by putting the phone down and picking up the chessboard or playing a game of spoons over some Lemon Oreos. Second, have continued conversations with our kids and grandkids on their social media use and set up clear and consistent boundaries for them to operate in. Finally, encourage and love our kids. Make it very clear how much they are loved not only by you but by our awesome savior. So much of what they see and listen to on Social Media focuses on how they are not good enough, talented enough, or valuable enough. Let them know every day that they have tremendous value because they are fearfully and wonderfully made and have been saved by God. Let that be the truth by which they live.

“LET THEM KNOW
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SAY HELLO

MEET THE NEW MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

☐☐☐ DAN BLOM

THOMAS WOLFE wrote the famous novel, “You Can’t Go Home Again.” In it, he argues that things are never as great as you remember them and if you choose to return to that which is familiar, you will inevitably be disappointed. I hate to argue with the esteemed Mr. Wolfe, but my homecoming has been as sweet as a chocolate chip muffin from Common Grounds. I was a graduate of Illiana’s class of ‘92. I was probably overly involved in student activities and didn’t enjoy high school for what it was at the time.

On my return to Illiana at the beginning of this year to assume my new role as Marketing and Communication director, I have been blown away by what I see happening here. The students are so talented. They are creative and eager to learn. The teaching staff is dedicated, innovative, and relentless in their efforts to make sure your kids are getting a faith-based education. Everywhere I look there are exciting things happening and that makes my new job pure joy. I can’t wait to get to work in the morning and I leave with a smile on my face just about every day.

I want to share what’s happening at Illiana with the parents, grandparents, supporters, and the community at large. I will be using social media a lot because frankly, that has become the number one way people communicate today. If you don’t already follow Illiana on Facebook (Illiana Christian High School) and Instagram (IllianaCHS) I urge you to do so. When you like and share a post or picture it helps get our message out and maybe drowns out a little of the other stuff out there on social media.

As well, I’m going to try to come up with some creative ways to make sure everybody knows what Illiana stands for. We’re so much more than just a shiny new building in a field at shoe corner in Dyer, Indiana. Illiana is about developing students with a passion for God, people, and the world. And I want everybody to know that. It took me 30-years to find my way back to Illiana. My letterman’s jacket no longer fits and my hair is quite a bit thinner, but as I walk through these halls I am re-energized every day by the power of the Holy Spirit that is present in every inch of the building. I am so grateful to God for leading me back to Illiana and I can’t wait to see what he has in store for the future of Illiana Christian.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

SPRING MUSICAL: MY FAIR LADY

MARCH 10-12

PULLED PORK PICNIC

MARCH 12

SPRING BREAK
MARCH 28 - APRIL 1

SPRING SUPPER
APRIL 19

GRANDPARENTS DAY
APRIL 22

PANCAKE PACER
APRIL 23

**ASSOCIATION
MEETING**
APRIL 25

PROM
MAY 14

GRADUATION
JUNE 3

BRINGING HOME THE GREEN & GOLD

❑❑❑ JANNA VANESSEN, *Director of Student Life*



ILLIANA'S DECADES-LONG TRADITION of a Homecoming court continued this year with the selection of Liz Aje, Madison Derks, Christine DeYoung, Taylor Olthof, Natalie Scott, Colin DeVries, Adam Gibson, Wesley Olthof, Matthew Smits, and Brady Vroom.

The Student Council once again had the privilege of selecting the homecoming theme: “Bring Home the Green and Gold” to coincide with the Olympics.

Homecoming Week this year also launched a new tradition, the Spirit Flag competition! During Homecoming Week, students from each class worked together with the goal of winning the Class Olympics. The winning graduation year will be embroidered on the flag and then displayed at school. As a school, we have been focussing on building community at Illiana. The Class Olympics is another way for students to build relationships with their peers by working together with a common goal.

Classes earned points by participating in spirit week activities such as dress-up days, “Anything but a Backpack Day”, and a homeroom door decorating contest.

Friday’s annual pep rally took on a new twist this year. The afternoon kicked off with the Homecoming Court Dance exhibition, followed by class games to earn points for the spirit flag. Shouts and cheering could be heard through the halls of Illiana- indicating the competition was ON!

As guests entered Illiana Friday night for the basketball games, they saw photo boards featuring classes that ended in ‘2, going back to 1952. The photo boards gave a visual testimony of the school’s rich history and God’s continued blessings throughout the decades. After a sparse, Covid-19 restricted crowd last year, the gym was at full capacity this year as the Vikings hosted Victory Christian.

Between games, Head Of School Lance Davids welcomed guests and asked Alumni from decades past to stand and be recognized. It was amazing to see the many people who have called Illiana “Home”. There was a “Homecoming Hospitality Room” in The Commons featuring food from various countries around the world, in keeping with the Olympic theme.

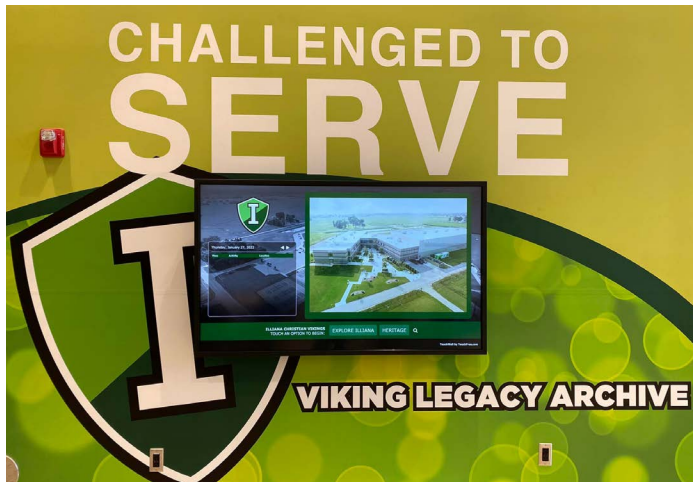


The Junior Class (2023) won the Spirit Flag and Mr. and Miss Illiana 2021 – Simon Molenaar and Abby Mejan – were on hand to announce this year's winners. During Abby's speech, she pointed out that

Homecoming is an exciting time for some and a drama-filled, lonely, and painful time for others. She reminded everyone that "one truth remains; We are loved, sons and daughters of the King of Kings. We get to look forward to our eternal homecoming someday, far better than this one!" What a blessing it was to see Victory Christian and Illiana fans in unity cheer and applaud this truth!

In the end, Madison Derks was named Miss Illiana, and Adam Gibson was named Mr. Illiana 2022. Madison thanked God, her family, teachers, and the entire Illiana Community for the love and support she received during her fight with cancer. Adam thanked his many mentors, coaches, teammates, teachers, and family members. Festivities concluded Saturday night with a dance in the ARC.





AT HOMECOMING, we launched the Viking Legacy Archive (VLA). This is Illiana Christian's digital archive meant to preserve, promote, and highlight our rich history as a school from its inception to today. It has been nearly a year since this project began with the simple idea of creating a space for athletics records. The project grew in scope as conversations with various parties and the company hosting the site shared ideas and possibilities of just what this archive could accomplish. We decided this project was too important to be just for sports. We decided to expand our focus to Fine Arts, and academic honors as well. The project took hours and hours of research, scanning yearbooks, digging through storage for pictures and documents. All this proved to be challenging but also an incredibly rewarding task as the VLA took shape.

A large touch screen TV on the south wing of campus will allow you to access the archive and navigate the photos, publications, and records of our school. This archive includes a wealth of resources! You will find academic award winners, valedictorians, salutatorians, and department award winners. You can scroll through athletic award winners, team pictures, and program records. Fine Arts are highlighted with pictures of previous plays and musicals, past Varia publications, and more. We've even created a spot for important publications of historical ICHS significance and pictures of the previous Lansing campus.

One of the best features of the VLA is that it is a live website! You do not have to be on campus to search this archive. You can find a link to the VLA at IllianaChristian.org to ensure you can keep tabs on all our latest additions. We will announce new major additions when they are entered but expect continual additions of years as we work our way through the decades.

What can you expect from this archive in the future? We plan to upload every Spire, complete our athletics records for each sport, and post pictures of every choir and band. We will also request information you might have to make our archive more rich and complete. Please keep in mind this is a working document that will continue to be updated. If you see something that doesn't seem accurate or have an idea or document that could help, please do not hesitate to reach out.



PRESERVING ILLIANA'S HISTORY

■ ■ ■ DARREN DEBOER, *Athletic Director*



WINTER SPORTS

UPDATE

❑❑❑ **DARREN DEBOER**, *Athletic Director*



WRESTLING

GIRLS

The wrestling team enjoyed another competitive year under coach Dean Bosman. Senior Faith VanerLaan finished a stellar ICHS career by taking 4th in the 113 lb weight class at the IHSGW tournament. Senior Alex Bosman advanced to the Regional Tournament in the 152 lb weight class.



BASKETBALL

BOYS

As of early February, the boys' varsity basketball team was 15-2 and 4-0 in the conference under coach Tom Roozeboom. The boys have played unselfish and uptempo basketball, with scoring coming from multiple sources.

The JV boys have also had a successful season so far under coach Jeff White. At 11-3 for the year, the JV boys have performed consistently all season. As of early February, the boys were on a 9 game winning streak.

The freshmen boys team has had a great year of learning the program under coach Jim Rappold. The boys are 8-4 with key wins over Hanover Central and Chicago Christian.

GIRLS

The varsity girls basketball team finished their season with a 6-16 record under coaches Lisa Blocker and Lance Davids. Natalie Scott was the lone senior for the varsity girls who will be returning nearly everyone next year. Despite a losing record, Coach Blocker cited strong team and individual development.

The JV Girls had an excellent season under coach Denise VanRyn. The girls finished their season 14-4 with signature wins over Bishop Noll and Chicago Christian. With 16 of the program's 24 athletes, the girls' basketball program expects success in the years to come.

TRIBUTES

IN MEMORY OF

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Ms. Elouise Kubacki

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Ms. Cheri Triemstra
Mr. Roger Triemstra
Mr. John VandeWerken
Ms. Donna Lamoureux
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lewandowski

IN HONOR OF

Zigterman 70th Wedding Anniversary

Ms. Phyllis VanProoyen

Carol Moxey & Wes Mesman Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Tessarolo

ADMISSIONS NEWS

5 THINGS HAPPENING IN ADMISSIONS

JENNA DUTTON, Admission Director

5

Illiana has released a new "lookbook" for the Admissions Department. This lookbook shows off all the great things that are happening at Illiana. You can find a copy of the lookbook at www.illianachristian.org

4

Preview Illiana:

- The December 2nd Open House brought in a total of 48 prospective families
- We currently have 33 prospective families registered for the March 1st Open House.

3

Illiana is excited to introduce "welcome boxes" to those students that have completed their registrations for the 2022-2023 school year! These boxes will be delivered to each future Vikings' current school.

2

So far, we have had 65 prospective students shadow other Vikings.

1

There are currently 33 freshmen registered for the 2022-2023 school year, our goal is 114! At this point, we are +24 ahead of where we were at this time last year.





ILLIANA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

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PARENTS OF ALUMNI

If this issue of The Spectator is mailed to a son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please notify us of the correct address at csiers@illianachristian.org



PAJAMA PARTY!

IN AN AGE when most people can't sew a button back on their shirt, Mrs. Roeda's 6th-period Health And Wellness students can not only sew buttons, they can design, cut, and sew custom pajama pants. Practical life skills are taught every day at Illiana Christian High School!



PEP RALLY TRADITION

DAN BLOM, Marketing and Communications Director

DURING ILLIANA'S ANNUAL Homecoming Pep rally there was an unidentifiable, green object sitting in the crowd. It wasn't the Philly Fanatic, nor was it a leprechaun. It was our very own Assistant Principal and Social Studies teacher, Mrs. Rachel Drost. Her outfit screams Viking spirit and is capped off by an old Illiana marching band hat that Mrs. Drost saved during the move from the old campus in Lansing. Now, she dusts off the outfit every year and dons it for the pep rally. It's a once-a-year event, like an eclipse or the return of the McRib. So, keep your eyes peeled next year around Homecoming and you too may get a glimpse of Illiana's very own "Green Spirit Viking".

