



Paw Prints



*News and Information from
Community High School District 128*

Fall 2003



See
page 4 for
important
school calendar
survey

**Administrative Offices**

940 W. Park Ave.
Libertyville, Illinois 60048
847-367-3159

Libertyville High School

708 W. Park Ave.
Libertyville, Illinois 60048
847-327-7000

Vernon Hills High School

145 N. Lakeview Parkway
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061
847-932-2000

<http://www.district128.org>

Board of Education

Jan Foreman, President
John Snow, Vice President
Anne Landgraf, Secretary
Scott Adams
Holly Jauch
Dennis Ryan
Judy Sugarman

Student Representatives

Jenny Byelick, Libertyville High School
Brittany Muller, Vernon Hills High School

Administration**District**

Dr. David L. Clough, Superintendent
Dr. Catherine Finger, Assoc. Superintendent
Yasmine Dada, CPA, Asst. Superintendent for Business
Mary Todoric, Director of Communications

Libertyville High School

Dr. Joseph Wojtena, Principal
Eric Maroscher, Assistant Principal
Diane Phillips, Assistant Principal
Ron Bjurstrom, Director of Student Support Services

Vernon Hills High School

Dr. Ellen Cwick, Principal
Jon Guillaume, Assistant Principal
Deborah Larson, Assistant Principal

Community Education Program

Dr. Lester "Buzz" Perry, Director of Community Education and Grants

Paw Prints is published quarterly during the school year for District 128 families. Questions and concerns should be addressed to *Paw Prints* Editor Mary Todoric, Director of Communications at 847-327-7186.

*Superintendent's Message***Thank you to the District 128 community**

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job as District 128 superintendent is to have the opportunity to work in a community that is so interested in and supportive of its schools. I have mentioned this before in my column, but this support was evidenced once again on Oct. 20 when approximately 100 District 128 residents gathered at the Brainerd Building for a forum hosted by the District 128 Board of Education. The Board sought input from the community with regards to the future of Brainerd. I was very impressed, not only with the turnout on a beautiful Indian Summer evening, but also with the myriad of ideas and suggestions shared by residents that evening. Those in attendance had a true interest and concern for the issue at hand, and those who chose to address the Board had clearly given the issue much consideration.

The forum audience included parents, students, citizens, elected officials and District 128 alumni. It was especially good to hear students, who utilize the CELYA teen center at Brainerd, speak passionately about an issue that is so important to them.

The Board of Education has a big decision to make with regards to the future of Brainerd. There is no easy solution, nor one that does not involve a cost. While the Board has not set a deadline date by which to make its decision, we will continue to communicate the information to the community as it becomes available. Watch future issues of *Paw Prints*, *The 128 Report* and our web site for future news.

Thank you to those who made time in your busy schedules to attend the forum, and to those who made the effort to mail, fax or email suggestions and comments to the Board. This is your school district, and we value your input.

David L. Clough, Ph.D.
Superintendent

No Child Left Behind update

by Dr. Catherine Finger, Associate Superintendent

The **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001** contains sweeping educational reform initiatives. The intent of the No Child Left Behind Act is quite admirable. NCLB was designed to ensure that **all students will:**

- ◆reach high standards
- ◆be taught by highly qualified teachers
- ◆be educated in environments that are safe, drug-free and conducive to learning and
- ◆graduate from high school.

In response to NCLB, the Illinois State Board of Education has developed three critical priorities in its effort to support all schools in meeting the vision for education in Illinois schools. Illinois priorities include:

- ◆eliminating the achievement gap
- ◆eliminating the educator gap and
- ◆eliminating the funding gap.

Eliminating the achievement gap has spurred states to define “**adequate yearly progress**” (AYP) to ensure that all students will improve, with a particular emphasis on disadvantaged students. The “**Illini Equal Steps Plan**” was developed this summer to ensure that all students meet or exceed academic standards on or before the year 2014 in the state of Illinois. Student subgroups have been identified and must be monitored annually if a district has 40 or more students falling into each subgroup. Beginning with the Prairie State Achievement Exam in the spring of 2002, at least 40% of all students falling into the identified subgroups must meet or exceed standards in order to meet a school’s AYP. The student achievement bar raises in equal increments between the year 2002 and 2014 with all students expected to meet or exceed standards in 2014.

Here in Community High School District 128, we agree with the intent of NCLB and we are currently reviewing student performance data as a preliminary step in developing strategies to guide all of our students toward academic excellence and testing proficiency as defined by the Illini Equal Steps Plan.

If you would like more information about NCLB, please visit the Illinois State Board of Education website at www.isbe.net.

Red Ribbon Classic a success



Community District 128 sponsored its 13th annual Red Ribbon Classic Run / Walk on Oct. 5, 2003. The Red Ribbon Classic seeks to encourage community and individual involvement in creating a drug-free environment for not only the students but for younger children and their families as well.

The race is sponsored by Athletes Committed to Excellence (ACE) and the Student Assistance Programs of both LHS and VHHS. Over 250 or more participated in the 5K race and Fun Run. Congratulations to the overall male and female winners, **Nathan Sweet** and **Dolores Heupel**.

Community District 128 staff members who participated in the race included **Tim Budge, Michelle Mantonya, Tasha Fitzgibbons, Dyan Flood, Sean Ferrell, Christophe Guiard, Patti Mascia, Andrea Lara, Liz Perlman, Randy Kuceyeski, Peggy Cope, Kathy Catanzaro, Jill Tatz, Joe Wojtena, and Larry Grubb**.

All proceeds from the race are used to start new anti-drug programs in our area and to continue established preventive programs.

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District seeks input on 2004-05 school calendar

The Community High School District 128 Calendar Committee would like feedback regarding the school calendar for Libertyville High School and Vernon Hills High School. The committee has developed two calendar options for consideration by District 128 families. Please review each option below and the points to consider. You will also find a listing of points to consider for each option. Please complete the survey questionnaire at the bottom of page 5 or visit our website at www.district128.org. Your time and input is greatly appreciated. Look for the results of this survey in an upcoming issue of *Paw Prints*.

Libertyville High School/Vernon Hills High School 2004-2005 School Calendar

Calendar A (Exams after Winter Break)

Monday, August 23	First Teacher Attendance Day
Tuesday, August 24	First Student Attendance Day
Monday, December 20	Winter Break Begins
Monday, January 3	Students and Teachers Return
Wed.-Fri., January 19-21	First Semester Exam Days
Mon.-Fri., March 28 - April 1	Spring Break
Mon.-Wed., June 6-8	Second Semester Exam Days
Thursday, June 9	VHHS Graduation
Friday, June 10	LHS Graduation

Calendar B (Exams before Winter Break)

Friday, August 13	First Teacher Attendance Day
Monday, August 16	First Student Attendance Day
Mon.-Wed. December 20-22	First Semester Exam Days
Thursday, December 23	Winter Break Begins
Thursday, January 6	Teachers Return
Monday, January 10	Students Return
Mon.-Fri., March 28 - April 1	Spring Break
Fri., Tues. May 27, 31 &	
Wednesday, June 1	Second Semester Exam Days
Thursday, June 2	VHHS Graduation Day
Friday, June 3	LHS Graduation Day

* NOTE: All other holidays will not be impacted by either calendar option.

Points to consider

- Calendar A will be familiar to parents and students, as it is similar to previous District 128 calendars.
- Calendar A allows for even distribution of teaching time between the two semesters (90 days of teaching 1st semester, 89 days of teaching 2nd semester).
- Calendar B has a five-day difference in the length of semesters resulting in differences in the academic program.
- Calendar B would start a week earlier in the month of August.
- Calendar B allows students and teachers to complete 1st semester prior to winter break.
- Calendar B may not align with elementary feeder district winter break schedules.

Please indicate your calendar preference below and return via the following options:

fax:

847-327-7172

email:

eric.maroscher@district128.org

mail:

Calendar Survey, c/o Eric Maroscher,
708 W. Park Ave., Libertyville, Illinois 60048

Please return by November 10.

Name (optional) _____

I am a District 128: Parent Student Employee Other

As a member of Community High School District 128, I would prefer the 2004-2005 school year calendar be:

_____ Calendar A _____ Calendar B

Comments: _____

District 128 orchestras join forces with neighboring schools for joint concerts



Following the success of last year's exchange concerts, the orchestras at LHS and VHHS joined forces with other top performing orchestra programs to present joint concerts in October. LHS participated in its first exchange concert on Oct. 1 when it joined New Trier High School and Wheeling High School at Wheeling. That same evening, the VHHS orchestra hosted a concert featuring Evanston Township High School and Niles North High School. The VHHS orchestra is pictured above performing with the Niles North orchestra with **Art Price** conducting. The idea for an "exchange concert program" was launched last year by Wheeling High School orchestra director **Abel Rodriguez**. Watch for announcements of future exchange concerts featuring the District 128 orchestras. (photo courtesy of *F. Lestina*)

LHS band program receives grant from Exxon Mobil Corp



Thanks to the efforts of **John Kim** of the Mobil Station at 176 and Butterfield, Libertyville High School has been awarded a \$500 ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Grant for the school's band program. The money will be used for additional educational opportunities for band students. Funded by the Exxon Mobil Corporation, the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program is designed to provide Mobil and Exxon retailers with an opportunity to invest in the future of their community through educational grants to neighborhood schools. Kim is pictured above presenting the check to LHS band director **Don Shupe**. (photo courtesy of *B.J. Jones*)

Fine arts parent groups: You may already be a member

Their names are CAST (Cougar Arts Support Team) and FAST (Fine Arts Support Team) and they are the parent organizations that support the Fine Arts programs at VHHS and LHS. Fine Arts offered at both schools include:

Music - Band, Orchestra & Choir

Visual Arts - Many different options including ceramics, photo and computer arts

Theater - courses in acting and theater tech during the day as well as after school opportunities in two plays and a musical at each school

Dance - Two levels of dance courses in school and orchesis dance after school.

All parents who have a student enrolled in a Fine Arts course or participating in a Fine Arts extracurricular program are automatically CAST or FAST members. There is no membership fee or form to fill out. All you need to decide is how active you want to be in the organization. There are monthly meetings for each group and many different positions available. Officers are selected at the end of each school year. Meetings are open to the public and parents are encouraged to attend any meeting if they would like to find out more about the organizations. Parents are needed for many roles that range from getting very involved to simply helping out with a special event. Visit the parent groups on line for more information. You'll find FAST at lhs.district128.org/departments/fpa/FAST and CAST at vhhs.district128.org/parents/vhhsparents/castindex.html.

Your involvement can be as much or as little as you would like, but please consider getting involved at some level.

College Admission Tests Q & A

by Vic Capron, VHHS College Counselor

What college admission tests should I take? The ACT and SAT I are the two tests used by colleges and universities for admission. The ACT is preferred by colleges in the Midwest and in the South. The SAT I is preferred by colleges on the East and West Coasts.

Do I need to take both tests?

If you are undecided about which college to attend, you cover all bases by taking both tests. Many students seem to do better on one test than on the other but not all students need to take both tests. If you have any questions about which test/s to take, check with your counselor or college counselor.

When should I take the test/s?

Spring of junior year is recommended for most students. All juniors will take the state mandated Prairie State Achievement Exams in April which includes an ACT. Please refer to the 2003-04 ACT and SAT Schedule.

How many times can I take the tests?

Many students take either the ACT or SAT I more than once. Most colleges will take your highest composite score.

How do these tests differ?

The ACT measures academic achievement in English, math, reading and science reasoning. The SAT I measures verbal and math skills.

How do I apply for these tests?

For the PSAT/ACT you will register at school and there is no cost to the student. For the national test dates you can apply for the ACT online at act.org and for the SAT at collegeboard.com. Students may also pick up ACT and SAT registration packets in the CRC.

What about test preparation ?

VHHS and LHS offer an ACT test prep program in February and March to prepare students for the April test dates. All junior families will be mailed home a brochure after winter break detailing the test prep class.

What about SAT II's?

Some highly selective universities require SAT II subject tests in addition to the SAT I or ACT. Each of these subject tests are one hour in length and three tests can be taken on one test date. Colleges that require SAT II tests usually recommend taking three. These tests are offered on the same test dates as the SAT I.

Please keep in mind while standardized tests are important for admissions, academic performance in a challenging college prep curriculum and involvement in activities are considered as better indicators of a student's potential for success in college.

ACT Schedule 2003-2004

Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
September 27**	August 22	September 5
*October 25	September 19	October 3
December 13**	November 7	November 20
*February 7**	January 2	January 16
April 3**	February 27	March 12
June 12	May 21	May 27

Basic fee \$25.00

*Test given at Vernon Hills High School

**Test given at Libertyville High School

Other test sites are listed in the registration packets and online.

SAT Schedule 2003-2004

Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
October 11**	September 9	September 13
November 1	September 26	October 18
December 6	October 31	November 12
January 24	December 22	January 1
March 27	February 20	March 3
May 1	March 26	April 7
June 5	April 30	May 12

Registration SAT I \$26.00

** Test given at Libertyville High School

Vernon Hills High School is NOT an SAT test site.

From the Principal's Desk . . .

by Dr. Joe Wojtena, Libertyville High School

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Libertyville High School, I would like to welcome all of our students and their parents back for the 2003-2004 school year. *Paw Prints* is intended to keep you informed and up-to-date regarding events taking place in our District schools, to promote our many programs and activities, and to highlight student accomplishments. Each issue will include news and special feature articles from the staff including counselors, college/resource center, administrators, student activities, district news and special events. *Paw Prints* will be an important link between school and home.

Test Scores- LHS students continue to excel academically. The following is a brief summary:

ACT – Composite scores for all students

1997-98	24.4
1998-99	24.4
1999-00	24.6
2000-01	24.4
*2001-02	24.3
*2002-03	24.6

*2001-02 scores reflect the year the ACT was required to be taken by all students in the State of Illinois.

PSAE – Percentage (%) summary of students who met or exceeded State of Illinois standards.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Reading	80%	80%	80%
Math	79%	81%	80%
Writing	82%	84%	85%
Science	79%	81%	82%
Social Studies	80%	83%	84%

The above ACT/PSAE scores should rank LHS as one of the top academic performing schools in the State.

Advanced Placement (AP) – Percentage (%) of students at LHS who received a score of 3, 4 or 5 on the AP test. Generally, colleges/universities give college credit to students who score in this range.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percentage (%)</u>	<u>Total # of grades reported</u>
1994	88%	259
1995	86%	273
1996	87%	297
1997	86%	311
1998	85%	317
1999	86%	302

2000	89%	299
2001	93%	258
2002	91%	253
2003	87%	275

ACT Test Prep – LHS offers ACT Test Prep Workshops to Juniors in the spring. A summary of Pre ACT Test data compared to actual ACT scores after the Test Prep Workshop.

2001 Results

Total Students = 139

112 Students improved ACT score by average of 2.48 points
Overall students improve ACT scores by average of 1.89 points

2002 Results

Total Students = 187

150 Students improved ACT score by average of 2.64 points
Overall students went up by 1.979 points

2003 Results

Total Students = 215

145 Students improved ACT score by average of 2.56 points
Overall students went up by 1.726 points.

All juniors are encouraged to take the ACT Test Prep Workshop in the spring. Parents will receive a letter of invitation with detailed information after Winter Break.

National Merit Semifinalists

Each year, over one million students in over 20,000 high schools nationwide compete for scholarship money and recognition. Students entered the competition by taking the 2003 Preliminary SAT test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test PSAT/NMSQT used by NMSC as an initial screen of entrants. Representing less than one percent of each state's high school seniors, semifinalists are the highest-scoring program entrants in each state. Libertyville High School is proud to announce the following seniors as National Merit Semifinalist: **Elizabeth Jordan, Matt Mosconi, Esther Liu, Aaron Mowery.**

National Merit – Commended Students

John Arduini, George Burnett, Steven Canning, Anthony Carr, Annie Choi, Grace Ding, Eric Grosspietsch, Sarah Halbert, Jessica Hui, Bradley Hutchinson, Patrick Kaiser, Eleana Lindsey, Eric Meyer, Stuart Montgomery, Nirav Patel, Kelsey Shawgo, Hayley Steplyk, Evan Williamson

Construction Update

The new student drop-off area has worked well. We have added additional parking spaces on campus adjacent to the tennis courts, sophomore softball diamond, back parking lot and along the West drive. We now have 317 parking spaces for seniors and 209 for faculty/staff.

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Student activities update

by Diane Phillips, Assistant Principal

LHS Homecoming 2003

The LHS Student Council Executive Board began preparing for the 2003 Homecoming last May. “**Highway to the Danger Zone**” was chosen as this year’s theme. The LHS Homecoming 2003 Schedule of Events were as follows:

Oct. 1 – Sweet 16 Elections were held

Oct. 3 - Sweet 16 Assembly took place. Members of the Student Council did a fashion show that spotlighted what was to be worn during Spirit Week. **Jenny Byelick** introduced the results of the Sweet 16 election. **Brittany Alamshah, Jenny Blair, Heather Callan, Annie Deutschmann, Rachel Gaus, Jessica Hui, Katie Kelley, Betsey Knab, Eliza Larkin, Christy Martinez, Sabrina Mazza, Munirah McNeely, Jocelyn Miller, Lauren Paterni, Cassie Satala, Stacy Schuett.**

Oct. 6 – The LHS Student Council Executive Board painted the traditional orange paw prints on the main drive into the school to promote Spirit Week.

Oct. 7 – College Sweatshirt Day. Float building took place in the fieldhouse for the class floats.

Oct. 8 – Crazy Hair/Hat Day. Homecoming elections took place. The Senior Girls’ Powder Puff Game took place on the football field. Thanks to **Meredith Tarczynski** for all of her hard work organizing this traditional game – Orange vs. Black. Float building continued in the fieldhouse.

Oct. 9 - Celebrity Day. Float building continued in the fieldhouse.

Oct. 10 – Black and Orange Day. Members of the Sweet 16 Court greeted students and staff in the morning by passing out orange and black ribbons. The Homecoming/Fall Recognition Assembly took place. The assembly honored our fall student athletes and promoted LHS clubs and extracurricular activities and named the Teacher of the Year **Karen Gibbs**. Parent CATS announced the winners of the downtown Libertyville window painting contest. The assembly also featured the Sweet 16 court and their

escorts. **Jenny Byelick**, President of the Executive Board, introduced the selections for the Top 5 along with the Homecoming Queen **Stacy Schuett**. **Bruce Jones**, Vice President of the Executive Board, crowned the Queen. Student Council decorated the gym for the Homecoming Dance and its theme “Highway to the Danger Zone”. Float building concluded in the fieldhouse.

Oct. 11 – The Homecoming Parade started at 9:30 a.m. at the train station, went south on Milwaukee Avenue and then turned west on Park Avenue where it concluded in the parking lot of LHS. The parade was organized by Bruce Jones, Vice President of the Executive Board. The Sophomore Football Game began at 10:30 a.m. At the start of the Varsity Football Game the Homecoming Queen and her court were introduced. The Homecoming Dance took place from 8:00 – 11:00 p.m. in the gym. **Nina Pilacoutas**, and **Brittany Alamshah** were the co-chairpersons of the dance decoration committee.

Red Ribbon Classic

Community High School District 128 hosted its 13th Annual Red Ribbon Classic on Sunday, Oct. 5 at LHS. The event featured a 5K Walk, 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Run that heightened the awareness of drug-free living. See page 3 for more details.

Canned Food Drive Information

The LHS Annual Canned Food Drive will take place Nov. 21 – 25. The Student Council Executive Board would like to beat last year’s LHS and new state record of 74,753 food items collected in a school food drive. The community support for this annual food drive has always been wonderful and we look forward to your continued support. Any parents interested in assisting with the Canned Food Drive should contact **Diane Phillips** at (847) 327-7005 or diane.phillips@district128.org.

Summer Accomplishments for Clubs/Activities/Students

Congratulations to **Aaron Mowery** for being selected to attend Boys’ Nation in Washington, D.C., and receiving the American Legion Boys’ State Scholarship

and **Marti Lyons** who attended Girls’ Nation also in Washington, D.C.

Caleb Ng attended the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Study Camp 2003 held in July at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

David Hruska took 10th in the National Electronics Technology competition at Skills USA-VICA in Kansas City, Mo.

Heather Johnston finished 1st in the nation in Banking and **Matt Warren** finished 7th in the nation in Marketing at the Future Business Leaders of America competition held in Dallas.

Tiffanie Hancock was named *Daily Herald* Volunteer of the Week for her work with the Boys and Girls Club of Lake County. She also performed with the University of Minnesota Dance Team during half-time of their Sept. 20 football game.

Hanah Stuart performed in a live recording with internationally renowned violin virtuoso **Sarah Chang**. She also performed with famed pianist **Christopher O’Riley**. These performances were broadcast on WFMT on Oct. 26.

An Entrance to Remember Brick Sale

Have you purchased your personalized brick that will be a part of the main entrance to the new addition at Libertyville High School? Funds raised will be used to enhance the high school marquee on Park Avenue. The number of bricks is limited and will be installed as the final phase of construction, approximately the summer of 2004. Ordering deadline is Dec. 1, 2003. What a wonderful way to show your pride in the LHS tradition of excellence. Contact **Paulette M. Young** at 847-573-7310 of Parents CATS for information.

Alumni Directory for LHS graduating classes of 1918 - 2003

LHS is currently working with the Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, Inc. to publish the second LHS Alumni Directory. The all-new directory will be the most up-to-date and complete reference ever compiled on LHS graduates and will feature detailed personal and professional information on alumni from all class years- making it easier than ever to find old friends as well as to network professionally.

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Student Activities *continued from page 9*

The biographical information for alumni is currently being compiled and edited by Harris Publishing Company. To ensure that directory listings are completely accurate, LHS graduates are asked to please contact Harris Publishing to provide your current name, address and phone number. Call toll-free 1-800-651-2016 or fax information to 1-800-860-9085. Grads may also e-mail information to gcupdate@bcharrispub.com or forward information via regular mail to Libertyville High School Alumni Directory Project, c/o Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company – Graduate Connection, 6300 Center Drive, Norfolk, VA 23502.

Any additional information that can be provided, such as reunion lists, class newsletters, and any other resources containing information that has been released since graduation, will be an invaluable contribution to the project.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Phillips, Assistant Principal at LHS at (847) 327-7005 or diane.phillips@district128.org

L.E.A.F.



LHS students **Hongyan Wang** and **K.J. Hansmann** are pictured above participating in the eighth annual Youth Environmental Symposium at the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area. Members of the Libertyville Environmental Action Force Club attended the Oct. 1 Symposium, which brings together students and teachers from high schools in Lake County for a day of environmental education programs focused on looking at regional land use. The theme this year was “Exploring Chicago Wilderness,” and examined the unprecedented alliance of more than 160 public and private organizations working together to study and restore, protect and manage the precious natural ecosystems of the Chicago region for the benefit of the public. The program’s goal was to teach and encourage students to think critically about the environment and the role we all can play in protecting it.

K. J. Hansmann, Meghan O’Dowd, Heather Peterson, Candice Swift, Vicki Vepari and Hongyan Wang along with LEAF Sponsors **Karen Gibbs, Frank Underbrink, Kedric Greenawalt** and **Diane Phillips** attended four workshops. The

topics included exploring wetland ecosystems, exploring forest ecosystems, exploring prairie ecosystems, and restoring ecosystems. (*photo courtesy of K. Gibbs*)

First Class Leadership Training

On Sept. 17, approximately 150 students and 15 staff attended training at St. Mary’s in Mundelein. Each student took part in three activities. Students took the Myers-Briggs test to determine their personality profile. This was used to better understand themselves and their strengths and to partner them up with other students when doing first class lessons. “Change matrix” gave each student an opportunity to develop their ideas on changes in the school. During “Hidden strengths” each student shared a difficult or challenging part of their life and how they handled it.

First Class is a character education and leadership program that is used as a school wide training program. A new activity is led by First Class Leaders in each classroom two times a month.

Web Site for Activities/Dates

Remember to visit the district website at www.district128.org to get current calendar dates and events. The website also has the daily bulletin available.

School Resource Officer – Officer Bill Mitchell from the Libertyville Police Department has joined our staff as the new School Resource Officer.

Driver Education field trip



LHS and Platinum Collision teamed up for a driver education field trip to discuss safety concerns for new drivers on Sept. 25. More than 70 driver education students visited the Lake Villa business. Several speakers, including a local insurance agent and LHS School Resource Officer **Bill Mitchell** were part of the presentation that discussed all aspects of an auto accident. Students also toured Platinum’s state-of-the-art auto collision repair facility to learn how vehicles are repaired after a crash. A Platinum employee is seen here teaching a student how to change a flat tire as part of the tour. (*photo by M. Todoric*)

News from the Hills

Principal's Report

by Dr. Ellen Cwick

The 2003-2004 school year has gotten off to a strong start. Our student enrollment is currently 1,228 students, which is an increase of 5.2% (61 additional students over last year). Our breakdown by class levels is:

freshmen	335 students
sophomores	304 students
juniors	276 students
seniors	313 students

The first semester of a school year is an exciting time. I want to take this opportunity to encourage all Cougar students to become actively involved in our school life. Even if you are wondering what it would be like to be part of an athletic team, school club, or fine arts program, check it out! Regular meeting dates are in our student announcements and/or talk to the coach or sponsor. It's not too late to get involved!

Congratulations to our 9 National Merit Semifinalists and 15 Commended Students!

More than one million students entered the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSAT test last October. Only 16,000 (1.6 %) of the highest scorers were named as semifinalists and the next 34,000 (3.4 %) were named commended. We are pleased to announce that 9 semifinalists and 15 commended students are from VHHS. **For our school size these 23 students represent an impressive accomplishment!** Congratulations to the following students:

Semifinalists: **Crystal Ahn, Matthew Braslow, Chris Bryant, John Cheng, Max Citron, Stephen Heumann, Christine Kim, Michelle Sham, Kevin Wender**

Commended: **Erin Chiou, Carolyn Grieco, Colin Johnston, Sarah Keister, Lisa Kim, Meghan Krippinger, Daniel Lador, David Margules, Brandon Maslov, Michael Paull, Vincent Pierri, Philip Procento, Katie Skeehan, Cosmin Stejerean, Andrew Wenman**

Test Results and NCA

We are very proud of our ACT/PSAE scores from last spring. An increase in ACT/PSAE scores continues to occur at Vernon Hills High School with the passing of another junior class and year. Please see Tom Chinske's article to the right for more information.

Our NCA school improvement process is entering its implementation phase. Last year through committee work done by students, staff, and parents, we established the following two goals for VHHS:

Diversity goal (Chairperson- **Jim Seward**): All students will increase their awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity in our learning community.

Reading and comprehension goal (Chairperson- **Tom Chinske**): All students will exhibit an improved ability to

read and demonstrate comprehension in all curricular areas. Watch for future updates on programs that support these goals.

Construction Update

VHHS is involved with five capital plan projects over the next two years. The District 128 Board of Education approved these projects at its June meeting. The five projects are: a catwalk for the studio theatre, an outdoor athletic storage building, an outdoor concession stand/restrooms, security access control/camera system, and a maintenance storage building.

Building specifications have been drawn up for the maintenance storage building, athletic storage building, and concession stand/restrooms.

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2003-04 Prairie State Achievement Exams Update

by Tom Chinske, VHHS Assessment Coordinator

An increase in ACT/PSAE scores continues to occur at Vernon Hills High School with the passing of another junior class and year. Students at VHHS continue to perform at levels significantly higher than state and national averages; these increases are noteworthy. The composite score for all students increased a +.5 (22.7 to 23.2). The State of Illinois composite ACT score is 20.2. The National ACT composite score is 20.8.

The following increases occurred at VHHS in each of the four subject areas: Reading = +.3, English = +.8, Math = +.6, Science = +.5. Combining these ACT scores with PSAE scores to generate the composite scores above, once again shows increases or minimal changes from last year, with scores in all subject areas being 8 to 11 points higher than the state cut scores. Also included on the PSAE was Social Science that is independent of the ACT composite score. One point that is very evident in our students' increasing scores is that the more core classes they take, the greater their scores increase.

A forecast of continued increases of student scores is likely, as some students retook the ACT Test on Oct. 25 and the PSAE on Oct. 28. In addition to some students taking advantage of the opportunity to retest, the school continues to plan new ways to help juniors improve their scores on the ACT/PSAE. These plans include introducing the EPAS system of testing. Eighth graders take the ACT Explore Test. Sophomores take the ACT Plan Test. Juniors continue to take the ACT and PSAE tests. The advantage of the EPAS system is that it identifies students' individual weaknesses and can be used to predict student success on future tests. Support plans of tutorial programs will be sought to bring underachievers up to standards or to assist students who wish to improve their scores as VHHS students strive to be competitive with or be the best of the best.

Student activities update

by Deb Beagle, VHHS Student Activities Coordinator

Enjoy the Vernon Hills High School experience by getting involved.

How can you get involved at Vernon Hills High School? Join one of our many clubs. For the complete list of clubs as well as the name of the advisor organizing the club go to <http://vhhs.district128.org/clubs>. For more information about each club, contact Student Activities Director, **Debbie Beagle** in Room 1512 or call 847-932-2195.

Student council officers and representatives

Congratulations to the 2003-2004 student council class officers and representatives. Students are encourage to contact their class representatives to get involved, offer suggestions, help organize the class charity event or be a part of planning the next dance.

Executive Board

President: Brittany Muller
Vice-President: Jill Tomalavage
Corresponding Sec: Guliz Sonmez
Treasurer: Ashley Bacarella

Senior Class

President: Mike DeLaRosa
Vice-President: Patrick Chmura
Secretary: Lauren Brenner
Treasurer: Allison Kim

Junior Class

President: Joe Tsai
Vice-President: Jared Batson
Secretary: Dianna Soenksen
Treasurer: Stephanie Hebda

Sophomore Class

President: Sara Stiles
Vice-President: Kevin Adelman
Secretary: Sandy Kim
Treasurer: Caitlin Natsch

Freshman Class

President: Melissa Silverberg
Vice-President: Melissa Azul
Secretary: Stephanie Grebe
Treasurer: Eric Contos

Representatives

Seniors

Jaclyn Aspinall
 Heather Brighton
 Rachel Cope
 Frankie Lee
 Rebecca Younger
 Erin Hoadley

Juniors

Katie Unterfenger
 Jacci Stier
 Ruth Abarca
 Mike Daniel
 Tom Ginakakis
 Braden Davidson

Sophomores

Lauren Hansen
 Melissa Darden
 Benny Baba
 Kristen Adachi
 Mindi Thommed
 Brittany Johnson

Freshmen

Taebee Chang
 Michael Mui
 Mina Park
 Elizabeth Ro
 Nisha Sutaria
 Michael Walsh

Homecoming 2003: "Jungle Boogie"

We kicked off the homecoming week with our fall recognition assembly on Friday, Oct. 10. It began with an outstanding Power Point show highlighting our fall sports and clubs. Following the presentation, we held our fashion show for spirit week. Lastly, we announced the students selected to be this year's sweet sixteen attendants. Congratulations to:

Freshman attendants: Melissa Azul, Michelle Thorstad

Sophomore attendants: Laura Fine, Bridget Matsunaga

Junior attendants: Patrice Gentile, Kelsey Seidler

Senior attendants: Rachael Blanton, Heather Brighton, Lauren Horan, Allison Kosatka, Lindsay McBride, Margaret Mondero, Brittany Muller, Katie Speckan, Jill Tomalavage, Katie Trione



VHHS 2003 Homecoming Court

VHHS Seniors named to NHS

Five VHHS seniors were named to the National Honor Society this fall. They were inducted at a breakfast held in their honor on Oct. 22. The celebration was attended by parents, VHHS administrators, faculty, and a number of current NHS members. The newly inducted NHS members are (left to right) **Jessica Pardys, Sarah Schwartz, Gloria (Chorong) Pak, Kyle Gehrke, and Erin Hoadley.** (*photo courtesy of VHHS.*)

Cougars in the news

Congratulations to VHHS sophomore **Natalie Mecher** who qualified to compete in the Junior Grand Prix Series in Ostrava, Czech Republic on Oct. 2 - 5.

Two VHHS students were named finalists in the Glacking Concerto competition. **Christine Kim** (Soprano) and **James Spigner** (Alto Saxophone) will compete with six to eight students from other schools for \$500 and the opportunity to perform with the North Suburban Symphony Orchestra in Lake Forest.

The Vernon Hills High School Pom Pon squad received a Superior Trophy at a camp sponsored by the Universal Dance Association, and five squad members were selected as U.D.A. Varsity All-Stars. Selected as U.D.A. All-Stars were **Edan Booth, Katie Gratz, Rebecca Lachman, Katie Trione, and Amy Ward.** Other members of the Cougar Pom squad, coached by **Heather Pagh** and led by Co-Captains **Edan Booth and Katie Trione, are Ashton Blair, Melissa Darden, Brittney Garcilazo, Amanda Gross, Tara Jennings, Katie Leaver, Lauren Redig, Brittany Rizzo, Sarah Steingart, and Mindi Thommes.**

VHHS hosts 3rd Healthy Lifestyle Fair

by *Margaret Pither, SAP Coordinator*

On Friday Oct. 24, VHHS held its 3rd annual Healthy Lifestyle Fair. During all the study periods, 14 community agencies participated in the fair providing our students with information about relevant teen topics. Each booth presented an activity or shared information that was meant to encourage and empower the student toward healthy lifestyle decision-making. Topics that were covered include, drug/alcohol, tobacco prevention, depression awareness, conflict resolution, stress management, healthy eating, bullying and healthy dating relationships.

Students were treated to a snow cone by the Parent Cougar organization if they visited four booths.

Other Red Ribbon activities during the week included a door-decorating contest for 3rd period classrooms sponsored by the Supporting Peers and Reaching Kids club (S.P.A.R.K.) and window painting with drug free messages by Athletes Committed to Excellence (A.C.E.).

Cougar Class Act Award recipients honored

Twelve Vernon Hills High School students were named Cougar Class Act Award winners for the month of October. The students were honored at a before-school ceremony on Oct. 16. The Cougar Class Act Award recognizes students who make a difference -- students who go above and beyond the expectations. This award recognizes students who bring that something extra to the classroom. October's recipients were (front row, left to right) **Mitchell Koziol, Nicholas Klahs, Rachael Blanton, Amanda Gentile, Elisabeth Rutkowski, Renee Karmas,** (back row) **Jesse Schaar, Alyssa Eastman, Zachary Galaboff, Stephan Chatterjee, Chris Dozier, and Jesus DeLao.** (*photo by M. Pierce*)

News from the Hills *continued from page 11*

The bid process for the athletic storage building and concession stand/restrooms was completed Oct. 16 with work beginning as soon as the football season is over. Building specifications for the catwalk and security access control/camera system look to be completed by January 2004. We would like the security access control/camera system to be installed throughout second semester. The goal is for the catwalk to be installed in the studio theatre during the summer of 2004.

District 128's Student Assistance Program: Making a difference in the lives of students

by Diane Busch and Margaret Pither, District 128 SAP Coordinators

Many people are unaware that Community High School District 128 has an award-winning Student Assistance Program. This program has been in place since 1987 and was recognized by the United States Department of Education as an outstanding drug prevention program in 1989.

A Student Assistance Program is simply a systematic approach to prevent and assist students with the challenges presented during their high school years. The program consists of prevention, intervention and support.

Prevention deals with all of the things that the school, parents and community do to keep our kids healthy. Some examples of prevention strategies include the school policy and co-curricular code of conduct, both of which define expectations, limits and consequences. Student prevention groups such as SPARK, Voices in Prevention, ACE and First Class all provide a supportive environment for stu-

dents who are committed to a healthy, drug free lifestyle. These students also reach out to influence their peers to make positive decisions.

Intervention is the halting of potentially harmful behavior. The intervention systems that are in place at LHS and VHHS focus on early intervention with strategies to re-focus student learning and growth. Each school has a Core Team made up of teachers, counselors, social workers, school resource officers, support staff, nurses, administrators and of course the SAP Coordinators. This team meets weekly to review student referrals and to oversee and evaluate the SAP components and activities.

Support encompasses all of the programs, services and approaches that support positive momentum for healthy student change. This includes student support groups and one-to-one counseling. In summary, the Student Assistance Program in District 128 is a partnership of school personnel, students, parents and community service providers all working to address alcohol, drug and other issues related to our students well being.

If you have any questions about the District 128 SAP, please contact:

Diane Busch
SAP Coordinator LHS
(847) 327-7030

Margaret Pither
SAP Coordinator VHHS
(847) 932-2158

LHS Principal's Report

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Seniors were moved off the track (temporary parking area) onto the student lot on Oct. 7.

The new band room began to rise in mid-September. The brick and steel for the academic wing arrived in early October. Both projects are on schedule.

The track/football field renovation will begin immediately after the football season and be completed for next year's fall season. Track practice and meets will be scheduled at Vernon Hills High School. The District will provide bus transportation for our athletes. During the renovation, we will receive a new track and football grass playing surface with irrigation.

VHHS Student Activities *continued from page 12*

The parade and pep rally took place Thursday, Oct. 16, beginning at Cherokee Park and concluding at VHHS. The class floats were very artistic. The Freshman class was voted this year's best float. Our thanks to **InterTractor Continental** for allowing us to build floats in its storage facility. Our pep rally was filled with excitement as **Patrick Chmura, George Ginakakis, Zax Foster, Damian Mika** and **Andy Wenman** rallied the crowd with their inspirational speeches. Athletic Director, Al Janulis encouraged the Cougars to continue their hard work on the field. Then we concluded the night with an astonishing fireworks display.

Friday's assembly was another example of the Cougar spirit that fills our high school. Blue and silver colors filled the gym. Cody the Cougar, along with Assistant Principal's **Deb Larson** and **Jon Guillaume**, held the class song contest. The class that sang the school song the loudest earned the rights to the first

three rows in the student section at Rust-Oleum Field. It was an impressive display of school spirit by each class, but ultimately the senior class prevailed. We also had a guest appearance from VHHS's own "blue man group," **Jared Batson, David Kempf, Matt Smith, and Jayson Kramer**.

Following this heart-pounding show was the crowning of the queen. Last years Queen, **Stephanie Price**, took part in crowning this years Homecoming Queen, **Brittany Muller**.

The students had a great time at the dance on Saturday night. Over 650 students enjoyed dancing, socializing at the tables and playing games in the foyer. **Brittany Barranco, Zach Galaboff** and **Melanie Tygart** among others enjoyed playing air-whoosh in the foyer as they took a break from dancing. The homecoming theme "Jungle Boogie" was apparent to all by the plethora of jungle decorations.

Wildcat profile

Name: Heather Kiluk

Sport: Girls' Swimming

Heather is a junior on the girls' swim team and has been extremely successful over her past three years at LHS. As a freshman Heather set a new school record in the 500-yard freestyle and was a state qualifier both in the 200 Individual Medley (I.M.) and the 500 yard freestyle. As a sophomore Heather set another school record breaking her own 500 free and returning as a state qualifier, again in the 200 I.M. and the 500 yard freestyle. In the summer of 2003 Heather was named All American. All Americans are swimmers who place in the top 100 times in their events in a championship meet. Heather is a year-round swimmer. When she is not swimming for the high school team she is swimming in the spring and summer for the Cats Aquatic Club Team. She stays active all year round and still maintains a high 3.3 GPA.

Honors: Heather holds the top 10 times of every event of the LHS swimming history. She holds the current school record in the 500, breaking that record three times her freshman year and once during her sophomore season.

2001 NSC All Conference and State Qualifier (200 I.M and 500 Free)

2002 NSC All Conference and State Qualifier (200 I.M. and 500 Free)

2003 All American in the 500 yard freestyle event.

Member of Athletes Committed to Excellence (ACE)

Member of the Athletic Leadership Council

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Athletic Director's Corner

by Tim Albers, LHS Athletic Director

I would like to take just a bit of space in this edition of *Paw Prints* to talk about the value of good communication. I hope that the information presented will be useful to you as well as us here at LHS.

In the beginning of each school year we hold freshman athletic orientation night for incoming freshman athletes and their parents. It is a very nice evening for us, as we get an opportunity to meet with our newest athletes and parents to help them with the transition from junior high to high school. We also try to get them excited about being a part of this great tradition and encourage them to participate. A large portion of this program addresses our expectations and rules, which are important for everyone to know before they get started. Prior to each sport season we also hold a series of parent meetings in which we detail expectations and talk about the need for good communication.

One of the things that we highlight most but is frequently mishandled is the communication factor. We have distributed an excellent brochure that addresses the lines of communication and how good communication is essential to having a top flight organization. We ARE one of the premier athletic programs in the state and are very proud of this. A number of things need to happen in a community and school for an athletic program to become and remain strong. Believe me when I say we want to remain a leader of strong and proud programs for our school and community. As with any organization, good communication is a very vital part of being successful.

I ask all who read this article that if you have a concern and something is bothering you, talk to us. There is a procedure and line of communication that works best, and we would appreciate everyone to consider the following:

- ❖ Communication between the player and the coach must happen first to resolve a problem or concern. Often the parent is more concerned than the athlete about a situation. Having your son/daughter be able to solve their own problems is an important step and life skill that is learned.

- ❖ Communication between the parent and the coach to resolve problems or conflicts should be the next step. I only ask that you do not approach a coach after a game or right before or after a practice. Make an appointment to sit down and talk as surprise meetings rarely accomplish anything and do not promote resolutions.

- ❖ Make sure your son/daughter has talked to the coach first. The coach might not tell you exactly what you want to hear but will give you feedback and information regarding your son's or daughter's progress. Coaches will not compare athletes on the team to your son or daughter.

- ❖ If a problem still exists, communication between the athletic director, parents and coach will then take place. We will not talk about what position a player plays or the playing time or play calling or team or individual strategy. Again, we will not compare your son or daughter to others on the team.

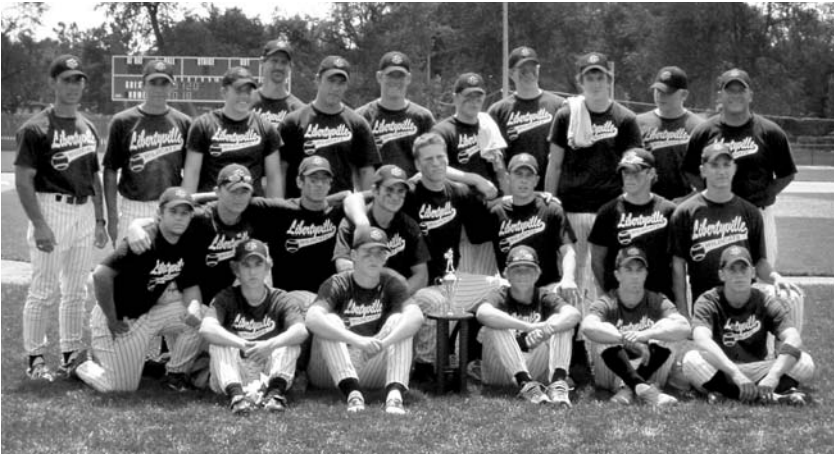
Open and fair communication between the school and families is all that we ask. Nothing can erode teamwork faster than parents doubting the capabilities of their coaches. It can be a cancer that affects performance, confidence and the needed edge to compete in athletic contests. Learn the rules of your sport and attend all of our pre-season parent meetings so that everyone in your household knows the expectations of that coach and program.

It is important to understand that athletics provide some of the most rewarding moments in one's life. It is equally important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your son/daughter would like them to. This will happen in your lifetime and not just in the sports world. Coaches will make judgments and decisions based on what they see, know and believe to be in the best interest of the team and not just the individual.

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. Both are similar and it is important to establish understanding and clear lines of communication.

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Libertyville High School Baseball Team – 2nd in State!



The Libertyville High School Varsity Baseball Team completed the summer season with a 2nd place finish in the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association State Championship Tournament. By reaching the state finals, the Wildcats outlasted 162 other Illinois high school baseball teams.

The team's overall record (22-7) was finalized with the state tournament at North Central College in Naperville. The road to success was paved with regional wins over Crystal Lake Central and Prairie Ridge High Schools. Sectional wins included victories over Lake Zurich and Stevenson High Schools. During the double elimination state tournament, the Wildcats lost their first game to Joliet Catholic (8-0) then went on to beat Maine South (5-2), Glenbard West (12-3),

and Lockport (3-2). In the final game against Schaumburg, the Wildcats lost a close game (3-1).

As a result of the team's successful 2nd place finish in the State Tournament, the Wildcats are invited to play in the Schaumburg Flyer Classic in early spring 2004. The tournament is by invitation only and is comprised of the top eight teams in the State of Illinois.

Congratulations to the following players and coaches: Seniors: **Dan Baldino, Kyle Bruett, Sean Danehy, Joe Harrington, Jeff Johnson, Kyle Klapman, Ken Klassman, Dan Petric, Tom Pierce, Nick Riedel**; Juniors: **Dan DiVencenzo, Kevin Foley, Ryne Gavigan, Alex Grant, Anthony Jennings, Kyle Johnson, Jeff Keske, Brett Lancaster, Brian Laspisa, Andrew Peel, Jerome Wallace, Jay Wisner**; Coaching Staff: **Jim Schurr** (Head Coach), **Sean Ferrell** (Assistant Coach), **Mark McDowell** (Assistant Coach). *(photo courtesy of J. Schurr)*

New coaches for fall 2003

Libertyville High School is pleased to welcome the newest coaches for fall 2003:

Shannon Doyle – Varsity Cheerleading Coach



Shannon has been coaching cheerleading and tumbling for the past nine years throughout Lake County, most recently with the Lake Zurich Flames All-Star cheer team. While with the Flames, her teams won two national titles as well as many local titles. In addition, Shannon is the head coach of the new Libertyville Lightning All-Star cheer program and on the Leadership team of the Banner

Day Camp. She holds degrees in English and Psychology from Lake Forest College.

Dave Fowler – Boys and Girls Diving Coach



Dave is a graduate of St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota, with degrees in Health and Physical Education. As a varsity diver at Evanston High School he earned varsity letters in his sophomore and junior seasons. He moved to Minneapolis his senior year and ended up as the Minneapolis City High School Diving Champion and placed 13th in the state earning all state hon-

ors. At St. Cloud University he earned three varsity letters and qualified for the NCAA Division II National Diving Championships for three years. Dave has coached with great success both boys' and girls' diving at the college and high school levels in Minnesota and in Illinois.

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Panico named U.S. Army All-American

Libertyville High School senior **Santino Panico** was recently selected to play in the 2004 U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Santino is one of 400 football players throughout the United States who are nominated for this honor, and one of just 78 athletes selected to represent their schools and communities.

Santino has been a three-year varsity player for LHS and is one of the four captains of the team this year. U.S. Army officials held a press conference at LHS on Sept. 30 to make the official announcement and present Santino with his jersey before an audience of his teammates, family, teachers and friends. The All-American Bowl will be played on Jan. 3, 2004 at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas and will be broadcast live on NBC television.

Head varsity football coach **Randy Kucyeski** states that, "Santino has been one of the most dedicated and committed players that we have ever had go through our program. His work ethic and personal drive are unmatched, but more importantly he has also been a positive role model for our school and community. This is a great honor for Santino, but it also a great honor for our team and program." *(photo by C. Szkodyn)*

From the Hills . . .

by Al Janulis, VHHS Athletic Director

Cougar athletics began the fall season with a running start. On Sunday, Aug. 17 forty-three of our finest met at 7:00 am. in the Vernon Hills High School main lobby for a bus ride to Stevenson High School to join over 400 other student-athletes from the North Suburban Conference to participate in the Third Annual North Suburban Conference Leadership Workshop. Sacrificing one of their last days of summer were **Lauren Abderholden, Brooke Abercrombie, Jason Acevedo, Kristen Adachi, Clayton Anderson, Jim Bedolla, Jessica Bobbe, Edan Booth, Alex Brown, Erin Chiou, Brian Chrysler, Laura Craver, Mike DeLaRosa, Jackie Fergen, Casey Fijalkowski, Zax Foster, Kyle Gehrke, Kim Gray, Lauren Hulse, Stacey Kastilahn, Stephanie Kierzek, Beth Kliver, Kevin Lamprich, Merissa Martin, Katie McDonnell, Pat McKenna, Katie Morgan, Goli Rahimi, Lauren Richards, Brittany Rizzo, Julie Rotharmel, Ben Rothstein, Rebecca Sachs, Gordon Scharf, Joe Schomo, Andy Wenman, Maureen Wilcox, Alyssa Wilson, and Lillian Yanni.** Serving as facilitators for the workshop were **Rachel Blanton, Alyssa Wilson, and Ian Djuric.** They worked side-by-side with Cougar coaching staff members **Laura Bertermann, Josh Ravenscraft, and Greg Stilling** to direct small group activities. Under the direction of nationally recognized motivational speaker, **Michael Brandwein,** the group worked for eight hours, fostering concepts of sportsmanship and leadership to provide each participant the knowledge, skills, and determination to be a positive leader at school and to help create and maintain an atmosphere of good competition and positive sportsmanship within the North Suburban Conference.

By now it's old news to some, but if you don't already know, the North Suburban Conference will expand in the fall of 2005 to include a second high school from Community High School District 117 to complement Antioch Community High School, and will also welcome our neighbor to the west, Lake Zurich High School. District 117's new school, Lakes Community High School, is being constructed at the corner of Deep Lake and Grass Lake Roads in Lake Villa. The new school, being built for a capacity of 1,500 students, will soar high with the Eagle as its mascot. The new school will open as a freshman/sophomore campus serving the underclasses much as District 128 did with our Cougars in the beginning. Enrollments at Antioch and the new Lakes High Schools will be about 1,300 students each for the first few years. The Lake Zurich Bears on the other hand have an enrollment of 1,924 students and bring 20 competitive sport programs to the N.S.C. They have maintained a fine tradition of excellence within the Fox Valley Conference over the last several years.

The task ahead for the athletic directors is to reformat the sport schedules for the 24 sports governed by the existing conference, and to provide the Principals and Superintendents a recommendation for divisional competition. Currently there are six schools who compete for Prairie Division titles and six schools that vie for honors in the Lake Division. The addition of the two schools provides for

conference realignment as well as enlargement. Factors the athletic directors will examine to make their recommendation include school enrollment (including history and projection over time), number of sport offerings, levels of competition within the sports, strength of program, number of programs and total participants, geographic proximity between schools, dismissal times, current alignment history, and requests from districts with multiple schools. Football decisions have already been made at the request of the coaches to retain the traditional two non-conference games and to include one crossover contest between the divisions. Head coaches of the various sports are providing valuable input as to the direction they would like to see the conference move in terms of their own sports. A recommendation should be made to the Principals' Board of Control and to the Superintendents by late winter to allow adequate time for the NCS scheduling process and non-conference scheduling to begin.

Six alumni added to VHHS Athletic Wall of Fame

Six new photos were added to the VHHS Athletic Wall of Fame on Oct. 18 as part of the VHHS Homecoming week celebration. This year's inductees were **Keith Heerdegen, Hunter Sheldon, Matthew Leffler, Sherlenia Green, Ian Peckler, and Kim Rymer.**

Cougar featured athlete: Ryan Dunn

by Jason Czarnecki, Head Cougar Baseball Coach

“Flyin’ Ryan” was the childhood nickname given to **Ryan Dunn** by his parents. Little did they know how accurately this would summarize Ryan’s involvement in athletics. Dating back to his early childhood, Ryan has played just about every sport imaginable. By the time he graduated junior high, Ryan had participated in baseball, basketball, cross-country, football, soccer, track, volleyball, and wrestling. Recently, Ryan has been given a new nickname by Cougar faithful, “The Iceman”. This is in reference to his knack for putting games on ice for the varsity football team. Ryan, a receiver-punter-defensive back, heroically sealed the victory in week two vs. Highland Park by intercepting a pass late in the fourth quarter and returning it for a touchdown. He once again allowed Cougar coaches, fans, and teammates to breathe a collective sigh of relief when he intercepted a pass at the goal line with under a minute left vs. North Chicago. When asked about the proposed nickname, Ryan modestly replied that it was more suitable for his winter sport. He explained, “as a swimmer, you have to be in the ‘ice cold’ water every morning at 5:00 a.m. and then once again after school for three hours.” Ryan, the current school record holder in the 100 breast stroke, characterizes swimming as “the most physically and mentally demanding” of the three sports. Hard work and determination brought Ryan within four tenths of a second from qualifying for state in the 50 freestyle event. Although he is driven by his desire to beat his personal best times, Ryan stated that “team success” is the ultimate motivator. Ryan experienced this team success as part of the 2003 conference and regional champion volleyball team. As a lefty, Ryan was able to create a double strong front line. When asked why this team had such success, he replied that, “there was incredible chemistry. All players worked as a unit toward a common goal, victory.” I had a chance to ask Ryan a few more questions.

Who do you credit most for your success?

My parents. I credit my dad for getting me involved in sports. He has always been very supportive. He always allowed me to make my own decision and stood by me no matter what the results were. My mom has been great too. She doesn’t always fully understand the sports that I play, but she never misses a contest. I am very grateful to both of them.

Outside of practice, how have you improved yourself athletically?

As a sophomore, I was introduced to the weight room. Since then, lifting before school has become a habit. Strength leads to confidence, which leads to success. I have also run a lot in the summer and also attended sport specific camps.

Describe what is going through your mind in situations where the game is on the line?

Extreme focus. Everything exterior is blocked out. I don’t even notice the crowd is there. It’s just the two teams on the field and the game itself. I concentrate on my assignment and let my instincts take over.

What is your most memorable athletic experience?

There are so many it is hard to choose one. I would have to say that the 2003 varsity volleyball team is most memorable. Specifically, I will always remember our final game. Not because we lost, but because everyone on our team left it all out on the court. It was an intense adrenaline ride from start to finish.

What have you learned through participation in extracurriculars?

You can accomplish anything you put your mind toward doing. I never realized how important the mental part of the game is. With the right attitude, you will be successful.

What is your most embarrassing moment in sports?

In 7th grade, at my first wrestling meet, I went on the mat to wrestle but forgot to put my shoes on. I was disqualified immediately. Everyone laughed, the team lost the points, I was embarrassed.

In what sport are you at your absolute worst?

Basketball! I have a horrible shot. I was on a house league basketball team for two years. I only played because there was a rule that said the coach had to put me in for a quarter. I think I averaged four points per season.

Where do you see yourself in three years?

I expect to attend an Illinois state school. I am leaning toward studying Marketing and getting my teaching certificate. I would love to have the opportunity to share the things that I have learned with others, both academically and athletically.

You are part of the first class to be at VHHS for four years. What is it like to be a “Pure-Bred” Cougar?

It has been great to be able to be the first to set traditions and standards. Our class is a very active one. There aren’t many small ‘cliques’ like at other larger schools. For the most part, everyone interacts and gets along. I think that is because there is so much overlap in the clubs in which students are involved. We are definitely a close-knit group.



New Coaches *continued from page 16*

Ashley Grantin – Varsity Pom Coach



Ashley is a native of Wisconsin and has been dancing since the age of three. She was a four year member of the Sauk Prairie High School Varsity Pom/Cheer squad. During her four years she was a two time MVP, a junior co-captain and a senior captain. Ashley also attended the University of Arizona where she recently graduated with a BFA in Dance. While attending Arizona she was junior co-captain, senior captain and a four year member of the University of Arizona Pomline. Her squads were very successful, earning finalist honors twice and winning the USA Collegiate national championship. Ashley has several years of experience choreographing routines for both amateur and professional dance and pom teams.

Kedric Greenawalt- Assistant Girls Swim Coach



Kedric is a science teacher at Vernon Hills High School. He is an assistant girls' swim coach at LHS and will also be an assistant coach for the Vernon Hills High School boys' swim team in the winter months. Kedric earned his BS Degree in Education at the University of Kansas and also earned his Masters Degree in Secondary Education. Kedric taught integrated science and geology at Warren Township High School for one year before joining District 128. Kedric has also taught in the Cats Aquatic Program.

Mike Jones - Assistant Varsity Football Coach



Mike is a graduate of Monmouth College where he earned his B.A. in Mathematics. Mike went on to earn his M.S. in Teaching and Leadership at Saint Xavier University. Mike started out his teaching career at Grayslake High School and eventually was named the Mathematics Department Chair. At Grayslake Mike coached football, basketball and softball. Mike was also the head track coach from 1991 – 1994. Mike will be assisting in our football program as a defensive coach. He was the defensive coordinator at Grayslake for four years.

John Teichman – Assistant Frosh Football Coach



John is a 1977 graduate of Libertyville High School and has been extremely instrumental in coaching at the Libertyville Boys Club. John has coached in the youth and high school football programs for over 20 years. During this time he served in numerous capacities with the Libertyville Boys Club the past six years. He has also coached traveling youth teams in both the Northwest Football League and the Tri-County Youth Football League. Prior to joining the LHS freshman coaching staff. Coach Teichman was the head freshman football coach at Wauconda High School for the 2002 season. John has also been associated with the LHS Boys' Lacrosse team as head coach for the freshman and the junior varsity teams.

Sara Wright – Assistant Athletic Trainer



Sara is back with us for a second tour as she was our assistant trainer from 1998 – 2001. At that time Sara took time off from her busy schedule to stay at home with her two children. We are fortunate to have her back with us again in our program. Sara is a graduate of Ohio University in Athens and earned her degree in Physical Education and Athletic Training. Sara has been the head athletic trainer at Zion-Benton High School, an assistant athletic trainer at Eastern Illinois University and also the head athletic trainer for the women's professional baseball league in Long Beach, Calif.

Wildcat profile

cont from page 15

Heather is also a volunteer coach for the Special Olympics team.

Coaches Comments:

Coach Herman states that Heather has a tremendous work ethic, and dedication to the sport that carried her to this level of success. She is really a pleasure to work with. Heather still has this season and next to make an even bigger impact in the high school swimming world and we sincerely believe that she will.



Athletic Director's Corner

continued from page 15

When your children become a part of the Wildcat athletic program it is important that the established expectations and lines of communication are clearly understood by all.

We sincerely appreciate our parents' support and encourage you to follow the lines of communication I have outlined here the next time you have concerns about an athletic issue or a coach. Please do not be afraid to call us, tell us who you are, and what your concern is about. That is truly how we will operate best and continue to develop the kind of programs for our athletes of which we all can be proud.

Holiday card sale benefits VHHS senior party

Share holiday wishes while benefiting the senior party for the Vernon Hills High School class of 2004. Order forms for a huge selection of personalized cards are available in the VHHS Main Office. You can also shop from the comfort of your own home by visiting:

www.richcographics.com/cougars

Questions? Call **Norma Sachs** at 847-680-3944

Red Ribbon Classic *cont. from page 3*

A great big thank you for all the generous donations from the following Libertyville and Vernon Hills area businesses: **ACE, Bally Total Fitness, Blue Canyon Entertainment, Buss, Card & Party Warehouse, CAT TV, Cub Foods Mundelein, Culvers Frozen Custard, Dominick's, Domino's Pizza, European & American Accents for Home, Footlocker, Gurnee Counseling Center, Harris Bank, Hawthorn Lanes, Heidi's Bakery, LHS Parent CATS, Libertyville Bank & Trust, Libertyville Sports Complex, McDonald's, Mickey Finn's, Morgan's Bar and Grill, Murphy's Health Foods and Juice Bar, Oscar Smuckler Attorney at Law, Outdoor Entertainment, Panera Bread, Petal Peddler's Florist, Potash Group, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Runners Edge, Sam's Club, SAP, Sportmart, Sports 11, Sunset Foods, Target, The Glacier Ice Arena, The Peter Tosto Jr. Foundation, Trew Benefits, Van Kirk & Co. Fine Home Furnishings, Vernon Hills Police Department, VHHS Parent Cougars, Wa Pa Ghetti's Pizza, and Wildcat Football Parent Association.** *(photo by R. Triska)*

Cheerleader Parent Organization sponsors annual Holiday greenery sale

The Libertyville High School Wildcat Cheerleader Parent Organization is sponsoring its annual Holiday Greenery Sale for 2003. Frasier fir trees ranging in size from tabletop to 12 feet high are available, as well as wreaths and garland in frasier or boxwood. All orders will be delivered free locally this year! Proceeds will benefit the LHS Cheer teams in competitions and training camps. Deadline for ordering is Nov. 4. To place an order or for more information, call 847-367-8207 or 847-367-6321.

Sweeten your day with citrus and benefit the LHS music program

Enjoy fresh, delicious Florida citrus this winter while helping students in the Libertyville High School music program with another successful fundraiser.

Every year at LHS, one or more of the award-winning musical groups pack their bags and take the show on the road. In recent years these groups have traveled to various destinations including Europe, Hawaii, and China. To help offset the cost of these trips, the various groups offer a number of fundraisers. One of the most successful has been the Citrus Sale. Held annually in November, participating students take orders for oranges and grapefruit which will arrive on Dec. 12. They can also take orders for fruit to be delivered directly to your friends and family. Besides citrus, direct delivery is also available for a honey ham or a smoked turkey.

If you don't have a student in the program but would still like to show your support, please call Jody at (847) 362-5315 or Nan at (847) 247-8550. Orders will be taken now through Nov. 19.

Front Cover: (clockwise from upper left) The LHS Homecoming Queen and members of her court wave from their parade float. VHHS queen is crowned; VHHS Athletic Director and Principal share the Homecoming spirit with Vernon Hills' very own "Blue Men"; More than 250 students, staff and community members participated in this year's Red Ribbon Classic; LHS Stage Players show their spirit in the Homecoming parade. *(photos by C. Szkodyn, R. Triska, R. Sundell and D. Larson)*



Community High School District 128
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Libertyville, Illinois 60048

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