



Paw Prints



*News and Information from
Community High School District 128*

August 2007

Back-to-School Edition

Academic Bowl Academic Decathlon Amnesty International Art Club Athletes Committed to Excellence (ACE) Athletic Clubs Backlight Theater Company Bell Choir Best Buddies CATS-TV Cleftomaniacs Computer Club Cougar Guard Debate Team Destination Imagination Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) Dramatic Events Electronics Club Fellowship of Christian Athletes Fishing Club French Club Future Business Leaders of America International Clubs International Language Club Intramurals Interact Jazz Ensembles I & II Junior National Association of the Deaf Lacrosse Team Libertyville Environmental Action Force (LEAF) Math Team Master Singers Model United Nations National Honor Society Orchestis Ping Pong Radio Club Robotics Team School Newspaper Science Fiction Club Science Olympiad Seven-Day Club Sign Language Club Skills USA/VICA Slant of Light Spotlight Speech Team Sports Medicine Club Stageplayers Step Dance Club Strategy Club Strolling Strings Student Council Supporting Peers and Reaching Kids (SPARK) Topcats Treblemakers Whispers of Immortality Wildcat Guard Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Yearbook Cheerleading Pom Pons Girls' Swimming/Diving Girls' Volleyball Girls' Tennis Boys' Golf Girls' Golf Boys' Soccer Boys' Cross Country Girls' Cross Country Football Girls' Basketball Bowling Wrestling Boys' Basketball Boys' Swimming/Diving Girls' Gymnastics Boys' Gymnastics Girls' Track Boys' Track Boys' Tennis Baseball Softball Girls' Soccer Girls' Water Polo Boys' Water Polo Boys' Volleyball

How will YOU get involved this school year?

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**Welcome
back to
District 128!**

**Administrative Offices**

50 N. Lakeview Pkwy., Suite 101
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061
847-247-4500

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>

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Anne Landgraf, President
Judy Sugarman, Vice President
Jan Foreman, Secretary
Alexander Delli Paoli, Jr.
Pat Groody
Ellen Mauer
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Kelsey Guglielmi (Vernon Hills High School)
Omar Jamil (Libertyville High School)

Administration**District**

Dr. David L. Clough, Superintendent
Prentiss Lea, Associate Superintendent
Yasmine Dada, CPA, Assistant Superintendent
for Business
Deborah Larson, Director of Curriculum and
Instruction
Mary Todoric, Director of Communications

Libertyville High School

Brad Swanson, Principal
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Diane Phillips, Assistant Principal
Ron Bjurstrom, Director of Student Support Services

Vernon Hills High School

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Jon Guillaume, Assistant Principal
Sue Butler, Director of Guidance

Community Education Program

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

Paw Prints is published five times a year for District 128 families. Questions and comments should be addressed to *Paw Prints* Editor Mary Todoric, Director of Communications, at 847-247-4513 or mary.todoric@d128.org.

**Superintendent's Message****Welcome to a new school year!**

The start of a new school year is just a few weeks away. It is my pleasure to welcome our District 128 families for the 2007-08 school year. I hope that you take some time to review this issue of *Paw Prints*. The goal of our back-to-school edition is to give our students and families an opportunity to plan for the events that take place at the very beginning of the school year, to alert families to any important changes for this year, and to give students--especially those new to the District--an overview of the many clubs, sports and other activities that are available to students at Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools.

We would like to welcome our new and returning students. In addition to welcoming the class of 2011, we also begin this year by welcoming more than 30 new employees to our District.

I hope this school year will find all of our students immersed in activities as well as studies. Research has shown an important link between student academic achievement and participation in school activities. I challenge all students in District 128 to use the next few weeks to reflect on your interests, review the opportunities available to you at school, and to join at least one student organization in 2007-08. You'll be glad that you did!

This is my final back-to-school message for *Paw Prints*, as I will retire at the end of this school year. But, we have much to accomplish this year, and I look forward to an active, successful year in District 128. I look forward to meeting our new students and parents, and wish all of you a successful 2007-08 school year.

Enjoy the remaining weeks of summer!

David L. Clough, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Stay connected with 128eNews

Community High School District 128 encourages parents to subscribe to its most recent communications tool, 128eNews. Last fall, the District launched **128 eNews**, a news subscription service that provides subscribers with important news updates regarding the District via email. Watch for complete details at the school open houses in September and October, or visit the District web site, www.d128.org.



New Student Assessment on Half-Day Wednesday, Oct. 17

by Deborah Larson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Community High School District 128 administers a number of assessments to students throughout the year to assist students with the transitions before and after high school. These tests are the EXPLORE, the PLAN and the ACT. EXPLORE is given to all incoming freshmen to aid in the placement of students in high school studies. The PLAN is given to all sophomores as they begin to plan and prepare for college and the workplace. The ACT is usually required for admission to college for the majority of our students. The ACT also is part of the state mandated PSAE (Prairie State Achievement Examination) required of all students to graduate from high school.

These assessments assist students, parents, counselors and teachers with student planning, instructional support, monitoring academic progress and also helping administrators and teachers to evaluate our curriculum and instruction.

Once again, we will be administering the PLAN test to all sophomores on Wednesday, Oct. 17. This year, however, we are doing things a bit differently. In the past, we have had a half-day of school for all students in the morning, with sophomores remaining in the afternoon to take the PLAN test. ***This year all sophomores and juniors will be tested in the morning. Sophomores will take the PLAN test, and all juniors will now take a practice ACT test.*** This will help them to prepare for the PSAE in April and provide them with information about how to improve their score for college admission purposes. ***Attendance for all sophomores and juniors is mandatory on this day.***

Seniors will not be in attendance, but should use the opportunity to prepare for college by using the day for college visits and application writing. Freshmen attendance is yet to be determined and will be communicated by each building administration after the start of school. Watch for more information to follow from Libertyville High School and Vernon Hills High School in the form of a letter that will be mailed to students after the start of school.

***Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2007
Half-Day Teacher In-Service***

AM

Mandatory Testing for all sophomores and juniors, PLAN and Practice ACT test, respectively

PM

Teacher in-service day

Summer News

♦District 128 has once again earned the **SchoolSearch Bright Red Apple** for educational excellence. The District is one of only 84 Illinois school districts to receive the 2007 honor. The award is based on five key factors: academic performance, pupil/teacher ratio, expenditure per pupil, educational level of teachers, and average teacher salary.

♦The LHS Chapter of FBLA competed in the National Leadership Conference and Competition in Chicago. Only three students from each state can qualify per event. **Jackson Lai** represented

Illinois and LHS with a second-place finish in marketing. He also finished second in the open event advertising competition among 200 entrants. Jackson is believed to be the only FBLA member in the nation to place in the top 10 of his event in each of his four years of high school. **Tim Harwood** and **Joju Varghese** also participated in the national competition. The team is coached by **Billy Pitcher**.

♦An article by District 128 Director of Communications **Mary Todoric** appears in the July/August issue of The

Illinois School Board Journal. The article, "Engaging community key to wellness success," profiles the District's process in creating its wellness plan and the Childhood Obesity Prevention Program.

♦**Kathryn Kerrigan**, a 1998 LHS graduate, has been named #5 on *Inc. Magazine's* "30 Under 30." The list recognizes America's top entrepreneurs under 30 years old. Kerrigan is the owner of KathrynKerrigan.com, a web site specializing in dress shoes for women wearing size 10 and up.



Strategic Plan Implementation: The Journey Begins . . .

by *Prentiss Lea, Associate Superintendent*

With the start of the 2007-2008 school year, District 128 begins the implementation of our new Strategic Plan. Strategic plan high priority initiatives, related implementation tasks, and the designation of persons responsible for facilitating the work on those initiatives were developed by a representative group of stakeholders, which included parents, community members, faculty, staff, administrators, board members, and students. The strategic planning process is important because it brings together representative stakeholders to: create a future vision for the District; identify high priority goals to guide our work and the utilization of our human, financial and time resources; and establish a broad framework for more specific district and school improvement activities. In other words, it is our guide for building upon the excellence of our District.

Yasmine Dada, assistant superintendent for business; **Deb Larson**, director of curriculum and instruction; and **Mick Torres**, director of technology, are coordinating our three initiative teams, and I will facilitate the overall strategic planning process. Over the course of the coming year, many stakeholders will be involved in working on one or more of our three initiatives. We will share highlights of the work of the initiative teams in the coming months.

Achievement Initiative: Ensure that all students meet and/or exceed District academic standards

Task	Person Responsible	Timeline
Develop Student Achievement Advisory Council	Deb Larson	November 2007
Collect, analyze and interpret data to improve student performance	Deb Larson	August 2008
Challenge all students throughout the curriculum with reading, writing and critical thinking initiatives	Deb Larson	September 2008
Establish an instructional leadership subcommittee to review and revise curriculum renewal process	Deb Larson	January 2008
Review and revise student placement	Deb Larson	July 2008

Technology Initiative: Integrate technologies that enhance teaching, learning and communicating

Task	Person Responsible	Timeline
Develop a Technology Advisory Committee	Mick Torres	November 2007
Implement technologies which support the collection, interpretation and analysis of student performance data	Mick Torres	August 2008
Implement technologies which enhance delivery and content of the curriculum	Mick Torres	September 2008
Implement technologies which enhance parent/student/teacher/District communications	Mick Torres	August 2008

Financial Initiative: Maintain the financial stability of the School District

Task	Person Responsible	Timeline
Develop Finance Advisory Council	Yasmine Dada	November 2007
Establish an Educational Foundation	Yasmine Dada	January 2008 and beyond
Develop a master facilities plan	Yasmine Dada	January 2008
Establish sound financial policies to support education program	Yasmine Dada	August 2008
Create and maintain partnerships for special projects	Yasmine Dada	September 2007 and beyond
Educate community on District finances	Yasmine Dada	February 2007

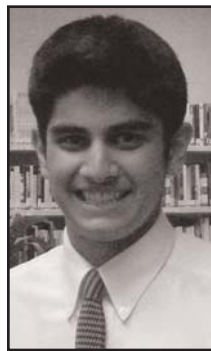
Community High School District 128 Board of Education Members 2007-08



District 128 Board of Education Members (seated) Secretary **Jan Foreman**, President **Anne Landgraf**, Vice President **Judy Sugarman**, (standing) **Alexander Delli Paoli Jr.**, **Ellen Mauer**, **Marsha Oberrieder**, **Pat Groody**. (photo by *M. Todoric*)



Kelsey Guglielmi
2007-08 VHHS
Student Board
Representative



Omar Jamil
2007-08 LHS
Student Board
Representative

Community High School District 128 Board of Education 2007-08 Meeting Schedule

The Community High School District 128 Board of Education encourages parents and community members to attend its meetings. The following is a schedule of this school year's meeting dates. Additional information about the meetings, including agendas and minutes, can be found on the District 128 web site, www.d128.org.

Regular Board Meeting Dates 7:00 p.m. at the Vernon Hills High School Library 145 N. Lakeview Parkway, Vernon Hills

Monday, July 23, 2007
Monday, Aug. 27, 2007
Monday, Sept. 24, 2007
Monday, Oct. 22, 2007
Monday, Nov. 26, 2007
Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2007
Monday, Jan. 28, 2008
Monday, Feb. 25, 2008
Tuesday, March 18, 2008
Monday, April 28, 2008
Tuesday, May 27, 2008
Monday, June 23, 2008

Board meetings televised on cable, videotapes available at library

Regular meetings of the Community High School District 128 Board of Education are televised on cable on the following days and times:

Libertyville
Channel 19
Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Vernon Hills
Channel 4
Wednesdays following the 6:30 p.m. airing of the District 73 Board Meeting (approximately 8:00 - 8:30), and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Videotapes of the meetings are also available at both locations of Cook Memorial Public Library.



Margaret Pither

Student Assistance Program: Making a Difference in Students' Lives

by Margaret Pither, VVHS SAP Coordinator and Nancy Dick, LHS SAP Coordinator

The Student Assistance Programs at VVHS and LHS assist students and families in coping with today's challenges. Each SAP program forms a partnership between school staff, students, parents, community service providers and volunteers to promote healthy lifestyles. The student assistance program focuses on four areas: prevention, education, intervention and support.

According to our 2006 student alcohol and drug surveys, the majority of students are making healthy decisions to not use tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs. SAP is committed to providing prevention programs and services to foster positive behavior and to assist students and families by intervening early, when behaviors of concern arise.

SAP Tips for the Fall

Tell your teen very clearly that you don't want them using substances – no tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, ecstasy, inhalants, or non-prescribed prescription drugs. Set a firm rule of no drug use.

Here are some examples of discussion points you can have with your teen:

- ♦If you're at a party and you see that drugs or alcohol are being used, the rule is to leave that party.
- ♦Call me and I'll come and get you.
- ♦I don't want you riding in a car with a driver who has been using drugs or who's been drinking.
- ♦It's my job as a parent to keep you safe, so I'm going to ask you questions about who you're with and what you are doing.
- ♦I care enough about you to let you know that I don't want to see anything bad happen to you, and it would be hard not having you in my life.

When your teen goes out in the evening or on the weekend:

- ♦Ask who will they be with?
- ♦Ask where are they going?
- ♦Ask what are they doing?
- ♦Ask if alcohol or drugs will be present where they are going?
- ♦Ask if parent or adult will be present to supervise if going to another teen's house?
- ♦Contact other parents to confirm what your teen has told you.
- ♦Set a time for your teen to be home.
- ♦Wait up until your teen comes home.
- ♦Check to see if your teen is under the influence of alcohol or drugs (smell breath, check eyes, talk).

If you have any questions or concerns please call your SAP Coordinator: **Margaret Pither**, VVHS 847-932-2158 or **Nancy Dick**, LHS 847-327-7030.



Nancy Dick

LHS SAP News

ACE Athletes Committed to Excellence invites all athletes to join us. We typically meet on Fridays at 7AM, look for the flyers! ACE is proud to announce the 2007/2008 Board: Co-Presidents: **Sean Hamlin, Jim Larsen**; Vice President: **Scott Penny**; Secretary: **Casey Dugan**; Treasurer: **Brett Coburn**; Public Relations Coordinator: **Taylor Konigseder**. Sponsors: **Sean Ferrell, Nancy Dick**.

SPARK Supporting Peers and Reaching Kids would like to invite you to join if you are choosing to live an alcohol and drug free lifestyle. We typically meet on Thursdays after school, look for flyers! SPARK is proud to announce the 2007/2008 Board: Co-Presidents: **Lisa Branding, Jenny Weidner**; Secretary: **Amanda Cacich**; Treasurer: **Julia Nee**; and Public Relations Coordinator: **Kristi Ratican**. Sponsors: **Nancy Dick, Kelly Johnson**.

RED RIBBON CLASSIC SPOOKTACULAR Do you like to walk, run, have fun? MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Libertyville High School's ACE, SPARK, Parent CATS, and Student Assistance Team would like you to join us on Sunday, Oct. 14 for the annual 5K Run/1 Mile Fun Run. All proceeds from the race are used to start new anti-drug programs in our area, and also continue to fund programs already established. Don't forget your Halloween costume! Any questions, please contact **Sean Ferrell** 847-327-7033 or **Nancy Dick** 847-327-7030.

VHHS Social Norms Campaign Continues to Grow!

Vernon Hills High School is in the third year of implementing a research-based prevention strategy known as Social Norming. The social norms approach makes positive behavior the norm instead of emphasizing negative, at-risk behavior. Research shows that teenagers think that alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use is more widespread among their peers than it actually is. Because of this misperception, many youth feel pressure and justify their substance abuse in order to fit in with their “imaginary” peers. When students are finally given accurate information and they perceive the true norm – that most youth **DO NOT** use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs – they are able to fit in with their peers by being themselves and being true to their values.

The social norms approach at VHHS focuses on changing perceptions and behaviors related to alcohol and tobacco use by educating the students on the data gathered from the November 2006 Teen Norms Survey (surveys are taken every other year during the campaign). Studies show that adolescent use of drugs can be significantly delayed by reducing misperceptions of alcohol and cigarette use.

Entering the third year of the campaign, the Social Norms Committee is branching out in new directions. It will still be pursuing the marketing aspect of the campaign by displaying new posters throughout the school on a regular basis. In addition, the committee is planning on working with the Cougar Parent Connection and offering VHHS parents opportunities to become involved with the campaign. In an effort to build a more comprehensive campaign, there will also be a focus on ways faculty and staff can utilize the survey data in classroom settings and interactions with students. This translates into more classroom presentations and activities.

One such activity that many VHHS students will be able to take part in this year is the Snowball Activity, an interactive learning event held in a classroom setting. This activity is designed for students to examine and discuss their perceptions regarding their peers’ behavior. The activity will present actual VHHS norms regarding alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use in a clever, hands-on way: Students take a short survey, crumple it into a ball, and have a “snowball fight” (to ensure anonymity). They then compare the answers on their surveys to grade-specific data from the Teen Norms Survey. Through participation in this activity and others, students will hopefully examine their perceptions about peer substance use, increase the believability of the survey data, and critically think about their decisions to be drug/alcohol-free. The feedback the committee has received from students anticipating this activity has been very positive.

For more information about the VHHS Social Norms Campaign, please contact **Margaret Pither**, SAP Coordinator, at 847-932-2158.

VHHS Parent/Guardian Passive Consent Form

The Vernon Hills High School social norms committee will be facilitating a classroom activity designed to challenge and educate students about misperceptions of drug and alcohol use. The Snowball Classroom Activity will take place in a variety of class periods during the 2007-08 academic year. We are asking you to allow your child to take part in this activity.

The activity includes a short, 10-question survey that will address the following: personal alcohol, tobacco and marijuana or drug use, perceptions of peer alcohol, tobacco and marijuana alcohol or drug use, and perceptions of the school environment. The survey is voluntary and anonymous. If there are any questions your child does not wish to answer, he/she may skip those questions or stop taking the survey altogether. Students will be reminded of these rights before the survey is administered.

If you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in this classroom activity, please sign and return this form to Margaret Pither, SAP Coordinator, Vernon Hills High School, 145 Lakeview Parkway, Vernon Hills, Ill. 60061, no later than Sept. 1, 2007. Your decision will not, in any way, influence you or your child’s relationship with Vernon Hills High School.

If you have any questions regarding the activity or the survey, please contact **Margaret Pither** at VHHS, 847-932-2158 or margaret.pither@d128.org.

Your signature below indicates that you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in the Snowball Classroom Activity.

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the above explanation and I **DO NOT** want my child to participate in the Snowball Classroom Activity for the duration of the 2007-2008 academic year.

Student’s Name

Parent’s Name

Please make a copy of this form to keep for your records.

Student’s signature

Parent’s Signature

Date



A Message from the New VHHS CRC Counselor

by Scott Birtman, VHHS College and Career Counselor

Hello! I am **Scott Birtman** and I am the new college career counselor at Vernon Hills High School. As I begin my 18th year in the field of education, I look forward to this year and to the future. I come to VHHS with a wealth of experience and strong contacts throughout the ranks of higher education. I look forward to meeting each and every senior and his/her parents. This will be a challenging year, but come May 2008, I am abundantly confident that we will find the "right" college for each of you. Please stop by the CRC to say hi and/or to arrange for an individual meeting at your convenience. Again, I look forward to a great year and am so happy to be a part of VHHS and District 128!



How to Survive Application Angst

by Ole Stevens, LHS College and Career Counselor

Stress. Rat race. Application Angst. Those were the key words that stood out in a workshop description during the state conference for the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC). The session was titled, "How to Survive Application Angst," and the session description said that the session was "...designed to delve deeper into the issues surrounding college admission that seem to cause stress for students navigating the selection and application process."

"Hmm," I thought. "It sounds like life at LHS in the fall."

The session was moderated by **Cindy Rodkin**, College Counselor at the Illinois Math & Science Academy and the presenters were **Stephen Schutt**, President of Lake Forest College and **Carol Lunkenheimer**, Dean of Undergraduate Admission at Northwestern University. I have reflected on this workshop several times trying to answer the question, "What are the main sources of application angst?"

Both presenters seemed to say that the first tier of application stress comes initially from the media. The media sells magazines and books by the millions all designed to make money. Some of what the media produces is good and has a positive effect, but much of what they sell adds to the stress of the college application process.

One of the tools that the media has created to sell its product is rankings, which I would say is the second tier of stress. Rankings are an attempt by publishers to sell magazines with unreliable information. Should a magazine publisher have the power to say which school is number one? I would say that the #1 school for one Wildcat may not be the #1 for another. Lunkenheimer said that we should encourage our families to avoid any books that talk about rankings because they are misleading. Schutt reminded us that we are supposed to be thinking about education, not ranking. What do we want our students to know?

The third tier of application angst comes from the community and the local culture fed by the media with rankings. Often parents can be seen feeding application angst. Lunkenheimer said that she sees a lot of parental over-involvement that causes stress. She once had a student who was so stressed out she said to her mother, "Mom, all you ever talk about is college admissions and avoiding pregnancy!" Parents really need to listen to their student, support them with the application process (help them where necessary, not do it for them), then send in the applications and let go.

The media publishes. Rankings become the rage. The community and parents are inundated and myths are born. Myths are the fourth tier of stress in application angst. There are so many myths out there, I don't know where to start. Debunking one myth, Schutt said, "The quality of the education has more to do with the quality of the student's work, not the quality of the school's name." Basically he is saying that there are a lot of great schools out there that few parents know about and that students do not apply to because of the unknown. Schutt equated publishers selling magazines featuring rankings to Mississippi riverboat con men. The con is that if you go to a certain school with a certain ranking, then your future is guaranteed. That is not true. Schutt highlighted two things that determine the success of the student's education: the most important factor is the student's desire and ability to learn; and secondly, the college's and the faculty's ability to connect to the student.

The bottom line is that a student should find a college s/he will succeed in, regardless of whether or not one's family or friends have heard of it. As the incoming senior class begins to prepare their applications, think about these questions: Can an application show happiness or stress? Am I college-ready? Do I have a desire to learn? What characteristics should my college have that will help me to connect with that faculty or campus?

Wednesday, Sept. 26
LHS Faculty Recital
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Wednesday, Oct. 3
VHHS Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Tuesday, Oct. 16
LHS/Jr. High Choir Festival
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 25-27
VHHS Fall Play - TBA
7:30 p.m., Studio Theater

Thursday, Nov. 1
VHHS Choir Fest, 7:30 p.m.
Auditorium

Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 1-3
LHS Musical - CATS
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Thursday, Nov. 8
VHHS Orchestra Festival, 7:30 p.m.
Auditorium

Saturday, Nov. 10
IMEA - District Jazz
3:00 p.m., Niles HS - All Day Concert

Thursday, Nov. 15
LHS/Jr. High Band Festival
7:30 p.m., Gymnasium

Thursday, Nov. 15
VHHS Band Festival
7:30 p.m., Gymnasium

Fri - Sat., Nov. 16-17
VHHS One Act Plays
7:30 p.m., Studio Theater

Saturday, Nov. 17
IMEA - District Music
3:00 p.m., Crystal Lake Central H.S.,
All Day Concert

Wednesday, Nov. 28
LHS/Jr. High Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Tuesday, Dec. 11
LHS Holiday Music Festival Dress
Rehearsal, 5:00 p.m., Auditorium

Thursday, Dec. 13
LHS Holiday Music Festival
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Thursday, December 13
VHHS Holiday Music Festival
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Tuesday, Dec. 18
LHS Holiday Band Concert
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Thurs.-Sat., Jan. 10-12
Theatre Fest - U of I

Wednesday, Jan. 23
District/Jr. High Jazz Festival
10:00 a.m., LHS Auditorium

Wed. - Sat., Jan. 30-February 2
IMEA All-State Music Festival, Peoria

Tuesday, Jan. 29
VHHS Band Concert
7:30 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

Fri.-Sat., Feb. 8-9
LHS Winter Play - TBA
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Wednesday, Feb. 20
LHS Winter Band Concert
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 21-22
LHS One Act Plays
7:30 p.m., Studio Theatre

Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 21-23
VHHS Winter Musical - TBA
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Wednesday, Feb. 27
LHS Cabaret
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Saturday, March 1
IHSA Solo/Ensemble Music Contest
All Day, Away

Thurs.-Fri., March 7-8
LHS Orchestris Dance Recital
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Thursday, March 13
VHHS Cabaret
7:30 p.m., Lobby

Friday, March 14
LHS Jazz Concert
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Tuesday, March 18
VHHS Music Concert
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Wednesday, March 19
LHS Winter Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Tentative concert Monday, April 7,
VHHS Music Concert
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Fri.-Sat., April 25-26
LHS Spring Play -TBA
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Wednesday, April 30
LHS Spring Band Concert
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Saturday, May 3
Superstate

Wednesday, May 7
LHS Spring Choir Concert
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Thurs - Sat., May 8-10
VHHS Spring Play - TBA
7:30 p.m., Studio Theater

Thursday, May 15
LHS Spring Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Thursday, May 15
VHHS Orchestris Dance Recital
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Tuesday, May 20
VHHS Spring Choir Concert
8:00 p.m., Auditorium

Thursday, May 22
LHS Art Show
7:00 p.m., Gymnasium
Friday, May 23
8:00 a.m. -Noon, Gymnasium

Tuesday, May 20
VHHS Art Show
6:00 p.m., Lobby

Thursday, May 22
VHHS Band Concert
8:00 p.m., Auditorium

Friday, May 23
LHS Collage
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Wednesday, May 28
VHHS Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m., Auditorium

Thursday, May 29
Pops Concert
TBA, Independence Grove

For more information, call the Fine Arts offices at LHS 847-327-7058, 327-7057 or VHHS 847-932-2283, 932-2282. Changes and updates will be posted on the District 128 web site - <http://district128.org>.

From the Principal's Desk . . .



by Brad Swanson, Libertyville High School

As fall approaches, it brings with it the wonder, excitement and energy of a new school year. I am thankful to be a part of this rejuvenating cycle. Staff, students and parents alike hold new hopes and dreams for 2007-08.

I am anxious to witness the numerous student success stories, both big and small, that are about to be written. They will be found in challenging classroom conversations, student leadership opportunities, athletic commitments and successes, artistic beauty and dramatic performances, and generous efforts to make our community, and our world, a better place.

Knowing that Libertyville High School connects thousands of individuals around the noble cause of education, it is vital for those in our organization to be effective and efficient communicators. Our school-wide focus for the 2007-08 school year is improved *communication*. This topic will undoubtedly manifest itself in countless ways as staff, students and parents all interact with each

other. Purposeful communication in the classroom among teachers and students ensures greater understanding and engagement. Open communication between colleagues allows staff members to work together collaboratively and achieve significant efforts in school improvement. Informative communication from school to home includes parents in the educational conversation and strengthens our common goal of the students' success. As we review our methods of communication – conversations, phone calls, emails, website, newsletters, etc. – we will approach each with a renewed commitment knowing that meaningful communication is the foundation for educational success and vital to the health of a successful community.

Success in high school requires strong communication and active participation between home, school, and student. This triangle must be committed to the same vision of a healthy, happy, young adult equipped with the knowledge and skills for success. Each is accountable for their own role and responsibility while being supportive and understanding of the others. Libertyville High School values deeply this partnership and I encourage you to become involved in the life of your son/daughter's high school career. One avenue of communication for you may be a parent organization such as Parent CATS, the Fine Arts Support Team (F.A.S.T.), or our various Athletic Booster Clubs. Please contact the LHS Main Office at 847-327-7002 for more information about these organizations.

I look forward to communicating with you throughout this school year. I wish you a successful 2007-08 school year.

Go Cats!



Attention LHS Class of 2011!

Freshman Orientation
Thursday, Aug. 16
8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Freshman will be introduced to LHS and become familiar with their classroom locations. Bus transportation will be provided to and from orientation for students who would normally take the bus. Buses will be running on their "late start" school day schedule for morning pickup. Buses will depart from orientation at approximately 12:30 p.m.



Student activities update

by Jennifer Paul, Student Activities Director

Freshman Orientation will take place on Thursday, Aug. 16, 2007, from approximately 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Freshmen will be introduced to LHS and become familiar with their classroom locations. Bus transportation will be provided to and from orientation for students who would normally take the bus. Buses will be running on their “late start” school day schedule for morning pickup. Buses will depart from orientation at approximately 12:25 p.m. More information will be mailed home in early August.

Get Involved . . . There is a club or activity for everyone! Here is a list of the current student activities. Once school starts, watch the daily bulletin for times and locations of club meetings or call the sponsor directly. **Jennifer Paul**, director of student activities, can also be reached at (847) 327-7258 or Jennifer.Paul@d128.org

Libertyville High School Student Activities List 2007-2008 School Year

Club/Activity

Academic/Scholastic Bowl
 Academic Decathlon
 Art Club
 Athletes Committed to Excellence (A.C.E.)
 Belle Choir
 Best Buddies
 CAT-TV
 Cleftomaniacs (formerly Men’s Choir)
 Debate
 Dramatic Events
 East Asia Cultural Organization
 *Fellowship of Christian Athletes
 Film Society
 First Class Leader
 Fishing and Outdoors Club
 Freshman Class Council
 Future Business Leaders of America
 Gay/Straight Alliance
 Interact
 International Club
 Intramural Athletics/Club Sports
 Junior Class Council
 LEAF
 Library Book Club
 Master Singers
 Math team
 Mock Trial
 Model United Nations
 National Honor Society
 Orchestis
 Peer Mediation
 Ping Pong
 Production Services
 Robotics Team
 Science Fiction Club
 Science Olympiad

Advisor(s)

Ms. Robertson and Ms. LeMaistre
 Mr. Kahn
 Mr. Gossell and Ms. Johnson
 Mr. Ferrell
 Dr. Brown
 Mrs. Ward
 Mr. Johnson
 Dr. Brown
 Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Marske
 Mr. Patterson
 TBA
 Mr. Eggert
 Mr. Schmidt
 Ms. Leafblad
 Mr. Reichert and Mr. Uliks
 TBA
 Mr. Pitcher
 Ms. Perlman
 Ms. Paul
 Ms. Gavin
 Mr. Kelly
 TBA
 Mr. Lapish
 TBA
 Dr. Brown
 Ms. Warfield and Mr. Brenner
 Mr. Duffy
 Mr. Thompson
 Mrs. Talley and Mrs. Held-Lyons
 Ms. Smith and Ms. Torrence
 Ms. Stevens and Ms. Kelly
 Mr. Guiard and Mr. Marino
 Mr. Holly
 Mrs. Rukes
 TBA
 Mr. Bush and Ms. Nordstrom

Student Activities *cont. from p. 11*

Senior Class Council	TBA
*Seven Days Club	Ms. Mantonya
Skills USA/VICA	Mr. Carlson
<i>Slant of Light</i>	Ms. LeMaistre
Sno Catz	Ms. Olszewski
Sophomore Class Council	TBA
Spark (formerly Snowball)	Mrs. Dick
Speech/Forensics	Mr. Bizoisky
Sports Medicine Club	Mr. Russ
Stage Players	Mr. Frawley
Strategy/Chess Club	TBA
Student Council	Mr. Beach and Mrs. Rukes
Think B.I.G.	TBA
TOPCATS (Big Brothers/Big Sisters)	Ms. Singleton and Ms. Glenn
Treblemakers	Dr. Brown
Wildcat Guard	Mr. Fischl
WYSE (Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering)	Mr. Dawson
Young Investors	Mr. Pitcher

*Non-school sponsored club.

Clubs/Activities/Sponsors are subject to change.

Parent CATS wants YOU to get involved. It's a great way to get involved in LHS activities! Feel free to attend any of the following Parent CATS meetings or watch for their newsletter. Meetings are held in the Library unless a special event is scheduled.

Parent CATS Meeting Dates

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2007	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 12, 2008	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 9, 2008	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 14, 2008	7:00 p.m.

Homecoming 2007

Monday, Sept. 4-7	Float Building (6:00 p.m. - 9 p.m. in Field House)
Wednesday, Sept. 5	Sweet 16 Elections – Senior Voting
Friday, Sept. 7	Sweet 16 Assembly
Saturday, Sept. 8	HOMECOMING PARADE 9:30 a.m. (Official Kick-off to Homecoming Week!)
Monday, Sept. 10	Spirit Week/ Powder Puff Football Game and Pep Rally
Tuesday, Sept. 11	Spirit Week
Wednesday, Sept. 12	Spirit Week/Homecoming Elections/Dance Ticket Sales
Thursday, Sept. 13	NO SCHOOL
Friday, Sept. 14	Spirit Week / Homecoming / Fall Recognition Assembly
	Football Games at 5:00 p.m. & Approximately 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 15	Homecoming Dance in Gym from 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

2007-08 School Calendar

The complete 2007-08 school year calendar is available on the web. Visit the District 128 web site, www.d128.org, and scroll to the bottom of the page for links to the calendar.

News from the Hills

Principal's Report

by Dr. Ellen Cwick



I personally want to welcome everyone to the 2007-08 school year! Go Cougars! Monday, Aug. 20 and Tuesday, Aug. 21 are full day institute programs for staff and Wednesday, Aug. 22 is our first day of attendance for students (half day schedule).

I want to encourage all students at VHHS to become immersed in student activities, fine arts and athletics as well as with their studies. As you can see in this issue, there is something available for everyone and we want you to enjoy your experience at VHHS. Simply put, we want all our students to bleed "Cougar Blue!" Ninth graders don't forget to attend Freshman Orientation on Thursday, August 16th at 8:00 a.m. (see specifics about this day on page 15).

Our most important expectation is to ensure superior teaching and learning in our classrooms. With that goal in mind, we are in the second year of our School Improvement Process here at VHHS, led by Co-Chairs **Jim Seward** and **Cheryl Steffens**. Last year, our VHHS School Improvement Team conducted and analyzed a faculty survey, examined trailing data, identified goal areas and established goal area teams. These teams will address the following goal areas:

Student Achievement:

Students at VHHS will demonstrate higher achievement by improving the skills necessary to succeed on a variety of assessment.

Health and Wellness:

Students at VHHS will demonstrate higher achievement by improving the quality of their health and wellness.

Time Management:

Students at VHHS will demonstrate higher achievement as students, teachers, and the school community manage time more efficiently.

The Cougars of VHHS extend a warm welcome to **Brian McDonald**, our new Athletic Director. Brian comes to us from Maine East High School where he has been an athletic director for the past seven years. Secondly, we want to say best of luck to our new College Career Counselor, **Scott Birtman**. Scott has been both a guidance counselor and college career counselor at Buffalo Grove High School for the past nine years. See p. 8 for a message from Scott. Both men bring enthusiasm and a strong work ethic to their jobs and we all are looking forward to working with them.

I invite all parents to become involved with their teen's life at VHHS. We want you to be an integral part of life at VHHS and partner with us to make school a special place for all students.

The Vernon Hills High School parent group organizational structure was developed to ensure communication, support and continuity among the three parent organizations. Cougar Council is comprised of the presidents, vice presidents and treasurers of Cougar Parent Connection, Cougar Athletic Boosters and Cougar Arts Support Team along with the principal of VHHS and directors of fine arts and athletics.

Our philosophy is that all students, parents, faculty, and the community benefit from active participation in the school community. Each of our parent organizations serves a specific purpose and group of school interest. Cougar Parent Connection (CPC) serves as Vernon Hills High School's main parent organization and support the activities and needs of the high school. Cougar Arts Support Team (CAST) provides assistance and support to an excellent fine arts department at VHHS. Cougar Athletic Boosters (CAB) promotes the interscholastic athletic program at VHHS and boosts participation and school spirit at athletic events and activities.

Cougar parent groups are continually evolving. Bring your ideas and a friend to a CPC, CAST, or CAB meeting.

Any questions can be addressed to the presidents of the organizations by contacting:

Jackie Monteith (CPC)- jacqueline.monteith@grainger.com or 847-549-0347

Bruce Mahrenholz (CAB)- (847) 816-9559

Mary Benton (CAST)- 847-362-0553

Thanks to all our 12-month staff that helped us get ready for the start of school. Every year I am overwhelmed by the dedication, passion, and strong work ethic that our entire staff brings to VHHS each day. We are ready to go and are looking forward to a fun, productive and successful school year. VHHS students- I hope you have had a fun, safe summer and are ready to be challenged!

VHHS student activities update

by Deborah Beagle, Student Activities Director



Start the school year off by getting involved in student activities at Vernon Hills High School. The best time to get involved is the beginning of the school year. Every student is encouraged to select one or more of the activities in which to actively participate. However since the primary purpose of high school is to promote scholastic achievement, a student is advised to select activities wisely and to budget their time effectively. There are activities that provide for (1) an extension of interest provoked in the classroom, (2) an opportunity to develop special interests and abilities and (3) social and service activities in the school and community.

Following is a representative list of the various activities presented to the student body, along with the advisor(s) for the 2007-2008 school year. Please direct any questions to Deborah Beagle, Student Activities Director (847-932-2195).

<u>Student Activity</u>	<u>Advisor</u>
Academic Bowl:	Dr. Paul Kemp, Ms. Megan Geltner
Anime:	Ms. Monica Tolva
Art Club:	Mr. Jim Savage, Ms. Stephanie Dahlstrom
Athletes Committed to Excellence (ACE):	Mr. Paul Brettner
Backlight Theater Company:	Mr. Kevin Phelan, Ms. Stephanie Freichels
Best Buddies:	Ms. Karen Martin
Cougar-TV:	tba
Cougar Guard:	Mr. Jim Pardun
DECA:	Ms. Sheryl Olson, Ms. Madeline Powell
FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes):	Student led organization
First Class:	Mr. Tom Chinske
Freshman Class Council:	tba
Future Business Leaders of America:	Mr. Sean Crevier, Ms. Amanda Carroll
GSA (Gay Straight Alliance):	Mr. Craig Bomgaars, Ms. Jennifer Denis
Interact:	Mr. Sean Kelly, Ms. Kelley Whitescarver
International Club:	Ms. Jodi Cusick-Acosta
Intramurals:	Mr. Chris Curry
Junior Class Council:	tba
Math Team:	Ms. Cheryl Ballenger, Mr. Steve Korney, Mr. Wilbert Stroeve
Model United Nations:	Mr. Jim Seward
National Honor Society:	Ms. Wendy Meister-Louria

<u>Student Activity</u>	<u>Advisor</u>
Orchesis:	Ms. Erin Dreese, Ms. Eryn Smith
Outdoor Adventure Club:	Mr. Jerry Miceli
Robotics:	Mr. Jay Walgren
School Newspaper:	Ms. Melissa Malmed
Senior Class Council:	Mr. Ben Horwitz, Ms. Rebecca Ulz
Sophomore Class Council:	Ms. Kelley Whitescarver
S.P.A.R.K. (Supporting Peers and Reaching Kids):	Ms. Margaret Pither
Special Olympics:	Mr. Andy Compton
Speech Team:	Mr. Sean Conroy
Spotlight (Fashion Club):	Ms. Connie Perez, Ms. Lauren Ishikawa
Strategy Club:	Mr. Sean Conroy
Student Council:	Ms. Leslie Nardini, Mrs. Peggy Cope
VH20 (Environmental Club):	Ms. Karen Day, Ms. Patricia Nora
VICA – SKILLS USA:	Mr. Kip Baxter
V.I.P. (Voices in Prevention):	Ms. Margaret Pither, Ms. Rebecca Ulz
Whispers of Immortality (Student Literary Magazine):	Ms. Eileen Orzoff, Mr. Sean Conroy
Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE):	Mr. Josh Ravenscraft
Yearbook:	Ms. Patricia Nora

cont. on p. 15

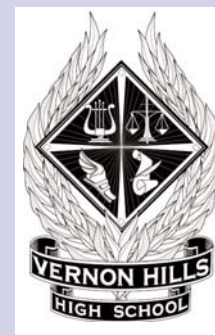


Attention VHHS Class of 2011:

Mark your calendars for Freshman Orientation

Thurs., Aug. 16, 2007

**8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
(Buses will be provided)**



Presentation Entertainment Tours

**Questions? Call Marla Pierce at
847-932-2002**

Student Activities *cont. from p. 14*

Congratulations to the 2007-2008 Student Council Class Officers and Representatives. Students are encouraged 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. Walk-ons are welcome.

Student Council Executive Board

President.....**Anastasia Guletsky**
Vice President.....**Jenna Veren**
Corresponding Secretary.....**Scott Venus**
Treasurer.....**Cliff Nelson**
Recording Secretary.....**Michelle Krueger**
Honorary Member.....**Kelsey Kind**

Junior Class Officers

President.....**Sarah Milligan**
Vice President.....**Billy Tabrizi**
Secretary.....**Gordy Skeoch**
Treasurer.....**Stephanie Borgman**
Representatives.....**Courtney Brooks,
Karthic Chandran, Megan Kubacki, Sonal Singh**

Senior Class Officers

President.....**Maddie Kleinhample**
Vice President.....**Steven Choi**
Secretary.....**Sylvia Kim**
Treasurer.....**Ariel Block**
Representatives**Kathleen Grimes,
Colleen McDonnell, Ally Rumzis, Samantha
Wagner**

Sophomore Class Officers

President.....**Steven Sprieser**
Vice President.....**Mansi Kathuria**
Representatives**Lavanya Iyer,
Bradley Gresik, Eddie Rumzis**

Freshman Class Officers

(Elected during the first few weeks of school)



Athletic Director's Corner

by Briant Kelly, Athletic Director

I would personally like to welcome you and your family to Libertyville High School Athletics. With the retirement of **Tim Albers** as athletic director, I am looking forward to serving as the new LHS athletic director. Mr. Albers has done a wonderful job over the past 13 years directing the athletic programs. He has also been instrumental in implementing new sports programs and overseeing many changes to our athletic facilities. During this next year and beyond, I hope we can continue and build upon the very successful athletic programs here at LHS.

I am very excited for the start of 2007-2008 school year. I truly believe that athletics are an integral part of the educational program for the students. The Athletic Department will provide every opportunity for the student-athlete to participate in athletics, and also provide the proper facilities and educated coaches.

As we look ahead to the 2007-2008 school year, I would like to incorporate the theme of **Teamwork** into Athletics. As coaches and educators, we try to develop and instill teamwork skills in our student-athletes. However, teamwork extends just beyond the players on the field, as it extends to the players on the sidelines, the team-managers, the coaches, **and** the parents. We are all a part of the LHS Athletic Team. Together, and only together, can we continue to build upon the success at Libertyville High School. I am asking for your support and dedication over the next year at LHS and look forward to working with you and the students.

Athletic Requirements

The following must be completed and turned in to the LHS athletic office **BEFORE** you will be allowed to try out or practice.

Orange athletic permit card (**both sides**) signed and turned in
(don't forget to check the insurance info).

Green emergency information form must be signed and turned in.

Athletic Code of Conduct signed and turned in. (Revised 2006)

Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct (New 2007)

Athletic fees are \$40 for each sport and will be billed after the first contest.

There will be no refunds.

Athletic Starting Date Information

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Coach</u>
Boys' Cross Country	All	8/13	7:30 a.m.	Track	Mark Buesing
Girls' Cross Country	All	8/13	8:00 a.m.	Track	Harry Carlson
Football	V, So	8/8	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Report to game field for profile testing Team Meeting Practice		Randy Kuceyeski
	Frosh	8/7	1:00 p.m.	Studio Theater	organizational meeting Parents do not attend this mtg.
		8/8	8:00 a.m.	Field by Lake (Be ready to practice by 8:00)	Dale Eggert
Players who have not turned in their permit card, code of conduct and green medical information sheet will not receive equipment.					
Boys' Golf	All	8/8	8:00 a.m.	Cafeteria (meeting)	Sean Matthews
		8/9	7:00 a.m.	Village Green GC	
Girls' Golf	All	8/10	9:00 a.m.	Teachers Cafe (meeting only)	
		8/13	3:00 p.m.	Village Green GC	Jim Seward

cont. on p. 17

Athletic Starting Date Information *continued from p. 16*

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Coach</u>
Boys' Soccer	All	8/8	9:00 a.m.	Dymond Fields	Andy Bitta
Girls' Swimming and Diving	All	8/13	9:00 a.m.	Meeting	Greg Herman
Girls' Tennis	All	8/13	9:00 a.m.	Tennis Courts	Dan Kiernan
Girls' Volleyball	All	8/13	8:00-9:30 am- Jr/Sr 8:00-10:00 am- Soph 10:00-12:00 p.m.- Fr 12:00-1:30 p.m.- Jr/Sr Gym		Chris Trzyna

Dates to Remember

Saturday, Aug. 11 – Picture Day

Football – Stadium
Cheerleading - Stadium

Saturday, Aug. 18– Picture Day

Boys' and Girls' Golf – Stadium
Poms – Stadium
Volleyball – Main Gym
Girls' Tennis – Tennis Courts
Boys' Soccer – Stadium
Boys' and Girls' Cross Country – Stadium
Girls' Swimming – Pool

Wednesday, Aug. 22 - Freshman Athletic Orientation

This is a mandatory meeting for all freshman athletes (fall, winter, spring) and their parents at 7:00 p.m. in the LHS Auditorium.

Monday, Sept. 10 – Homecoming Pep Rally

The pep rally held at the LHS stadium will immediately follow the powder-puff football game. All fall athletic teams will be introduced at the pep rally and there will also be performances by the cheerleading and pom pon squads. At the conclusion, there will be a fireworks display.

New LHS Coaches for 2007-08

Alex Adams	Girls' Bowling Asst. Coach
Ray Albin	Boys' Track Head Coach
Ben Anderson	Cheerleading Head Coach
Andy Bitta	Boys' Soccer Head Coach
Greg Herman	Girls' Swimming Head Coach
Nora Kunio	Girls' Basketball Asst. Coach
Nikki Lazzaretto	Poms Head Coach
Allison Lewkowicz	Girls' Bowling Head Coach
Greg Loika	Girls' Volleyball Asst. Coach
Jeff McKenzie	Boys' Basketball Asst. Coach
Sara Rogers	Girls' Swimming Asst. Coach
Joe Roth	Girls' Cross Country Asst. Coach Boys' Track Asst. Coach
Jenny Speciale	Cheerleading Asst. Coach
John Taylor	Boys' Gymnastics Asst. Coach
Don Zeman	Girls' Basketball Asst. Coach

LHS Poms Receive Top Honors at UDA Summer Camp



LHS Pom squad members recently participated in the Universal Dance Association summer camp at Northern Illinois University. The squad captured a first-place trophy for its home routine in the small varsity division. They also won a superior performance trophy for squad members receiving perfect scores on all of their routines. This qualified the squad for a bid to perform at the 2008 UDA national championships in Orlando. In addition to the team events, each squad was allowed to have six members audition to become a UDA all-star dancer.

All six LHS girls who tried out succeeded and received ribbons for their performances. The LHS all-star dancers are co-captains **Casey Dugan** and **Sarah Janousek**, and squad members **Kelsey Burke**, **Lauren Johnson**, **Jessica LaRoi**, and **Nicole Richardson**. The squad is coached by **Nikki White-Lazzaretto**. (photo courtesy of the LHS Pom Squad)



From the Cougar Den . . .

by Brian McDonald, Athletic Director, VHHS

We hope everyone is having a terrific summer spending time with family and friends and we are looking forward to the start of another great year for the Cougar Athletic Programs. Important information to note regarding athletic participation at VHHS:

Participation - To participate in athletics, a student athlete must have completed the following prior to participating in a tryout or practice:

Athletic Permit Card – includes verification from a physician that the student athlete can participate in athletics. You need a stamp from your doctor’s office on the card or a completed physical from your doctor’s office. Physicals are only good for one calendar year.

Athletic Code of Conduct Form - These forms are available on the VHHS web site or you can pick them up in the Athletic Department office. After these items have been completely filled out and turned into the Athletic Department Office (we are open all summer), the student athletes grades will be checked to verify that he/she has passed at least four subjects in the previous semester. If the Athletic Department has all forms and the student athlete has passed at least four classes last semester, then he/she is all set for fall tryouts. By the second or third day of tryouts, the participants will be expected to complete and return their emergency contact cards. Once teams are set, you will be billed the \$40 participation fee.

Listed below are important dates for the start of our Fall Athletic Programs:

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Cheerleading	Varsity JV	S. Rivera N. Neuhengen	Aug. 13-15 Aug. 13	9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 9a.m. – 2 p.m.	Main Gym Gymnastics Gym	Choreography clinic per schedule
Cross Country – Boys’	All	TBA	Aug. 13	TBA	VHHS Track	Northeast Gate or Foyer – Rain
Cross Country – Girls’	All	S. Richter	Aug. 13	3:00 p.m.	VHHS Track	Northeast Gate or Foyer -- Rain
Football	All	T. Monken	Aug. 8	8:00 a.m.	Field house	
Golf – Boys’	All Varsity Fr/Soph	S. Healey S. Healey V. Capron	Aug.. 7 Aug.. 8 Aug.. 8	9:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m.	Room 0211 White Deer Run White Deer Run	Pre-Season Mtg. 847-644-7544 Golf Course Driving Range
Golf – Girls	All	S. Crevier	Aug. 10 Aug. 13	10:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	Room 2408 TBA	Pre-Season Mtg., 847-372-2738 Tryouts
Pom Pons	All	B. Henley	Aug. 20	TBA	TBA	
Soccer – Boys’	All	S. Etnyre	Aug. 8	8-9:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.	American Hotel Register Field	Room 0222 -- Rain Athletes attend both sessions
Swim/Dive – Girls’	All	K. Greenawalt	Aug. 13	8:00 a.m.	Pool Bleachers	Varsity come prepared to swim
Tennis – Girls’	All	D. Gerber	Aug. 13	10a.m. – 2p.m.	W. Entrance Foyer	Going to VHHS courts. Rain – 10-noon
Volleyball – Girls’	All	A. Gutzmer	Aug. 13	2:30 p.m. - 5p.m.	Main Gym – Field house	Come prepared to play volleyball

Picture Days

Team photos for Cheerleaders, Football, Boys' and Girls' Golf, Pom Pons and Boys' Soccer will taken on Saturday, Aug. 11. Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, Girls' Swim/Dive, Girls' Tennis and Girls' Volleyball will have their pictures taken on Friday, Aug. 17.

Freshman Athletic Orientation

Freshmen and their parents are expected to attend the Freshman Athletic Orientation on Wednesday, Aug. 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Gym. The meeting is expected to last 45 minutes.

Opportunities -- Life-changing Opportunities

Sometimes things go the way you planned, and sometimes things don't go the way you planned. Some of our programs must limit the number of participants, and some of our programs keep everyone who completes tryouts. There are lots of opportunities to stay involved in athletics. However, if you try out for a team and are not selected, we strongly encourage you to try out for a different sport. A friend of mine was all gung ho football when he entered high school. After his freshman year of football, his coach told him that if he wanted to play football again, he had to compete in a sport in the winter and another sport in the spring. Because my buddy loved football so much, he played basketball in the winter and baseball in the spring. His sophomore year he played football, basketball and baseball again. He had a great junior year in football and was really looking forward to a great senior year in football. He did what he had always done and went out for the basketball team in the winter . . . and got cut. Yikes – petrified that he would not be able to play football in the fall if he did not do a sport in the winter, he decided to try out for the swim team. He made the team and his path in life changed from there. He continued with the football, swimming and baseball teams to finish out his high school career. Interestingly, it turns out that he was a pretty good swimmer. So good, in fact, that he earned a college scholarship in swimming. When he graduated from college, he got a job as a physical education teacher . . . and head swim coach – for girls and boys – positions he has held for the last 30 years. In addition, he has competed in and finished 12 Ironman Triathlons. Therefore, what appeared to be a terrible thing in his high school life ended up being maybe one of the best things that ever happened to him. Here's what to remember: if things don't go the way you want them to this fall, winter or spring, please give something else a try. It may be the start of a great new path for you.

What is new in Cougar Country?

We have some familiar faces in new roles in the Athletic Department this fall. **Sean Crevier** is our new Head Girls' Golf Coach. **Kedric Greenawalt** is our new Head Girls' Swim/Dive Coach. Lastly, recently married **Abbie Gutzmer** (used to be Willenborg) is our new Head Girls' Volleyball Coach. All three are excited about their new roles as head coaches and we look forward to great things from their programs in the years to come. Lastly, we have a new Athletic Director – that's me. The whole McDonald family is excited to be joining the Cougar family and we look forward to meeting you at our athletic contests this fall.

VHHS Poms Earn Honors at Camp

The Vernon Hills High School Cougar Dance Team recently attended a Universal Dance Association summer camp at Northern Illinois University, returning home after earning several honors at the camp and learning routines and technical skills to use during the upcoming football and basketball seasons.

The team earned second place in the Large Varsity category (more than 15 squad members) in the Home Routine competition using a routine choreographed by the five senior squad members, received a Superior Trophy for their overall performance at the camp, and qualified for the 2008 National Dance Team Championships to be held in Orlando, Fla. in February.

Earning All-Star honors and an opportunity to perform in the 2007 Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade and the 2008 New Year International Parade in Paris, France were seniors **Brooke Ericksen**, **Jessica Handy**, and **Samantha Wagner**.

The Cougars pom squad includes **Amanda Baittie**, **Meredith Barack**, **Cassidy Blair**, **Georgian Costello**, **Tierney Darden**, **Rachel DeSimone**, **Brooke Ericksen** (Co-Captain), **Cassandra Evans**, **Jessica Handy**, **Lexi Hernandez**, **Melissa Jozwiak**, **Jamie Michel**, **Ariana Moraton**, **Vanessa Nagel**, **Courtney O'Roark**, **Kathryn Redig**, **Danielle Rizzo**, **Danielle Squires**, and **Samantha Wagner** (Captain). Their coach is **Brittany Henley**.



The VHHS Cougar Dance Team poses at the UDA summer camp held at NIU. (photo courtesy of D. Darden)

Summer School Class Helps Renovate VHHS Courtyard



Students in the District 128 Environmental Science summer school class, taught by Vernon Hills High School Science Teacher **Karen Day**, recently partnered with landscaping professionals from **James Martin Associates** of Vernon Hills to complete renovations in the VHHS courtyard. The renovations included a butterfly garden and planting of native plants. *(photo by J. Guillaume)*

District 128 Speakers Bureau

The District 128 Speakers Bureau was developed as an additional means of communicating with members of the community. District 128 administrators are available to speak to local groups and organizations on a variety of topics about Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools, including:

Athletics
Community Education Opportunities
Community/School Partnerships
District 128 Overview
Fine Arts
LHS Overview
Making the Transition from Jr. High to High School
Federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation
School Finance
Standards
Student Activities
Technology
VHHS Overview
And more . . .

Please contact **Mary Todoric**, director of communications, at 847-327-7186 or mary.todoric@d128.org for more information on this program or to schedule a speaker.



Community High School District 128
940 W. Park Ave.
Libertyville, Illinois 60048

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