



Paw Prints



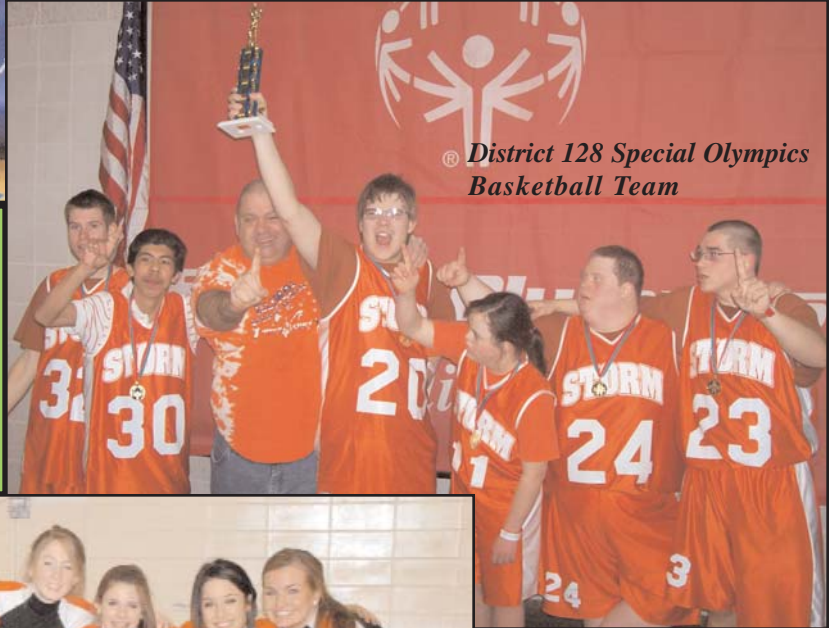
*News and Information from
Community High School District 128*

Spring 2008



*Vernon Hills High School
Poms*

**District 128 Salutes its
State Champions!**



*District 128 Special Olympics
Basketball Team*



*Libertyville High School
Poms*



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Judy Sugarman, Vice President
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Omar Jamil, Libertyville High School

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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 847-247-4513.

Superintendent's Message

District 128 is Proud of its State Champions



March was a great month for our District 128 students! At Libertyville High School, the poms received state honors. At Vernon Hills High School, the poms were also named state champions, making them the school's first state champions in athletics. And, students from the District 128 Special Olympics program brought home gold medals after winning the state basketball tournament. All three of these award-winning groups are pictured on the cover of this edition of *Paw Prints*.

In addition to the student honors, the District also learned that it was once again named a recipient of the annual **SchoolSearch 2008 Bright Red Apple Award** for educational excellence. District 128 is one of only 91 Illinois School Districts (out of 871) to receive this 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.

We will continue to celebrate the achievements of our students as we move into the months of May and June, which include such events as honors convocations, end-of-year concerts, NHS inductions and graduation. As we enter the final stretch of this school year, I encourage our students to stay focused on their classes and also enjoy all of the opportunities available in our state-champion school district.

David L. Clough, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Financial Information and School Report Cards Available on District 128 Web Site

The Community High School District 128 web site contains valuable information for parents and the community. The budget for the 2007-08 school year as well as the 2007 Annual Report are now available by visiting www.d128.org. The recently released school report cards are also available by clicking on the link located on the District home page. Bookmark this page and make it your source for District news and information.

District 128 Foundation for Learning Announces Innovation Grant Winners

The District 128 Foundation for Learning presented its first Innovation Grants to Community High School District 128 teachers and staff at an all-district staff meeting held at Libertyville High School. Five grants were awarded as part of the newly-formed foundation's first project aimed at enhancing education programs at Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools. Initial funding for the grants was generated by the Foundation trustees. Grants were awarded up to \$1,000 per project.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer these inaugural educational grants that will benefit our District's high school students," said Greg Pritchard, chairman of the District 128 Foundation for Learning. "While we know that our schools are recognized as two of the best in the state, the foundation board has a passion to enrich and enhance District 128's tradition of excellence in education."

Grant recipients and their award-winning proposals were:

Suzanne Torrence, Science Teacher, Libertyville High School -- Stop motion studies for physics students using webcams and special software.

Fran Fatta, Music Teacher, Vernon Hills High School -- SmartMusic software that allows students to record themselves and receive instant feedback on whether notes are played correctly or not.

Kelley Whitescarver, Connie Perez and Leslie Nardini, Family and Consumer Science Teachers, Vernon Hills High School -- Allow for the study of ethnic foods from around the world by providing the specialized cooking equipment necessary for this culinary journey.

Nancy Dick, Student Assistance Program Coordinator, Libertyville High School -- Provide outside speakers for lunch periods for student leadership group. Speakers address leadership, positive role modeling, influencing peers, etc.

Nancy Dick, Student Assistance Program Coordinator, Libertyville High School and **Margaret Pither**, Student Assistance Program Coordinator, Vernon Hills High School -- Develop a website for the district coalition Community Partnership for Healthy Youth Serving the Libertyville/Vernon Hills Area to Reduce Underage Drinking and Substance Use.

The District 128 Foundation for Learning was founded in 2007. The Foundation's mission is to obtain resources to enhance and enrich the instructional program in Community High School District 128. To learn more about becoming a Foundation volunteer or donor, contact 847-327-7800 ext. 8030, 847-932-2800 ext. 8030, or email foundation@d128.org.



The District 128 Foundation for Learning presented its first Innovation Grants to Community High School District 128 teachers and staff on Feb. 15 at an all-district staff meeting. Grant recipients and presenters pictured at the presentation (from left): **Suzanne Torrence, Fran Fatta, Kelley Whitescarver, Connie Perez, Leslie Nardini, Nancy Dick, Margaret Pither**, Foundation Trustee **Heather Mason**, Foundation Trustee **Judy Sugarman**, and District 128 Superintendent **David Clough**. (photo by M. Todoric)

District 128 Staff Member Honored by Senator Dick Durbin



United States Senator **Dick Durbin** visited Libertyville High School on Tuesday, March 18, to honor one of our very own. Before speaking with AP U.S. History and Law class students in the school library, Durbin presented a U.S. flag to World War II Veteran and District 128 Mail Courier **Jim Zale**. The flag Zale received from Durbin was flown over the U.S. Capitol on June 6, 2007, the 63rd anniversary of the D-Day Invasion.

Zale, pictured at left with Durbin, served our country during World War II as a member of the United States Army. He fought in many significant battles of the war, including the D-Day Invasion, the Battle of the Bulge, the Siege of Cologne, and the liberation of a Nazi death camp in Nordhausen, Germany. Zale was awarded five Bronze Battle Stars, a Croix de Guerre from Belgium, a Fourragere from France, and a Presidential Unit Citation. He has been a District 128 staff member since 1983. (photo by M. Todoric)

Scott Named District 128 Associate Superintendent

by Prentiss Lea, Associate Superintendent



At its Feb. 25 meeting, the Community High School District 128 Board of Education unanimously approved the hiring of **Dr. Marina Scott** as District 128 associate superintendent. Scott, who is currently principal of William Fremd High School in Palatine, will replace **Prentiss Lea** who will assume the District 128 superintendency on July 1, 2008.

"We are very excited to have Dr. Scott join our team," said Lea. "The breadth and depth

of her experience, in combination with her demonstration of excellence, innovative thinking, and student-centered focus make her well-suited for the position."

Scott brings 26 years of educational experience to District 128, having worked as a teacher and assistant principal in Township High School District 211 before assuming the principalship at Fremd in 2003. Scott recently was recognized for her significant contributions to public education in Illinois

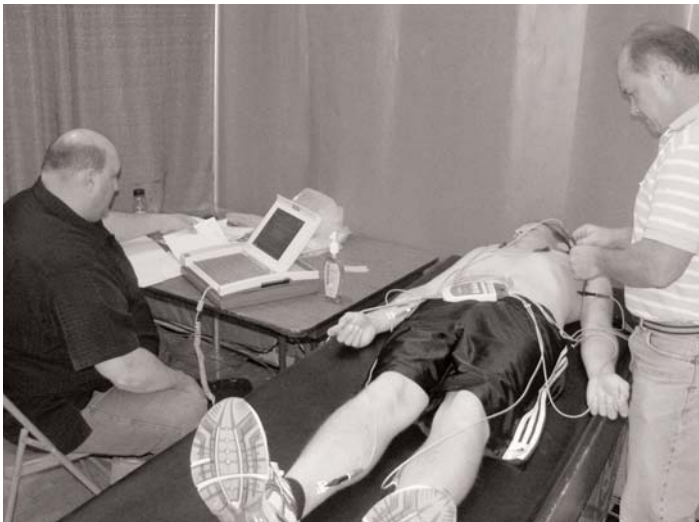
when she received the Illinois State Board of Education's 2007 "Those Who Excel" education award in the administrator category. She also is an adjunct professor in the Loyola University, Chicago School of Education.

Lea noted that Scott brings a unique and highly desirable skill set to the Associate Superintendent position, and has demonstrated core values and beliefs, high expectations, and excellence throughout her career that are consistent with those of District 128. "She has demonstrated excellent leadership in working with Fremd stakeholders to establish a student-centered learning environment with high expectations for all students and staff, which is predicated by the use of data to inform decision making," said Lea.

Scott holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Family and Consumer Sciences Education from Illinois State University, a Master of Science in Textiles and Fashion Design from Northern Illinois University, and a Master of Science in Administration also from Northern. She received her Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Loyola University, Chicago.

"I am excited to be joining the District 128 team," said Scott. "I have been impressed with their commitment to excellence in every aspect of a student's educational experience. I welcome the challenge that change brings, and look forward to working in such a collaborative community."

Schewitz Foundation Provides EKG Screenings at LHS



Nearly 1,200 Libertyville High School students received free electrocardiogram (EKG) tests as part of a program held Thursday, Feb. 28 at the school. Sponsored by The Max Schewitz Foundation, the program's goal is to help reduce the number of young adults who die from sudden cardiac arrest. The Max Schewitz Foundation, in collaboration with the Midwest Heart Foundation, coordinated the tests at LHS. Midwest Heart Foundation created the Young Hearts for Life™ Cardiac Screening Program to identify students at-risk of sudden cardiac death and to increase the public awareness of this issue. (photo by M. Todoric)

Libertyville Becomes ONE City and Home to First ONE High School

A signed proclamation declaring Libertyville High School the first high school to become a ONE Campus and declaring the Village of Libertyville a ONE City was presented by LHS senior **Ryan Steel** to Village President **Jeff Harger** and Principal **Brad Swanson** on March 19, 2008

Steel headed up the effort by reestablishing a ONE Chapter at Libertyville. ONE is a grassroots organization whose millions of members across America work in their local community to raise awareness of global poverty and treatable, preventable disease and build the political will to address the crisis.

On March 19, LHS stepped up its efforts to educate residents on the issues surrounding extreme poverty. As part of these efforts, students recognized World Water Day on March 20. Already, students at Libertyville have worked to build wells that will supply clean drinking water to communities in Africa as part of the Adopt a Village project.

"Fighting extreme poverty and global disease around the world starts at home. Illinois residents have shown that they care about these issues. Illinois is already a ONE State and we are joined by fellow ONE Cities across the state," said Steel. "Libertyville residents must talk about these problems and let our leaders know that our community wants to do more to address them. We can help provide access to clean drinking water, provide treatments for people living with AIDS and eradicate malaria," said Steel. "We are in the process of creating a world for our generation to inherit. We want to make sure it's a better one."

Prairie State Achievement Examination Wednesday, April 23 and Thursday, April 24

LHS and VHHS Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Junior Testing – All juniors must be in attendance on
Wednesday, April 23 and Thursday, April 24

No school for freshmen, sophomores or seniors – Teacher Institute Day

LHS: Testing begins promptly at 8:00 a.m.
VHHS: Testing begins promptly at 7:55 a.m.

Libertyville High School Thursday, April 24, 2008

✎ Testing for juniors will begin promptly at 7:30 a.m. and will take place on the 2nd floor.

✎ Freshmen, sophomores and seniors should not arrive before 10:15 a.m., if possible. Limited space will be available in the cafeteria and library for those who arrive early. Access to the second floor will not be available until testing is completed at approximately 10:15 a.m.

✎ Regular school (period 1) will start at 10:30 a.m., following the PSAE Day 2 bell schedule.

Vernon Hills High School Thursday, April 24, 2008

✎ All freshmen, sophomores and juniors will arrive at the regular time.

✎ Freshmen and sophomores – Regular schedule all day.

✎ Juniors - Testing – Periods 1, 2 and 3.

✎ Seniors arrive for period 2 at 8:45 a.m. and report to the auditorium for a senior class meeting and transition program.

✎ Juniors and seniors resume their regular schedules beginning with period four.

Community Partnership for Healthy Youth Moves Forward to Address Underage Substance Abuse

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

The Community Partnership for Healthy Youth is off to a great start! Members are meeting in committees addressing the four components of the goals and objectives the committee formulated in the fall. The four components are: Parent to Parent, Community-Wide, Student to Student, and Educators (K-12).

The Parent to Parent Committee hopes to create small group gatherings where parents can get to know each other and have conversations about the youth in the community, on their block, or within their child's peer group.

At the community level, village and community organizations have met to discuss ways to support activities with our youth in mind. A district-wide logo contest will kick-off in Spring 2008.

The Student to Student Committee met recently to create activities for all students within the community and to brainstorm ways that students can influence one another to make positive choices. They will be working with the community committee to get their ideas off and running.

K-12 educators are working together with the District Parent Workshop Committee to provide opportunities for parent education. In addition, a district-wide media campaign

throughout all grades will kick-off next January. Each grade level will have an opportunity to make posters, create videos, or write essays regarding teens making healthy decisions.

A website for the Community Partnership for Healthy Youth is being constructed this summer. If you have any questions, or would like to join one of the committees and get involved, please contact **Margaret Pither** at (847) 932-2158 and/or **Nancy Dick** at (847) 327-7030.

Lunch and Learn Workshops Focus on Student Issues

by Margaret Pither, VHHS SAP Coordinator

Several times a year, the SAP Core Team of VHHS sponsors Lunch and Learn workshops for faculty and staff. The meetings, held during lunch periods, give staff members a chance to gather together and discuss current issues they are facing in the classroom. Recent workshops proved to be very informative and well-attended.

On Jan. 30, staff members gathered during their lunch periods to hear VHHS Dean **Madeline Powell** and School Psychologist **Nancy Skeffington** address "Asperger's Syndrome in the High School Student." The speakers guided staff through a discussion about ways to identify and help the growing number of students in our school who display symptoms of Asperger's and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Deans **Madeline Powell** and **Greg Stilling**, Security Director **Tina Blomgren**, and School Resource Officer **Jim Koch** led a Lunch and Learn workshop on Feb. 20 focusing on "Interventions." They explained the protocols and procedures that should be used in interventions with students. They also offered strategies for interacting with disrespectful or insubordinate students and those students who may be using drugs or have a gang affiliation. A future workshop "Signs and Symptoms of Drug Use," will be held next month.

Cougar Class Act Award winners

Congratulations to the following students who were named Cougar Class Act Award winners for February: **Jimmy Koukoulis, Aaron Kerns, Brandon Leitzow, Josh Brickman, Stefanie Oi, Phillip Maciaszek, Sarah Krippinger, Samantha Withrow and Cole Moffat, Lusine Gomtsian, Sonya Peterson and Monica Lee.**

LHS Hosts Speakers for Staff

by Nancy Dick, LHS SAP Coordinator

Libertyville High School staff met with Dr. Heather Hale and RYANNE BRIGHT, LPC, CADA, who discussed substance abuse. Their expertise and presentation, "Experimentation? Abuse? Dependence?...Signs, Symptoms, and Where Use Crosses the Line," answered our staff's questions pertaining to substance abuse and issues of identifying students who may need an intervention. They pointed out, "Research shows that early intervention is the most effective...Teenagers, especially those at heightened risk, can move rapidly from experimentation to patterns of serious abuse and dependency." Our thanks go to Dr. Heather Hale and RYANNE BRIGHT for sharing their knowledge and time with us.

LHS Parent/Guardian Passive Consent Form

Libertyville High School is asking parents to allow their students to fill out the Drug Use and Perceptions Survey that will be administered at LHS on April 30, 2008. This survey will serve as a needs assessment for the school, guiding future programming decisions in the area of substance abuse prevention. The survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, and will be administered during your child's third period class. The survey was developed by the Center for Prevention Research and Development at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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.

The questions included in the survey will address the following: personal alcohol and drug use; perceptions of peer alcohol and drug use; perceptions of the school environment.

If you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in this survey, please click on the following link and complete the denial of permission form. Please sign and return the form to Nancy Dick, Libertyville High School SAP Coordinator. The form may be faxed to 847-327-7177, or an email may be sent to nancy.dick@d128.org by 9:00 a.m., April 30. Your decision will not, in any way, influence you or your child's relationship with Libertyville High School

If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Nancy Dick at 847-327-7030 or Trina Ragain at the Center for Prevention Research and Development at the University of Illinois at 888-333-5612.

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the above explanation of the survey, and I DO NOT want my child to participate in the Drug Use and Perceptions Survey that is being administered at Libertyville High School on April 30, 2008.

Child's Name

Parent's Name

Date

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

Student Achievement and Technology Initiative Updates

by Deborah A. Larson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Mick Torres, Director of Educational Technology

Student Achievement

Class Rank

District 128, like many area districts, began investigating the impact of class rank on the college admission process. After discussion with the Board of Education in February, the administration decided to begin a more extensive discussion with our educational community about the issue of class rank. We will be forming an advisory committee and planning some forums on the subject in the near future. We will be involving students, staff and parents in this conversation. Watch for further details.

TeenBiz 3000 Reading Program Implementation

We are about to train our second group of teachers to use a new software product we recently purchased to help struggling readers. About 20 teachers were trained in late February and another 20 are being trained in April. Reading, English and International Language classes are being introduced to this software that encourages critical reading and writing of non-fiction materials. Students receive current articles via an email system and they respond to questions through online assessments and writing activities. Students and teachers can watch student learning improve through the assessments.

Incoming Freshmen Summer Academy Program

We are happy to begin a new summer program for incoming freshmen. We've nearly reached our enrollment goal for this exciting new program that will help incoming freshmen be prepared to handle the rigor of high school academics. The program will focus on building math, reading and English skills, as well as incorporate some fun and exciting activities that will assist students with the social and emotional transition to high school. Prospective students and parents will meet with the teachers of this program on an evening in May to receive further details about the program and meet the staff.

Response to Intervention (RTI)

RTI means using differentiated curriculum-based instructional strategies for all learners, providing all learners with scientific, research-based interventions, continuously measuring student performance using scientifically research-based progress monitoring instruments for all learners, and making educational decisions based on the student's response to interventions.

In June 2007, the Illinois rules for special education were finalized and include RTI. By January 2009, each school district is required to have a plan for the transition to the use of RTI process utilizing problem-solving, data-based decision making and scientifically researched-based instructional practices. RTI is based upon the belief that educators can effectively teach all students. We will be forming a committee this spring and will work this summer to begin to write our RTI plan for submission next January. Watch for more information about RTI.

Technology

Audio and Video Tech for the Web

This committee met for the first time on Tuesday, March 4. A

goal area for the District Technology Advisory Team deals with the integration of technology to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom. This sub-committee was formed to specifically examine the integration of web-based voice and video technologies. Presently, the District does not provide the tools, procedures and training for classroom teachers to create audio and video projects that have immediate transferability to an online format. An example of this is that if a teacher wants to do a video project with his/her students to be posted to his/her website, the teacher does not have the tools or training to create, edit, manage, store, convert and archive video. Likewise, a teacher who wants to podcast a lecture or student audio project lacks the same. To accomplish this goal, the District needs to standardize on equipment and procedures if we're going to be able to support it globally. The task for this committee is to come up with a cost-effective, sound technology plan for accomplishing this goal.

SIS Research Committee

A goal area for both the District Technology Advisory Team and the Student Achievement Advisory Council deals with developing strategies for using student performance data to make important decisions related to improving teaching and learning in the District. While quick and easy access to student performance data is critical for making timely and strategic decisions, access alone isn't enough. We need to be able to analyze data from various perspectives, find patterns in the data, and see the "big picture" across teachers, departments, schools, grade levels, standards achievement, and demographic patterns. The foundation for this process lies within the Student Information System (SIS)...a single, secure, web-based data repository which must have seamless integration of data with other applications.

We will examine our present SIS, SchoolMaster, and see if it meets those requirements. We will look at other student information systems to see what possibilities there are that perhaps we aren't presently leveraging. We will discuss what other schools are doing and what successes or failures they've experienced with their SIS. We will also examine the integration of the gradebook application with the SIS.

Building-Level Tech Teams

At both LHS and VHHS, Tech Teams have been formed to specifically address present tech needs and to formulate building-level budgets for the coming school year based on individual department request. These committees have met several times over the past months. Across the District, the teams have developed budgets for 2008-09 that include: new/replacement desktop computer systems, laptops which support various curricular needs, wiring upgrades including an expansion of our wireless access that spans all areas of all buildings, a new critical reading lab at LHS, new/replacement file servers and replacement network switches. An exciting new technology being budgeted for includes a set of handheld student response hardware. These technologies resemble handheld remotes that provide students with the ability to interact directly with teachers and classmates and enables teachers to get immediate feedback regarding assessments or other learning activities. These systems will be piloted in three science classrooms at LHS and three at VHHS.

IM.HIP and IMA.HOTTIE Go to College... Maybe

by Ole Stevens, LHS College Counselor

Times have really changed! A few decades ago there was a series of "Go to College" movies. One of the movies was "Blondie Goes to College," which featured Dagwood and Blondie Bumstead from the timeless comic strip. Dagwood went to college so that his friends would stop calling him Dumbstead.

Given the techno-savvy, Facebooking, IMmers that we call our teenagers, I would suggest to you that the next movie should be titled "IM.HIP and IMA.HOTTIE Go to College." Technology has changed the way students apply, interact and receive information from colleges . . . in positive and not so positive ways..

At a recent College Board Midwest Regional Forum concerning college applicants and technology, I learned that the electronic personalities that students create can have a profound and often detrimental effect on the application process. If there is a disconnect between the real personality and the electronic personality, it could signal a red flag.

Here are some recommendations for families:

1. Talk about and monitor student email addresses and make sure they are appropriate.

The cute or daring email addresses of yesterday do not fit well with the adult world your student is about to enter. Your student will be using an email address to communicate with college representatives about admissions, financial aid, housing and their transition from high school to college. For example, an applicant with the email address of killdogs@internet.com may not be seen as a desirable addition to campus.

2. Talk about and monitor your student's Facebook or social network accounts.

If a student has something undesirable on his or her social network account, it could potentially be used against them in the admissions process. Even if the questionable e-document is on someone else's Facebook account, it is still fair game in the admissions process. Generally, admission officers are not actively checking applicants' Facebook account, but if something undesirable is brought to their attention, it could be grounds for denial. As a general rule of thumb, if the social network account contains content that would be suitable for Grandma to see, then it would be OK for a college or future employer to see.

3. Talk about how your student shares information on the Internet.

Your students may want to think twice before sharing questionable material with a friend they trust. Once it is on the Internet, it is there forever. A student may trust his or her friend, but does he/she know or trust all of the friend's 'electronic friends'? Once other people get access to a student's information, the student loses control and in a keystroke it

could be everywhere. It is not called the World Wide Web for nothing.

4. Talk about the validity of college web logs.

There are Facebook groups for most colleges. Students and prospective students social network there and a lot of information is shared. Some of this information is good and helpful, but just as often it can be misleading. Many college reps monitor their college's social networks to see what is being said. Often college reps interact with students to clarify misinformation. This is just another venue where others can observe your electronic personality and see if your application and your real personality align.

All of these new technologies can be used to your student's advantage, but they need to practice some common sense and caution. Hopefully, IM.HIP and IMA.HOTTIE will rethink their e-image and clean up their e-personality before they apply to college!

Decision Making Time

by Scott Birtman, VHHS College Counselor

Although May 1, 2008, is the universal commitment date for seniors, many students have already committed to colleges and universities. Most colleges want students to commit as soon as students know they want to attend. The admissions office is playing a numbers game. They are speculating on those whom they admitted, and the likelihood those particular students will attend in the fall. Directors of admissions' jobs often depend on an accurate number of admitted freshmen in a given year. In addition, housing and residence hall selections are closely tied to "when" you make the housing deposit.

April 1 was an important date for many students in District 128. This day began the final process for students who applied to some of the most selective schools in the country. The admissions decision followed three basic directions: admitted, denied, and the "dreaded" wait-listed. Those admitted are confronted with the opportunity to go to their "first choice" school, or maybe not. Those denied should, first of all, decide on an appropriate "second-choice" option. Subsequently, the student and parent will need to move beyond the shock, trauma and disappointment of not being selected at one of "those" schools.

I have highlighted the "wait-listed" students, mostly because the pain and anxiety can/will continue for several months, into the summer. Students have been known to receive notices well into July and August! Those students and families must be able to quickly adjust to an entirely new school within weeks before coming to campus. If you still hold out hope that your name on a college's wait-list assures your admittance, please come in to talk with your counselor and/or college counselor.

VHHS Orchestra Students Enjoy Spring Break in Italy



Vernon Hills High School Orchestra members traveled to Italy during Spring Break. Sixty-nine students, parents and staff participated in the trip. The students did not perform during this trip, but rather had the opportunity to visit museums, cultural sights, and enjoy a guided tour of each city. (photo courtesy of VHHS Fine Arts)

LHS Fine Arts News

Spring Play

This year's spring production, *Measure for Measure*, will be performed Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26 in the LHS Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

The cast includes seniors **Bridget Carr, Ashley Dennee, Kit Garchow, Bryan Innes, Babette Jamieson, Alex Mason, Laura Murray, Johnny Oleksinski, Sam Pirruccello, Brent Rawlinson, Mel Reusché, Phil Skurski, Artie Snow and Pippa Soo**; juniors **Amanda Cacich, Nathan Freyman and Maisy Porter**; sophomores **Tim Heller, Carl Lundstedt, Willson Oppedahl, Jeff Trout and Allyson Womack**; and freshmen **Drew Mills and Sarah Prinz**. Stage Manager is junior **Ann Kreitman**, assistant stage manager is junior **Fiona Hope**, and the show's director is **Mr. Tim Frawley**.

Cabaret

Students dug through their parents' closets, grandparents' attics and racks at vintage clothing stores to find appropriate apparel for this year's Cabaret show, *Decades*. Directed by **Dr. Jeff Brown**, the show featured the LHS Concert Choir, Bel Canto, and Chorale in addition to vocal ensembles Master Singers, Belle Choir, Treblemakers and Cleptomaniacs.

Cabaret also showcased students performing as soloists and in duets. They included **Hannah Redden and Rosie O'Connor**;



Jocelyn Brame and Emma Dreher; Molly Toohey; Sam Pirruccello and Artie Snow; Janessa Lewis; Laura Murray; Marie Kroeger; Claire Salata; Dena Goldberg; Ellen Williams; and Willson Oppedahl and Tim Heller.

Seniors **Alex Mason and Phil Skurski** served as the evening's hosts while **Mr. Paul Vander Weele** performed as piano accompanist. Several students served as instrumentalists including **Jack Holland, Ben Paulson, Corey Richardson,**

Rave Reviews for Theatre Fest

LHS students and faculty were well represented during this year's Illinois Theatre Festival. Thirty-five students attended the three-day event which included workshops and live theater productions. One of the weekend's highlights came on Saturday afternoon when six students participated as cast and crew members in the All-State musical, *Parade*. Seniors **Dena Goldberg** and **Pippa Soo** performed as Lizzie and Mary Phagan, respectively. Sophomore **Tim Heller** performed as a member of the Ensemble. Senior **Hanna Supanich-Winter** served on the technical crew and juniors **Susan Bratton** and **Anna Pollema** played in the pit orchestra.

LHS Technical Director **Kevin Holly** conducted a workshop entitled, *Choosing Your Palette: Color in Lighting*. The workshop focused on the cheapest and easiest lighting property to change...color! More than 80 students and theater advisors attended Mr. Holly's two sessions. Demonstrations and discussions focused on different approaches to selecting color while keeping in mind how those choices affect all other elements of the show.

VHHS Student's Play Selected for Illinois High School Theatre Festival

VHHS student **Ariel Hartman** recently had a play selected for the Illinois High School Theatre Festival. Ariel wrote the play, "Norman Rockwell's Leftovers," for the VHHS Backlight Theatre Company's Annual One-Act Playwriting Contest. She won that contest and her play was performed at the Student Directed One-Act Play Festival on Nov. 16 and 17.

The Illinois High School Theatre Festival Workshop was led by **Steven Genovese**, Artistic Director of Chicago's Bohemian Theatre Ensemble on Jan. 11. Ariel shared the workshop with another selected playwright. Her play received a reading with workshop participants and a feedback session led by Mr. Genovese.

Upcoming Fine Arts Events

April 16	VHHS Choir Concert Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
April 17	LISA Art Show Vernon Hills Great Frame Up
April 26-27	LHS Spring Play Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
April 30	LHS Spring Band Concert Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
May 7	LHS Spring Choir Concert Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
May 8-10	VHHS Spring Play Studio Theater, 7:30 p.m.
May 15	VHHS Orchestris Dance Recital Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
May 15	LHS Spring Orchestra Concert Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
May 20	VHHS Student Art Show Lobby, 6:00 p.m.
May 20	VHHS Choir Cabaret Concert Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
May 22	VHHS Band Concert Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
May 22-23	LHS Art Show Gymnasium, 7:00 p.m. (May 22) Gymnasium, 8:00 a.m. - Noon (May 23)
May 23	LHS Collage Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
May 28	VHHS Orchestra Concert Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
May 29	LHS Pops Concert Independence Grove, 6:00 p.m.

From the Principal's Desk . . .

by Brad Swanson

Libertyville High School provides opportunities for our students to achieve academic excellence while also helping others. We believe our learning environment is improved by maintaining a balance of encouraging high standards and developing a generous spirit.

Through the efforts of the LHS First Class program and the collective partnerships and support of local businesses, numerous student fundraisers, and countless generous personal donations, our Adopt-a-Village project has successfully raised over \$15,000. This donation to Free the Children and Water Partners International charities will be used to support the Masai region in Kenya, Africa. The funds will be used to develop clean water and sanitation systems throughout the villages. The Adopt-a-Village project will continue with a Band Jam event on April 18 in the LHS Fieldhouse to benefit the ONE Campaign and Africare. We enthusiastically invite you to attend this event to support our charitable efforts toward the needs of Africa.

The next community service effort for LHS will focus on giving back to our local community through our Make-a-Difference Day on Saturday, May 3. On this day, hundreds of students will complete projects that will improve and support Libertyville.

The projects may range from cleaning up a park, to improving an elderly couple's home, to building a swing-set for needy children. The students and staff of Libertyville High

School are ready and willing to help meet our community's needs.

While LHS is a comprehensive high school, our daily work continues to focus on academic achievement. One of the many assessment tools that we use to evaluate student performance is the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) which will be taken by all Juniors on April 23 and 24. The PSAE is comprised of the ACT Exam (Day One) and the Work Keys Exam (Day Two). The ACT Exam is a very popular college entrance exam and the Work Keys Exam evaluates reading and mathematic skills as required in common workplace environments.

The federal initiative of No Child Left Behind requires LHS to use the PSAE results to determine the percentage of Junior students each year that meet or exceed performance standards (currently approximately 80% at LHS). The PSAE data also informs us of student sub-groups that are underperforming. We continue to use this data to make informed revisions and improvements to our curricular programs. As the PSAE may be a stressful experience for our Juniors, it proves to be a valuable tool allowing LHS to continue our purpose of achieving academic excellence.

If you have questions about No Child Left Behind legislation, the Prairie State Achievement Exam, or would like to suggest a project for our Make-a-Difference Day, please feel free to call the main office number at 847-327-7000.

January Students of the Month

The following students were named LHS January Students of the Month: **Jim Stiller, Tom Lehn, Brett Albright, Diedre Reitz, Zachary Fowler, Alyssa Stried, Geoffrey Revis, Stephen Herres, Kit Garchow and John Lorenz and Dena Boulieris.**

February Students of the Month

The following students were named LHS February Students of the Month: **Madeline Stratman, Goli Parvinian, Kelsey Hamilton, Rose O'Connor, Lucy Vernasco, Kristina Aksman, Mitchell Boynton, Daniel Pozen, Jeffrey Larak, and Gretchen Winkel.**

Student activities update

by Jennifer Paul, Student Activities Director

The spring season is always an exciting time for several of our clubs because so many of them earn the opportunity to participate in State Competitions. These competitions allow our students to demonstrate the excellence that they have achieved from working hard and practicing in their particular area of interest. Libertyville High School has both a rigorous academic curriculum as well as an outstanding choice of clubs and activities. At all times of the day, one can witness the flurry of activity that is happening in our building. Our facility is lively with students practicing academics, planning for the next charity event, participating in recreational clubs or competing for first place in an area of study. Check out the recent accomplishments of our clubs!

Student Council – Advisors: Chuck Beach, Sherri Rukes
Student Council began 2008 with a very successful blood drive on Feb. 5. Over 120 donations were made by students, staff, faculty and community members benefiting over 360 people.

Turnabout was held on Feb. 23, 2008 with an extremely well attended dance (roughly 1,200 attendees) presided over by our student elected Turnabout King senior **Skyler Shaw**. Students **Joey Aiello, Taylor Cammack, Austin Causey, Dan Dickson, Josh Fantus, Mikchael FioRito, Doug Houser, Jim Larsen, Alex Mason, Johnny Oleksinski, Brandon Rhoades, Corey Richardson, Scott Rule, Artie Snow, Alex Telling, Kevin Thomas and Andrew Wang** were among the Turnabout Court. “Under the Sea” was the theme of this year’s turnabout dance. Student Council crafted a unique atmosphere that reflected creativity with colorful fish and underwater décor.

There are several events that are being planned by the students. The Council is currently planning the annual “Mr. LHS contest” for Friday, April 4. The contest is open to junior and senior males who compete in formal wear, casual wear, beach wear and talent competitions for cash and prizes (donated by community businesses). The event is evaluated by student and faculty judges.

Executive Board, class officer, and class representative elections will be held in April and May to fill positions for the 2008-2009 academic year.

This event filled year with conclude with The Student Council Prom 2008 “Forever Young” held May 17, 2008, at the *Concorde* in Kildeer, Illinois. A successful event is anticipated.

Academic Decathlon – Coach: David Kahn

In November, the 2007-2008 LHS Academic Decathlon team once again began preparing for their upcoming competitions. The team is coming off a great season last year that included a second place finish at the regional competition, winning a school-record 40 medals. The team recently competed in this year’s regional competition and placed 2nd, and the team will

compete for the state competition to be held in March.

The Academic Decathlon is a 10-event scholastic competition for teams of high school students. Each high school enters a team of up to nine students: three “A” or Honor students, three “B” or Scholastic students, and three “C” or Varsity students. In Academic Decathlon every student competes in all ten academic disciplines: Essay, Art, Speech, Math, Interview, Economics, Language/Literature, Music, Social Science, and Science. Each year, a new theme is incorporated into the various disciplines making up the decathlon. The theme for the 2007–2008 Academic Decathlon season is *The Civil War*. Team members compete in three different categories, based on their grade point average.

This year’s LHS team members are: **Zach Chapman, Billy Fischer, Ryan Green, Cassie Hobson, Kevin MacTaggart and Anna Pollema**.

Skills USA-Advisor: Harry Carlson

Congratulations to the following **SkillsUSA** students for their qualification for **state competition** in Springfield April 17-19.

John Scharfenberg - Architectural Drafting CAD
Mackenzi Yukus - Architectural Drafting CAD
Ross Pykelny - Automotive Service Technology
Kyle Friestedt - Automotive Service Technology
Lauren Gaines - Automotive Service Technology
James Christian - Automotive Service Technology
Dustin Bergstrom - Automotive Service Technology
Chase Guarnaccio - Technical Drafting CAD

Speech/Forensics Team—Coaches: Tom Bizosky, Alice Leafblad

The LHS Speech/Forensics Team season is drawing to a close after having some very successful competitions! At the Stevenson Forensics Festival, **Captain John Oleksinski** helped the team place 6th at the tournament while placing 2nd in the tournament individually. At the IHSA regional tournament, **John Oleksinski** was the tournament champion in Original Comedy, **Omar Jamil** took 2nd place in both Extemporaneous Speaking and Impromptu speaking, and **Annie Jaeger** took 4th place in Prose reading. Their efforts helped the team place 7th overall in Regionals and all three advanced as IHSA Sectional qualifiers. At the IHSA Sectional tournament, **John Oleksinski** placed 3rd in Original Comedy which was high enough to advance him to the IHSA State competition on Feb 15-16. **Annie and Omar** both finish the season ranked as one of the **top 75 speakers in the state** in their events. **John** will finish the season ranked as one the **top 25 speakers in the state** for his event of Original Comedy. **Mr. Tom Bizosky**, head coach for the team, said that he was extremely pleased with the results of his students’ dedication and hard work. He also noted that getting out of sectionals to get to state is in some respects harder than the state tournament itself. Congratulations to a great season, and **way to go SpeechCats!!**

Student Activities *continued from p. 13*

Interact - Advisors: **Jennifer Paul, Alice Leafblad**



Congratulations to Interactors **Chris Risley and Chris Bernecki**, who were awarded a Rotary Youth Leadership Award. RYLA has been established by Rotary International for high school students who have demonstrated leadership skills, or the potential, as shown by their active participation in groups or services. The students will participate in a three-day program in East Troy, Wis. at Edwards Camp and Conference Center where they will hear motivational and educational speakers.

Interact has been busy with volunteering their time and planning for the remainder of the school year. On Feb. 1, several students volunteered for the Senior Snowflake Ball through Mainstreet Libertyville. The senior citizens had a wonderful, fun-filled night of dancing, entertainment, gifts and refreshments. Interact students also helped the Lions Club collect money for candy days in February.

Interact hosted the second annual Father-Daughter dance (pictured above). All of the participants had a wonderful time! Proceeds from the event will go towards the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life.

Students are busy planning an event at Winchester House and volunteer hours at a Mobile Food Pantry for the next couple of months. Good work Interactors!

Math Team—Coaches: **Amanda Warfield, Rick Brenner, Ben Snyder**

The LHS Mathematics Team continues another successful season. The team participated in the Regional ICTM (Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics) math meet on Saturday, Feb. 23 at Antioch High School where the team placed first. First-place honors were achieved by the following teams: Algebra II team, Pre-Calculus team, and the junior-senior eight-person team. Individual first place awards went to **Teddy Amdur** and **Alan Fan** in the frosh-sophomore two-person competition, and **Margaret McCall** and **Frank Yan** in the junior/senior 2 person competition. **Frank and Margaret** also tied for first place in the Pre-Calculus contest. **Shiyi Wu** earned first place in Algebra II, and Alan Fan placed

first in Geometry. Oralist **Eric Li** and assistant **Hani Awani** placed second in the oral competition.

The team now advances to the **State meet on April 26, 2008** at University of Illinois in Champaign. Congratulations and good luck math team!

The team has also participated in five IML (Illinois Mathematics League) competitions this year and currently holds a fifth place standing in the State. One IML competition remains on March 18.

The LHS Math Team will also participate in the Conference meet on March 6 at Evanston Township High School.

Mock Trial—Coaches: **Amy Holtsford, Dennis Duffy**

Congratulations to the LHS Mock Trial Team that competed at the **State Tournament** Feb. 28 through March 1. Junior **Amanda Muskat** won Best Attorney and sophomore **Katie Mahoney** won Best Witness. They and the rest of the team – **Tom Lehn, George Overton, Janessa Lewis, Amanda Wallace, Max Perchak and Shan Mei Jones** – did a fantastic job! The coaches of the Mock Trial Team, Dennis Duffy and Amy Holtsford, thought their state competition performances were the best in the three year life of the team.

Each year, the Mock Trial Team prepares and presents a criminal or civil trial against other area high school teams based on case materials developed by the Illinois State Bar Association. The team presents an opening statement, direct and cross examinations of witnesses, and a closing argument for each side (prosecution/plaintiff and defense). Congratulations to the 2007-08 Mock Trial Team!

Debate Team—Coaches: **Craig Schmidt, Amy Marske**

Congratulations to the LHS Debate Team for advancing to the **State Debate** tournament in Springfield, IL, March 14-15. Students **Diedre Reitz, Omar Jamil** and **Amanda Wallace** are the students who will be competing. Good luck!

Scholastic Bowl—Coaches: **Kristi Robertson, Karen LeMaistre**

The freshmen/sophomore team has concluded its successful season with a conference record of 12-6, placing 5th in conference rankings. Sophomores **Jon Gunter, Taylor Orlando, Weitao Qiang and Anish Raman** have provided leadership and direction throughout the season.

The Varsity team continues its successful season led by seniors **Martin Asimis, Lauren Kaplan, Jina Kwak, Adam MacTaggart, Margaret McCall, Sarah Pfluger and Yuli Zhu**. With a current season record of 23-15, the team has competed in three major tournaments: Wheaton North, Carmel, and Fremd. In all three tournaments, the team advanced to the afternoon rounds and placed third overall at the Carmel Tournament. **Adam MacTaggart** was named to the All-Tournament team for each of the tournaments. In addition, he made the All-Sectional Team and was one of five area students nominated for the All-State Team.

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News from the Hills

Principal's Report

by Dr. Ellen Cwick

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Vernon Hills High School Dance Team on its first-place state championship this spring in the open dance category! This is the first athletic state championship for VHHS. The girls also placed second in the open pom division. The Dance Team is coached by VHHS mathematics teacher **Brittany Henley**. It's nice to see that all of their hard work, time, and passion has culminated in state top honors. We are so proud of Coach Henley and the team of dedicated, talented girls!

Secondly, I want to highlight our school-wide First Class service project. VHHS is partnering with the not-for-profit agency COVE Alliance to build a school for elementary children in Uganda. Our goal is to raise at least \$16,000 to build a complete school in one of the poorest areas of Uganda. This is a lofty project, but fits with the spirit of our students here at VHHS. We need your help. Please check out the VHHS home page website at vhscougars.org for more information.

The months of April and May are very special months for our seniors. Seniors, enjoy your time together, be safe, and have fun (see corresponding senior dates to remember located on this page). You have been a terrific class and the staff here at VHHS can't wait to share in these special activities right along with you. I also want to remind students to remain focused on their academic classes during this busy season.

In addition to our senior class events, there are several important activities that I would like to highlight for this spring. We enjoyed a wonderful dinner with senior citizen residents of the District on Feb. 20. This event kicked off

our opening night dress rehearsal for our winter musical, *The Wiz*. Congratulations to **Frank Lestina**, our Fine Arts Director, his staff and the students involved on a spectacular performance! Additionally, the audience was thoroughly entertained by our Spotlight Fashion Show on Saturday, March 8. Club Sponsor **Connie Perez** and her students are to be commended for the hard work and effort they have put into this show. Lastly, mark your calendars for our Spring Play, *The Museum*, on May 8-10 and Orchestral Dance Recital on May 15.

Our DECA Business Club also had a strong finish at the DECA State Conference. Twelve students will be advancing to the International Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in April: **Ariel Block, Ryan Bolanowski, Tina Chen, Ryan Flis, Kirsten Groody, Kelsey Guglielmi, Nichole Knighton, Pavel Kolev, George Kroes, Brian Peterson, Brad Schnitzer** and **Jon Weekley**. Four Cougars took home first-place state honors and seven students captured second-place state finishes. Congratulations to DECA advisors **Sheryl Olson** and **Madeline Powell** and their hard-working students!

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all juniors to do their best on our state ACT/PSAE testing, April 23 and 24. District 128 has always been proud of our strong scores and we wish the juniors well in their effort to continue this standard of excellence.

We challenge you to keep up with our rapid pace this spring.

Go Cougars!

Senior Important Dates To Remember

Friday, April 18 - Monday, April 21 - Tuesday, April 22

Prom bid sales during lunch periods: Cost is \$64 per bid, \$128 per couple.

Saturday, May 17

Prom 6:00 p.m. Coach buses depart to Crowne Plaza in Mundelein, IL, return at 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28

Cap and Gown distribution, lunch periods

Friday, May 30

Senior Breakfast 7:45 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Cafeteria, seniors will not attend their 1st period class

Honors Day Assembly 9:00 a.m. - 10:10 a.m., Contest Gym, Parents welcome to attend parent/community reception in foyer after assembly. Seniors will attend classes 2-8 on this day.

Final Exams:

Monday, June 2	Periods 1, 2, 4
Tuesday, June 3	Periods 3, 5, 6
Wednesday, June 4	Periods 7, 8

Wednesday, June 4

Graduation Rehearsal 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., Auditorium after 8th period exam, MANDATORY Practice-All Seniors must be present.

Seniors will pick up graduation tickets and senior party tickets at this time. All fees/obligations must be paid at this time in order to receive graduation tickets.

Thursday, June 5

Graduation 7:00 p.m. Contest Gym Seniors need to report to the field house (staging area) by 6:00 p.m.

Boys' dress: Dress shirt/tie, dress slacks (no sandals, boots or gym shoes)

Girls' dress: Dress or dressy skirt and blouse, dress slacks and blouse, dress shoes or dressy sandals (no casual sandals, boots or gym shoes). Low heels are suggested.

Friday, June 6

Senior Party 10:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m., Ticket order forms are available in the Main Office.

Student Activities Update

by Deb Beagle, VHHS Student Activities Coordinator

Academic Bowl: Coaches-Paul Kemp, Megan Geltner

It was the students versus the faculty in Academic Bowl action on Feb. 20. Who prevailed in this blistering competition? Was it the esteemed faculty or the ever-industrious students? Drum roll please.... The VHHS faculty defeated the freshmen and sophomores in two matches (210-115 and 190-120). The faculty also defeated the seniors (185-80), but fell to the impressive junior team in a hard-fought match (125-130). Many thanks to the faculty who joined us: **Mr. Bomgaars**, who knew that salmonella is a good reason to avoid raw eggs; **Ms. Denis**, who knew that Thomas Mann wrote *Death in Venice*; **Ms. Carroll**, who shared her expertise on the English Channel and anti-semitic programs; **Mr. Healey**, who pinpointed Frederic Chopin as the composer of the black key etude; **Mr. Gerber**, who shed light on St. Nicholas and Charon, boatman of river Styx; **Ms. Kulieke**, who identified British Romantic poets Wordsworth and Coleridge; **Mr. Petersen**, who knew that Edvard Munch's famous painting, *The Scream*, had been stolen from its museum exhibition; **Mr. Ravenscraft**, who shed light on many a scientific phenomenon; **Mr. Seward**, who knew that the Home Secretary of Great Britain is the equivalent of the Attorney General in the US; and **Ms. Tolva**, who identified Nelson Mandela as the long-imprisoned advocate of freedom in apartheid-era South Africa. The students were formidable, but the faculty blazed a path to triumph! Congratulations and thanks to all who made our annual Academic Bowl Student-Faculty Tournament a success.

Anime Club: Advisor-Monica Tolva

Anime Club is not just a bunch of kids watching cartoons. Rather, we like to think of ourselves more as a bunch of kids who like to draw chibi caricatures, watch AMVs (Anime music videos), eat Pocky (Japanese candy), sing along to Japanese songs, and watch cartoons. Anime Club is a club dedicated to sharing a universal interest of Japanese animation (anime) and comics (manga) and learning more about the Japanese culture. We've had many fun moments this year, including, but not limited to, the recycling day with the Gay-Straight Alliance, a Dance Dance Revolution party (with another one coming up on May 19), Japanese candy fests (featuring lots of Pocky), and we expect many more, like the joint meeting with the GSA on March 18. We also love to wear our new t-shirts this year, designed by sophomore **James He**. Article submitted by **Angela Wang**, Anime President.

Art Club: Advisors-Jim Savage, Stefanie Dahlstrom

The Art Club went on a Breakfast and a Gallery field trip to the College of Lake County to view the current show in the Robert T. Wright Community Gallery of Art on Feb. 16. We are currently working on a design that will be constructed of oak and illuminated painted plexiglass to help promote the monetary progress for the COVE project. We also hung student art work in the village hall in celebration of Youth Art Month. We have photos of the gallery trip and the hanging of the art work for YAM.

Cougar Guard: Coach-Jim Pardun

The Cougar Guard Club's last session of swim lessons for the 07-08 school year ended on March 1. We have had a great time this year teaching the children in the community how to swim while making changes throughout the school year to continually improve our program. Overall, we had over 30 VHHS students teaching swim lessons throughout the year. We made an effort to mix new instructors with veteran instructors to both prepare the

new instructors for the future and offer variety to the lessons. We have focused on incorporating structured play time within the 45-minute lesson to provide a positive and stimulating experience for the students which was well received by all. Information and registration material regarding our summer learn to swim program can be found at www.vhscougars.org/aquatics. The VHHS session three learn to swim instructors are: **Ashley Lenz, Kendall Duffy, Alex Madore, Katie Grimes, Mark Genchanok, Michelle Riehm, Maryam Lopez, Melanie Rowland, Robert Wood, Kelly Steininger, Dahyon Kim, Dan Venus, Maddie Kleinhample, Caroline Kleinhample, Cliff Nelson, Brandon Palmer, and Kristen Fletcher.**

DECA: Advisors-Sheryl Olson, Madeline Powell

Congratulations to the VHHS DECA Business Club members who earned awards at the Illinois DECA Career Development Conference held March 6-8: **Kirsten Groody and Jon Weekley** – 1st, Entrepreneurship Promotion Project; **Ariel Block, Kelsey Guglielmi, and Pavel Kolev** – 2nd, Entrepreneurship Promotion Plan; **Pavel Kolev** – 3rd, Sales Demonstration, Miscellaneous; **Brian Peterson and Brad Schnitzer** – 1st, Entrepreneurship Written; **Nevin Chacko** – 2nd, Sales Demonstration Hardline; **George Kroes** – 2nd, General Marketing Research Event; **Ryan Bolanowski, Kirsten Groody, and Ryan Flis** – 3rd, Advertising Campaign Event; **Nichole Knighton and Pavel Kolev** – 3rd, International Business Plan; **Tina Chen** – 3rd, Retail Marketing Research Event; **Ryan Flis** – 3rd, Restaurant Marketing and Management. **Ariel Block, Ryan Bolanowski, Tina Chen, Ryan Flis, Kirsten Groody, Kelsey Guglielmi, Nichole Knighton, Pavel Kolev, George Kroes, Brian Peterson, Brad Schnitzer and Jon Weekley** are the "DECA Dozen" who will represent VHHS DECA at the 2008 DECA International Conference in Atlanta, Ga. in April!

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA): Advisors-Connie Perez, Kelley Whitescarver

On Feb. 8, VHHS competed at Oakton Community College for the first time ever at the FCCLA sectional competition. Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a nationally-recognized organization for students in Family and Consumer Science classes. In Sportswear for Textiles and Apparel Construction: **Rebecca Blanton, Courtney Bryson, and Berenika Stachurska** placed second individually and **Brittany Moore** took 3rd place. Competing for Child Development in Team Story Telling, **Layla Khayr and Brooke Davis** took first place. Competing for Child Development in Team Story Telling, **Jessica Perez and Meredith Humphrey** took first place and the "Most Outstanding" plaque for the entire division. Way to go girls! The girls will advance to compete at the state level from April 10-12 in Springfield, Ill.

Interact: Advisors-Sean Kelly, Kelley Whitescarver

Interact, a club focused on community service, has started some traditions this school year. Last semester, we joined the organization Invisible Children with its Schools for Schools program. The program rallied schools from across the nation to raise money for schools in Uganda, a country with a generation of children who is healing from a war older than their years. So far, with a humble contribution from our club, schools from coast to coast have raised \$1,319,090.72! The success of this program continues to grow as it provides teachers, water, buildings, books, and technol-

VHHS Student Activities

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ogy. The Schools for Schools program and our club will continue to have a developing relationship for the years to come.

In addition to a project that focuses our efforts overseas, we realize how our own community needs our service, too. With a lot of help from **Vesselina Pentcheva** and **Mrs. Skeffington**, students have gotten together to bake doggie treats for bake sales. The proceeds go to Canines Companions for Independence, an organization that provides highly trained service dogs for people challenged with physical disabilities.

Some events to also look forward to this semester are Relay for Life in April and our annual Senior Citizen Prom in May. To learn more about these causes, you can go to

www.caninecompanions.org or <http://s4s.invisiblechildren.com>.

Article submitted by **Sylvia Kim**, Interact President.

International Club: Advisors-Jodie Cusick-Acosta, Megan Geltner

International Club began the year with a Chinese New Year celebration. We enjoyed a trivia game about Chinese New Year, and made/played traditional Chinese games. At another meeting, we enjoyed a presentation about Iceland, and watched an Indian movie, "Will You Be My Friend." We are currently planning a spring fundraiser for the Smile Train organization. We hope to raise enough money to fund two surgeries for children with cleft palates in other countries. Our membership has more than doubled this year! New members are always welcome.

Math Team: Coaches-Cheryl Ballenger, Jessica Roller

Congratulations to the Math Team which took first place at the regional competition against seven other schools. The freshman team took first place, lead by **David Kim**, **Moya Chen** and **Kenny Shaevel**. Our sophomores also took first place, with **Paul Juhn** finishing first out of 46 students, and **Sean Hogan**, **Mansi Kathuria** and **Dillon Skeehan** tying for third place. The junior and senior teams both finished in second place led by strong scores from **Max Candocia** and **Evan Kozil**. Our Frosh/Soph eight-person and Junior/Senior eight-person teams both had a first place finish with the Calculator team finishing second. The team is now ranked first in state in the 3AA Division and will fight to keep that ranking at the state competition in late April.

Robotics: Coach-Jay Walgren



This year robots from VHHS won seven first-place, three second-place, and three third-place awards. VHHS Robotics 2007-08 Team includes **Stephanie Cho**, **Monica Lee**, **Anna Christensen**,

Liza Xu, **Allen Ni**, **Michael Kulvaranon**, **Miguel Gallegos**, **Samuel Yi**, **Andrew Lee**, **Jason Lee**, **Armand Pettenon**, **Zhouyu Wu**, **Haeran Lee**, **Diana Chen**, **Lorena Infante-Lara**, **Pauline Lee**, **Carlos Andrade**, **Alex Padovano**, **Samuel Lee**, **Ronald Liu**, **Ahmad Hassan** and **Lavanya Iyer**. The team is coached by **Mr. Walgren**. On March 1, the VHHS Robotics team participated in its final competition of the 2007-08 season and won first place. **Carlos Andrade**, **Andrew Lee**, **Armand Pettenon**, and **Samuel Yi** made an unbelievable comeback to win first place at that tournament! Congratulations also to **Ron Liu** for winning 2nd place with his robot in another competition that same day.

SPARK: Advisor-Margaret Pither

On April 2, SPARK (Supporting Peers and Reaching Kids) students celebrated Kick Butts Day. All VHHS students had an opportunity to receive information on tobacco prevention and to pledge to be smoke free. To commemorate their pledge, students were able to buy a woven bracelet. Current SPARK members provided statistics about the negative consequences of tobacco use.

Skills USA: Advisor-Kip Baxter

Congratulations to **Aaron Kerns** for qualifying for the state competition in Skills USA. Aaron will be competing in the Automotive Service Technology competition. Aaron scored in the top third of the state in the written competition to earn his trip down state. The state competition will take place in Springfield on April 18. Good luck Aaron.

Speech Team: Coach-Sean Conroy

Congratulations for the VHHS Speech Team. Nine members of the team competed at a Rolling Meadows speech tournament where 20 different high schools competed in 13 different individual events. The competition was tough and all members performed well. Two individuals deserve specific mention as they are the first two speech team members to break into the final round of a varsity competition. **Binet Lee** competed against 34 other competitors in extemporaneous speaking and edged his way into the final round against 6 top competitors. His effort and skills were rewarded with a medal. **Valerie Szwaya** also broke into the finals with her Dramatic Interpretation besting 29 competitors and edged her way in competing against the top 5 competitors in the final round. Her efforts and skills were also rewarded with a medal. Congratulations to all who participated!

Spotlight: Advisors-Connie Perez, Lauren Ishikawa

The members of Spotlight worked hard to put on a fabulous "Kickin it Old School" show. The show was filled with modeling segments, hip hop dances choreographed by members of the group, and old school movie clips from the 80s. A big thanks to this year's officers, **Agnieszka Kirpa** and **Cody Ray**, for all their hard work and dedication. Great Job to everyone who participated! Spotlight members:

Agnieszka Kirpa, **Cody Ray**, **Nichole Knighton**, **Arianna Moor**, **Jamie Yuen**, **Angelina Koleva**, **Kayleen Carido**, **Michelle Harger**, **Jodi Duan**, **Yadira Montoya**, **Ana Soto**, **Sussy Gonzales**, **Thalia Uriostegui**, **Beisabel Velasco**

Student Council: Advisors-Leslie Nardini, Peggy Cope
Blood Drive: (Senior Class Student Council: Advisors-Ben

VHHS Student Activities *continued from page 17*

Horwitz, Rebecca Ulz)

The Senior Class Student Council organized the Annual Blood Drive on Jan. 31. Thanks to the many blood donors, 73 pints of blood were donated, which could potentially save 219 lives. The blood drive was sponsored by Life Source: Chicagoland's Blood Center. A special thanks goes out to **Maddie Kleinhample, Steven Choi, Colleen McDonnell, Sylvia Kim, Ally Rumzis, Sam Mead, Sam Wagner, Kelsey Kind, Scott Venus, Anastasia Guletsky, Ariel Block, and Michelle Krueger**, as well as advisors **Rebecca Ulz** and **Ben Horwitz**. Thank you to everyone who donated!

Blankets for Linus

Student Council, Creative Cougars (Pilot Club) and National Honor Society met to create "no sew" blankets. These blankets were donated to Blankets for Linus.

Turnabout (Junior Class Student Council: Advisors-Emily Kline, Ellen Kulieke)

This year's theme "It's Not Easy Being Green" put together the best of two worlds- a night of dancing and a charity for helping the environment. Not only are VHHS students fighting global warming with the money they raised, but they will also get a chance to enjoy the rewards right here at school. Sponsored by the Junior Class Council, money raised from the dance and t-shirt sales will go to the VH2O environmental project which will help build a pond in the high school courtyard. All students will have a chance to enjoy the pond while eating lunch, hopefully, this spring! During Spirit Week, students bought T-shirts with the dance theme, "It's Not Easy Being Green." The price of this year's dance tickets was \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. That extra \$2, in addition to t-shirt sales and donations, helped VHHS donate \$2,000 to the VH2O project!

The following students were nominated by the student body to be members of the 2008 Turnabout Court: Freshmen: **Christopher Argianas, Bryan Sanoshy**; Sophomores: **Peter Otoo, Brandon Palmero, Soobin Kim**; Juniors: **Jay Ku, Karthic Chandran**; Seniors: **Jingyu Lee, Bobby Marciniak, Edward (Zack) Schwartz, David Siegel, James Hallendorff, Daniel Downey, Steven Choi, Jeff Achler, Aaron McMinn, Jon Brosio** and Turnabout King **Francis Padoan**.

Mr. Cougar

The Senior Class Student Council along with the Student Council Executive Board will be sponsoring the Mr. Cougar Contest. Mr. Cougar is being held on Saturday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the VHHS Auditorium. (Please note the early start time.) Tickets will be on sale during lunch period on April 10 and 11. Tickets are \$5. This is always a great performance, make sure you get your tickets.

PROM

PROM - "Wonderful Tonight," Prom 2008, will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at Crowne Plaza in Mundelein. Prom bid sales will be April 18, April 21 and April 22. More details will follow in a mailing.

Outdoor Adventure Club: Advisor-Jerry Miceli

The Outdoor Adventure Challenge Club competed in the 7th annual Rock, Ropes and Boats competition at Northeastern Illinois University. The annual event promotes adventure education in the Chicagoland area. Nearly 200 students participated



from 11 high schools and this was Vernon Hills' largest turnout with 19 students competing. VHHS entered four co-ed teams and students were also entered in individual events. Big winners were **Jacqueline Simonpietri** who took first place in the female slalom kayak event (fastest time in all divisions). In a heated female speed climbing division, **Vanessa Ceballos** took home a 4th place medal. Student teacher **Kevin Benages** helped Mr. Miceli supervise the event. Next year, there will be an open division for adults and Mr. Miceli anticipates a faculty team will compete.

VH₂O (Environmental Club): Advisors-Karen Day, Melissa Maimed, Pat Nora

On April 21, VHHS will host our first Rock the Courtyard concert to celebrate Earth Day and to raise money for rocks for a new pond project in the courtyard. We are excited to be able to host the well-known band, *The August*. They are a folk rock band with a country feel. The concert will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the cost will be \$10 per person. Tickets will be limited to the first 200, as the concert will be in the courtyard. Tickets will be on sale the week before the concert during lunch periods. With the proceeds from the concert, the Turnabout Dance, the Senior Class and the administration, VH₂O Students will help construct the pond on April 25 and 26. Martin Associates from Vernon Hills has been a tremendous help with the courtyard and are leading the way on this pond project as well. The pond was designed by students in **Karen Day's** biology class last year.

VIP (Voices in Prevention): Advisor-Margaret Pither, Rebecca Ulz

On March 10, VIP students performed prevention skits for 5th graders at Townline Elementary School. The skits focused on cyber bullying, rumors, and name-calling in school. VIP students facilitated small groups where students shared their personal stories and encouraged choosing healthy behavior.

WYSE: Advisor-Josh Ravenscraft

The VHHS Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering team took first place at both the varsity and junior varsity level in late February on the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) TEAMS test. The varsity team consisted of seniors **Diana Chen, Jason Lee, James Hallendorff, Evan Kozil, Kaz Gunning, Zach Wheeler, Josh Brickman, and Thomas Bersano**. The junior varsity team consisted of juniors **Brian Smith, Gordy Skeoch, Cliff Nelson, Erin Christensen, Anna Christensen, Liza Xu, Max Candocia, and Binet Lee**. The varsity team's test will advance for National grading. This is the second year in a row the team has taken first place and advanced to the national level of this competition.

Additional Student News . . .

DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Award

Congratulations to **Irene Ginakakis** for being awarded the DAR Award (Daughters of the American Revolution) by the Ansel Brainerd Cook Chapter. Irene was nominated by the staff at



Vernon Hills High School for the DAR Award because she truly excels in the qualifications for this award: dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. The DAR Good Citizen Program and Scholarship Contest is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. Congratulations Irene!

Kevin Hehr, freshman at VHHS, recently submitted original song lyrics to a Chicago-based performance organization's "Put Your Life Into Song!" competition. Kevin was chosen as one of three finalists by the Clark Street Band. His lyrics for "When It Rains" will be set to music by a professional composer and the song will be performed by the Clark Street Band at a concert in Chicago on April 27.

Teen Relay for Life

Want to help find a cure for cancer? You can help! Get a group of friends and sign up for Relay for Life, April 12th. Relay for Life is a cancer research fundraiser that ends in a night long walkathon filled with music, games, and fun. Check out the website for more information at www.relayforlifeglmvyouth.com.

Student Activities 'Leadership Academy' Workshop

There is no time like the Spring to refocus student leaders and to begin training next year's new crop of leaders. VHHS students from a variety of student activity teams and clubs had the opportunity to attend *The Leadership Academy* workshop. The workshop was geared towards improving skills of leaders in high school by teaching them the skills need to be successful leaders. The following VHHS students were selected by their advisors to attend **Elina Chertok, Sean Hogan, Lavanya Iyer, Mansi Kathuria, Colleen Rhoades, Sonal Singh, Steven Sprieser, Kelly Steininger, Liza Xu.**

Coast to Coast Fitness Challenge

The Coast to Coast Fitness Challenge pushed students and teachers to make exercising a regular habit in their daily routines. This past fall, 31 teachers and 124 students competed together by keeping track of all of the exercise that



they did. Each team had a target goal of 2800 "fitness miles," the distance to go coast to coast on Route 66. We are proud to say that eight teams accomplished this goal. Congratulations to the following teachers and students who excelled during our challenge:

Heather Gray, Marta Choma, Sarah Elms, Alyssa Dougherty, Alyssa Krizmanich, Claire Snyder, Lauren Bryant, Melanie Lecaroz, Tiffany Chua, Lilli Partyka, Trevor Hempel, Dylan McDaniel, Tina Pisula, Ariel Block, Moe Bahrani, Danielle Dickman, Beck Meylor, Kyle Cruickshank, Emily Gray, Nicole Melton, Ms. Houda, Mr. Pagani, Mr. Schroetter, Ms. Hawkins, and Ms. Dahlstrom.

We also would like to give special recognition to students and teachers from our top three teams: **Shelly Raupp, Carrie Schultz, Jessica Perez, Heather Cabrales, Aaron McMinn, Tommy Wang, Ricky Danilkowicz, Zach Wheeler, Ashley Haines, Dana Pine, Paige Lehman, Megan Keller, Mr. Horwitz, Mr. Miceli, and Ms. Dreese.**

Athletic Director's Corner

by Briant Kelly, LHS Athletic Director

Wrestling



The varsity wrestling Wildcats capped off one of their greatest seasons in Coach Dale Eggert's 22-year career by bringing home a 4th Place trophy from the 2008 IHSA Dual Team State Tournament held Saturday, February 23rd at the Wharton Fieldhouse in Moline, IL. The Cats defeated Granite City 35-23 in the quarterfinal round before losing to eventual state champs Montini Catholic of Lombard 39-15 in the semis. LHS finished off the day in a close dual meet with Lincoln-Way Central losing

the 3rd place match by a score of 31-25.

Boys Swimming



Congratulations to the Boys Swimming team. They finished first in the North Suburban Conference. The team is coached by **Chris Wetteland**, **Stacy Golden** and **John Fischl**.

Pom-Poms

Congratulations to the Pom-Pom squad! They finished 1st in the Hip-Hop division and 2nd in Jazz at the UDA State Championship. The team is coached by **Nikki Lazzaretto**.

From The Illinois High School Association...

The Illinois High School Association's Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Executive Director to implement a three class state series in Boys' and Girls' Soccer, Boys' and Girls' Track and Field, and Boys' Wrestling (team and individual), starting with the 2008-09 school term. Member schools supported the expansion models in the membership survey conducted in December and January.

"The Board's action today to expand to three classes in Boys and Girls Track, Boys and Girls Soccer, and Boys Wrestling was based on the feedback from 28 Town Meetings held in November and the survey conducted afterwards," said IHSA

Executive Director **Marty Hickman**. "Generally speaking, the feedback from our member schools has been positive regarding the class expansion that went into effect this school year. The additional classes approved today address the remaining class expansion concerns expressed by our member schools."

Additionally, the Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Executive Director to add a bass fishing tournament as an IHSA activity beginning in the spring of 2009, provided that adequate sponsorships are secured in advance for the tournament.

"The level of support for a bass fishing tournament, from both our membership and from other non-school groups, has demonstrated clearly to our Board that this event is one with potential tremendous value to our schools," said Dr. Hickman. "Implementing such an activity will enable our schools to provide another opportunity for students that will enrich their educational experience and keep with the Association's mission."

The IHSA would like to remind you of the important role that interscholastic activities play in the lives of young people. Please remember, the value in what we do is in the participation. It is too easy to get caught up in winning and losing, and when we do, we diminish the value of our programs. We want our high school students to become better citizens through participation, and we must teach good citizenship when we win and when we lose. Without question, the vast majority of our students will cease organized competitive activities when they receive a graduation diploma from their high school principal. Let's all be reminded of the need to teach teamwork and discipline. Let's remember to model respect and honesty. In 2008, let's encourage and value participation, in view of the fact that, as we know – The Future Plays Here!!!!

Winter Sports Accomplishments

Team Accomplishments:

NSC Lake Division Champions: Wrestling
 NSC Conference Champions: Boys' Swimming
 IHSA Regional Champions: Wrestling
 IHSA Sectional Champions: Wrestling
 1st Place at UDA State: Pom-Poms
 5th Place at IHSA State: Cheerleading
 4th Place at IHSA State: Wrestling

Individual Accomplishments:

NSC All-Academic Athletes:

Boys' Basketball: **Paul Aynilian, Nik Ebert, Erik Jensen, Kevin Johns, Josh Trees, Greg Vente**

Girls' Basketball: **Dana Eriksen, Caitlin Gahart, Marita Hansen, Ali Haws, Erin Knauff, Erin Waehner, Haley Walton, Hannah Walton, Kristy Williams**

Boys' Bowling: **Steve Turchi**

Cheerleading: **Caroline Argall, Kimberly Curschman, Rebecca Luge, Sumon Manna, Amanda Snader, Carly Spicer**

Hockey: **Andrew Katz**

Pom Poms: **Lisa Branding, Casey Dugan, Sarah Janousek, Lauren Johnson, McKenzie Kramer**

cont. on p 23

Wildcat Profiles: Kegan Rogers and Amanda Winn

by Briant Kelly, Athletic Director

Kegan Rogers

When it's time to swim and perform well at the end of the year, Wildcat senior captain **Kegan Rogers** comes through for the team. Kegan is a three-year varsity swimmer for LHS after transferring from Texas following his freshman year. He has made three trips to the IHSA State meet on either relays or as an individual during his career. Coach **Chris Wetteland** on Rogers, "Kegan leads by example everyday in practice and at meets...that includes every workout. He is one of the hardest working swimmers in the pool, and his tireless commitment throughout the season results in great performances at the end of the year."

This year, Rogers capped his Wildcat career with sectional wins as a member of the 200-yard medley relay team, and as an individual in the 100-yard butterfly. His butterfly win resulted in a school record time of 52.46 seconds. He qualified in these events for the state meet as well as in the 200-yard freestyle, and as a member of the 400-yard freestyle relay team. His contribution to the 400-yard relay team resulted in a school record of 3:13.37. "We have some impressive times on our record board," says Coach Wetteland, "For Kegan to get his name up there twice is an incredible accomplishment."

Although quiet in the pool, Rogers is known to craft lyrical masterpieces about his teammates and their various exploits. He is also known for passing time with a variety of excellent card tricks. Wetteland on Rogers, "Kegan knows when to work hard, and when to relax and have fun. This makes him a pleasure to be around."

It is no surprise that with a work ethic like Rogers, that his academic career isn't as equally impressive. Kegan carries a 3.8 GPA, and plans to study marketing in college.

Amanda Winn

Amanda Winn has finished her third and most successful girl's gymnastics season at LHS. Amanda excels in gymnastics and has earned numerous achievements and awards.

As a junior, Amanda has competed on the varsity team for three years. She led the team as a state sectional qualifier the past two years, and advanced on to the 2008 IHSA State Tournament in the vault event. She has led the team this past season by scoring nines on vault, balance beam, and floor exercise. For the past two years, Amanda has set several school records. She received an impressive score of 9.60 on the vault as a sophomore, and as a junior posted a 9.65 in the same event. Amanda's vaulting scores have placed her in the top 10 at LHS since 1976. One major goal for Amanda this year was to perform a double back somersault on the floor exercise event. Only four other girls in LHS history have been able to accomplish this difficult task.

Gymnastics Coach **Curt Austin**, says, "Amanda has been one of my top athletes. Her positive attitude and continuation of accepting new challenges has been rewarding as her coach. She is a talented gymnast and a good role model for other athletes to follow."

Amanda has been a team leader by helping younger, less experienced gymnasts. She is one of the most knowledgeable gymnasts in terms of choreography, knowing how to put a routine together, and being a consistent gymnastics competitor. These attributes have contributed greatly to the overall growth and success of the team. Amanda Winn is a very talented athlete. Our team will benefit next year with Amanda's talents, experience, and leadership.

Boulieris signs with Ball State

Wildcat **Dena Boulieris** recently signed a letter of intent to play tennis at Ball State University next fall. She is pictured here at her signing with (left to right) Coach **Craig Hunter**, Coach **Dan Kiernan**, and her parents **Angelo and Cathy Boulieris**.

From the Cougar Den

by Brian McDonald, Athletic Director

It was a terrific winter season for the Cougars with some pretty impressive individual and team accomplishments. Our girls' gymnastics team had another solid year and sophomore **Fallon Faia** advanced to the sectional round of competition. Our boys' swim team had a nice year as well: junior **Gordy Skeoch** set the school record in the 200 Individual Medley at 2:06.95, and freshman **Kevin Lenz** set the school record in the 100 Breaststroke at 1:04.15. Our wrestling team had a nice season with senior **Stephen Hwang** winning the NSC heavyweight title and four wrestlers qualifying for the sectional round of competition.

Our boys' and girls' basketball teams advanced to the regional title games and junior **Haley Bosco** advanced to the state championship round in the three-point shooting contest. Senior **Kenny Rideout** was selected to compete in the IHSA slam dunk contest, and sophomore **Chris Morgan** continues to advance in the three point shooting contest.



Our girls' bowling team (above) had a terrific year, winning the NSC Championship and IHSA Sectional Championship, and finishing in 17th place at the IHSA State Finals in Rockford. Our boys' bowling team (below) won the IHSA



Sectional Championship and finished 12th in the IHSA State Finals in O'Fallon. Our Cheerleading team capped off a terrific season with a ninth-place finish at the IHSA State Championships in Bloomington.

Our Pom Pon team had a superb finish to its season. The team qualified three routines to the TDI Championships in

Peoria. The Cougars finished 9th in hip hop, 2nd in open pom, and they took home the top honors in open dance. Yep – We were STATE CHAMPIONS. Like all state champions, they were treated to a police and fire department escort back to VHHS, along with a reception and all-school assembly in their honor.

It was a great winter season.

Our locker room project is nearing completion, and we hope to have it all done by May of this year. We are also embarking on an effort to improve our varsity baseball field by raising money to install a synthetic turf infield on the varsity diamond. Anyone who is interested in donating to this effort should contact our head baseball coach **Jay Czarnecki** or call my office.

As I write this article, our spring sports are all underway; we have already had a few competitions in the spring season. Before you know it, we will be having our Spring Sports Awards Night (Thursday May 29) and for those of you who are sticking around for the 2008-09 school year, summer camps start on June 9. See the school website to sign up for camps.

Before we say goodbye to the 2007-08 school year, I wanted to ask some of our graduating seniors and one junior some questions about their years at VHHS. The questions and their responses are listed below:

AB – **Amy Burton**
 CM – **Colleen McDonnell**
 GS – **Gordy Skeoch**
 JE – **Jeff Epner**

SE – **Sarah Elms**
 BK – **Bobby Kelly**
 MA – **Matt Allen**

What advice would you give to incoming freshman in 10 words or less?

AB – Get involved right away. There are too many opportunities to miss.

SE – Try new things. You may find something you really enjoy.

CM – Work as hard as possible and leave with no regrets.

BK – Get in the weight room.

GS – Try new things. You may find something that you like.

MA – Study hard, get involved and lead by example.

JE – Start strong, work hard, get involved and have fun.

What are five words you would use to describe your career at VHHS?

AB – Busy, exciting, challenging, fun, stressful.

SE – Fun, challenging, memorable, exciting, unique.

CM – Rewarding, demanding, competitive, challenging, irreplaceable.

BK – Record-breaking, determined, perseverance.

GS – Fulfilling, enriching, community-oriented, unique, tiring.

MA – Studious, driven, competitive, hardworking, leader.

JE – Fun, challenging, competitive.

VHHS Athletic Director's Corner *cont. from p. 22*

What is the one thing you wish you had done in high school, but did not, for whatever reason?

AB – I can't really think of anything. I have tried a little bit of everything.

SE – I wish I would have taken an Art class, but I did not make room in my schedule.

CM – Fine Arts. I always thought it would be a fun part of the school to be involved in.

BK – I wish I had tried harder my Freshman year.

GS – I wish I had tried things out as a Freshman that I normally would not have considered doing.

MA – I wish I had joined the Math team and Academic Bowl because I am smart and could have done well in those activities.

JE – I wish I had joined Future Business Leaders of America. I thought I would not have the time. Reality is that it would have been fun and possibly helped my future career.

What are five words you would use to describe your coaches at VHHS?

AB - Helpful, determined, committed, understanding, approachable.

SE – Motivated, passionate, inspiring, caring, fun.

CM – Passionate, approachable, caring, dedicated, mentors.

BK – Knowledgeable, committed, distinguished.

GS – Funny, optimistic, committed, enthusiastic, helpful.

MA – Encouraging, demanding, inspiring, supportive, caring.

JE – Passionate, hard-working, personable, intense, fun.

What is the single greatest thing about VHHS?

AB – There are so many ways to get involved. Everyone does a million activities. In big schools, students need to focus on one sport or activity. At VH, it is easy to be committed to music, clubs, sports and anything else.

SE – The fact that everyone is connected through VHHS. Everyone – teachers, students, coaches and administrators - supports each other.

CM – The size of the school. We are presented with so many opportunities and most of all the chance to be leaders.

BK – The ability to participate in numerous activities from band and orchestra to clubs and sports. Most schools would not deal with any conflicts that would arise.

GS – The greatest thing about VHHS is the amount of opportunities each student receives in athletics, academics and extra-curricular activities. At VHHS, you are not just another face in the crowd.

MA – The close bonds that students and athletes can form with their teachers and coaches.

JE – VHHS gives students and athletes opportunities that many other schools can't provide

LHS Winter Sports Accomplishments

cont. from p. 20

Boys' Swimming And Diving: Eric Li, Danny LeJeune, Kegan Rogers

Wrestling: James Babowice, Daniel Geary, Jonathon Isaac, Shane Michelsen, Tom Nield, Jacob Yordy, Alex Petraroli

NSC Honorable Mention Athletes:

Girls' Basketball: Casey Hopper

NSC All-Conference Athletes:

Boys' Basketball: Joey Aiello, Jeremy Letchford

Girls' Basketball: Ali Haws

Metro Central Award:

Hockey: JT Hayden, Connor Krukowski, Ryan Tambourine, Tommy Tambourine, Kevin Wendt

NSC Conference Medal Winners:

Boys' Swimming And Diving: John Blankenhorn, Ben Glick, Austin Hoover, Teddy Kelley, Daniel LeJeune, Eric Li, Baris Pekpolat, Kegan Rogers, Ben Snader, Andrew Tillman, Stevie Wimmer

Wrestling: Trey Ayala, Matt Bystol, Joey Callen, Jake Hogan, Everett Indart, Louis Mazzetta, Logan Miller, Tom Nield, Josh Ronne

LHS Student Activities *cont. from p. 14*

LHS hosted the conference tournament on Feb. 27. The team entered the competition with a nine-year run of championship titles.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) – Coaches: **Billy Pitcher, Kristen Shaw**

The LHS Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competed at the Northern Area Conference on Feb. 2 at Warren Township High School. Seventeen schools from throughout the Chicagoland area were present with over 400 students competing.

The following LHS students placed in their respective events:

Jon Gunter (10) 1st place Website Development; **Audrey Pelc** (12) 2nd place Personal Finance; **Chris Schweitzer** (10) 2nd place Spreadsheet Applications; **Ann Verkler** (10) & **Kasiani Vlahakis** (10) 3rd place Business Ethics; **Paul Aynilian** (11) 7th place Business Calculations; **Austin Gearing** (10), **Michael Zhang** (10) and **Victor Jacobo** (10) 7th place Global Business; **Stefen Ivanovic** (12) & **Jacqui Giannini** (12) 8th place Entrepreneurship.

The chapter will now move on to the **State Conference & Competition** April 11-12 in Decatur. Good luck FBLA!

Swim Classes this Summer

Dates for the Swim School Classes:

Session #1 Meets Monday through Friday, June 9-20

Session #2 Meets Monday through Friday, June 23-July 3

Session #3 Meets Monday through Friday, July 7-18

9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. Fee: \$80.00

Email Registration

Send the following information in your email to swim@d128.org:

your name and address; your child's name and age; what session(s) and time you want to sign up for

Questions: Call the Aquatic Director, **John Fischl** at 327-7072 or email him at swim@d128.org

WYSE and Math Teams Receive ExxonMobil Grant



LHS was recently recipient of a \$500 grant from ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program to support the school's Math Team and Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Team. Team members are pictured above with the grant check. **John and Young Kim**, owners of the Mobil Station at 1185 W. Park Ave., Libertyville, worked with school officials to secure the grant which was one of 4,000 available to schools across the country served by Exxon or Mobil stations. The grant was made possible by funding from the ExxonMobil Corporation. (*photo courtesy of BJ Jones*)

Front Cover: (clockwise from top) The VHHS Poms won first place in the TDI Dance Team AA Open Dance category, bringing home the school's first athletic state championship; The District 128 Special Olympic Basketball Team, Coached by Jim Rogers and Andy Compton, won the Division 5 High School State Title on Sunday, March 16; the LHS Poms 1st in the Hip-Hop division at the UDA State Championship. (*photos courtesy of VHHS and LHS*)



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