



Paw Prints



*News and Information from
Community High School District 128*

Spring 2010



It's a Three-Peat!

**VHHS Poms
2010 State Champions
AA Open Pom**



Administrative Offices

50 Lakeview Parkway, Suite 101
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061
847-247-4500

Libertyville High School

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

Vernon Hills High School

145 N. Lakeview Parkway
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061
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www.d128.org

Board of Education

Pat Groody, President
Judy Sugarman, Vice President
Marsha Oberrieder, Secretary
Stephen Arthur
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Ellen Mauer
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Student Representatives:

Mansi Kathuria, VHHS
Elizabeth Oldenburg, LHS

Administration

District

Prentiss Lea, Superintendent
Dr. Al Fleming, Associate Superintendent
Yasmine Dada, CPA, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Deborah Larson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Dr. Lester "Buzz" Perry, Director of Community Education and Grants
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Libertyville High School

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Vernon Hills High School

Dr. Ellen Cwick, Principal
Jon Guillaume, Assistant Principal
Jean Aucutt, Assistant Principal
Sue Butler, Director of Guidance

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

Long Range Financial Planning Helps District Prepare for the Storm Ahead



Where has the time gone? It is hard to believe that it is March already, and that the end of the 2009-10 school year is right around the corner. Spring is a particularly exciting time of the year at LHS and VHHS and, like you, we always look forward to the array of activities that culminate with graduation. Beyond the excitement at the high schools, spring is an important time of the year for the administration as well as we begin the budget process. And, given current economic conditions, the budget process has never been more important.

It is impossible to read the local newspapers or watch local television news without learning more about the dire financial situation in Illinois. It is clear to everyone that our state is in a severe financial crisis. The current financial crisis raises several critical questions regarding public education, including: 1) how will the financial crisis impact state public schools, 2) how will the financial crisis impact D128, and 3) how will D128 plan for, and make the decisions necessary to, maintain our financial stability?

How will the financial crisis impact public schools across the state?

State Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Chris Koch** recently spoke to a group of Chicago area administrators at Vernon Hills High School. He made it clear that the reductions that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will be required by Governor Quinn and state legislators to make in the 2010-2011 state education budget, will have a dramatic impact on local districts. Such reductions will occur in general state aid and in reimbursement for categoricals such as title grants, transportation, and special education. As state aid and reimbursements for categoricals are reduced, local districts are forced to supplant the lost dollars and/or reduce their budgets to accommodate the loss of revenue.

How will the financial crisis impact D128?

Basic funding for Illinois public schools is provided through local property taxes with additional state funding provided to local districts through general state aid and reimbursement for categoricals. Due to our diverse local property tax base, D128 is considered a "property rich" district and, as a result, receives less general state aid than many districts across the state. However, D128 does receive approximately \$1 million a year in general state aid. In addition, D128 receives its legislated share of state reimbursement for all categoricals, which is substantial. The loss of approximately \$1 million in general state aid AND an unknown reduction in categorical funding will have an impact on our budget.

How will D128 plan for and adapt to the financial crisis?

First, it is important that we thank you for historically providing us with the financial resources necessary to support and sustain two high schools that consistently rank among the finest high schools in the United States and Illinois in serving and meeting the needs of all students. Outstanding schools do not happen by chance, even in communities such as ours that highly value education. Outstanding schools happen as a result of a sustained community-wide vision for excellence, and the development of school-community partnerships to make that vision a reality. A consistent, adequate financial base to continue our work toward that vision is critical to making the vision a reality and sustaining it moving forward.

Second, prior to the current financial crisis, and as a primary objective of our third strategic plan goal, to Maintain the Financial Stability of the District, D128 began a comprehensive long range financial planning process that involved the Board, District administration, building administration and staff.

cont. on p. 3

Superintendent's Message

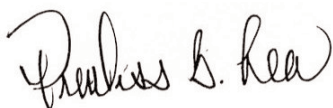
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Our long-range planning process has resulted in a sophisticated, but easy to understand, rolling 10-year financial plan that: 1) identifies all revenue, reserves, and expenses; 2) is adjusted to reflect current and future economic data, including revenue, reserves, and expenses; 3) is utilized to effectively make informed short- and long-term financial decisions; and 4) is shared with our stakeholders through the Board's committee and regular meetings and our School Finance 101 classes. As such, we have adjusted our short and long range financial projections using the most conservative estimates possible, including lower property tax receipts, no general state aid and reduced state categorical aid. These conservative financial projections will frame our budgeting process in the months to come.

Finally, as a result of our community vision for excellence in D128, the financial resources that you have provided to us to execute that vision, and our continued long-range planning to effectively and efficiently manage those resources, D128 is in a position to weather the current financial crisis without dramatic staff reductions and program cuts at this time. While that is good news in light of the horrific staff and program cuts that other districts have announced, we will continue to remain vigilant in modeling and monitoring our financial future and making the short- and long-term decisions necessary that will allow us to serve and meet the needs of our students now and into the future.

Thank you once again for your continued support of D128. Your partnership with us continues to sustain and build upon our shared vision of excellence. Future generations of D128 students will be the beneficiaries of our partnership to ensure that all D128 students have access to the world class education that current and past generations have enjoyed.

Sincerely,



Prentiss G. Lea
Superintendent

D128 Staff Members Utilize “ConnectNow” Technology to Experience New Student Data Management System



In the fall of 2010, District 128 will launch a new student data management system called, PowerSchool. On Feb. 26, District 128 staff participated in the first of many training opportunities to learn about Power School. Through the help of staff who volunteered to be “Power Peers,” and a new technology called Adobe ConnectNow, staff members in locations at both high schools simultaneously participated in a training program lead by the District technology trainer. Through PowerSchool, parents and students will have access to student performance information. District 128 will embark on new ways to communicate and provide feedback to students and parents through this new software. Teachers will have new tools to incorporate all stakeholders in the learning process. Teachers will eventually be able to analyze, adjust and enhance daily classroom instruction based on the student performance data collected. *(photo by M. Todoric)*

Parents: **School Calendars Available Online**

Visit the District 128 website, www.d128.org, and click on the “calendar” link to view the current school calendar, the 2010-11 school calendar, and calendar highlights for 2011-12.

A Vision for Improvement – A Research-Based District Improvement Process **The Big Four – Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Feedback**

by Deborah Larson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Over the past year, District 128 has established a relationship with well known educational researcher and author **Dr. Jane Pollock**. On various institute days we have collaborated with her through keynote presentations and smaller group workshops with administrators and teachers. In her book, *Improving Student Learning One Teacher at a Time*, she introduced us to the four principles that, as educators, we can employ to improve student learning. These four principles-- curriculum, instruction, assessment and feedback -- are the areas in which we have focused our collaboration and school improvement efforts. These areas of education have established a vision for how we will improve as teachers and as a learning community. I would like to share with you our District-wide efforts and progress to date.

Curriculum – A Well Articulated Curriculum

Curriculum is at the core of what we do. Why is this so important? As educators, we need to be able to clearly communicate the learning targets to our students. This year, we have initiated a new curriculum revision process that asks each academic department to begin to review and revise our standards and learning targets for each course we teach. With the guidance of Dr. Pollock, we have held four curriculum workshops to train 101 administrators and teachers in understanding how to identify core standards and learning targets in each discipline. Those who have been trained have returned to department meetings to share the information on current standards and the research related to them. We've consulted current research and standards documents, and had teachers collaborate across the District about these learning targets. As of the printing of this article, we have completed 28 curriculum standards and learning target documents and 42 are in progress. We have 198 total courses. Curriculum work is never done. This is just the beginning of an ongoing process to continue to improve our programs and communicate with each other and our students clear learning expectations. We hope to celebrate our accomplishments and share with the entire faculty the progress of our work in June of 2010.

Instruction – Planning for Delivery

Instruction is the delivery of the content. As educators, we now have many years of research which helps us to understand what does and doesn't work in the classroom. Highly effective teachers incorporate the nine strategies as outlined by Marzano, Pickering and Pollock in *Classroom Instruction that Works*. For the past five years, all new teachers in District 128 have been introduced to this research and these nine effective strategies. Dr. Pollock shared these again with our staff at our opening day teacher training. Our new teacher induction and mentoring program helps new teachers to understand how to incorporate these within the classroom. Our supervision and observation model now incorporates these strategies and allows educators to have meaningful dialogue about how to be effective teachers.



Over the past year, District 128 has established a relationship with well known educational researcher and author **Dr. Jane Pollock**. Dr. Pollock is pictured here working with District 128 teachers at a workshop held on Feb. 23 and 24. (photo by M. Todoric)

In addition, we know that successful readers are successful students. We have been incorporating effective CRISS (Creating Independence through Student Centered Strategies) strategies in the classroom as well. This past school year, 73 staff members, teachers and administrators received training on recognizing and integrating these strategies which help students to become independent learners. This training was offered through the support of the Lake County Regional Office of Education and their consultants. We have moved many of our first-, second- and third-year teachers through this training as well.

Assessment-Variety of Methods to Clarify the Learner Status

How do we know if a student has learned what we have taught? Marzano (*Classroom Assessment and Grading that Works*, 2006) describes effective classroom assessment as :

- Feedback that gives students a clear picture of their progress on learning targets and how they might improve.
- Feedback that encourages students to improve.
- Formative in nature.
- Frequent.

In District 128, we've been learning and training others to know more about effective classroom assessment. A group of teachers and administrators spent time with Rick Stiggins in May of 2009 learning about *Classroom Assessment for Learning*. He shared with us that our **cont. on p. 5**

Big Four *cont. from p. 4*

assessments should be developed for learning as opposed to developing assessments of learning. Assessments should help the student to improve and to understand if he/she has met the learning targets. This team returned to the District after training, developed a three day university course for teachers, and delivered it during the summer of 2009 to 16 District 128 teachers.

In fact, last summer, District 128 offered four summer workshops and 51 staff members took part in the learning. This course will again be repeated this summer. In addition, we have also been working with Dr. Pollock in this area. She returned in February of 2010 for a two day training on assessment, feedback and grading. As we improve our understanding of effective assessments, this will help us to improve student learning.

Feedback on the Learning Targets, Record Keeping, Reporting Feedback is not just for the learner, but also for the teacher. The information we share with the learner about his/her progress should help him/her to improve. We should assess to help students grow – not just to assess the understanding of their knowledge.

Feedback should be directly related to the clear learning targets we established through our curriculum work. Students should learn to track their performance by these targets. Research shows that when students chart their progress, substantial gains in achievement occur. Feedback is not only for the learner but also for the teacher. Student performance data we gather should inform and guide our instruction and program revision. Teachers can collect data on student assessments and adjust programs where needed. Both can use performance data to improve individual performance.

In the fall of 2010, District 128 will launch a new student data management system called, PowerSchool. Parents and students will have access to student performance information. We will embark on new ways to communicate and provide feedback to students and parents through this new software. Teachers will have new tools to enhance all stakeholders in the learning process. Teachers will eventually be able to analyze, adjust and enhance daily classroom instruction based on the student performance data collected.

Our vision of the cycle of improvement in District 128 has just begun, but the work is never done. This work takes much collaboration and effort on the part of administrators and teachers. To support our work, we have also trained 48 staff members on how to work in professional learning teams. This work was developed by Dr. Richard DuFour and next November, he will be our keynote speaker training all staff on the effectiveness of establishing these learning teams in our District.

In the years to come, different departments and teachers will be continuing to focus their efforts in these four areas to ensure a quality program for all students. As we continue to learn and grow in District 128, new research based strategies will become a part of our culture and strengthen our programs for all students. Our goal is to continue the standard of excellence already established in District 128 and build upon this standard for future generations of students.

Dr. Jane Pollock is the co-author of *Dimensions of Learning Teacher and Training Manuals* (1996), *Assessment, Grading and Record Keeping* (1999), and *Classroom Instruction That Works* (2000). Dr. Pollock authored *Improving Student Learning One Teacher at a Time* (2007). Her new book, *Improving Student Learning One Principal at a Time* (2008) will be available through Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development this year. Her current projects include two new publications about using technology in the classroom, *The I-4 Principle*, and improving learning for ELL and Special Education students, *Minding the Gap*. She can be reached at www.improvestu-dentlearning.com

Robert J. Marzano, PhD, is founder and CEO of Marzano Research Laboratory in Englewood, Colo. A leading researcher in education, he is a speaker, trainer, and author of more than 30 books and 150 articles on topics such as instruction, assessment, writing and implementing standards, cognition, effective leadership, and school intervention. His books include *Designing & Teaching Learning Goals & Objectives*; *District Leadership That Works*; *Formative Assessment & Standards-Based Grading*; *On Excellence in Teaching*; and *The Art and Science of Teaching*. His practical translations of the most current research and theory into classroom strategies are internationally known and widely practiced by both teachers and administrators.

Rick Stiggins, PhD, is the founder and executive director of the Assessment Training Institute in Portland, Oregon. Since 1992, the Institute's professional learning programs have helped teachers and school leaders understand how to use the assessment process and its results to benefit (not merely monitor) student learning. The hallmark of these programs has been their focus on the use of student-involved assessment to maximize student confidence, motivation, and learning. The flagship program, *Classroom Assessment FOR Student Learning: Doing It Right Using It Well* provides a multimedia, collaborative, and hands-on way for teachers to become competent, confident classroom assessors.

Parents Can Help the Foundation for Learning Make a Difference

Dear Parents,

Did you know that members of Second City taught improv methods to drama students at Vernon Hills High School, or that students at Libertyville High School are studying how biodiesel fuel can be made from waste vegetable oil? Did you hear that an outdoor therapeutic garden was developed by students from VHHS or that a professional composer will be working with orchestra students at LHS to write an original piece of music? These projects and many others were made possible by funding from the District 128 Foundation for Learning.

In less than three years, the Foundation has funded over \$34,000 in innovation grants and projects benefitting your children at both of our high schools. We have been able to bring new technology, engaging speakers, classroom equipment and much more from the charitable contributions of parents like you, as well as members of the school community and the community at large.

The Foundation for Learning is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization led by volunteers. Our purpose is to enhance and enrich the instructional program in our District. We invite you to join us on our mission of providing these extras for our students. Look for an opportunity to donate to the Foundation as you complete your online student registration this summer. Donating is easy: just click the box indicating your desire to contribute to the Foundation.

We are also looking for volunteers to help us on Foundation subcommittees and in planning and running a future fund raising event. If you are interested, contact us at foundation@d128.org and visit our website at d128foundation.org. Don't forget to look for the foundation on your student's registration materials. Help us make a difference. Thank you.

Anne Landgraf
Foundation Chairperson

2nd Annual Superintendent's Breakfast Celebrates Foundation Donors



Above: LHS Assistant Orchestra Director **Jason Heath** conducts the string musicians who performed during the morning's breakfast. Heath is the recipient of a 2009-10 Foundation Innovation Grant.

Right: **Prentiss Lea** (far left) and Foundation Chairperson **Anne Landgraf** congratulate Foundation donors (from second left) Retired Superintendent **Dr. David Clough**, Associate Superintendent **Dr. Al Fleming**, and **Paul LaRoche** from Ace Hardware for their generous contributions of \$500 or more. (photos by M. Todoric)

Community High School District 128 honored the 2009-10 donors to the District 128 Foundation for Learning at the 2nd Annual Superintendent's Breakfast held March 10 at Libertyville High School. More than 50 people were in attendance, and enjoyed breakfast, entertainment by LHS student musicians, and the unveiling of the 2009-10 donor plaque that will hang in each school and at the District 128 Administration Center

The event streamed live on the District 128 website and can now be viewed on the following links:

CAT-TUBE:

http://lhvideo.lhswildcats.org/view_video.php?viewkey=d305d79c2ebc8c188342

COUGAR-TUBE

http://vhvideo.vhscougars.org/view_video.php?viewkey=6e89aec274a3657558a2.



District 128 Board Endorses Expectations for Electronic Communication with Students

Community High School District 128 recognizes that we live in a society that is highly focused on the use of digital communication tools. While most students and some staff use these tools—such as Facebook, email, and text messaging—because they are dynamic and mobile, and their messages quickly reach their audiences, the District also knows that, as with any emerging technology, there is some caution that should be exercised when using these new media for staff-to-student communication. The District further recognizes the educational benefits of communicating with students beyond the classroom to enrich teaching and learning. In order to protect students, staff and the District, the District developed a document entitled, "Community High School District 128 Expectations for Communicating Electronically with Students." In this document, the District hopes to raise awareness of the acceptable ways for staff to use digital communication tools when communicating with students, and raise awareness of the positive and negative outcomes that may result when using these tools.

The document is based on what the District has named the TAP Test. The test is a way for staff to reflect on how they are communicating and ask themselves if the communication is Transparent, Accessible and Professional.

"The expectations were written with the best interest of our students and staff in mind," explained Superintendent Prentiss Lea. The District wrote the expectations after reading many professional journals urging districts to have expectations for staff in place. "Many professional organizations are asking for examples of such expectations, but no one was stepping forward with any," noted Lea. The Expectations, written over the course of several months, were endorsed by the District 128 Board of Education at its March meeting and were released to staff on March 24.

To read the complete Expectations document, visit the District website at d128.org.

Follow D128 on Facebook and Twitter



In the past few months, District 128 administrators have discussed the pros and cons of developing a District 128 presence on Facebook and Twitter. Several administrators have attended numerous seminars and webinars regarding the issues surrounding social networking sites and schools. After much discus-

sion, we have determined that Facebook is a communication tool that today is most popular with students and families.

We believe that having a Facebook fan page will enable us to reach a broader audience of District 128 constituents. Unless you are a current D128 student, parent or employee, odds are pretty good that you don't regularly visit our websites. A Facebook page will allow us to reach those named above, as well as the many more people who will connect with us on Facebook. In other words, we will be reaching people where they are, rather than expecting them to reach us. Moreover, through the launch of our own fan page, we hope to model the appropriate use of Facebook as described above in the District's "expectations for communicating electronically with students."

The District 128 Facebook page launched on March 25. A link to the page can be found at the bottom of each of the school and District homepages. You will NOT have to have a Facebook account to view the page.

The D128 Facebook page will contain news and informational postings about D128, LHS and VHHS, and will be maintained by the District 128 Communications Department. In many cases, it will duplicate the information already posted to the District website and distributed to the local media. Again, it is one more means of reaching our wide variety of publics. It is in no way intended to replace the ALERTNOW system used to communicate emergency information to parents. The Facebook site will continue to be blocked to students on our school networks.

HELP BUILD A STRONGER
COMMUNITY.
Donate today!



DISTRICT 128

FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING
Libertyville High School — Viena Hills High School

847.247.4500 ext. 8030

foundation@d128.org

www.d128foundation.org

Community Partnership for Healthy Youth Hosts Breakfast with Businesses

by Margaret Pither, VHHS SAP Coordinator, and Lisa Hartman, LHS SAP Coordinator

On Jan. 29, the Community Partnership for Healthy Youth (CPHY) hosted a breakfast with businesses at the District 128 Administrative Center to share our goals of reducing under-age drinking/substance abuse in our community through education and forming partnerships.

Business representatives from both the LHS and VHHS communities, along with District administration, staff, parents and students met and shared their vision to provide positive, healthy opportunities for our students. Late Night events were discussed where businesses will open their doors to our students after hours, to host District student activities. These events might include such activities as: band jams, open mics, improv, game/movie nights, basketball, bowling or even dodge ball competitions. To date, CPHY has hosted band jams at Mickey Finn's, Whirlyball, and The Chapel in addition to, basketball tournaments at the Libertyville Sports Complex.

At this breakfast, a representative from Whirlyball accepted CPHY's first award to a local business for their commitment to providing safe and drug free events for District 128 students. If you are interested in learning about CPHY, please contact **Margaret Pither** at margaret.pither@d128.org (VHHS) or **Lisa Hartman** at lisa.hartman@d128.org (LHS) for further information.



Whirlyball representative Jenn Klein received a plaque in recognition of Whirlyball's support of providing safe and drug free events for students. (photo by S. Cloud)

LHS Hosts Rachel's Challenge

by Lisa Hartman, LHS SAP Coordinator



On Jan. 27, SAP joined forces with the First Class Committee to bring Rachel's Challenge to LHS. **Shane Hamman** presented to the entire student body in the morning and then went on to conduct a leadership training for approximately 250 students. In the evening, he brought Rachel's message of hope and kindness to over 100 parents and community members.

Rachel's Challenge is an emotional and powerful program based on the life of **Rachel Joy Scott**, one of the first students murdered at Columbine High School in the 1999 shoot-up. After her death, Rachel's writings, combined with the

contents of her six diaries, inspired her family to develop the Rachel's Challenge program. The program focuses on these five challenges:

1. Eliminate Prejudice - Look for the best in others
2. Dare to Dream - Set goals
3. Choose Positive Influences
4. Choose Kind Words and Acts of Kindness
5. Start a Chain Reaction

Students were so inspired by these challenges and their own desire to make a positive difference in our school that they have come together to develop a Friends of Rachel (FOR) club.

Talking with Teens about Drugs and Alcohol

by Lisa Hartman, LHS SAP Coordinator and Margaret Pither, VHHS SAP Coordinator

We know that parents are, without a doubt, the most important influence in a student's life. District-wide surveys report parents as the most important source of information for teens regarding alcohol and drugs.

This makes conversations and clear messages prior to any event even more crucial. Spring break is right around the corner and has long been regarded by teens as a "party week." Some students may be traveling to countries with lower or no drinking age. Even for those not traveling at all, students will have extra time to spend with friends and to be involved in potentially risky situations. Parent messages that alcohol and drug use are not acceptable help teens make good choices and empower them with a reason to say no to unhealthy choices.

According to the Partnership for a Drug Free America, alcohol is the most used substance by teens today. There is a current decline in the perceived risk of marijuana use, as well as a slight increase in reported marijuana use. We also know that young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence and are two and a half times more likely to become abusers of alcohol than those who begin drinking at age 21. Starting these conversations early is a prevention measure that has been shown to be effective.

If you think talking with a teen is sometimes difficult, you are not alone. We know that teens can give you conflicting or inaccurate information. Be aware that they may be involved in "sleep over sneak outs" when you are sound asleep or can change their plans, spending the night at a different home than was originally planned. Also, teens have been known to steal alcohol from parent's liquor cabinets or take prescription medication from your medicine cabinet to either use or sell to others. Careful monitoring of items in your home is critical.

Some suggestions: ask questions about your teen's plans; follow up on their stories; make phone calls to other parents to check things out; develop a plan before any events (spring break, sleepovers, etc); deliver clear expectations; listen to teens' concerns; have a plan in place that both you and your teen agree upon that will enable your teen to leave an uncomfortable situation.

Have more questions? Visit timetotalk.org, drugfree.org or feel free to contact your school's SAP coordinator.

Cougar Class Act Award Winners



Congratulations to the March Cougar Class Act Award winners (photo courtesy of VHHS)

IMEA All-State Musicians

Vernon Hills High School

Chorus

Emily Paul Soprano
Luke Hanson Bass
Cole Moffat Bass
John Papandrea Bass

Orchestra

Lisa Chertok Violin
Joseph Ho Violin
Jason Song Violin

Band

Laura Brooks Piccolo
Danny Park Eb Clarinet
Eddie Rumzis Bassoon
Michael Wagner French Horn
Mitch Evett Bass
 Trombone
Andrew Welter Trombone

Libertyville High School

Chorus

Rosie O'Connor Soprano
Claire Salata Alto
Kiersten Frumkin Soprano

Ben Paulson

Orchestra

Lee Starovich String Bass
Megan Lathan Viola

Band

Carrie Huse Flute
Allison Schafernak Clarinet
Hannah Diamond Clarinet
Jackie Hong Bass
Alan Fan Bassoon
Patrick Thompson Trombone
Kyle Licocci Trumpet

Grease a Huge Success at VHHS



Students sing one of the well known favorites, "Summer Nights," during the February performance of *Grease* at VHHS. (photo courtesy of VHHS Fine Arts)

2010 Art Show Season

Spring is art show season! Take time to enjoy some of the many art shows that display the amazing talents of District 128 art students.

Libertyville High School

April 6 LHS LISA Show, Great Frame Up
 Vernon Hills 7:00 p.m.
 April 30 North Suburban Conference Art Show,
 Lakes High School, 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
 May 5 4x5 Art Show, Fremd High School,
 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 May 20 LHS Art Show, Gymnasium, 7:00 p.m.
 May 21 LHS Art Show, Gymnasium,
 8:00 a.m.-Noon

2010 LHS Orchesis Performs to Nearly Sold-Out Audiences



The Libertyville High School Orchesis presented its annual show to a nearly sold out crowd on March 11 and 12. The title of this year's show was, "The Best Things Happen While You Dance." Forty-two dancers and 29 student, faculty and professionally choreographed pieces made the 2010 Orchesis the biggest in LHS history. In addition to dancing and choreographing numbers for the show, students also had the opportunity to work with two guest artists--**Melissa Anderson** and **Mark Duthu**.

Orchesis is an audition-based dance company that rehearses three times a week after school. The dancers perform a variety of dance styles including jazz, ballet, modern, and tap. Under the direction of **Eryn Brown** and **Suzanne Torrence**, members of the 2010 Orchesis are: **Cassie Austin, Isa Ayala, Martin Benion, Robin Borgeson, Ari Busse, Brenna Bradley, Jocelyn Brame, Jillian Campbell, Kelsey Cullum, Flori Faillaci, Louisa Fan, Madeline Fiore, Kiersten Frumkin, Aleah Gattone, Sheila Gerhardt, Molly Goldberg, Nicky Graf, Caitlin Hauerwas, Bri Hays, Tim Heller, Kelsey Hutten, Audrey Johnston, Lexie Kay, June Kowalski, Mitch Kraemer, Eric Lyerly, Anna Mayworm, Sean Bell McDermott, Kasey Michel, Mirielle Nauman, Rosie O'Connor, Willson Oppedahl, Hannah Oswald, Sarah Prinz, Maggie Puder, Ali Ryder, Claire Salata, Christy Scanlan, Ellen Schwarm, Hayley Sesterhenn, Gina Tremmel, Kathryn Windmuller.**

(photo courtesy of E. Brown)

Vernon Hills High School

April 28 VHHS LISA Show, Great Frame-Up,
 Vernon Hills, 6:30 p.m.
 April 30 North Suburban Conference Art Show,
 Lakes High School, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 May 5 4x5 Art Show, Fremd High School,
 6:30-8:30
 May 18 VHHS Student Art Show, VHHS foyer,
 6:00 p.m.

Decision Making Time for Seniors

by Scott Birtman, VHHS College Counselor

Although Friday, May 1, 2010, 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. Individual resident hall selection is closely tied to "when" you make your housing deposit. The admissions office is playing the numbers. 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 the precise number of admitted freshmen in a given year. The "yield" of those who ultimately attend determines success or failure from the higher education perspective.

This year, the University of Illinois-Urbana admitted a record of over 17,000 students for an incoming freshmen class or 7,000. Do the math. Over 10,000 students admitted to the university will go somewhere else! You can imagine how difficult it is for admissions personnel to know they are admitting a student, who probably will not attend and rejecting another who would make a great fit for at the university. The U of I received a record number of applications this year, over 27,000! At Vernon Hills, 69 students applied and as of Feb. 26, 2010, 52 have been admitted. That is the highest admission rate in over six years. Over the past four years we have averaged just under 30 students actually matriculating.

News from the LHS College Resource Center

by Martha Kuceyeski and Donna Virkkan, LHS College Counselors

The second semester of junior year is filled with test preparation, standardized testing, post-secondary planning, college fairs, and oh . . . your regular routine! This can be an exciting time, but can a little ambiguous as well. Hopefully, you are taking advantage of all the wonderful opportunities and programming offered at Libertyville High School to assist both you and your parents as you plan for what is to come after you graduate from high school.

We encourage all of you to maintain an open mind throughout your post-secondary planning, remember that there are many options, and often the best option may be one that you never knew existed!

The following is what has been available to juniors thus far this year. If you were unable to join us, feel free to visit the CRC and we can provide you with any written material that was distributed to families.

Oct. 7, 2009: We hosted "Preparing for Junior Year and Your Future." This evening focused on standardized testing, the importance of junior year, college visits, beginning the post-secondary planning process, using the CRC, meeting with college representatives, and using Family Connection.

March 9, 2010: Juniors were invited to attend sessions in the Library Classroom with Mrs. Virkkan. These "lunch and learns" were designed to help de-stress juniors as they focus on post-secondary planning.

April 1st is a very important date for many students in District 128. This day will begin the final process for students who applied to some of the most selective schools in the country. The admission decisions will follow three basic outcomes: admitted, denied and the "dreaded" wait-list. Those admitted are given the opportunity to go to their "first choice" school. 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 continued to highlight the "wait-listed" students, mostly because the pain, uncertainty and anxiety can continue for several months and even 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, with only weeks before the start of the year. 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. The wait list is primarily a function in the university's interest. If the number of students they expect is off, they have a pool of students ready to fill the seat(s). The University of Illinois has wait-listed 300 students this year.

March 16, 2010: College Fair at CLC

March 23, 2010: We hosted, "Exploring Colleges: A Program for Juniors and their Parents." The evening included representatives speaking on 12 different topics. Families were able to attend three of the 12 sessions. Students and parents learned what the various types of institutions have to offer, as well as explored various majors and career opportunities.

What's To Come

Junior/Parent Meetings will be held with your child's counselor during the month of April to discuss post-secondary planning. Please watch for your assigned appointment time in the mail.

College Representative Visits in the CRC. Please see the CRC website for information.

Individual appointments are available for students and families by calling (847) 327-7017 or (847) 327-7161. If you have not attended a program or visited the CRC, we invite you to attend in the future. Remember, the CRC offers a monthly open house for those parents/students who wish to familiarize themselves with what is available in the CRC. We encourage you to utilize your Family Connection account, college searches and Method Test Prep ACT and/or SAT. If you are unsure of your username and password, please contact us at (847) 327-7017.

From the Principal's Desk . . .

by Dr. Marina Scott

The early days of spring find us busy working on next year's budget, scheduling classes, and hiring staff. This year, we have only one Libertyville High School staff member retiring from District 128. The stellar reputation and outstanding traditions of our music program are due in large part to the leadership and guidance of Band Director **Don Shupe**. It will be difficult to replace him in the classroom, but impossible to replace him in our hearts. We wish Mr. Shupe well as he prepares for new experiences and adventures ahead.

As our students schedule classes for 2010-11, they find two new course selections available. The Applied Technology department will incorporate Project Lead The Way, a pre-engineering curriculum, into its course offerings. This spring, the first course, Introduction to Engineering Design, will be open for enrollment. Our Social Studies department is offering Advanced Placement Psychology as a senior elective. Recognizing that learning occurs both in and out of the classroom, our English department has invited several authors to speak with our students this spring. **Andy Schmidt**, comic book author and editor, will appear at LHS on March 15. **Elizabeth Eulberg**, author of *The Lonely Hearts Club*, will appear at LHS on April 30. Both authors will be in the library classroom during periods 4-6. After school, they will be in the library for a more informal speak, meet and greet. Thanks to LHS staff members **Anne Malecki** and **Craig Schmidt** for organizing these great opportunities.

The coming of spring also falls in tandem with the annual ritual of the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE). Wednesday, April 28, and Thursday, April 29, have been designated as the state-wide testing days for all juniors in the State of Illinois. LHS students have been preparing for this test by engaging in a challenging curriculum, and many have taken advantage of test preparation offerings. In the near future, you will receive a letter outlining a detailed schedule for each day. Although LHS students are typically well-prepared for the test, we are offering an additional incentive to motivate them to sharpen their skills. Junior students who take the initiative to attend five lunch-time PSAE preparation sessions will receive a one-day, off-campus

pass. Utilizing this option will require parent permission. Throughout the year, LHS remains a hub of activity inside and outside of the classroom, and spring is no exception. It is great to see so many students rounding out their high school experience by continued participation in our athletic, fine arts, and activity programs. As your attendance at our programs brings you into our building this spring, please notice two new displays. Our State Street wall honors all of our state-qualifying students in athletics, fine arts, and competitive activities. A new Honor Board acknowledges our National Honor Society members as well as our Honor Roll designees. These displays help us meet our goal of making sure our environment continues to recognize and celebrate the amazing achievements of our students.

As the year winds down, we recognize our seniors who will soon be moving on. For this reason, April and May are meant to be very special months for seniors. Please note the important dates to remember located below this article. Parents of seniors will also be receiving a special graduation mailing outlining other important details. Although the vast majority of our students model exemplary behavior, some students tend to make decisions or choose to act in ways that are completely out of character for them at this time of year. The LHS staff seeks support from parents to encourage our students to finish this year with dignity and pride. Inappropriate behavior that endangers themselves and others or disrupts school activity is inconsiderate to all and tarnishes the reputation of the school. Parents and teachers provide a powerful influence on students, especially when their message is consistent. By working together as a team we can make the year a safe and memorable one by supporting our students and encouraging them not to risk what they have worked for by making one bad decision.

"Find your true path. It's so easy to become someone we don't want to be, without even realizing it is happening. We are created by the choices we make every day."

Bernie Siegel, M.D.

Go Cats!

LHS Class of 2010: Important Dates to Remember

Tuesday, April 26 through Friday, April 30

Prom bid sales -- more information to follow on LHS website

Saturday, May 15 -- Prom

4:30 p.m. Pre-Prom Reception and Pictures, LHS Main Gym
6:00 p.m. Buses depart for Concorde Banquets, Kildeer

Wednesday, May 26 -- Honors Night

6:30 p.m. Auditorium

Thursday, May 27

Cap and gown distribution during lunch periods

May 28 - June 2 -- Final Exams

Friday, May 28	Periods 1, 2, 4
Tuesday, June 1	Periods 3, 5, 6
Wednesday, June 2	Periods 7, 8

Thursday, June 3 -- Graduation Rehearsal

7:30 a.m. LHS Main Gym

MANDATORY Practice- All seniors must be present

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

Friday, June 4 -- Graduation

7:00 p.m. Sears Centre Arena

Seniors must arrive by 5:30 p.m. and report to the Sears Centre loading dock at the north end of building

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)

Friday, June 4 -- Senior Graduation Lock-in Party

11:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m.

Student Activities Update

by Jennifer Paul, Student Activities Director

LHS and Jersey Mike's Partner for Haiti



LHS Principal **Dr. Marina Scott** (center) is joined by **John Griparis** and **Jeff Berns** from Jersey Mike's at the check presentation of funds raised for Haiti relief. (photo courtesy of LHS)

winter recognition assembly. Thank you LHS and Jersey Mike's for making a difference in the lives of others around the world.

Student Council-Advisors Julie Delaney and Sara Rogers Second semester is a time of planning and gearing up for the excitement of the winter dance. The winter dance theme was "Midnight Masquerade." The students worked diligently on the planning of decorations, favors, and advertising. Council members **Madison Piranian** and **Nicole Smith**, truly rose to the occasion and became leaders on whom the Executive Board could count. The spirit week consisted of Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday, Hip Hop/Country Day, Pajama Day and Orange and Black Spirit Day to conclude the week. The student body voted online for the Turnabout King, who was revealed at the Select 16 Winter Assembly. After finding out the Select 16, who are: **Eric Andrews, Bubba Benson, Tommy Burr, Bryan Dickson,**

Congratulations Libertyville High School on your fundraising efforts for Haiti. LHS partnered with Jersey Mike's Subs, who offered a free sub sandwich for a donation. All proceeds collected at Jersey Mike's were donated to UNICEF. A check presentation was made to principal **Dr. Marina Scott** during February's



2010 Turnabout King crowning (photo courtesy of LHS)

take place March 23. Community members are welcome to come donate blood on a walk-in basis from 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Interact-Advisor Jennifer Paul and Jessica Plack

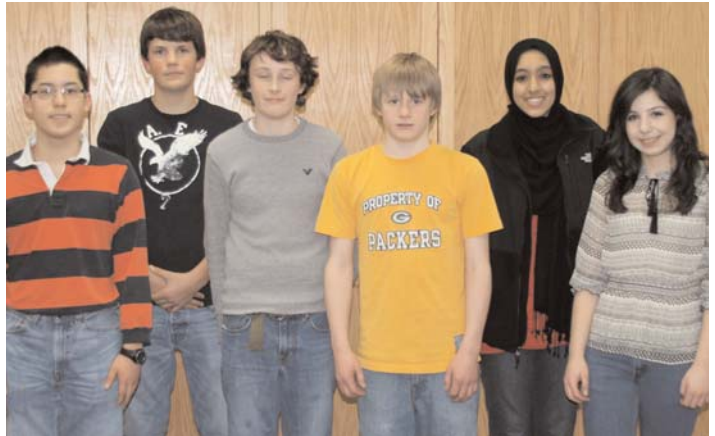
The 3rd annual Glass Slipper Project is underway. Interact has collected formal dresses, shoes and accessories to donate to girls who may not otherwise be able to afford a dress for Prom. Thank you to Zengeler Cleaners for their support. A big thank you to **Maia Cocallas** and **Amy Deng** for their *cont. on p. 14*

Jake Goldberg, Mickey Gregory, Tim Heller, Mitchell Kraemer, Carl Lundstedt, Josh Ok, Brad Ostmeyer, Kevin Penny, Jamey Stolbom, Jeff Trout, Bobby Theer, and James Zotto, the Executive Board planned an eventful assembly, which crowned Carl Lundstedt King. Congratulations to all of the gentlemen. The crowds cheered as the intramural boys' basketball team challenged the faculty to a friendly game. The dance was a huge success with over 800 attendees. The Executive Board now looks forward to planning Prom 2010 and kicking off the Spring Blood Drive which will

January Students of the Month



February Students of the Month



Student Activities *continued from p. 13*

creativity in designing the Interact t-shirt for the club. Students spent an afternoon creatively tie-dying their club t-shirts. The club has been busy fundraising with bake sales and a March "lucky charm" sale. Thank you to **Maia Cocallas**, **Anna Benson** and **Lauren Muender** for their organization and hard work executing and planning the sales. Students also have spent their time volunteering for Teen Aiders and Caring Kids in Action.

Top Cats-Advisors **Audrey Glenn** and **Josie DiMarco**

For 13 years, the Topcats Program has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Students mentored first through fifth graders at Green Bay School in North Chicago. Tragically, BBBS' funding was cut this year and it was unable to fund its student-to-student programs. Fortunately, through the diligence of **Audrey Glenn**, LHS found a great school in Waukegan with which to partner.

Clearview Elementary School and "21st Century Stars" has an after school program with approximately 55 elementary kids. The LHS Top Cat students have been a welcome addition to their program once a week. The program includes segments for homework, life skills, enrichment and art. The first through fifth graders are so excited for the arrival of the high schoolers each Wednesday afternoon. LHS Topcats help with homework, mentoring and positive role modeling. A few weeks ago, each group of students worked on presenting information about a different country and culture. Last week, the Topcats facilitated its groups (of which there are four) with educational games and exercises to build relationships and ways to get to know one another.

Debate Team-Coached by **Amy Wiggins** and **Craig Schmidt**



2009-10 Debate Team

(photo courtesy of LHS Debate Team)

Debate Team members **Osman Jamil**, **Teddy Amdur**, **Andy Lee**, and **Gokul Krishnan** attended the National Forensic League District Qualifier Tournament at Glenbrook North High School on March 5-6. Public Forum team Jamil and Amdur came close to qualifying for Nationals with a 3-0 record on March 5.

Debate Team was very successful at the ISTA Novice/JV State Debate Tournament held March 13. Those receiving awards at the tournament were: **Richard Pan** - 2nd Place in State in Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate; **Alex Wang** - Quarterfinalist in Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate; **Rahul Kanianchalil** and **Nishad Phadke** - Semifinalists in Novice Public Forum Debate; **Max Allen** and **Sam Goldberg** - Quarterfinalists in Novice Public Forum Debate; **Teddy Amdur** and **Andrew Hombach** - Quarterfinalists in JV Public Forum Debate. The following team members made the All-State Debate Team based on speaker points: **Richard Pan** - 4th Place in Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate; **Alex Wang** - 9th Place in Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate; **Nishad Phadke** - 6th Place in Novice Public Forum Debate; and **Osman Jamil** - 7th Place in JV Public Forum Debate.

Math Team-Coached by **Amanda Warfield**, **Rick Brenner** and **Ben Snyder**

The Math Team continues a very successful season. After placing first at three out of the first four North Suburban Math League (NSML) conference meets, including a narrow win last month over Barrington at Vernon Hills, the team emerged victorious by bringing home the championship plaque at the Regional ICTM (Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics) math meet on Feb. 20 at Northern Illinois University.

In team events, the freshman, sophomore, and senior teams all placed first, as did the junior-senior eight-person team. In individual written events, **Richard Pan** placed first overall in Algebra I; **Nina** and **Jovana Andrejevic** placed first and second, respectively, and **Tejas Joshi** placed third, in Geometry; **May Yang** took third overall in Algebra II; and **Alan Fan** and **Alex Politakis** took second and third place, respectively, in Pre Calculus.

May Yang and **Alan Fan** took home first-place medals in the two-person competition by outscoring a distant second place team. In the oral competition, **Weitao Qiang** and **Kevin Li** brought home two of regional championship trophies. The team advances to the state meet on May 1 at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

In NSML competition, perfect scores were achieved at meet three by **Tejas Joshi**, **Claire Sheong**, and **Alex Wang** in Algebra I, as well as by **Jovana** and **Nina Andrejevic**, and by **Richard Pan** in geometry. At meet four at Vernon Hills, perfect scores were earned by **Nina Andrejevic** and **Demetri Vlahakis** at the junior level in Algebra II (even though they are both sophomores.)

The team also participated in five IML (Illinois Mathematics League) competitions this year and is currently ranked 15th in the state. One IML competition remains on March 23.

WYSE Team-Coach - **Pete Dawson**

On Feb. 13, the WYSE Team participated in the regional Illinois Academic Challenge competition at CLC. The team event included 14 students from each school, with each student taking exams in two academic areas -

cont. on p. 15

Student Activities *continued from p. 14*

Biology, Chemistry, English, Math, or Physics. Based on their combined score, the LHS team finished 2nd in the unlimited division and had several individual medalists. The team was lead by junior **May Yang** who had the highest combined score on the team, earning a medal in both Biology (3rd) and Chemistry (2nd). Other individual medalists were: **Alex Politakis** (1st - Physics), **Weitao Qiang** (2nd - Biology), **Wendy Guo** (3rd - English), **Weiqiao Huang** (2nd - Math), and **Ryan Patterson** (3rd - Math). Other team members were **Hadallia Bergeron**, **Emil Jose**, **Nathan Kaiser**, **Richard Li**, **Roger Michaelides**, **Anish Raman**, **Chris Schweitzer**, and **Michael Zhang**.



Senior Class of 2010

Seniors: Don't miss one last chance to celebrate as a class. Make sure you get your ticket for the Graduation Party so you don't miss out on all the fun! The party will be held after graduation on June 4 from 11:00 p.m.- 4:00 a.m. Tickets are \$45 before April 16 and \$55 on or after April 17. The last day to purchase tickets is May 21. Please make checks payable to "LHS Senior Party" with the student's name in the memo line. Please send your ticket order form, check and waiver to: **Becky King**, 31470 N. Reigate Ln, Green Oaks, IL 60048. The tickets will be distributed during graduation practice. Get your ticket now so you don't miss the last chance to celebrate with your class.

The success of this event depends almost entirely on donations from individuals and businesses. Parents, if you or your company can help with any type of donation, please contact the committee chair people listed below. We want this event to be a fabulous send-off for the 2010 senior class, so please consider helping in any way you can. Prizes and Donations Committee: **Nancy Powers**: 847-816-9734 or **Amanda Staines**: 847-367-9682 or amanda.staines@comcast.net. Lastly, if you indicated that you would like to volunteer on your form and don't hear from the committee right away, please feel free to contact the committee chair people for the group with which you would like to help. It's never too late to volunteer. **If you already sent in your payment and forms, you are all set.**

Peer Mediation-Advisor **Sharon Stevens**

The Peer Mediators launched their second annual Peer Idol Contest. Students emailed the Peer Mediators with nominations of students that have good listening skills, support their peers, and are caring individuals towards their peers. Email us at: <http://lhswildcats.org/peermediation>. The nominees are on our website and students can vote by email for their Peer Idol by March 15. Each class will have a winner and will receive a gift certificate. The Peer Mediators believe in solving conflicts peacefully and they know that there are many students out there that do this on a regular basis.

Ping Pong / Table Tennis Club- Advisor **Christophe Guiard** and **Jeremy Marino**

This year was the Ping Pong/Table Tennis club's 9th year. Since 2001, each season starts the first week of August and runs until March. The 2009-10 statistics show a weekly average of 25 people every Friday afternoon. Also, 130 people came at least once to play ping pong: 86 boys and 44 girls. The highlight of

this year was the creation of the ITTI League (Interscholastic Table Tennis Illinois League). **Bob Brown** (the first unofficial ITTI commissioner and Main East English teacher) contacted area table tennis clubs and six accepted the challenge. The ITTI League was formed with clubs from Maine East, Stevenson, Loyola Academy, New Trier, Vernon Hills and Libertyville high schools. In addition to weekly ping pong Fridays, we had a separate competition to face each of the schools. The highlight of the season was our final competition on Feb. 27 at Maine East. Congratulations to Loyola Academy on its win this year! During that day, we also had the chance to see and play against **Biba Golic**, a national Serbian Champion, and **Eric Owens**, an American National champion and gold medalist in the 1999 Pan American Games. The exhibition game was sponsored by Killerspin, a Chicago Table Tennis company.

Drops of Ink-Advisor **Matt Tooley**

Drops of Ink, LHS' school news publication, will be moving online. Visit www.lhsdoi.com soon to get news, features and commentary about LHS-including sports, entertainment reviews and more. Answer poll questions, comment on articles and read up on the latest in LHS news. Besides the website, the publication will continue to issue its new quarterly magazine, the next issue of which set to come out the day before spring break.

Speech Team-Coached by **Alice Leafblad**, **Craig Schmidt**, **Brian Voss** and **Michael Gluskin**

Congratulations to all of the students on their performances in Speech this year. Participation in this club is growing in leaps and bounds! Sectionals qualifiers include **Farhan Shahab** who finished 4th in the region in Extemporaneous Speech. **Orko Manna** and **Mark Cooper** finished 4th in the region in Humorous Duet Acting. The Performance in the Round group placed 3rd in the region. PIR cast includes: **Emma Dreher**, **Mary Kate Bueltmann**, **Mickey Gregory**, **Simona Stoyanova**, **Alaysia Ray**, **Arden Weiner**, **Kathleen Haines**, **Caitlin Maldonado**, **Sara Young**, and **Michele Morse**.

Fret Boarders-Advisor **Anne Malecki**

Congratulations on another fantastic Band Jam sponsored by the guitar/music club, Fret Boarders. The seven student bands were cheered on by parents, students and staff on March 5. Proceeds from ticket sales benefited the Lake County Haven. Thank you to all of the people involved in supporting and getting this event off the ground-**Anne Malecki**, **David Widzisz**, **Eli Kelly**, **Paul Slominski**, Buildings and Grounds, and everyone who came out to support these young talented individuals!

News from the Hills

Principal's Report

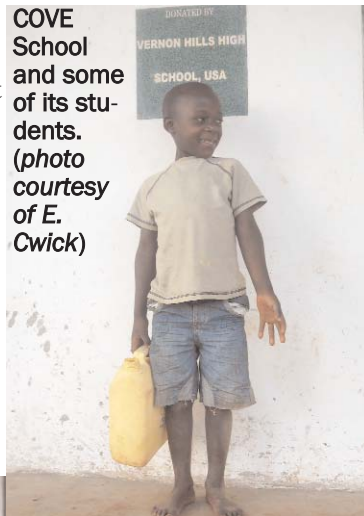
by Dr. Ellen Cwick

Congratulations to Senior **Sean Hogan** on his selection to the IHSA All State Academic Team. A total of 26 seniors were selected from high schools across the state. This is a prestigious honor for Sean, his family and VHHS. Three VHHS students have been selected to the All State Team in our short 10 year history. Sean is a member of the boys' bowling team, our state championship math team, WYSE team, and music department (jazz band/orchestra). Way to go Sean!

Congratulations to the **VHHS Dance Team** and Coach **Brittany Henley** on their state championship in AA Open Poms and their second-place state finish in AA Open Dance. This marks three consecutive years of state championships for this very talented, dedicated and successful dance team! We are so proud of Coach Henley, her captains **Vanessa Nagel, Jamie Michel, Cassidy Blair**, and the entire dance team on their tremendous accomplishments!

I would like to update everyone on the latest news regarding our Uganda school-wide service project. VHHS has partnered with the not-for-profit agency COVE Alliance to build a school for elementary children in Uganda. To date, VHHS has raised \$35,500 and our dream has now become a reality. Last year our elementary building was completed and in February 2010, our school opened with approximately 45 COVE-sponsored first and second graders. I recently received these pictures of the first days of school at St. Jerome COVE Elementary School. COVE Alliance is in the process of building dormitories to house many of the students and VHHS is partnering with COVE to begin fundraising efforts to construct a second building for third and fourth graders. VHHS students enjoyed presentations on our Uganda school project during International Week on March 4 and 5.

During my years as an administrator, I've often heard seniors making the statement, "Wow, my senior year flew by!" March, April and May are busy months in the school calendar and I want to encourage the senior class to be safe, have fun and enjoy all these special activities (see corresponding senior dates to remember located on this page). You all have grown quite close as a



COVE School and some of its students. (photo courtesy of E. Cwick)



class and that bond will become even stronger over these next couple of months. I also want to remind students to remain focused on their academic classes during this busy season.

Lastly, I would like to encourage all juniors to do their best on our state ACT/PSAE testing, April 28 and 29. Our District has always been proud of our strong scores, and we wish the juniors well in their effort to continue this standard of excellence.

**VHHS Class of 2010:
Important Dates to Remember**

Saturday, May 15 – Prom

5:30 p.m. pictures/appetizers at VHHS; 6:20 p.m. buses depart to Westin Chicago North Shore, Wheeling.

Wednesday, May 26 – Cap and Gown distribution, lunch periods

Thursday, May 27 – Senior Breakfast

7:45 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Cafeteria, seniors will not attend their 1st period class: Dress (Boys): Khakis/dress shirt (no blue jeans) Dress (Girls): Slacks or skirt (no blue jeans)

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.

Final Exams:

Friday, May 28	Periods 1, 2, 4
Tuesday, June 1	Periods 3, 5, 6
Wednesday, June 2	Periods 7, 8

Wednesday, June 2 – Graduation Rehearsal

11:25 am - 12:45 pm, Auditorium after 8th period exam, MANDATORY Practice-All Seniors must be present.

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

Thursday, June 3 – Graduation

7:00 pm 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 4 – Senior Party

10:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. Ticket order forms available in Main Office.

Student Activities Update

by Deb Beagle, VHHS Student Activities Coordinator

Academic Bowl

Congratulations to the Academic Bowl Team which recently captured 3rd place in the Conference Tournament. **David Kim** and **Kenny Shaevel** led the way with 11 and 10 toss-ups answered respectively. **Dillon Skeeahan**, **Michael Wagner** and **Moya Chen** each had five toss-ups. The team faces Stevenson in the Regional Tournament.

(Coaches: **Shawn Healey**, **Kim Raciak**, **Megan Geltner**)



ACE members raised \$600 for children affected by the earthquake in Haiti through the "Pretzels for Progress" program. (photo courtesy of ACE)

Anime Club

All VHHS students will benefit when Anime Club uses a majority of the money earned this school year to buy new manga books for the Library media Center's graphic novel collection. Of course, club members might be first to check out the new volumes of *Pet Shop of Horrors*, *Flame of Recca*, *The Sandman* and *Trigun Maximum!* A day off school is a great day to plan a club outing to Mitsuwa Japanese Marketplace in Arlington Heights. Part Japanese grocery store and part food court, it will be a fun place to sample the cuisine that reigns supreme. (Advisor: **Monica Tolva**)

Art Club

The Art Club had an exhibit of student work at the Vernon Hills Village Hall beginning Feb. 25, to celebrate Youth Art Month. This year's exhibition marked the 30th year that the district schools have participated in this national event. The student work will be on exhibit through March 25.

(Advisors: **Jim Savage**, **Stefanie Dahlstrom**)



Art Club members prepare the artwork display at the Village of Vernon Hills. (photo courtesy of the Art Club)

Athletes Committed to Excellence (ACE)

On Thursday, Feb. 4, members of ACE participated in a fundraiser to aid children affected by the earthquake in Haiti. After news of the devastating earthquake hit, Chicago based Kim & Scott's Gourmet Pretzel Company, launched a program called "Pretzels for Progress." They generously donated 100,000 chocolate dipped pretzel rods to school organizations throughout the area. ACE was lucky enough to receive some of these pretzels and sold them for one day in the school. Because of the generosity of the VHHS students and staff, the sale raised \$600! All proceeds are being donated to Save the Children, an organization dedicated to bettering the lives of children all over the world. Kim & Scott's Pretzel Company hopes to raise over \$100,000 for this cause. Thank you to ACE and all VHHS students and staff for your participation. Check the ACE website for a link to Kim & Scott's Pretzel Company if you are interested in reading more about their efforts. (Advisor: **Rachael Blanton**)

Book Club

Thanks to all the VHHS community who donated books for the Adopt-A-Family book drive. Our guests browsed the great selection of books and took most of them home! The club read Dan Brown's *Angels & Demons* and watched the movie; Book Club members agreed that the book was better than the movie. Now we're reading *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher, the story of a girl who sends voice recordings to all the people she feels induced her desire to commit suicide. The staff advisors will share information about teen suicide statistics and signs.

(Advisors: **Ellen Macias**, **Sonya Stevens** and **Monica Tolva**)

Cougar Cycling Club (Pilot)

Fifteen VHHS students bicycled 24 trail miles round trip to Lake Michigan and back! Once there, we enjoyed playing in the sand and eating delicious cookies! Think you can't handle it? Ask **Mr. Pardun's** 11-year-old-twins, Michael and Tyler, who were leading the ferocious pack. All students and faculty are welcome to join any time as we keep biking indoor and outdoor all year long! Email

Adam.Lueken@d128.org to join the email list or come to one of our upcoming meetings: March 27-- First Spring Outdoor Bike Ride from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **cont. on p. 18**

VHHS Student Activities Update *continued from page 17*

We will leave from the front doors of VHHS; or the April 6 meeting in room 0200 to plan future trips. (Advisor: **Adam Lueken**)



Cycling Club members prepare bikes for the school's Adopt-A-Family program. (photo courtesy of VHHS)

Cougar TV

Alex Sherman (director/editor), **Will McCracken** (camera operator), **Kurt Wickboldt** (camera operator) and **Jason Jurado** (sound) created a video called "Right vs. Wrong" for the Lake County Fire Chief's You Tube video contest and captured 2nd place. (Advisor: **Sandy Flinchum-Martin**)

DECA

Twenty-one VHHS DECA members won awards at an area DECA competition held Feb. 2 at the Rosemont Convention Center.

The following students placed in their respective categories: **Erin Bolanowski** - 4th Place, Communications in Quick Serve Restaurant Management, **Robert Bryant** - 1st place, Accounting Applications, **Ben Chacko** - 2nd place, Accounting Applications, **Marco Filimon** - 4th place, Communications in Automotive Services, **Erik Hencier** - 1st place, Economics in Accounting Applications, **Lauren Groody** - 2nd place, Quick Serve Restaurant Management, **Christina Kroes** - 1st place, Communications in Quick Service Restaurant Management, **Alex Larsen** - 1st place, Communications and 4th place, Retail Merchandising, **Jared Moor** - 3rd place, Marketing Management and **Patrick Szczupak**, 2nd place, Economics in Marketing Management. Team members **Joel Bissell**, **Erin Bolanowski**, **Robert Bryant**, **Mitch Bukhar**, **Ben Chacko**, **Neviya Chacko**, **Brandon Curry**, **Marco Filimon**, **Lauren Groody**, **Erik Hencier**, **Marjorie Kirilenko**, **Christina Kroes**, **Alex Larsen**, **Darek Macanowicz**, **Ritesh Mishra**, **Jared Moor**, **Udit Nangia**, **Eric Oberwise**, **Patrick Szczupak**, **Rohan Varshney**, and **Jessica Westman** will head to the 2010 Illinois DECA State Career Development Conference in Decatur March 4-6. The top three in each event will advance to international competition to be held April 26-27 in Louisville, Ky. (Advisors: **Sheryl Olson**, **Madeline Powell**)

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)

Congratulations to the FBLA members who placed in the top

three at the FBLA area competition: First Place: **Melody Chua** and **Sanchita Agrawal** (Business Ethics), **Andrew Clark** and **Matthew Weinberg** (Business Plan). Second Place: **Alexander Guletsky** (Business Presentation), **Hershel Bhat** and **David Alvaro** (Digital Video Production), **Sasi Pandravada** and **Tanaya Bhardwaj** (E-Business), **AJ Mawley** (Technology Concepts), and **Zhenni Lin** (Word Processing I), **Joyce Zhai** and **Esther Lee** (Global Business). Third Place: **Nellie Rahimi** (Client Services), **Alex Porter** and **Paige Kahalnik** (Digital Video Production), and **Krystian Palmero** (Public Speaking I). We look forward to the state competition in Decatur in March. (Advisors: **Amanda Carroll**, **Sean Crevier**)

FCCLA (Family Career & Community Leaders of America) Congratulations to the VHHS students who competed in the FCCLA sectional competition held at CLC Feb. 19. Out of the 450 students from local schools competition, **Tyler Coppney** and **Peter Lopez** earned 1st place in Catering, **Jessica Block** and **Becca Blanton** earned 1st place in apparel construction, **Abby Estrada** earned 2nd place in apparel construction, and **Lisa Davis** and **Lindsey Block** earned 2nd place in cookie decorating. They will all advance to the state competition April 8-10. (Advisors: **Kelley Whitescarver** and **Jeanne Wolff**)

Interact

After the great success of the Adopt-A-Family event, Interact looks to focus on efforts more expansive than before. Group t-shirt designs have been decided and ordered, and should be in shortly. Homework Club is up and running now, being revived after a few months of inactivity, and is starting to make small differences in children's lives. Reality, the smoke-free organization of Lake County, continues to meet on the first Tuesday of every month. The Service Dog committee meets at Westfield Hawthorn Mall on Wednesdays after school. The students are conducting advanced training and socialization exercises with Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) puppies, Mombo and Flash, who they began working with in September. Two more puppies, Greeley and Rhine, have been added to the group this semester. When at the mall, the students work intensively with the puppies to prepare them for a future life as a service dog for someone with a disability. They also educate onlookers about what they are doing and spread the word about the importance of service dogs in our community. (Advisors: **Sean Kelly**, **Kelley Whitescarver**, and **Nancy Skeffington**)

Junior State of America

Nine delegates from Junior State of America will go to Washington D.C. on March 12-14 to debate bills like members of the Congress and Senate. Students are divided into subcommittees and have the opportunity to debate on the floor of Congress. Students will meet prominent political figures on their first night in D.C., and will go on a moonlight monument tour the next night. Junior State is open to all students, and can be joined at any point in the year. (Advisor: **Eileen Orzoff-Baranyk**)

Math Team

Congratulations to the VHHS Math Team for taking second place at the Feb. 20 regional competition. *cont. on p. 19*

VHHS Student Activities Update *continued from page 18*

David Kim was first among all juniors competing at the meet with **Kenny Shaevel** placing third. These two scores led the juniors to a first-place team award. **Jonathan Hoffman** and **Thomas Lee** tied for second place among all freshmen. The freshmen and sophomore teams had strong showings as each earned 2nd place awards. Both our Frosh/Soph and Junior/Senior 8-Person teams had first-place finishes with our Calculator team coming in second. These results put us in a great position to defend our state title in May.

(Advisors: **Cheryl Ballenger, Jessica Chapman, Steve Korney, Wilbert Stroeve**)

Outdoor Adventure Club

The Outdoor Adventure Club competed in the 9th Annual Rocks, Ropes, and Boats competition at Northeastern Illinois University this past weekend. The Cougars dominated in the kayak competition by taking first and second place in the kayak slalom. First place went to **Andrew Wood** and second place went to **Craig Smith**. **Andrew Wood** also won the kayak speed roll event. In the girls' division **Paola Guzman** won the kayak slalom. The co-ed team of **Ashley Haines, Paola Guzman, Craig Smith** and **Andrew Smith** placed 8th overall in the co-ed division. Over 200 students competed in this exciting and educational afternoon. The purpose of this competition is to promote adventure challenges and outdoor activities to Chicago and northwest suburban high school students. (Advisors: **Jerry Miceli, Kedric Greenawalt**)

Ping Pong Club

On Saturday, Feb. 27, the ping pong clubs of LHS and VHHS had their final matches. They went to Maine East to take part in our first (and perhaps the state's first) interscholastic table tennis. Six schools were represented including, Loyola Academy, Maine East, New Trier, Stevenson, Libertyville, and Vernon Hills high schools. Table tennis seems to be gaining steam as an activity. Killerspin representative **Rajeev Sharma** accepted an invitation to come see what is happening at the high school level. He brought T-shirts for the participants and special guest **Biba Golic**. Golic is a professional table tennis player who also made her acting debut in the movie *Balls of Fury*. She was on hand to have an exhibition match and give the participant champion a chance to play against her. Participating VHHS students included **Zach Lebovitz, Kevin Zhao, Lindsey Gallagher, Kevin Thoren** and manager **Alex Sherman**. (Coach: **Doug Dusthimer**)

Robotics

The VHHS Robotics team participates in a robotics program sponsored by Abbott Laboratories. The program is open to juniors and seniors from area high schools and runs annually from October until March. Each year, Robotics students participate in about 10 competitions hosted by Abbott Laboratories. **Abigail Ling** prepares her team's robot for a robotic arm contest in which the robot must pick up and sort different foam bricks. In addition to entering several robotic competitions, students learn about different fields in science, engineering and technology. Students are responsible for all aspects of their robots including design, physical construction and programming. Varsity robotics students also learn electronic fundamentals and circuitry. **Candice Song** and **Jessica**

Block work on the circuitry of their robots which will compete in a line following contest.

VHHS won and placed in several competitions this year. Most notable of the competitions were the two final competitions of the season. The varsity team competed in a contest where autonomous robots navigate their way in the dark through a course of curves. **Dillon Skeehan's** robot proved superior to all others and won 1st place. Fellow varsity teammate **Andrew Welter** won 3rd place in the same competition and received special recognition for setting the speed record on the course. Nearby, other students were competing in the Pentagon, the famous five sided arena where robots avoid cavernous holes while racing to find raised cylinders and fill them with ping pong balls. Three VHHS engineering teams dominated the Pentagon and swept the tournament.

Jonathan Lowe, Brynan Qiu and **Meriam Ben Hadj Tahar** won 1st place, **Moya Chen, Hershel Bhat** and **Phillip Maciaszek** won 2nd place and **William Padovano, Abigail Ling, Matt Tomback** and **David Kim** won 3rd place. (Coach: **Jay Walgren**)

Spotlight

Spotlight had a successful spring production on Saturday, March 6. The show began with an introduction rap by **Judith Legorreta** and **Kris Knighton**. The students followed their theme of "Step it Up a Notch" perfectly, by providing many innovative fashion pieces from **Judith Legorreta, Jacqui Flores, Abby Estrada, Rubi Cervantes, Karen Lopez, Shauna Hoag, and Jackie Preston**. Some fashions featured recycled goods while others were pure glam, red carpet fashion! Proceeds from the show were donated to Cove Alliance. The "Step it Up a Notch" production also featured dances choreographed solely by students. Dancers included: **Pamela Aviléz, Mirna Cervantes, Rubi Cervantes, Juan Contreras, Giovanni Cordova, Jacqui Flores, April Fuhri, Stephaney Gonzalez, Kristopher Knighton, Nety Park, Brady Rufenacht, Chloe Seawall** and **Amanda Smith**. (Advisors: **Rebeca Garcia, Sarah Stoub**)

Student Council - Junior Class

Junior Class Board, with the help from Student Council at large, planned a wonderfully successful Turnabout Dance in January. This year's theme was "Beyond the Sea," and proceeds went to The Ocean Conservancy. Additionally, a great highlight of the dance was a special appearance by B96's DJ **Spin**. This, coupled with new stages and spotlights, created an exciting experience for dance goers. Congratulations to the members of the Turnabout Court: Freshmen: **Udit Nangia, Brandon Zuniga**; Sophomores: **John Nam, Mark Palmero**; Juniors: **Logan Nelson, Bryan Sanoshy**; Seniors: **Jake Counselbaum, Brandon Goldstein, Luke Hanson, Erik Hencier, EJ Lannan, Cole Moffat, Eric Oberwise, Austin Pisula, Eddie Rumzis** and Turnabout King **Ben Chacko**. Junior Class Board would like to extend a special thank you for everyone's hard work, including Cougar parents who helped with the coat check. Without this great combined effort, the dance would not have been such a success. (Advisors: **Emily Kline, Ellen Macias**) *cont. on p. 24*

Athletic Director's Corner

by Briant Kelly, LHS Athletic Director

Wildcat College Signings

Jon Hoffing signed a national letter of intent to play football at Western Michigan University.

James Zotto signed a national letter of intent to play football at Wofford College.

Girls' Basketball: IHSA Regional Champions



(photo courtesy of Michael Savatic)

2009-2010 Winter Sports Accomplishments

Team Accomplishments

Cheerleading

6th Place - IHSA State Competition

Poms

2nd Place, Lyrical Dance - Team Dance Illinois State Competition

4th Place, Open Pom Dance - Team Dance Illinois State Competition

Wrestling

NSC Lake Division Champions

NSC Conference Champions

IHSA Regional Champions

Girls' Basketball

NSC Lake Division Champions

NSC Conference Champions

IHSA Regional Champions

Individual Accomplishments

NSC All-Academic Athletes

Boys' Basketball: **Jeremy Birck, Patrick Brush**

Thompson Burr, Landon Eyre

Girls' Basketball: **Lisa Cooper, Erika Danckers, Erin**

Jaffke, Katelynn Jennings, Leah Kruckman, Taylor

Primrose, Katarina Savatic, Brittany Schick, Savannah

Trees, Valerie VanRoeyen

Cheerleading: **Craig Breckenridge, Maureen Conley,**

Amber Staines

Girls' Gymnastics: **Sara Fitzgerald**

Hockey: **Ian Donnahoo**

Poms: **Rachel Campagna, Brittany Donovan, Kimberly**

Engle, Stephanie Marsh, Ailie Taylor, Katherine Watson

Boys' Swimming and Diving: **Mitchell Boynton, Trevor**

Freberg, Patrick Hughes, Theodore Kelley,

cont. on p. 21

Wildcat Profiles: Katelynn Jennings and Stevie Wimmer

by Briant Kelly, Athletic Director

During her high school career, **Katelynn Jennings** has been a standout both on and off the court as a member of the girls' basketball program. She truly exemplifies what it means to be a student-athlete. Her outstanding work in the classroom has been recognized through the following honors: National Honor Society, Student of the Month, participant in the North Suburban Conference Leadership program, and member of the NSC All-Academic Team.

Katelynn emerged as a great leader on the basketball court this year, as she helped guide her team to heights that most people did not envision. This includes a 25-6 record, 15-game winning streak, IHSA Regional championship, Buffalo Grove Thanksgiving Tournament championship, Mundelein Holiday Invite championship, and a high ranking by a number of local publications. She was also part of the first LHS girls' basketball team to play in the NSC conference championship game, in which the Wildcats came away with the program's first NSC Conference championship since the 1996-1997 season. This would not have happened without the great leadership and character that Katelynn showed both on and off the basketball court. She set a wonderful example by working hard in practice, listening and doing the little things to ensure success, and finding ways to make her teammates better. As one of the captains this season, she always found a way to step up in the biggest games whether it be with a timely three-point shot, a great pass to set up a teammate, or excellent help defense. In recognition of her efforts, she has been named a member of the NSC All-Conference team and *Daily Herald* All-Area honorable mention team.

Katelynn was one of the most consistent and hard-working players on this year's team. She always brought a positive outlook and strong work ethic to the basketball court. Her high basketball IQ enabled her to pick up on things quickly and helped her guide her teammates toward a common goal. In many ways, this made her another coach by extension. Her humble and selfless nature stands out most of all. She is a wonderful role model for younger players. Not only is she a quality player, but also a quality person. The girls' basketball program has been privileged to work with Katelynn the past four seasons and will greatly miss her presence next year. She truly personifies what it means to be a Wildcat - intelligence, leadership, humility, pride, and determination.

During the past few months, **Stevie Wimmer** has truly set a new standard of excellence for swimming at Libertyville High School. Stevie's numerous accomplishments, including the school and pool records, are true testaments to his talent. Stevie's dedication during the season and in the off-season is a major reason for his success. He is one of the most talented swimmers to have participated at LHS. This past year, Stevie leadership in the pool helped the younger swimmers develop and grow throughout the season. At the IHSA Sectionals, Stevie qualified in 4 events: 50 yard freestyle, 100 yard freestyle, 200 yard freestyle relay and 400 freestyle relay. At the IHSA state meet in Evanston, Stevie finished in 2nd place in the 50 yard freestyle and 3rd place in the 100 yard freestyle. With these two All-State finishes, he is one of the most decorated swimmers at LHS since **Eric VanGoethem**.

Stevie will continue his pursuit of excellence as he swims for the University of Kentucky next season. Stevie's strengths in swimming will fit into their program and he will continue to improve as a swimmer. Besides his swimming accolades, Stevie has continued to grow and mature as a student-athlete. His leadership style and natural abilities will serve him well in the future.

Winter Accomplishments *cont. from p. 20*

Christopher Marr, Joshua Ok, Michael Tanner

Wrestling: **Matthew Bystol, Cody Olsen, Kevin Tavakoli**
Richard Vachula, Nathaniel Yordy

NSC Honorable Mention Athletes

Boys' Basketball: **Ryan Barth**

Girls' Basketball: **Katelynn Jennings**

NSC All-Conference Athletes

Boys' Basketball: **Hobie Herberger, Billy Meyer**

Girls' Basketball: **Alex Haley, Kaca Savatic, Savannah Trees**

Hockey Metro Central All-Star: **Justin Antolec, Connor Krukowski, Tom Tambourine**

NSC Conference Medal Winners

Girls' Bowling: **Jackie Funk, Laura Polakowski**

Girls' Gymnastics: **Leah Herchenbach**

Boys' Swimming and Diving: **Justin Bonk, Mitch Boynton, Daniel Guerrero, Teddy Kelley, Chris Marr, Josh Ok, Brad Ostmeier, Ben Snader, Stevie Wimmer**

Wrestling: **Sayad Banifazl, Matt Bystol, Pat Fitzgerald, Luke Gaeth, Nick McDowell, Ryan Mertz, Luke Miller, Cody Olsen, Josh Ronne, Sam Shay, Kevin Tavakoli, Tommy Ward**

IHSA State Qualifiers

Girls' Gymnastics: **Leah Herchenbach**

Boys' Swimming and Diving: **Justin Bonk, Mitch Boynton, Daniel Guerrero-Martinez, Teddy Kelley, Chris Marr, Brad Ostmeier, Ben Snader, Bobby Theer, Stevie Wimmer**
 (2nd Place-50yd Freestyle, 3rd Place-100yd Freestyle)
 Wrestling: **Pat Fitzgerald, Matt Bystol** (5th Place), **Luke Miller, Josh Ronne**

From the Cougar Den

by Brian McDonald, Athletic Director

It was a terrific Winter Season for the Cougars with some impressive individual and team accomplishments.

The Boys' Basketball team finished 2nd in the Prairie Division with a 8-4 record in the division and 17-11 overall. The team concluded its season in the regional championship game of the IHSA tournament. Junior **DaVaris Daniels** was selected to compete in the IHSA Slam Dunk contest in Bloomington.

The Girls' Basketball team also took 2nd place in the Prairie Division with a 10-2 record in the division and a 17-12 record overall. The team concluded its season in the 2nd round of the IHSA tournament. Junior **Becca Feld** advanced the IHSA state finals in the 3-Point shootout.

The Boys' Bowling team had a very successful year, winning the Northern Illinois Boys Bowling Conference for the first time in program history, and the IHSA sectional for the third year in a row. The team ultimately finished 11th in the state. Senior **Erik Hencier** finished 26th in the state and junior **Nick Garpow** finished 46th in the state.

Our Boys' Swimming and Diving team had a nice season with a huge number of students participating in the swim program. The varsity team finished its season at the IHSA sectional meet. Junior **Kevin Lenz** qualified to compete at the state met in the 50 yard Freestyle and the 100 yard Breaststroke.

Our Cheerleading squad did double duty this winter by cheering for the boys' basketball team and competing in its own competitions all season. The cheerleaders finished a solid year with a 7th place finish at the IHSA sectionals.

The Cougar Wrestling team had a terrific season with a huge number of participants this winter. The team took 2nd at the IHSA regional and sent a school record five individual qualifiers to the IHSA state finals. Junior **Gideon Yim** was the sectional champion. Senior **Joe Brignon** was the regional champion and set a VHHS school record with 119 varsity career wins. Sophomore **Dan Peterson** took 3rd at sectionals. Sophomore **Dan Klema** was regional champion and took 2nd at the sectionals. Senior **Rory Klema** was a regional and sectional champion.

Our Pom Pon team had another terrific season performing at home basketball games and performing in competitions as well. The team concluded its season by finishing 2nd in the Open Dance category and finishing 1st in the Open Pom category at the Team Dance Illinois State Finals in Peoria. This is the third consecutive year that our Pom Pon team has come home from Peoria as a State Champion.

Our Girls' Bowling team finished the season with a 13-2 record and a 2nd place finish in the North Suburban Conference. Senior **Nicole Sanhamel** capped a terrific career with a 5th place finish at the IHSA state finals.

At the time I am writing 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 (Tuesday May 25) and for those of you sticking around for the 2010-11 school year, we hope you will get ready to have a monster season next year by getting involved in one or more of our summer sport camps. See the school website to sign up for camps.

Cougar Featured Athlete: Fallon Faia

by Brian McDonald, Athletic Director

The VHHS Girls' Gymnastics team had a solid season by doubling its number of participants from last year. Senior **Fallon Faia** capped her terrific career by qualifying for the IHSA state finals in the Vault, ultimately finishing 26th in the state. I had the pleasure of sitting down and talking with Fallon about her career in Gymnastics at VHHS.

When did you start gymnastics?

I first started when I was six years old in Texas on a recreational team. My mom did not want me to do it, but my cousin did it and I really wanted to do it.

How old were you when you first competed?

After doing the recreational gymnastics for a month, I entered a competition and then I moved to a gym where they were more focused on developing competitive gymnasts.

What is the greatest thing about the sport of gymnastics? When you are trying to do something for so long and working really hard at trying to master it. When you finally master it, that feeling is awesome.

Cougar Featured Athlete *cont. from p. 22*

What is the scariest thing about the sport of gymnastics?

The uneven bars scare me the most. Every time I try to do new stuff and higher level stuff there are dangers and risks.

How do you overcome your fear of "crashing" on one of your events?

I always try to think about doing it right. If you think about doing it wrong, you'll do it wrong. I just try to concentrate on making my body do what it is supposed to do.

What was it like to compete at the state finals?

It was great. Really fun. It was a goal of mine since freshman year and with all that has happened with me, there were a lot of people that did not think I could get there, but I did. It was great to finally achieve that goal.

How did it feel to be selected to represent Team Illinois at the National Gymnastics Championship in Florida?

That was great, too. I did not know about the Team Illinois thing until this year and to be selected was terrific. There are so many talented gymnasts in the state and to be on the same team with them is great.

What advice would you give someone who is considering getting involved in Gymnastics?

You have to be dedicated to it and really work at it. Developing

a love for the sport is a must since you are going to spend so much time doing it, you better love it. Also, you have to leave your fears behind you when you are trying new stuff.

What are your plans for the Spring?

I'm going to do track and I'm looking forward to the long jump, but I'll do whatever my coaches want me to do.

What are your plans after high school?

I've been accepted at University of Illinois and Purdue. I'm still waiting to hear from the University of Southern California. I want to study law and become an advocate for children in the courts.

What is the funniest thing that happened in gymnastics?

I've had lots of wipeouts, but the best one was when I was 11 years old at a meet in New York. The meet was televised and I nailed my first vault - which they did not televise. On my second vault, I missed the springboard with one of my feet and I just flew over the vault with my arms flailing like a bird and I landed on my face. That was the one they televised.

What was your favorite memory of senior year?

There are so many, but if I had to choose, the pasta parties with my teammates this year were great. We really had a lot of fun.

D128 Special Olympians Take the Court at United Center



The District 128 Special Olympics Team recently took advantage of an opportunity to play a basketball game at the United Center. On Feb. 10, more than 175 family members and friends were on hand to watch the team play West Chicago High School in an exhibition game on the floor of the United Center immediately preceding the Chicago Bulls taking on the Orlando Magic. Above, team members are pictured with their coaches at the United Center (photo by K. Hayes)



VHHS Student Activities Update *cont. from p. 19*

VH2O (Environmental Club)

"One...two...three...pull." That's a phrase that we've been using a lot in VH2O on preservation days. Playing tug of war with invasive plant species, honeysuckle, buckthorn, and garlic mustard, is not the easiest thing in the world. Our club works with Preservation Partners, a program through the Lake Country Forest Preserve, to manage a designated area of the forest preserve. Five times a year we pull invasive species, conduct worm counts, and clean up the area. In addition to preservation, we promote green practices throughout the school. We had a booth at October's Career Expo informing people how to make the office more "green," and we continued the spread of green living by creating a mug display for the teachers' workroom, encouraging them to reuse mugs rather than styrofoam cups. The club also had fun making organic lip balm for our holiday lip balm sale. We look forward to our first campout this spring and a visit to the Smart Home at the Museum of Science and Industry. (Advisors: **Karen Day, Ellen Macias, Nancy Skeffington, Chris Wolf**)

WYSE (Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering)

On Feb. 13, the Cougars WYSE team competed in the regional testing held at the College of Lake County. The team captured first place with an amazing score of 496.3/500 overall. In addition to the excellent team score, there were many individual medals won: **Jessica Block** (1st - Biology), **Mark Juhn, Mansi Kathuria** and **Sam Rong** (tied for 3rd - Biology), **Mike Wagner** (1st - Chemistry), **David Kim** (2nd - Chemistry) and **Moya Chen** (3rd - Chemistry), **David Kim** and **Dillon Skeeahan** (tied for 1st - Computer Science) and **Brynan Qiu** (3rd - Computer Science), **Kris Groth** and **Mason Kessler** (tied for 1st - Engineering Graphics), and **Bryan Palmero** (2nd - Engineering Graphics), **Mike Wagner** (2nd - English) and **Andrew Welter** (3rd - English), **Moya Chen, Sean Hogan** and **Kenny Shaevel** (1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively - Math), and **Andrew Welter, Sean Hogan, and Dillon Skeeahan** (1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively - Physics.) The team moves forward to the sectional competition that is being hosted by VHHS and coordinated by WYSE team Coach **Joshua Ravenscraft**. (Advisor: **Joshua Ravenscraft**)

Additional News and Activities

Operation Click

Operation Click continues to encourage students to buckle up and be safe drivers. The following students were randomly selected from a list of eligible students to be the Operation Click Student of the Month for January, February and March respectively: **Kelley Gallagher, E.J. Lannan** and **Jessica Martine**. A parking spot in the visitor lot is reserved solely for the student of the month. In addition, students who continue to uphold the Operation Click contract have received special Operation Click gifts from School Resource Officer **Jim Koch**. To all the students that have signed up for Operation Click, keep up the good work! The car giveaway will take place at the Sears Center on April 24. (**Jim Koch**)

Teen-Aiders Foundation (www.teen-aiders.org)

This was a phenomenally rewarding year for the program for both our teen and adult volunteers. Highlights include:

- ❖ Amazing participation from our teen volunteers!
 - ❖ Volunteer activities at various Lake County homeless shelters including the PADS-Family Center, The Staben House, The Samaritan House, A Safe Place, and the PADS-Emergency Shelter.
 - ❖ Multiple student-led fundraisers, including raising nearly \$10,000 in general needs merchandise for the above shelters and over 150 Halloween costumes collected and donated to the children at these facilities.
 - ❖ Numerous classroom sessions educating the student volunteers on the issues of homelessness and fundraiser planning.
- Many thanks to the teens for their dedication and commitment to the program. The involvement is more than I ever imagined when we started the program 18 months ago! Below is a list our of VHHS teen volunteers from this past fall: **Jessica Block, Angela Cao, Tina Chen, Tiffany Chua, Hannah Chung, Megan Escanilla, Emily Greenberg, Lavanya Iyer, Parin Kadakia, Judith Legorreta, Bryan Maldonado, Jasmine Maldonado, Khushbu Mehta, Avsar Modi, Bineeta Monga, Huyen Nguyen, and Emma Schuster.**

We look forward to our spring session! If you'd like to get involved, contact Teen-Aiders Foundation CEO **Eric Lockwood** at elockwood@teen-aiders.org.

Front Cover: The VHHS poms experienced the thrill of a three-peat as the squad captured its third consecutive state championship at the TeamDance Illinois State Competition. Coached by **Brittany Henley**, the team earned first place in AA Open Pom as well as second place in AA Open Dance. Members of the state champion squad are: seniors: Vanessa Nagel (Captain), Jamie Michel (co-captain), Cassidy Blair (co-captain); juniors: Ariana Moraton, Kathryn Redig, Courtney O'Roark; sophomores: Marli Levin, Michelle Nussbaum, Taylor Harris, Elizabeth Chapman, Kristen Kamman, Anna Schapiro, Jaclyn Bernas; and freshmen: Becca Silbar, Dina Paykina. (photo courtesy of VHHS Poms)