



Paw Prints



*News and Information from
Community High School District 128*

Spring 2011





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
847-932-2000

www.d128.org

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Judy Sugarman, Vice President
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Hannah Mowery and Erik Engstrom (LHS)

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Jon Guillaume, Assistant Principal
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Paw Prints is published quarterly during the school year for District 128 families. Questions and concerns should be addressed to *Paw Prints* Editor Mary Todoric, Director of Communications at 847-247-4513.

Superintendent's Message

Local Control Should be Center of Issue Regarding Forced School Consolidation



Amidst the unprecedented student success at Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools on a variety of academic measures and in the fine arts, athletics and student achievement, including ever-increasing and record setting American College Test (ACT) composite scores, Governor Quinn recently proposed the elimination of 568 school districts (from 868 to 300) through forced school consolidation without local voter approval. Under his proposal and pending legislation, high school and elementary districts, such as District 128 and our feeder districts (Oak Grove D68, Libertyville D70, Rondout 72, and Hawthorn D73) could be forced to consolidate without local voter approval.

The Governor has established an aggressive plan and timeline for school consolidation, and there are currently several bills under consideration in the Illinois House and Senate that could execute his plan to implement school consolidation without local voter approval as early as July 1, 2012. School consolidation may well be necessary in some Illinois communities to ensure financial viability and quality curriculum, instruction, support programs, and co- and extra-curricular opportunities for students. Fortunately, District 128 is alive and well, and 1) receives little state aid relative to our total budget, 2) based on our local tax base, the generosity of our local stakeholders, and effective financial planning and decision making, we are in excellent financial condition, and 3) LHS and VHHS are among the highest achieving academic high schools in the state and nation, and the same can be said of our feeder districts.

As such, the District 128 Board sees the concept of forced consolidation as a state versus local control issue. The D128 Board believes that the decision to consolidate or not to consolidate school districts should rest in your hands and not in the hands of legislators 215 miles away in the capitol. The D128 Board will continue to: 1) disseminate relevant information to educate our stakeholders regarding this important issue, 2) identify key questions that local state representatives, senators, and stakeholders need to consider in assessing and deciding upon consolidation legislation, and 3) facilitate a comprehensive communication effort with our stakeholders to contact Governor Quinn, Senate President Cullerton, House Speaker Madigan and our own state legislators to assure that local voices are heard regarding the issue of school consolidation.

In closing, what can you do? Your voice does make a difference! Already, public pressure forced withdrawal of House Bill (HB) 1886, which would have created county school districts, and has forced substantial amendments to HB 1216, which would have forced school consolidation without local voter approval within 10 weeks. As such, it is critical that you become informed and that you contact your representative and senator to make your feelings known. Failure to do so sends a message to legislators that what they are considering is acceptable to constituents. As such, please visit www.d128.org to learn more about pending school consolidation legislation, to identify your state representative and senator, and to find out how to contact your state legislators. Then, find a few minutes in your busy day to contact your legislators. They will appreciate hearing from you and knowing how you feel about this important issue.

As always, your incredible support and assistance is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Prentiss G. Lea

Mark your Calendar and Plan to Attend "School Finance 101"

Presented annually by District 128, this free, interactive session teaches the basics of how Illinois school districts are funded. Participants will also be provided with details of the District 128 Long Range Financial Plan, and have their questions answered by members of the District 128 Board of Education and Administration.

We're Taking Our Show on the Road!
Attend at a location convenient to you:

Wednesday, May 4, 2011
Libertyville Village Hall
118 W. Cook Ave., Libertyville
7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 1, 2011
Vernon Hills Village Hall
290 Evergreen Dr., Vernon Hills
7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to 847-247-4519 if you plan to attend.

LHS Graduate Creates Facebook Presence for NPR

Story Courtesy of the Mount Allison University Media Relations Department



Geoff Campbell (LHS '08)

Libertyville High School 2008 graduate and third-year Mount Allison University (Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada) honors international relations student **Geoff Campbell** created NPR's Facebook page three years ago. A Boston resident, Campbell grew up listening to NPR and was puzzled by the popular organization's lack of a Facebook presence.

"I thought about what I would miss from the U.S. while I was abroad and one of the first

things that came to mind was NPR. With the explosion of Facebook, I added those things I 'liked' to my online profile, but I couldn't find NPR," he says. "I was really surprised how slow to keep up with technology NPR was at the time and I wanted to show my support for an organization I really admired."

He contacted NPR and offered to help. After receiving little response, he decided to create the page on his own. The page is now co-administrated by Campbell and NPR's Senior Strategist **Andy Carvin**. View NPR's Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/NPR>.

Today, the NPR Facebook page has surpassed 1.5 million fans - doubling in size in the last six months. NPR is spreading the word about its Facebook strategy and success in conferences across the country. In fact, a video from NPR's training session at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for

Communication and Journalism on how its Facebook page came to be, rose to the 4th top rated news and politics video in Canada in its first day - and has remained in the top 100 news and politics videos for the month. View the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwHvlZmr9KI>

Campbell is overwhelmed by the attention it has received. "It's a little crazy when I search for the NPR Facebook page on Google and a video about me shows up on the first page," he says.

He believes a Facebook presence is vital for any organization looking to connect with its fans. "Because NPR has member stations throughout the country, they have a large fan base, but had nowhere to really show its numbers. Facebook allows them to interact and really understand their fans. Case in point, they recently conducted a survey of 40,000 people through their Facebook page."

Campbell's use of social media doesn't stop there. After arriving at Mount Allison in 2008, he was looking for a way to share his university experience, so he created a blog called "Geoff at Mount Allison." "My dad came to Mount Allison and he told me he wished he would have documented his time here better, so when the university was looking for student bloggers, I jumped at the chance," he says. Campbell's blog, which can be viewed at <http://geoffatmountallison.blogspot.com>, consists of blog posts, photos, and videos of his time at Mount Allison, as well as events and news from across campus, and other students' experiences at the university.

As for his efforts with NPR's social media presence, Campbell has been promised an NPR mug. He says he's still waiting for it to arrive.

Keeping Our Curriculum Current: Chinese Language and Chinese Travel Opportunities for Students

by Deborah Larson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Each spring, District 128 educational leaders begin to look at updating our curriculum. We are constantly learning about new programs and better ways in which to help prepare our students for the world of college and careers after high school. The curriculum revision cycle is an 18-month process which begins each spring. Academic departments suggest curriculum revisions, building and district level committees discuss the proposals, summer curriculum work allows for more in-depth exploration of feasibility of implementation, and final proposals are brought to the Board of Education each fall in October. The Board approves these changes and our curriculum guides are updated and shared with students as we begin enrollment for the coming school year each January.

Curriculum proposals vary in type. Sometimes these proposals are as simple as changing a course name to reflect the current educational language. An example of this is our English as a Second Language (ESL) program. We now refer to this as a program for English Language Learners (ELL.) Sometimes we consider changing the level of prerequisite of a course to allow different levels of students the opportunity to take the course. For instance, we may open an elective course to freshmen, so that they will have other opportunities to explore more advanced levels of elective studies in later years.

Sometimes we discuss eliminating courses, which, due to lack of student enrollment, are no longer meeting the needs and interests of Libertyville and Vernon Hills High School students. In addition, we also look at adding new courses to provide our students with the latest innovative programs. When the College Board, the organization that provides the SAT test and AP courses, adds a new AP program we consider it for our students as well. Such is the case with AP Psychology, a new course we began offering in the fall of 2010. Last fall we also added the first course of Project Lead the Way, a national prescribed curriculum for pre-engineering students. In the fall of 2011, we will add the second course in this sequence, Digital Electronics. As we make way for these new programs, we consider replacing other courses with these new additions.



Mandarin Chinese 1

One of the new courses approved in October of 2010 and being offered for the first time in the fall of 2011 is Mandarin Chinese 1. This course will be open to all students in grades 9-12. We have been investigating for three years various ways in which to deliver this new language instruction. We've looked at on-line and traditional methods of delivery and various products to support the instruction. We are currently in the process of interviewing and finding the best teacher to initiate and build this new lan-

guage program. This summer the newly hired teacher will work to develop curriculum standards and learning targets for the course. Textbooks and supplemental materials will be selected and used in the development of the curriculum. A great deal of work goes into researching, approving, designing and implementing a new course.

Why Chinese?

- ◆ Adding Chinese as a language option in addition to our existing excellent European language programs will allow students another opportunity to become globally competent in the future.

- ◆ The influence China has on world markets and economies continues to grow. Our youth will enter a business world in which China will have a leadership position.

- ◆ A noticeable enrollment trend is for students to study more than one language during their high school years. The new Chinese language program will allow students to experience a language very different in the areas of speaking and writing. Chinese is a tonal language and its writing is based on characters, not an alphabet. The study of Chinese, therefore, could expand one's awareness of the great variation of expression within our world's languages.

- ◆ Chinese is becoming one of the most used languages on the Internet.

cont. on p. 5

Chinese Language *cont. from p. 4*

♦Research shows that only half of all American high school students complete one year of another language. We want to offer a language option that might be of greater interest to students who have not chosen a traditional European program.

♦50-60 years ago, it was politically important that our youth study European languages as Europe had a dominant role internationally. Now, China's role globally continues to increase in importance.

One way to enhance language instruction is to provide travel opportunities to students during the summer months

for studying the language for students. This summer, our students will be traveling to many countries. We have a French exchange program in which many students participate. Two years ago, a group of students traveled to China with a group of District 128 faculty. Once again, a small group of students will venture to China and learn more about the Chinese culture and language. The trip will include stops in Shanghai, Xian and Beijing. They will also spend a week with our sister school in Changchun, China. Hopefully, some of these students will also consider enrolling in the new Chinese language course this fall.

HELP BUILD A STRONGER
COMMUNITY.

Donate today!



DISTRICT 128

FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING
Libertyville High School — Vernon Hills High School

847.247.4500 ext. 8030

foundation@d128.org

www.d128foundation.org

Spring 2011 Final Exam Schedule

Friday, May 27
Periods 1, 2, 4

Tuesday, May 31
Periods 3, 5, 6

Wednesday, June 1
Periods 7, 8

District Hosts 3rd Annual Superintendent's Breakfast to Thank Foundation and Donors for Making a Difference in D128

Members of the District 128 Foundation for Learning Board of Trustees, along with District 128 staff and supporters of the Foundation, gathered on March 16 at Vernon Hills High School for the 3rd Annual Superintendent's Breakfast. Hosted by District 128 Superintendent Prentiss Lea, the breakfast program celebrates the Foundation's work during the school year, honors supporters and grant recipients, and highlights the Foundation's work to support the District 128 education program. (photos by M. Todoric)



(Above) Libertyville High School Science Teacher and Innovation Grant Recipient **Sheri Rukes**, was one of the morning's featured speakers. She updated the guests on how she has used her grant money to enrich the teaching of chemistry.



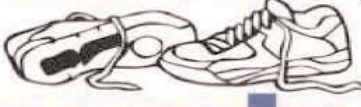
(Above) Breakfast was enjoyed by the Foundation supporters who attended the annual event.



(At Left) The Vernon Hills High School Jazz Strings, under the direction of **Frank Lestina**, performed during the breakfast.

**Libertyville and Vernon Hills
High Schools**

**2011
Lace Up
Learning⁴**



District 128 Foundation for Learning

5K Run/Walk

Monday, May 30, 2011

8:00 a.m.

Old School Forest Preserve

St. Mary's Road, Libertyville

\$30 before race day

\$35 race day

www.signmeup.com/D128laceupforlearning

Sponsored by:

Lake Forest Graduate School of Management

L Doug Productions * Knauz Motors

Harris Bank * Law Offices of Stephen Simonian

Vernon Hills Bank & Trust * State Rep Ed Sullivan, Jr.

Axiom Marketing * Abbott Laboratories

Murphy Ambulance

Richard Moras * Kakenmaster & Assoc. * Costco

Mickey Finns * Rustoleum Corporation

District 128 Students Participate in Snowball '11

by Margaret Pither, VHHS SAP Coordinator and Todd Schneider, LHS SAP Coordinator



Students from LHS and VHHS joined other students from Barrington High School for Operation Snowball, a day-long event held Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011 at YMCA Camp MacLean in Burlington, Wisc. Activities included presentations by motivational speakers, small group interaction, and team-building activities.

The goals of Operation Snowball are to assist in the prevention of substance abuse and high risk behaviors, to share factual information about issues that teens face, to provide a caring environment in which teens can express their feelings and discuss their experiences, and to increase communication between teens and adults.

Motivational speaker and Lake County Community Specialist **Ron Jakubisin** opened the day's activities, focusing on how assuming a leadership position can be a risk, but also how risk taking can be fun. He also shared the building blocks for good decision making and how they can influence others in a positive way. Workshops included a team's course, recovering teens from the Fair program and prevention skits from Imagination Theater. Students met in small groups with their peers to process these events and to learn new ways to enhance positive behaviors. The final event of the day was a chalk presentation which inspired the students to share what they learned with others.

LHS staff members **Kim Johnson, Todd Schneider, Kim Rohde, Abby McKelvy, Jennifer Paul** and **Bob Uliks** served as adult facilitators. Student leaders from LHS included: **Julie Ahlgrim, Colleen Althoff, Julie Kouzoukas, Katie Piazza, Jenny Prochotsky, Steve Stanis** and **Lauren Vogg**.

VHHS staff members **Amy Christian, Pat Chillemi, Karen Day, Doug Dusthimer, Rebeca Garcia, Kedric Greenawalt, Jim Koch, Shona Moeller, Margaret Pither, Ashley Simpson, Laura Tracy** and **Ron Long**. Student leaders from VHHS included: **Zach Berman, Ariana Campos, Rubi Cervantes, Jessica Echales, Karen Lopez, Neha Manchanda, Eli Saleh, Rishi Shah, Sharon Singh, Paayal Surani,** and **Andrew Wood**.

Community Partnership for Healthy Youth

by Margaret Pither, VHHS SAP Coordinator and Todd Schneider, LHS SAP Coordinator

Community Partnership for Healthy Youth (CPHY) continues to collaborate with local businesses in an effort to reduce underage drinking and substance use. On January 13th, Austin's Steak House (and several parent volunteers) partnered with CPHY to host our third student Band Jam of the year. Several student bands from District 128 performed at Austin's Fuel Room throughout the evening and included such local favorites as Penguin Flight School, The Projects, Entangled Giraffes, Norahsil, Final Warning, Lifted Lines, Craig Smith & Ryan Lane, Chains Unbroken and All for Nothing.

On March 6, the Sullivan Community Center in Vernon Hills continued the tradition by hosting another student Band Jam. In mid April, the Libertyville Sports Complex will partner with CPHY for a "no holds barred" dodge ball tournament for District 128 students. In addition to these sponsored events, CPHY student and parent committees continue to be in contact with local businesses to market the prevention message. CPHY window clings are being sold to those interested in partnering with the coalition to foster a safer community.

If you would like further information regarding CPHY and how you can contribute to its mission, please call **Todd Schneider** 847-327-7030 or **Margaret Pither** 847-932-2158



Seven Challenges Program Comes to Libertyville High School

by Todd Schneider, LHS

In January, Libertyville High School partnered with Omni Youth Services in a collaborative effort to provide the "Seven Challenges" program. The Challenge is an evidence-based program designed as a framework for helping youth evaluate their own decisions about their personal alcohol and/or drug use. Its noted success is based upon placing special emphasis on developing a climate of mutual respect where individuals can openly and honestly discuss matters that address their use, its implications upon themselves and others, raise self awareness, discuss the motivation and risks associated with said choices, and to facilitate movement toward sobriety.

In order to prevent conflicts with the academic schedule, this free and confidential program is offered to LHS students immediately following the school day. For more information regarding this new program, contact LHS SAP Coordinator **Todd Schneider** at 847-327-7030 or email todd.schneider@d128.org.

VHHS Choir to Perform at Holocaust Commemoration Program

by Sue Masaracchia-Roberts

Despite the more than 60 years since the Holocaust, the lessons of this event remain relevant today. As a result, during one day each year, called Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom Hashoah, Jews and others around the world honor the memories of those lost at this time.

On Sunday, May 1, Congregation Or Shalom in Vernon Hills will hold a unique Yom Hashoah Holocaust Commemoration Service starting at 7:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be **Cipora Katz**, who survived the war hidden in a potato shed. She will tell her personal story of survival despite the loss of most of her family.

The evening will also feature an original musical cantata, based on poems written by children interned at the Terezin Concentration Camp. Although this camp was "showcased" to the Red Cross as an idyllic place, more than 97,000 died there. Of those who died, 15,000 were children; only 132 camp-interred children reportedly survived.

The music, which reflects these moods, will be performed by the Vernon Hills High School Concert Choir under the direction of **Jeremy Little**, who worked with the music's composer to make this event possible. Little is using this music as a semester-long teaching tool for his students, to add depth to not only this historical event, but to help them understand how music is created and its impact on the lives of those involved.

Or Shalom is located at 21 W. Hawthorn Parkway, in Vernon Hills. For additional information about the program, contact Andi Freier Nussbaum at 847-362-1948.

LHS Choir Performs at St. Peter's Basilica During Spring Break



Eighty-two LHS Choir students, under the direction of **Dr. Jeff Brown**, performed in Italy during Spring Break. One of the performances was at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The students are pictured above following their performance at the Basilica. (photo by G. Kahover)

VHHS Production of "The Curious Savage" a Success



Cast members of the VHHS production of "The Curious Savage" gather for a photo. The February production was performed under the direction of **Kevin Phelan**. (photo courtesy of K. Phelan)

Spring is Art Show Season

Art show season is here! Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy one of the many local art shows featuring artwork by District 128 student artists.

VHHS Art Shows

- LISA Show April 20, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
The Great FrameUp, Vernon Hills
- NSC Art Show April 14, LHS, 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- 4 X 5 Show May 4, 7:00 p.m., Reception,
Fremd High School
- Best of the Best Lisa Show
May 15, Chicago, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.,
Awards at 3
- VHHS Student Art Show
May 17, 6:00 p.m., and May 18,
8:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

LHS Art Shows

- LISA Show April 25, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.,
The Great FrameUp, Vernon Hills
- NSC Art Show April 14, LHS, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- 4 X 5 Show May 4, 7:00 p.m., Reception,
Fremd High School
- LHS Student Art Show
May 19, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., and May 20,
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Silent Auction Thursday evening
- Best of the Best Lisa Show
May 15, Chicago, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.,
Awards at 3:00

Sweeping Changes for the AP Program

by Amy Belstra, LHS College Counselor and Scott Birtman, VHHS College Counselor

In the spring of 2012, we are anticipating sweeping changes to the Advanced Placement Program, according to the not-for-profit College Board which oversees the program. The AP program, which has grown over the past 20 years, now encompasses 30 subjects. Last year, 1.8 million students took 3.2 million exams. District 128 and many surrounding schools have seen similar growth in the numbers of students taking the AP coursework. The College Board is moving toward revamping the entire AP curriculum in the next few years. "Instead of just providing teachers with a list of points needed to be covered for the exams, the College Board will create detailed standards for each subject and create new exams to match," stated Christopher Drew of the New York Times.

The initial subjects to be updated will be AP Biology and United States History. "The rollout of the new AP, as the Board describes it, will actually start this year, with a new curriculum taking effect in two smaller programs, German and French language. Major revisions to physics, chemistry, European history, world history and art history will follow, with the hope of being ready for exams in 2014 or 2015."*

In District 128, 727 students took exams in May of 2010. Those students wrote 1,473 exams of which 87.8% scored a 3, 4 or 5. The chart below shows the pattern of growth the District has seen to date. If you have any questions regarding the Advanced Placement program and how the change will impact District 128, please contact the college counselors, Ms. Belstra at LHS or Mr. Birtman at VHHS.

	# of LHS Students	# of Exams	% Scoring 3 or Better	# of VHHS Students	# of Exams	% Scoring 3 or Better
2010	449	863	88%	278	610	88%
2009	403	777	90%	300	697	90%
2008	415	835	86%	269	623	87%
2007	364	785	85%	297	619	86%
2006	342	738	90%	248	446	81%
2005	310	643	87%	227	445	79%

*Christopher Drew, New York Times (Education Life, "The New AP",1-9-2011).

News from the LHS College Resource Center

by Amy Belstra, LHS College Counselor

March and April are interesting times in the LHS College Resource Center. Seniors are receiving financial aid packages and making their big decision about where to attend college, juniors are planning campus visits over spring break-or maybe asking, "Where do I start?!", and sophomores are wondering why all the upperclassmen seem stressed. The Prairie State ACT is fast approaching, as well as AP exams. So much to plan! It's time to grab your calendar and highlight some important dates. Here are some reminders about what to include.

Upcoming ACT, SAT, and AP Testing Dates

As you prepare to take these tests this spring, we encourage you to think carefully about the best time for you to take them, as they may coincide with other testing like APs, athletic events, or final exams.

Prairie State ACT - Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Your score on this test is accepted by all colleges, including the NCAA Clearinghouse and the military academies. The Prairie State ACT includes the optional writing test.

If you plan to take an additional ACT test, register online at www.actstudent.org.

Additional ACT Test Date

June 11, 2011 (not offered at LHS)

Registration Deadline

May 6, 2011

Some students elect to take both the ACT and SAT, to see if they perform better on one test than the other. Register online for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com. Note: SATs are not offered at LHS.

SAT & SAT Subject Test Dates

May 7, 2011

June 4, 2011

Registration Deadline

April 8, 2011

May 6, 2011

Juniors, remember to take advantage of the four FREE score reports you can send to colleges when you complete your registration for the ACT and/or SAT.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

AP exams will be offered May 2-13 at LHS. Students are encouraged to register by Friday, March 18 online at <http://lhwildcats.org/apregistration>.

Other Important Information for Juniors:

Junior-Parent meetings will be held with your counselor during the month of April to discuss post-secondary planning. Please watch for your assigned appointment time, which will be delivered to you in class. Juniors, you must complete your Junior Conference Worksheet on Naviance before your counselor meeting. You can find it under the "about me" tab on Naviance. If you have forgotten your username and password, we have made it simple for you:

Username: `firstname.lastname` (i.e. `john.smith`)

Password: your LHS ID # (i.e. 123456)

Juniors are welcome to meet with college representatives who visit LHS this spring. The most current list of college visits is on Naviance, or in the CRC.

Individual appointments are available for students and families by calling (847) 327-7161 or (847) 327-7017.

Remember, the CRC has information on more than just colleges. We can talk with students about career options, military information, two-year or vocational schools, and more. We enjoy helping students dream and plan for "Life after LHS." Come see us any time!

From the Principal's Desk . . .

by Dr. Marina Scott

We are encouraged by the words of **Jonathan Lockwood** to "Celebrate endings as they precede new beginnings." Although it will be difficult to say good-bye to our retiring Wildcats this spring, we celebrate their remarkable careers and wish them well as they begin anew. Our thanks and acknowledgement go to **Jim Anderson** (social studies), **Judy Anderson** (educational support services), **Kurt Anderson** (science), **Curt Austin** (physical welfare), **Sharon Crary** (science), **Barbara Groskopf** (international languages), **Jeff McKenzie** (LST), **Wendi Munro** (special services), and **Dan Patterson**, (fine arts). Please join us in wishing them well as they prepare for new experiences and adventures ahead.

As our students schedule classes for 2011-2012, they will find a new course available in our Project Lead The Way pre-engineering curriculum. A course in Digital Electronics will be added to follow the Introduction to Engineering course that was incorporated last year. Also, our incoming freshmen will be participating in a new transitions program that will replace the former Skills for Success and Computer Applications sessions offered during lunch periods. The new program incorporates a hands-on approach to helping freshmen adjust to high school and will be facilitated by junior and senior leaders. It will also afford students the opportunity to get to know their counselors and other members of the LHS community.

Adding excitement to the beginning of our semester, the English department introduced Writers Week to the LHS community this year. Professional authors were joined by LHS faculty and students in presenting their creative writing in this three-day venue. Many students took advantage of the opportunity to learn how writing translates into a variety of career choices. Among the positive feedback received, one student reflected on the experience in the following way:

"Writing is such a solitary activity. It was exciting to have a chance to share my work with peers and teachers. I was inspired to hear the work of others as well." Thanks to **Anne Malecki**, **Craig Schmidt** and **Mary Kate Polzin** for organizing this awesome experience. We anticipate it will become an annual event for Libertyville students.

The coming of spring occurs in tandem with the annual Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE). Wednesday, April 27 and Thursday, April 28th 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, all families will receive a letter outlining a detailed schedule for each day. Please join us in encouraging students to do their best on this test which is used by most colleges as a key factor in admission decisions. Our district has always been proud of our strong scores, and we wish juniors well in their effort to continue this standard of excellence.

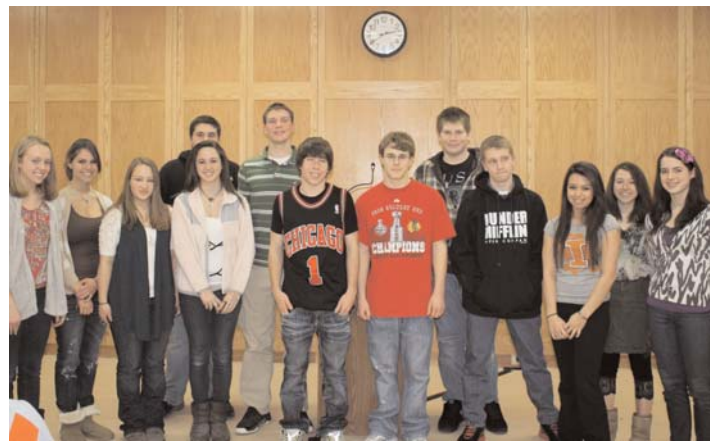
As the year winds down, we recognize our seniors who will soon be moving on. For this reason, April and May are meant to be very special months for seniors (see Important Dates information located on p. 28.) Parents of seniors will also be receiving a special graduation mailing outlining additional details. We want to remind students to remain focused on their academic classes during this busy season. The LHS staff seeks support from parents to encourage our students to finish the year with dignity and pride. By working together as a team, we can make the end of the year a safe and memorable one.

Go CATS Go!

Congratulations to the LHS Students of the Month



LHS January Students of the Month (photo by J. Anderson)



LHS February Students of the Month (photo by J. Anderson)

Student Activities Update

by Jennifer Paul, Student Activities Director

Student Council: Advisors **Julie Delaney, Sara Rogers, Sharon Crary, Jackie Newman, Marge Molitor, Karen Kym, Lauren Rust**



Rawlinson, Mark Rhind and Lee Starovich.

Interact - Advisors **Jennifer Paul, Jessica Noga**

Interact is collecting dresses for the Glass Slipper Project. Please make donations of gently used formal dresses, purses and accessories to be donated to this project. These items will be used for girls who would not be able to afford these items for Prom! Collection will run until March 24.

This month, Sunrise Rotary member and founder of Hands and Hearts International, **Teri Dreher**, made a presentation to Interact about their recent mission trip to Nigeria. This was a wonderful moment to understand the things that are being done globally to help others in need of healthcare.

FCCLA-Advisors **Monica Patterson, Katie Hyla, Loretta Wasielewski, Kristin Tarrant**

Congratulations on the achievements of the following FCCLA participants:

Child Development

Brittany Donovan and **Nikki Krumm**: 1st place and Most Outstanding

Clothing

Goli Parvinian-- 1st place

Alex Swenson -- 1st place and most outstanding

Carly Strecker -- 2nd place

Valerie Steinhauer -- 1st place

Anna Gottfreid -- 1st place

Foods

Salads:

Diana Davellis -- 1st place

Cookie Decorating:

Brooke Donovan -- 1st place

Julie Ahlgrim -- 2nd place

Morgan Dickson -- 2nd place

Orchesis-Coached by **Eryn Brown, Susie Torrence**

The 2011 Orchesis performance entitled Dancing Through Life March 10 and 11 in the LHS Auditorium featured a piece choreographed by 2011 Orchesis guest choreographer **Penny Saunders** of Chicago's Hubbard Street Dance Company. Additional guest artists for this year included **Tim Heck**, professional dancer and LHS alum.

On Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011, Orchesis visited Rondout School to perform a piece from the Orchesis 2011 program for Rondout students, teach a dance workshop, and promote the LHS Dance program. Students involved in the piece choreographed by sophomore Orchesis member **Cassie Austin** included **Cassie Austin, Brenna Bradley, Robin Borgeson, Aileen Everitt, Kiersten Frumkin, Nicky Graf, Bri Hays, Tori Johnson, Mirielle Nauman, Shefali Parikh, and Maggie Puder**. We are very excited to have the opportunity to share our great Orchesis program with future LHS students.

Senior Class of 2011

Don't miss one last chance to celebrate together with your class. Order your ticket today for the Graduation Party which will be held after the graduation ceremony on Friday, June 3 from 11:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m. at Libertyville High School. The ticket order forms can be found on the LHS website (link into 2011 graduation party or Parent Cats) or pick them up at your LST. Tickets are \$45 before March 25th. Please make checks payable to "LHS Senior Party" with the student's name in the memo line. Please send your ticket order form, celebration waiver and expectations form along with your check to: **Lisa Schlesinger**, 1870 S. Matthew Ct., Libertyville, IL 60048.

The success of this event for our seniors 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 Class of 2011, so please consider helping in any way you can.

Prizes and Donations Committee:

Karey Wittenborn (kwittenborn@d70schools.org)

Temple Daly (temple Daly@gmail.com)

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 of the area you would like to help. It's never too late to volunteer!

Any additional questions, please contact Operation Chairs,

Marcy Cole (bcoles6@comcast.net) or **Paulette Young** (youngp-kkn@sbcglobal.net).

If you already sent in your payment and forms, you are all set.

cont. on p. 15

Student Activities *continued from p. 14*

Success Continues for the LHS Debate Team Advisors: Craig Schmidt and Amy Wiggins



At the Buffalo Grove High School debate tournament on Saturday, Dec. 4, the LHS debate team competed against students from 12 Illinois schools. Participants included **Hiba Ahmed, Jojo Amdur, Sam Goldberg, Rahul Kanianchalil, Gokul Krishnan, Andy Lee, Justin Lenz, Tim Li, Kevin Lu, Joey Nedland, Richard Pan, Nishad Phadke, Victor Scarpone, Alex Wang, Daniel Xu, David Zhao,** and **Stevie Zheng**. Congratulations to the following debaters on their outstanding performance: **Rahul Kanianchalil and Nishad Phadke** -- 2nd place, Public Forum JV division; **Jojo Amdur and Stevie Zheng** -- 3rd place, Public Forum Novice division; **Alex Wang** -- 4th place, Lincoln-Douglas JV division.

The following students also won speaker awards: **Nishad Phadke** - 1st place speaker award, JV Public Forum; **Richard Pan** - 3rd place speaker award, JV Lincoln-Douglas; **Rahul Kanianchalil** - 4th place speaker award, JV Public Forum; **Justin Lenz** - 4th place speaker award, JV Lincoln-Douglas

At the Carl Sandburg High School debate tournament on Saturday, Jan. 29, the LHS debate team competed against students from 16 Illinois schools. Participants included **Hiba Ahmed, Jojo Amdur, Osman Jamil, Rahul Kanianchalil, Gokul Krishnan, Matt Lemay, Justin Lenz, Tim Li, Kevin Lu, Joey Nedland, Hannah Oswald, Richard Pan, Nishad Phadke, Aasimah Tanveer, Alex Wang, Daniel Xu, David Zhao,** and **Stevie Zheng**. Congratulations to the following debaters on their outstanding performance: **Richard Pan** -- 1st place, Lincoln-Douglas JV division; **Tim Li** -- 1st place, Lincoln-Douglas Novice division; **Aasimah Tanveer and Kevin Lu** -- 1st place, Public Forum Novice division; **Rahul Kanianchalil and Nishad Phadke** -- 2nd place, Public Forum JV division; **Jojo Amdur and Stevie Zheng** -- 2nd place, Public Forum Novice division; **Joey Nedland and David Zhao** -- 3rd place, Public Forum Novice division.

The following students also won speaker awards: **Richard Pan** - 1st place speaker award, JV Lincoln-Douglas; **Nishad Phadke** - 4th place speaker award, JV Public Forum; **Jojo Amdur** - 2nd

place speaker award, Novice Public Forum; **Joey Nedland** - 3rd place speaker award, Novice Public Forum; **Aasimah Tanveer** - 4th place speaker award, Novice Public Forum; **Stevie Zheng** - 5th place speaker award, Novice Public Forum.

The LHS debate team was successful at the IHSA Varsity State Debate Tournament held in late March, as the following debaters broke into the final rounds of competition and placed at state: **Gokul Krishnan** -- octafinalist, Lincoln-Douglas division; **Hannah Oswald and Osman Jamil** -- octafinalists, Public Forum division; **Rahul Kanianchalil and Nishad Phadke** -- octafinalists, Public Forum division.

Thank you for all your support this year! We are very proud of our team's accomplishments throughout the 2010-2011 season.

Future Business Leaders of America-Coached by **Kristin Connolly** and **Loretta Wasielewski**

On Saturday, Jan. 22, twenty-three LHS FBLA members competed at the FBLA Northern Area Competition. The following students placed in their respective events:

Sandeep Balasubramanian & Tanmay Adya - 1st place, Global Business
Daniel Xu - 1st place, Computer Problem Solving
Kathleen Morris & Alice Zhu - 2nd place, Business Financial Plan
Sarah Fahey - 2nd place, Public Speaking II
Caitlin Fahey - 3rd place, Client Service
Jay Russo, Naveen Rajadhyaksha, Adam Ahmad - 4th place, Business Plan
Roserry Yu, Samantha Chow - 5th place, Digital Design & Promotion
Puja Mehra, Morgan Bertler - 5th place, Business Ethics
Megan Michelsen - 6th place, Word Processing I
Thomas Gutheil - 6th place, Impromptu Speaking
Darinka Sutic, Adam Witucki - 7th place, Entrepreneurship
Malcolm Benion - 7th place, Client Service

Worldwide Youth and Science Engineering - Advisor **Pete Dawson**

Congratulations to the WYSE team for its performance at the JETS TEAMS competition in Milwaukee. The sophomore team finished 1st in its division and the varsity team finished 2nd and 4th in its division, based on part one scores. These strong scores have put all three teams in excellent shape to achieve high rankings in the state and national level competitions when the final scores are posted in April.

Physics Team- Advisor **Mike Bush**

Six LHS students qualified as semifinalists for the U.S. Physics Team. 384 students were selected nationwide from over 4,000 students. Each year, our AP Physics C students take the qualifying exams for the United States Physics Team. At the end of January, the students take a preliminary exam consisting of 25 challenging multiple-choice questions. Typically, over 4,000 students take the exam nationwide (the actual number for this year has not been released yet).

Based on the results of this preliminary exam, 384 students nationwide were selected as semifinalists. *cont. on p. 16*

Student Activities *continued from p. 15*

Six LHS students were selected as semifinalists: **Teddy Amdur, Thomas August, Scott Cooper, Kenny Nash, Mark Rhind** and **May Yang**. These students rank in approximately the top 10% of students taking the exam nationwide. LHS also had the most semifinalists of any school in Illinois.

In early March, these students will take two 90-minute open response exams as part of the semifinal round. These exams, in conjunction with scores on the previous exams, will be used to determine the members of the U.S. Physics Team. Twenty students will be selected from across the country for the team. The twenty students will attend a one-week training camp in May. Five students will be selected from the twenty to compete at the International Physics Olympiad in Bangkok, Thailand from July 10-18.

More information is available at: <http://www.aapt.org/physicsteam/2011/>

Mathematics Team - Coached by **Rick Brenner, Jen Speciale and Tami Flett**

The Mathematics Team is Regional Champion! The LHS Math Team qualified for the State meet which will be held at University of Illinois in Champaign on April 30, 2011, by winning the ICTM Regional competition at Northern Illinois University on Feb. 26.

First place team honors were achieved by the following teams: Algebra I team: **Tim Li, Joey Nedland, Erin Neil, Nicholas Serrecchia, Heather Legan, Stevie Zheng** Geometry Team (**Rahul Kanianchalil, Kevin Lu, Noah Marcus, Richard Pan, Nishad Phadke, Alex Wang**; Algebra II team: **Jovana Andrejevic, Nina Andrejevic, Eric Klein, Danny Goldman, Gokul Krishnan, Tim Pawlicki**; and Freshman Sophomore Team: **Erin Neil, Heather Legan, Joey Nedland, Colleen Pawlicki, Daniel Hartung, Rahul Kanianchalil, Claire Sheong** (captain), **Richard Pan**. The Pre-Calculus team, the Calculator team, and the Junior Senior team each took second place.

Individual first place awards went to **Erin Neil** and **Alex Wang** in the freshman/sophomore two person competition. **Tim Li** and **Joey Nedland** tied for first place in Algebra I, and **Nishad Phadke** took first place in Geometry. May Yang placed second in Pre Calculus. Oralist **Sandeep Balasubramanian** and assistant **Kevin Li** placed second in the Oral competition with their presentation on Planning and Scheduling.

At the most recent North Suburban Mathematics League (NSML) meet, perfect scores were earned by **Tim Li, Joey Nedland, Erin Neil, Nick Serrecchia, Brenda Zanze**, and **Richard Pan**.

The math team has also participated in five Illinois Mathematics League (IML) competitions this year and currently holds first place in Lake County, as well a sixth place standing in the state.

Cats Against Cancer - Advisors **Cam Traut** and **Nancy Stetter** In February, Cats Against Cancer sponsored a hair dresser who offered hair extensions during lunch periods. They raised \$250 donated to the American Cancer Society from hair extension

sales. In anticipation of spring break travels, they are planning to host skin cancer awareness activities in March.

On Feb. 14, the first and third period classes of Consumer Education were treated to a guest speaker. The speaker, **Michael Simone**, is a Financial Planner with Merrill Lynch's Wealth Management group. Mr. Simone is a guest of **Keaton Durham**, Student Teacher for **Janet Kovarik** (LHS/VHHS Business Education). The students were about to start picking stocks for their mock portfolio so the information the speaker provided was especially timely. The speaker covered the following topics in his speech:

- the definition of a stock and why stock is issued and purchased
- key numbers to consider when purchasing a stock
- reasons for owning stock (to receive dividends or hold the stock as it appreciates in value)
- key stock market terms (Dow Jones and S&P 500)
- the importance of owning a diversified portfolio

The discussion was very interactive in nature and students were able to watch trades in real-time as the speaker had the market activity showing on the SmartBoard. Overall, the students were able to greatly increase their understanding of how the stock market operates. They have picked their stocks and already started to notice increases in their portfolio. Move over Gordon Gekko!

LHS Resource Officer Honored



LHS School Resource Officer Bob Uliks, pictured above, received the Friends of SAP Award at February's Illinois Association of Student Assistant Professionals state conference in Springfield. The award is given annually to an individual who demonstrates exceptional leadership, commitment and dedication in the field of student assistance.

LHS Class of 2011 Checklist of Important Dates

Monday, April 25

All graduation forms (Ticket Request Card, Behavioral Expectation Contract, Staff Recognition Form and Grad Images Card) must be turned in to the Main Office, Room 1101.

Additional information included in this packet does not have to be turned in to the main office, but is included for your information: Senior Timeline, Sears Centre Arena information, Grad Party information and how to reserve your DVD of the graduation ceremony.

Sunday, May 1

National Candidate Reply Date:

You must commit to your college choice by this date. You must also inform any additional colleges who offered you admission that you will not be attending.

Wednesday, May 18 and Thursday, May 19

Cap and Gown Distribution

Caps and gowns will be distributed in the front foyer during the lunch periods to all seniors who have cleared their financial obligations. If you have not ordered your cap and gown call 815.756.4743.

Saturday, May 21

Prom - Marriott Lincolnshire

5:00 p.m. Pre-Prom Reception and Pictures, LHS Main Gym

6:30 p.m. Buses depart for Marriott Lincolnshire

Monday, May 23

Honors Night - 6:30 p.m., Auditorium

Final Exams

Friday, May 27 Periods 1, 2, 4

Tuesday, May 31 Periods 3, 5, 6

Wednesday, June 1 Periods 7, 8

Thursday, June 2

Required Graduation Practice

All financial obligations must be paid in order to receive graduation tickets. Practice will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. in the main gym. A light breakfast will be available from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Practice is MANDATORY. All seniors must be present. Seniors may pick up graduation tickets and senior party tickets after rehearsal.

Friday, June 3

Graduation Ceremony

7:00 p.m. Sears Centre Arena

Seniors must arrive by 5:45 p.m. and report to the Sears Centre loading dock at the north end of the building at Door #3. (Traffic will be heavy/Allow for extra travel time.)

Complete information has been mailed to seniors and can also be found on the LHS website.

Friday, June 3

Senior Graduation Party

LHS from 11:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m. Order tickets by May 20. Tickets will be distributed at Graduation Practice on June 2.

Additional details are on the LHS website.

News from the Hills Principal's Report

by Dr. Ellen Cwick

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

Congratulations to Coach **Brittany Redig** and the Vernon Hills High School Dance Team for bringing home TWO first place state titles this year in the Open Poms and Open Dance categories. This marks four straight years of state championships for this very talented, dedicated and successful dance team. We are so proud of Head Coach Redig, captains **Ariana Moraton**, **Courtney O'Roark**, **Kathryn Redig** and the entire VHHS dance team.



The Boys' Bowling team also brought home an IHSA state trophy with a second place state finish. We are very proud of Head Coach **Ron Long**, Assistant Coach **Bill Spigner**, and our entire boys' bowling team for this tremendous accomplishment!



A special congratulations is extended to **Alexander Guletsky** on his selection to the *Daily Herald* Leadership Team which recognizes high school students who excel in volunteerism and community service. **Nitya Bhagavatula** was an honorable mention selection to the Leadership Team. VHHS is also proud of newly named National Merit Finalists **Molly Gilhart**, **Daniel Kocoj**, **David Kim**, **Kenneth Shaevel**, and **Meghan Wilgus**.



I would like to update everyone on the latest news regarding our Uganda First Class 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. Our elementary school building has been completed and in February 2010 our school opened with around 45 COVE sponsored first and second graders. Since 2008, the COVE property has grown from a two building medical clinic, to in year 2011, a two building medical clinic, primary 1, 2 elementary building (donated by VHHS), primary 3, 4 building, boys' and girls' dormitories, staff quarters, and a kitchen. VHHS is partnering with COVE for the next two years to fundraise to construct a vocational high school on the property. This July, we are very excited as a group of VHHS staff and students are joining another U.S. delegation to travel to our elementary school in Kapeeka, Uganda. Staff members **Ellen Cwick**, **Ross Caton**, **Rachael Blanton**, student **Kate Lee**, and former student **Steven Sprieser**, will be volunteer teaching in our elementary school and visiting schools and families in the surrounding Kapeeka area.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all juniors to do their best on our state ACT/PSAE testing, April 27 and 28. We have always been proud of our strong scores and we wish the juniors well in their effort to continue this standard of excellence.

Student Activities Update

by Deb Beagle, VHHS Student Activities Director

Academic Bowl

The Academic Bowl team finished the regular season with a record of 14-8. **David Kim** and **Moya Chen** earned all-sectional honors in our very competitive sectional. We recently competed in the 64-team Fremd Tournament and finished in the Sweet 16. **Moya Chen** earned all-star accolades at Fremd by answering 22 toss-up questions in the five morning matches.

As our season winds down, we have the North Suburban Conference tournament followed by Regional competition. We also look forward to the annual Faculty vs. Student Challenge. (Coaches: **Shawn Healey, Megan Geltner**)

A.C.E. (Athletes Committed to Excellence)



On Sunday, Dec. 19, members of Athletes Committed to Excellence (A.C.E.) donated their time to the children of VHHS staff members during "A.C.E. Kids Sports Day." During this fun afternoon, members of the club played with the kids in the field house. Activities included scooter races, basketball, hula hoops, and a whole lot of dodgeball (or...little kids throwing dodgeballs at the high school kids and laughing until their stomachs hurt.) Not only was this a fantastic time for all involved, but it was an opportunity to gather new and gently used sports equipment for children in need. All sporting items donated by VHHS staff members were then donated to The Sports Shed. The Sports Shed is a non-profit organization located in Vernon Hills that donates new and gently used sports equipment to children in need in the surrounding area. Congratulations to the members of A.C.E. for putting together a wonderful day that, in the end, helps children in need enjoy the sports that A.C.E. members are fortunate enough to participate in every day. (Advisor: **Rachael Blanton**)

Best Buddies

The Best Buddies held their annual Best Buddies Prom, at VHHS on March 12, from 6-9 p.m. Best Buddies chapters from all of Lake County attended this event. This year's theme was "Out Of This World." D.J. Mark, from Music by Mark did an excellent job providing the entertainment. We had a record number of students in attendance. It truly was

nothing short of an amazing night! (Advisor: **Karen Martin**)

Bibliophiles - Book Club

After a successful Adopt-A-Family book drive, the Bibliophiles Book Club is looking forward to its spring semester activities. The club is currently producing a book-mark with the members' top book suggestions. A "Read" campaign is underway, complete with "Read" posters featuring the library's new Nooks, available for checkout. This spring will bring with it some community service opportunities, including reading to students at CDW@Play and helping out at Bernie's Book Bank.

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

Cougar Cycling Club



The Cougar Cycling Club had a happy holiday season this year, helping fix up bicycles donated by the very caring families of VHHS. A couple daring individuals have had a fun time Friday mornings during our Bicycle Club Triathlons. Congratulations to **Nic McAdams** on a top finish! If you are interested in future rides, check out our district Cougar Cycling Webpage. (Advisor: **Adam Lueken**)

Cougar TV

Cougar TV provides a wide array of learning experiences for students to use in a real life environment. In addition to taping school activities, students are also able to enter in contests such as the Lake County Fire Safety Video Contest and the CTEC, Chicagoland Television Educators Council competitions. **Kurt Wickboldt** took 2nd place. **Lindsey Yacullo** and **Lauren Hernandez** took 3rd place, while **Ellie and Zach Silver** were runners-up in the Fire Safety Video competition.

This year, for the first time, Cougar TV has produced a lip-dub, where many of the seniors gathered and performed for the video. Cougar TV was also invited to assist during the taping of "The Huddle," a program on SportsNet, during football season. Our students operated a camera, pulled cable and set up microphones alongside professional videographers, journalists and athletes. (Advisor: **Sandy Martin**)

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VHHS Student Activities

continued from page 19

DECA

VHHS students won awards at the North Suburban DECA Area competition held Feb. 1, 2011 at the Rosemont Convention Center after competing against 950 students from various schools. The following students placed in their respective categories: **Darek Macanowicz** - 1st place, Automotive Services, **Neviya Chacko and Marjorie Kirilenko** - 2nd place, Buying and Merchandising Team, **Gabe Cotton**, 3rd place, Principles of Business Management and Administration, **Lauren Groody** - 3rd place, Restaurant Management, **Jared Moor** - 5th place, Marketing Communications, **Ritesh Mishra and Rohan Varshney** - 5th place, Financial Analysis Team, **Christina Kroes** - 5th place, Economics/Restaurant Management, **Kacy Galisdorfer and Casey Petterson** - 2nd place, Human Relations/Marketing Communications Team, and **Patrick Szczupak** - 3rd place, Economics/Marketing Communications.

"Without the DECA experience I would not be who I am today," said **Christina Kroes**, four year member of VHHS DECA.

DECA members representing VHHS at the Illinois DECA State Career Development Conference held in Decatur in March are: **Erin Bolanowski, Lisa Breitenfeld, Neviya Chacko, Gabe Cotton, Jessica Echales, Marco Filimon, Kacy Galisdorfer, Lauren Groody, Elvin John, Marjorie Kirilenko, Christina Kroes, Matt Langer, Darek Macanowicz, Ritesh Mishra, Jared Moor, Casey Petterson, Nia Powell, Michael Sprieser, Patrick Szczupak, and Rohan Varshney.**

(Advisors: **Sheryl Olson, Madeline Powell**)

FCCLA



Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a nationally recognized organization for students in Family and Consumer Science classes. On Feb. 11, VHHS competed at the College of Lake County in the FCCLA sectional competition among over 400 students from surrounding high schools. Competing for the Culinary Arts in Cookie Decorating: **Lindsey Block and Amy Dolan** took 1st place. **Lisa Davis** received 2nd place in cookie decorating. In

the Catering competition, **Peter Lopez** placed 1st place. They will advance to compete at the state level from April 7-9 in Springfield. (Advisors: **Kelley Whitescarver, Jeanne Wolff**)

FBLA

This year FBLA has been growing at a rapid rate and achieving much success. A record 58 members competed in the Northern Area Competition in January against 600 other students at Warren High School. The results were fantastic and impressive with 47 students placing in the top 10 for their

event. We had 13 students take first place and eight finish second place. Good luck to the 46 students who will compete at the state competition March 25 - 26 in Decatur. (Advisors: **Sean Crevier, Amanda Carroll**)

Interact Club

Interact is kicking off the new semester with a new sense of direction. The volunteer/community service club has turned its focus to two big service projects: a joint effort book drive with Senior Class Student Council and a Senior citizens' prom, at The Park in Vernon Hills on May 18.

For the book drive, books will be donated in school to Interact and Senior Class Student Council members, who will then give the books to Children's Memorial Hospital and Bernie's Book Bank in Libertyville. Some books will be donated to the hospital and resold at the White Elephant Resale Shop. Money from the resale of the books will be used to reduce the cost of essential medical procedures for children, such as CAT scans and MRIs to make it affordable for those who need them but are unable to pay for them. Interact will be working closely with Senior Class Student Council on this endeavor and hopes to be able to donate many books to help as many people as possible.

Senior Citizens' Prom at The Park, in Vernon Hills, is an event in which senior citizens will be able to relive wonderful high school experiences while making new ones through a Prom dance just for them. Interact will handle themes and decorations for the party, as well as encourage peers and adults to come join them at the event. A fun night is guaranteed, so let people know to watch for Interact announcements. (Article submitted by **James Baek**)

(Advisors: **Sean Kelly, Nancy Skeffington and Kelley Whitescarver**)

Robotics



The VHHS Robotics team (pictured above) has competed in several competitions with great success this year. **Eric Lang** and **Tyler Peterson** won first place in structural integrity and robotic payload contests during October and December. In

cont. on p. 21

VHHS Student Activities *continued from page 20*

November **Grace Lee, Jessica Bao** and **Harsh Patel** won 1st place in an incline climbing contest. In December **Aaron Melcer, John Nam** and **Matt Gwin** took first place in a robotic sumo tournament. In February the robot of **Sanchita Agrawal, Sasi Pandravada** and **Beth Reinert** took 1st place in the "Robo-Buckets" competition. All competitions were held at Abbott Laboratories. (Coach: **Jay Walgren**)

Spotlight

Spotlight walked the red carpet and shined on the dance floor at the last school-wide assembly on Jan. 28. The team of **Pamela Avilez, Citlali Flores, Monica Gonzalez, Manuela Licona,** and **Wendy Licona** danced to a mix of Lady Gaga songs. The dance was created by members of Spotlight with the help of team volunteer **Beisa Velasco** (VHHS '09.) The assembly also included a runway show of the latest fashions produced by the students in Jeanne Wolff's Clothing and Construction classes. Student designers' vision, fabric and pattern came together to produce a variety of fashions, including a segment featuring garments made of recycled t-shirts and jeans. Several student designers took recycling one step further by creating eye-catching garments made entirely of duct tape, magazines or gaming manuals. (Advisors: **Rebeca Garcia, Sarah Stoub**)

SPARK

SPARK (Supporting Peers and Reaching Kids) - On Feb. 14, Spark sponsored a Valentine Cookie fundraiser during all lunch periods in the foyer. Money will go toward prevention activities. Spark continues to make and distribute comfort blankets for families in the military and families who have a member suffering from cancer. (Advisors: **Margaret Pither, Laura Tracy**)

Student Council - Senior Class

On Jan. 27, the Senior Class Student Council sponsored a blood drive through Life Source. We raised our goal this year and were able to accomplish that goal with the help of many people throughout the school. Life Source came into the PE classes and educated students prior to donating. Students also spread the word through Facebook. Because of these efforts, a total of 138 people participated and we were able to successfully collect 123 units. This is over a 90% increase from previous drives. Since each unit can treat up to three people, approximately, 360 lives will be saved! (Advisors: **Amy O'Neill, Rebecca Austin**)



Student Council - Junior Class

Junior Class Board, with the help from students on Student Council, planned a successful Turnabout Dance this past February. The theme this year was "Think Pink," and proceeds went to Breast Cancer Awareness. The dance had a new DJ, BOOM Entertainment, and an appearance by B96's DJ Spin. Dance goers were excited about the new stage and spotlights. 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, this dance would not have been such a success! *cont. on p. 22*

Cougar Class Act Award Winners



VHHS Student Activities *continued from page 21*

Congratulations to the Turnabout Court members who were selected by the student body: Freshmen: **Tyler Jacobson, Neil Patel**; Sophomores: **Sam Maloof, Steven Tinetti**; Juniors: **MJ Crowley, John Nam**; and Seniors: **Chris Argianas, Elvis Campos, Alexander Guletsky, Evin Kim, Garrett Kubacki, Ryan Lane, Joseph Morehead, Logan Nelson, Matthew Veksler and Daniel Faia.**

(Advisor: **Jamie Meyer**)

Student Council - Sophomore Class

Sophomore Student Council recently initiated a new service project called Change for a Change. During Spirit Week, Student Council members collected pocket change from students and staff during lunch periods. At the end of the competition, the junior class earned the most points out of the students, and the staff earned the most points overall. Despite losing two days of fundraising due to the snow days, Sophomore Student Council was still able to raise over \$150 of pocket change for Breast Cancer Research as part of the Think Pink initiative. (Advisor: **Amy Christian**)

VH20



VH20 has had yet another exciting year: cleaning up the Des Plaines River, making and selling all natural chap stick, and working to make

VHHS a more recycle friendly place. In mid-October, VH20 went to the Des Plaines River to cut down the invading buckthorn and preserve the indigenous plant species. Currently, we are preparing for another green project, Rock the Courtyard. Rock the Courtyard celebrates Earth Day, with student bands performing in the show to raise money for our club and our other environmental projects. Join us April 20 in the VHHS courtyard for music, fun, and food! (Advisors: **Karen Day, Ellen Macias, Sarah Stoub**)

VIP

VIP (Voices in Prevention) - VIP students performed prevention skits on bullying on Jan. 24, for 5th grade students at Elementary North, and will perform for 5th grade students at Elementary South on March 16. After the skits, VIP students also facilitated small group discussions with the 5th graders to strategize on how to choose healthier behaviors and to decrease bullying.

(Advisors: **Margaret Pither, Rebecca Austin**)

WYSE

On Feb. 5, the Cougars WYSE (Worldwide Youth in Science

and Engineering) team competed in the Regional testing held at the College of Lake County. The team captured first place with an amazing score of 500/500 overall. In addition to the excellent team score there were many individual medals won: **William Padovano** -- 1st in Biology; **Mark Juhn** -- 2nd in Biology; **Ben Dungca** and **Mike Glover** -- tied for 3rd in Biology; **Andrew Tung** -- 1st in Chemistry; **Mark Juhn** -- 2nd in Chemistry; **David Kim** -- 2nd in Computer Science; **Brynan Qiu** -- 3rd in Computer Science; **Catherine Boulos** -- 1st in Engineering Graphics; **Tyler Peterson** -- 2nd in Engineering Graphics; **Bryan Palmero** -- 3rd in Engineering Graphics; **Kenny Shaevel** -- 1st in English; **Moya Chen, Kenny Shaevel and John Nam** -- 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in Math; **David Kim** -- 1st in Physics; **Moya Chen and Marc Madore** -- tied for 2nd in Physics. The team moves forward to the sectional competition that is being hosted by VHHS and coordinated by WYSE team Coach **Joshua Ravenscraft**. In addition, three AP Physics C students have qualified as semifinalists for the United States Physics Team. **David Kim, Brynan Qiu and Moya Chen** will compete for the 10 spots available on the team. Congratulations!! (Coach: **Joshua Ravenscraft**)

Additional Student Activities News

"Dress a Girl Around the World" project

Dresses sewn for the "Dress a Girl Around the World" project. were showcased in the Turnabout assembly. Many staff members and students, including NHS members and members of the sophomore girls' basketball team have participated in the after school Sew Fests. Together, they have sewn over 60 dresses for students in our sister school in Uganda. The goal is to send 100 dresses with Dr. Cwick when she visits Uganda this summer. Everyone is welcome to help out with this worthwhile project; you do not need to know how to sew to help at an upcoming Sew Fest. (Sponsor: **Jeanne Wolff**)

Operation Teen Safe Driving Aims to Keep Vernon Hills High School Students Safe Behind the Wheel

On Feb. 9, VHHS dedicated the day to raising awareness about the number one killer of teens - traffic crashes. VHHS participates in Operation Teen Safe Driving, a state-wide initiative sponsored by the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Allstate Foundation, and the Ford Motor Company. The sponsors generously provided \$2,000 to help fund activities to raise awareness, reduce injuries, and ultimately to save teen lives.

Vernon Hills Police Officer **Jim Koch** brought the program to VHHS. Officer Koch, VHHS security Officer **Al Frank**, and VHHS students **Krishna Mundada, Jaelyn Bernas, Maryam Abdallah, and Courtney Umphress** were hard at work throughout the week decorating the school for Wednesday's event.

Students navigated hallways decorated like roadways, read stories of teens who had been killed in traffic crashes, and the entire school was decorated with various materials aimed at raising awareness about various teen driving issues, including one of the most dangerous issues - texting while driving.

cont. on p. 23

VHHS Class of 2011 Important Dates to Remember

Tuesday, April 26 & Thursday, April 28

Prom bid sales during lunch periods

Cost: \$70 per bid, \$140 per couple

Online Sales Start Monday, April 11 through 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29

Saturday, May 14

Prom

5:30 p.m. – 5:50 p.m. pictures

Buses depart at 6:00 p.m. from VHHS to Stonegate Banquet Centre, 2401 W. Higgins Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Wednesday, May 25

Cap and Gown distribution

Lunch periods. All fees and obligations must be paid in order to pick up graduation gown/items.

Thursday, May 26

Senior Breakfast

7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m., Cafeteria, seniors will not attend 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 on this day.

Final Exams

Friday, May 27 Periods 1, 2, 4

Tuesday, May 31 Periods 3, 5, 6

Wednesday, June 1 Periods 7, 8

Wednesday, June 1

Graduation Rehearsal

11:25 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., Auditorium after 8th period exam, MANDATORY Practice-All Seniors must be present.

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

Thursday, June 2

Graduation

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

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

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

Friday, June 3

Senior Party

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

VHHS Student Activities *cont. from p. 22*

The event obtained support from various community groups as well. The Village of Vernon Hills spread the word about Operation Teen Safe Driving by displaying information on the village hall marquee and on the village's public access channel. Support also came from Qdoba Mexican Grill in Vernon Hills, which donated coupons for free food to be distributed to students throughout the day. The group also obtained support from Ernie's Wrecker Service in Vernon Hills, which provided a wrecked car for students to see, first-hand, the damage caused by traffic crashes.

Vernon Hills Police Officers **Vince Utter and Becky Foy** also stopped by to lend a hand by speaking with students and passing out t-shirts and 'texting kills' thumb bands to students who pledged not to text and drive and pledged to drive responsibly.

The Operation Teen Safe Driving event was praised by students, staff, and parents.

Athletic Director's Corner

by Briant Kelly, LHS Athletic Director

LHS Cheerleaders Bring Home 2nd Place State Trophy



Congratulations to the LHS Cheerleaders for placing second in state in the IHSA CoEd Division. (photo by J. Anderson)

Wildcats College Signings



Wildcat Profiles: Leah Herchenbach and Luke Miller

Leah Herchenbach completed four successful years of gymnastics at Libertyville High School. Leah has been a pivotal part of the team since her freshman year, making it one of the most successful careers at the high school. Over the last four years, she has received medals numerous times at Invitational Meets, NSC Conference Meets, IHSA Regionals and IHSA Sectionals. Leah was also an IHSA State Qualifier during her sophomore, junior and senior years.

This year, Leah qualified for the IHSA State Meet on the Vault, Floor Exercise and All-Around. During the preliminaries, she qualified as a finalist on the floor exercise and, during the finals, finished in 10th place.

Leah's other accomplishments include participation in the NSC Leadership Conference, LHS Athlete of the Week nomination twice, and Most Valuable Gymnast by her teammates for the last three years.

Head Coach **John Taylor** comments about Leah, "Over the last four years Leah has been one of the most committed athletes to the sport of gymnastics that I have ever had the privilege to coach. However, the most impressive thing I have seen is Leah's growth as a leader in the gym. She took it upon herself to bring her teammates together and to motivate them by example, as she is the first in the gym and the last to leave every day. She is on the equipment the most and strives for excellence each practice. Leah's ability to communicate with her teammates in and out of the gym has caused this group of individual competitors to truly act as a team."

Luke Miller recently completed his third year as a varsity starter on the Libertyville High School Wrestling team by placing 5th in the IHSA State Tournament at 215 pounds, earning him All-State honors. This was Luke's second trip to the State Tournament. He was a three time IHSA Sectional Qualifier, winning the IHSA Regional title in each of his 3 varsity seasons. He was a three time NSC Conference medalist, which helped the team win 3 NSC Lake Division Titles and three North Suburban Conference Tournament Championships. During his years at the varsity level, Luke won 97 matches.

Head Coach **Dale Eggert** commented, "Luke put together a fantastic State Tournament run this year. We felt he was too small for 215 last year, so he tried 189 early in the season. After trying that weight class for awhile, we could see his style was more suited for 215 pounds. Once he settled back into 215, despite giving up over 20 pounds to his opponents, he controlled the tempo of his matches and kept the heat on the entire match."








Luke set up his successful varsity career by being an active off-season wrestler the past 3 years. During the past two summers, he qualified for and competed in the Greco-Roman and Freestyle National Tournament. He earned an All-American honor in each style of wrestling. He was named the wrestling team's "Outstanding Off-Season Wrestler" this past off-season. His off-season experiences gave him the poise to win the close, pressure-packed State Series matches. Coach Eggert adds, "Luke is a young man of few words. He says even less when he gets to work in the wrestling room. His work ethic has allowed him to accomplish a tremendous amount during his four years of high school wrestling despite not wrestling his first match until his freshman season."

Winter NSC Sportsmanship Award Winners



This year, the North Suburban Conference initiated a new sportsmanship program. This program aligns with the requirements of the IHSA "Do What's Right" program.

The NSC schools will be selecting one student-athlete from each sport who represents the true meaning of sportsmanship. The nominees from each sport are selected by the coach and athletic director by utilizing the following criteria:

-  The athlete accepts and understands the seriousness of their responsibility, and the privilege of representing their school and community.
-  The athlete treats opponents the way he/she would like to be treated as a guest or friend.
-  The athlete never directs remarks at opponents in a taunting manner.
-  The athlete wishes opponents good luck before the game and congratulates them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
-  The athlete respects the integrity and judgment of the game officials.
-  The athlete plays unselfishly in such a way as to build up his/her team, without drawing unnecessary attention to himself/herself.
-  The athlete yields to the authority and direction of all floor officials, bench officials, school personnel and coaches.

Libertyville High School is pleased to announce its Winter Sportsmanship Award Winners: Boys' Basketball - **Landon Eyre**, Girls' Basketball - **Valerie Van Roeyen**, Girls' Bowling - **Laura Polakowski**, Cheerleading - **Paige Schlesinger**, Girls' Gymnastics - **Lindsay Schweitzer**, Boys' Swimming and Diving - **Ben Snader**, and Wrestling - **Patrick Regan**.

2010-2011 Winter Sports Accomplishments



Team Accomplishments

Cheerleading: IHSA Sectional Champions, IHSA State - 2nd Place

Girls' Basketball: NSC Lake Division Champions, NSC Conference Champions, IHSA Regional Champions

Wrestling: NSC Lake Division Champions, NSC Conference Champions

Poms: TDI State - 4th Place Open Poms, TDI State - 5th Place Open Dance

Individual Accomplishments

NSC All-Academic Athletes

Boys' Basketball: **Jeremy Birck, Joseph Eichmann, Landon Eyre, Anthony Mack, Keegan McAuliffe, Andrew O'Sullivan**

Girls' Basketball: **Lisa Cooper, Erika Danckers, Erin Jaffke, Eileen Knauff, Nicole Kruckman, Molly Moon, Taylor Primrose, Kerry Risley, Kaca Savatic, Savannah Trees, Valerie Van Roeyen**

Girls' Bowling: **Suzanne Vachula, Samantha Voelker**

Cheerleading: **Craig Breckenridge, Maureen Conley, Rebecca Mueller, Paige Schlesinger, Kelly Sloan, Molly Sweeney**

Girls' Gymnastics: **Sarah Chaitoff, Victoria Metcalf, Grace Ok, Lindsay Schweitzer**

Hockey: **Ian Donnahoo**

Poms: **Rachel Campagna, Brittany Donovan, Kimberly Engle, Ailie Taylor, Katherine Watson**

Boys' Swimming and Diving: **Mitchell Boynton, Trevor Freberg, Patrick Hughes, Teddy Kelley, Matthew King,**

Ian Kinsella, Erik Novak, Nathan Wolf

Wrestling: **Michael Coutre, Charles Meyer, Kevin Tavakoli, Richard Vachula, Nate Yordy**

NSC Honorable Mention Athletes

Boys' Basketball: **Ellis Matthews**

Girls' Basketball: **Valerie Van Roeyen**

NSC All-Conference Athletes

Boys' Basketball: **Ryan Barth**

Girls' Basketball: **Kaca Savatic, Savannah Trees, Olivia Wilcox**

Hockey Metro Central All-Star

Erich Held, Anthony Rossetti

NSC Conference Medal Winners

Girls' Bowling: **Ashley Babetch, Laura Polakowski**

Girls' Gymnastics: **Jenna Dunsing, Leah Herchenbach**

Boys' Swimming and Diving: **Mitch Boynton, Daniel Guerrero, Pat Hughes, Teddy Kelley, Matt King, Atticus Rush, Ben Snader, Alex Snarski**

Wrestling: **David Allen, Nick Andrews, Sayad Banifazl, Pat Fitzgerald, Luke Gaeth, Charlie Meyer, Luke Miller, Austin Pettinato, Kevin Tavakoli, Richard Vachula**

IHSA State Qualifiers

Girls' Gymnastics: **Leah Herchenbach**

Boys' Swimming and Diving: **Mitch Boynton, Trevor Freberg, Danny Guerrero, Teddy Kelley, Ben Snader - (9th Place - 100 yd Breaststroke)**

Wrestling: **Kevin Tavakoli, Lucas Gaeth, Luke Miller (5th Place at 215 lbs)**

From the Cougar Den

by Brian McDonald, Athletic Director

It was a terrific winter season for the Cougars, with some pretty impressive individual and team accomplishments.

The Boys' Basketball team won the Northridge Prep Thanksgiving Tourney to start the season and at the time I am writing this article have a 16-7 record. They finished the conference season as Prairie Division co-champions with a record of 10-2, which is their first division title in school history. We will be hosting state tournament regional games beginning in March.

The Varsity Girls' Basketball finished the season with a 16-12 overall record, and 9-3 in the Prairie Division which was good enough for second place. Sophomore **Meri Bennett-Swanson** was named to the North Suburban Conference All-Conference team and also named a *Daily Herald* Player of the Week. Freshman **Sydney Smith** was also named to the North Suburban Conference All-Conference team and fellow freshman **Lauren Webb** was honorable mention all-conference.

On Jan. 29, the VHHS Boys' Bowling team made school history by finishing in 2nd place at State as a team. This is the 2nd IHSA trophy in the school's possession from the team. The team received 3rd place in the 2005 season. During the season, the team placed 1st at the Morgan Park and Brother Rice tournaments and finished 1st in the Northern Illinois Boys Bowling Conference. The team went on to place 2nd at Sectionals and qualified for the State competition. At State, the team held 1st place after the first day of competition and held a series record of 3302 in the afternoon series. On Saturday, the Cougars finished in 2nd place overall with a very remarkable pin count of 12,387 for 12 games of competition. Team Captain **Nick Garpow** placed 18th overall, **Eric Swanson** 30th overall and **Mason Madej** 39th overall. The other contributing members were: **Jeremy Steininger** (702 series), **Steven Linda** (667 series), **Jimmy Tyrcha**, **David Goldberg**, and **Patrick Quinn**. What a fantastic year and a great team to be part of, coached by **Ron Long** and **Bill Spigner** who are in their 8th year together as coaches.

Our Boys' Swimming and Diving team had a spectacular season. **Alex Zuniga** twisted, flipped, and reversed his way to the State Diving Championships being held at New Trier High School on Saturday Feb. 26. **Kevin Lenz** will be joining Alex as he exploded off the block to capture Silver in the 50 Freestyle and 100 Breaststroke at the IHSA Sectionals. Kevin destroyed five VHHS records this year along with **Adnan Meskic**, **Mark Genchanok**, **Marc Madore** and **David Kocoj** in the medley and 200 free relay.

Our Cheerleading squad had an outstanding season. They placed in the top five at every invitational this season. The Varsity squad finished third in the Prairie Division at the North Suburban Conference Championships and second at IHSA Sectionals qualifying the team for State. At the IHSA State Finals, the team finished 8th overall in the state.

Our Varsity Wrestling team had its best season ever with a

dual team record of 20 - 11. They had some great individual successes such as: NSC All-Conference wrestlers **Connor Bryson**, **Dan Klema** and Conference champion **Jeremy Brazil**. IHSA Regional place winners were **Gideon Yim** (Champion) **Jonathan Ramirez** 3rd, **David Pierce** 3rd, **Dan Klema** 2nd, and **Jeremy Brazil** 3rd. At the IHSA Sectionals, **Gideon Yim** won the Sectional Championship at 125 lbs, **David Peirce** took 3rd at 140 lbs, **Dan Klema** took 3rd at 145 lbs, and **Jeremy Brazil** won the Sectional Championship at 285 lbs. All four qualified for the IHSA Individual State Wrestling Championships at Champaign and **Gideon Yim** finished 2nd at 125 lbs, and **Jeremy Brazil** also finished 2nd at 285 lbs. Both are VHHS's first IHSA All-State wrestlers.

Our Varsity Pom Pon team captured first-place honors for the 4th consecutive year at the Team Dance Illinois State Competition held in March in Peoria. Under the direction of Coach **Brittany Redig**, the girls brought home first-place trophies in both AA Open Pom and AA Open Dance.

Our Girls' Bowling team worked hard all season at practice and meets to improve their games. They bowled their best at sectionals, which is the right time to peak. The girls finished third at the IHSA Sectionals and sent Senior **Randi Stone** to the IHSA State Finals as an individual where she ultimately finished as one of the top 40 bowlers in the state.

Our Girls' Gymnastics team season was capped off with two of our gymnasts competing at the IHSA State Gymnastics Finals. Sophomore **Sarah Lopez** competed in the Vault where she ultimately finished 14th in the state and fellow Sophomore **Alli Tran** finished 6th in the Uneven Bars and 10th in the All Around - putting her on the IHSA All State Gymnastics Team.

This winter, VHHS student athletes **Brian Berzanski**, **DaVaris Daniels**, **Kelley Gallagher** and **Evan Spencer** signed national letters of intent to continue their athletic careers in college. Each is pictured on the next page with his/her families and coaches at his/her signing. I had a chance to sit down with each of them to talk about their recruiting process, life as a high school student athlete, their favorite memories of high school sports and their future plans:

What was the most difficult part of the recruiting process?

Kelley Gallagher - Keeping in touch with all the coaches and figuring out which coaches/schools were most interested in me as a runner.

Brian Berzanski - Trying to figure out if schools that were interested in me for football also had the academic offerings I was looking for.

Evan Spencer - It was all difficult. Balancing the recruiting vs. my senior year performance and keeping in touch with the phone calls and e-mails from coaches.

DaVaris Daniels - Managing my time with the recruiting while focusing on school. Talking to coaches, media and trying to figure out where the best place for me was going to be.

cont. on p. 29

Cougar Student Athletes Sign National Letters of Intent



What was the most fun part of the recruiting process?

KG - Going to visit all the schools. I visited Western Michigan, Southern Illinois University, Illinois State University, University of Wyoming, Indiana State and Northern Illinois University.

BB - Getting all the letters from the schools and being able to make my sister jealous. Getting letters from some of the bigger schools was pretty cool.

ES - Visiting the schools was fun. I visited Ohio State, Wisconsin, Iowa and Notre Dame. My parents (both OSU alums) were very open minded about looking at other schools - except Michigan.

DD - Seeing my name connected to college football teams I had seen on TV and going on the college visits. I visited Notre Dame, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois.

What advice would you give to younger student athletes about balancing academic and athletic responsibilities?

KG - School is number one. It will get you farther. Keep talking with your teachers.

BB - Take advantage of the study halls and unscheduled time you have. You need to be very organized and prioritize the things you need to get done.

ES - School is first. A .5 GPA will get you nowhere. Love what you do and be willing to do more. It goes fast so enjoy it while it lasts.

DD - Start working hard early - do well from the start. School is most important and you have to focus on academics.

When you look back on your high school athletic career, what will be your fondest memory?

KG - Placing 9th at the IHSA State meet in the 1600 meter run.

BB - Pitching a 2 hitter with 10 strikeouts in freshman baseball, hitting a full court shot at the buzzer in a *cont. on p. 30*

VHHS Athletics *cont. from p. 29*

sophomore basketball scrimmage and the basketball game where DaVaris Daniels hit the game winner as time expired to beat Grayslake Central.

ES - The Antioch football game this year was crazy. Looking into the stands and seeing all the people going crazy.

DD - The football games were the best. Running out on the field with all my teammates and freshman year, when I was nobody and people were cheering my name - that was cool.

What do you plan to study in college?

KG - I plan to study elementary education at Southern Illinois University and become a teacher.

BB - I plan to study entrepreneurship at the University of Central Missouri.

ES - I am undecided right now. I am going to The Ohio State University, and I will check out all the options and narrow it down from there.

DD - I plan to major in marketing at the University of Notre Dame.

In five to seven years - what do you figure you will be doing?

KG - I plan to be physically active and still running. I want to run the Chicago Marathon someday and figure to have a teaching job somewhere - maybe out west, as I loved Wyoming.

BB - Hopefully playing football still but if that does not work out I hope to start a real estate business or open my own restaurant - Big B's BBQ.

ES - I'd love to be playing in the NFL, but if that does not work out, I'd love to be a college football coach - maybe at OSU.

DD - Hopefully I am still playing football. I'd like to be involved in sports and maybe get into coaching or becoming a player's agent.

Alumni News

In alumni news, 2009 graduate **Riaz Hoveydai** is coming off the bench as a guard for the Lake Forest Foresters this season. His team is 10-7 in the Midwest Conference and has a good chance to make the conference finals with a shot at making the National Tournament. While playing hoops, Riaz is also studying Psychology.

Project Turf Update



A brief update about Project Turf. We continue to receive donations from terrific individuals and lots of community based businesses like **Ernie's Convenience Store and Car Wash**. Pictured above is **Kristi Kelly** - the owner of Ernie's Convenience Store and Car Wash making a \$5,000 donation to Project Turf. The four students pictured will be some of the first kids to play on the field if we raise the necessary funds by December of 2011.

The Cougar Athletic Boosters have begun a new effort to raise funds for "Project Turf" and our many athletic programs called: "Cougar Mulch." They are conducting the 1st Annual Cougar-Mulch Drive in partnership with The Home Depot. You can go to the Cougar Mulch webpage - www.vhh-scougars.org/cougar-mulch to select your mulch and pay by credit card, and, for an extra fee, to have it delivered to your home on Saturday, April 30 by a Cougar Student Athlete. You can also choose to pick it up directly at The Home Depot between April 30 and May 8. We look forward to this project as it connects all the members of our community to our high school athletes to raise some money to support all the Athletic Programs at VHHS. We hope you'll participate!

At the time I am writing this article, our spring sports are all underway. Before you know it, we will be having our Spring Sports Awards Night (Tuesday, May 24) and for those of you sticking around for the 2011-12 school year, we hope you will get ready to have a monster season next year by getting involved in our summer sport camps. See the school website to sign up for camps.

CAB Hosts Successful 11th Annual Winter Fundraising Event

On Saturday March 12, the Vernon Hills High School Cougar Athletic Boosters held its 11th Annual Winter Fundraising Event at White Deer Run. The event consisted of dinner, live auction, silent auction and raffles. Over 280 parents, coaches, and community leaders attended. Tickets to the event were sold out for over three weeks before the event occurred. This has not only become one of the most successful fundraisers for the Cougar Athletic Boosters, it has become one of the must-go-to events in Vernon Hills.

A great time was had by all, as money was raised playing games such as heads and tails, raffling off the brand new ipad2, a jewelry raffle with a diamond necklace grand prize, and silent auction items as well as great live auction items. The ever popular "junior parks in the senior lot" went for a record breaking \$1,200. All total over \$38,000 was raised. This money will be used to support the student athletes at VHHS. Thank you to everyone who participated in this important annual event.

The Cougar Athletic Boosters is a parent group that helps support the VHHS athletic program. The money raised through various fundraising events goes directly back to the athletes. Our next major fundraising event will be the sale of mulch in the Spring.

Cougars Making a Difference



Members of the VHHS Freshman Girls' Basketball team are pictured with Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital's Medical Director of Radiation Oncology **Dr. Joseph Imperato** and cancer patient **Gerald Meyer** with some of the blankets they donated for cancer patients. The team hoped to bring a little joy to people facing a very difficult fight.

(photo courtesy of VHHS Athletics)



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*Illinois Chapter National School
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Front Cover: (top) Members of the VHHS WYSE Team, along with Coach Josh Ravenscraft, pose with their third consecutive state championship trophy. (bottom) The VHHS Poms proudly show their double state championship trophies and banners. It was the fourth consecutive year the poms, under the direction of Coach Brittany Redig earned state honors. (photos by A. Frank)