

Seniors Stunt on 'em

Senior spirit outshines the rain

by Jefferson Martinez



Senior Piper Sublik. Photo by Kai Weiler.

As the fall sports season comes to an end, it is time to recognize the seniors for all of their accomplishments.

The football team will see twenty two of its players leave as seniors after four years of great football.

Coach Weckler, the varsity football coach, has been with these seniors all four years. When asked what he wished for his graduating players, Weckler replied that he hopes "all the seniors learned how to be a good teammate, a good son, and maybe a good father. The discipline and cooperation that we try to teach hopefully is carried forward".

As well as the football team, the soc-



Senior Alexis Clark. Photo by Kai Weiler.



Senior Uriel Herrera. Photo by Kai Weiler.



Senior poms dancing. Photo by Kai Weiler.



Senior Helene Collin. Photo by Kai Weiler.

cer program here at DHS will be saying goodbye to its twelve seniors. When asked what he wished for his graduating players, McIntosh answered, "My philosophy has always been to use soccer as a vehicle to teach these young men about life skills, how to handle adversity, how to be humble in accomplishment, how to be self-advocates, and how to play a productive part in

something that is bigger than individuals".

The cross country team will also say goodbye to nine of its seniors.

When asked what he wished for his seniors, Coach Wolf answered, "I hope that they remember that hard work and sacrifice is important if you want to reach your goals. I also hope they continue to be physically active throughout life".

The group of seniors leaving have left an impact on the various sports programs here at DHS.



take a peek



Welcome Mr. Jamie Craven

D428 welcomes new superintendent

by Sophya Perron

Jamie Craven. Photo provided by Jamie Craven.



District 428 has a new superintendent! The district said goodbye to its former superintendent, Mr. Doug Moeller and hello to Mr. Jamie Craven.

What does a superintendent do? Craven said, "they really manage all the different processes across the district everything from the building to human resources and curriculum just about all facets and extracurricular activities."

Craven also explained, "in smaller

districts, they have more involvement in the day-to-day operations."

When he entered education, he wasn't planning on becoming a superintendent. Craven was thinking about becoming a biology teacher and coaching sports. He previously worked at Rochelle as an assistant principal for ten years. He then served as a principal for three years.

What does it take to become a superintendent? Craven said, "Superintendents

have to complete a program called education specialist which is a degree. But first you have to get an administrative certificate."

He goes on to say that you don't need a doctorate to become a superintendent, but it is helpful to have one.

Craven went on to describe some of the pros and cons of the job. "Well one of the pros is the opportunity to positively impact so many students lives, and my goal is that all of our

students, upon graduation, will have a very well thought out plan of what their next step is whether it's going to a 4 year university, entering the workforce, or the military."

Some of the negatives of the job are that, "You are very much in a fishbowl. You have people pulling at you from many different directions, so there are a lot of different agendas. You get pulled in a lot of different directions."

Despite the pros and cons, Craven has a solid vision for our district. "As educators, our primary for existence is to prepare students for their tomorrow, their next journey. Our job is to help students develop their skills through an array of educational experiences both in and out of the classroom. We want the kids of DHS to be positive contributors to their communities."

Clearly the role of superintendent carries a great deal of responsibility and preparation, but fortunately for DeKalb schools Mr. Craven comes with positive experience and a solid vision for our future.

A Step in the Right Direction

LGBTQ+ Progress

by Asher Lowrey



On Friday, October the 13th, LGBTQ+ students and supporters were given a chance to speak in front of the school board about issues in our building, and the steps being taken to advance equality amongst all.

Sadly though, it is not only an issue on part of the school board and administration, but it is also a failure of acceptance amongst portions of the student body.

During the junior dean talk earlier this year, President of the DHS GSA Club Lou Peckys was appallingly greeted with a ruckus of boos and nasty insults when questioning whether transgender students are free to use the bathrooms with which they are comfortable.

Over the years, DHS Administration has “done its best” to comply with the needs of its numerous LGBTQ+ students, but as of late it has become quite evident that there is much more that needs to be done.

As a society we brag and brag about how advanced we are, and how accepting we are. Yet our own students here at DHS cannot get

past sharing the bathroom with another human being.

It truly sickens and pains me to think that such an amazing group of people, at such an excellent school like DHS cannot get past such a simple thing as establishing basic human rights and treatment within the student body.

For those of us that identify within the LGBTQ+ spectrum, not only is this behavior upsetting, but also extremely frightening. Imagine waking up every morning, and having to worry about not just your grades, not just friends and drama, but the fact that you don't feel safe in your own body or in your own school.

The current behavior of some DHS students on the issue of gender equality and identification is disgraceful, embarrassing, and is far from being acceptable.

Please, everyone, take some time to consider that what you say and do has a lasting and powerful impact upon numerous people around you and how you may be perceived.

We are strong DHS, and I have no doubt that we can rise above and move past this struggle. However, it's going to take an effort from everyone. So let's start now with a step in the right direction.



LGBTQ+ American flag. Photo courtesy of Creative Commons.



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Mission Statement

The Barb Wire aims to encourage students in becoming actively involved to improve their high school experience by providing up-to-date, well-researched, and well-written news relevant to DeKalb High School.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Barb Wire is produced approximately every month by the Journalism classes at DeKalb High School, 501 W. Dresser, DeKalb, IL 60115. Letters to the editor may be left in Mrs. Solomon's mailbox in the main office or be e-mailed to barb.wire@dist428.org. Letters must be 300 words or less and may be edited for length, clarity, or libelous content. All letters must be signed, but anonymity may be granted if the editors see just cause. The Barb Wire will not print any material that is obscene, libelous, or that may be an invasion of someone's privacy, or may cause material disruption of the school day.

The staff of the Barb Wire is responsible for observing the legal and ethical responsibilities expected of them as practicing journalists. Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of the writer and not necessarily those of other staff members, students, faculty or administrators of DeKalb High School. Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the editorial board of the Barb Wire.

The Barb Wire reserves the right to reject any advertisement from any business or company if the editors see just reason.

Politically Active Youth

DHS welcomes new club

by John Corbin

Astheschoolyearprogresses, DeKalb High School's clubs continues to remain successful and keep attendance flourishing. Whether you visit Art Club or Robotics, there are always student leaders with the passion to keep groups going.

Although the majority of the groups

concern themselves with modern politics. Weekly topics are chosen by officers and then voted on by members, primarily relating to relevant political topics in the media. This group has been quite contentious while tackling issues such as gun control and raising the minimum wage.

change ideas and become politically aware. A club like this is so important especially in the times we are living in now when less and less of the youth are being involved in politics."

It may appear that having a club consisting of students with potentially different political views could be prob-

lematic. However, Kewih states that "It doesn't cause too much controversy out of the forum room, most students know each other's political views and are aware of the firmness of their beliefs".

In spite of the group being fairly new to DHS, Joy Kewih, being the influential force that she is, was able to convince



Politically Active Youth club with Robert Pritchard. Photo provided by Joy Kewih.

mentum it needed to be approved. Supervised by dean Maurice McDavid, the groups main focus is to provide a platform for young people who

When asked why she wanted to begin this club, cofounder Kewih responded that she "wanted to create a club in which students could ex-

Bob Pritchard, an Illinois State Representative, to be part of a Q&A session at one of the weekly meetings.

They discussed topics such as drug legislation and gun control, both subjects that rarely lose media coverage. The opportunity for youth concerned with politics to be able to ask questions as well as share their proposals and opinions with such a reputable political figure is a great one.

The future of politics is the youth of today, and having a politically aware body of people is integral to preventing uninformed ideology from plaguing our government. The club meets from 3:00pm and 4:30pm every Tuesday in the forum room. See you there!

Retired Teachers

Where are they now?

by Abigail Gasink

Mr. Hursh on vacation with his family. Photo by Abigail Holder.



Have you ever wondered what teachers do after they retire? Here is the inside scoop of what a few recently retired teachers are doing now.

Remember Mrs. Lofthouse? If not, Mrs. Lofthouse was the amazing teacher who gave the "There's Only One Barb!" speech. (It was given this year by Mr. Judkins.)

Today Lofthouse is still living in the area, but she has a small camper and travels quite a bit.

When asked what she misses most about the school she stated, "I miss the students and daily interactions with teachers, but once a Barb, always a Barb. #OnlyOneBarb."

Lofthouse enjoys retirement be-

cause there is no stress and she can leave the cold northern Illinois winters for the beach whenever she pleases.

Did you ever take World Geography? If so, did you have Mr. Smith? Not only was Smith a social studies teacher, but he was also an administrator before moving to the new high school.

In retirement, Smith is peacefully living in the middle of nowhere on his farm with his wife and two dogs.

His favorite thing about being retired is that everyday is differ-

ent, and that he doesn't have the same routine everyday.

What he misses most about working at DHS is working with all of the stu-



Mrs. Lofthouse giving her legendary #OnlyOneBarb speech. Photo by Asher Lowrey.



Mr. Smith with his little neighbor friend. Photo by Gina Zurek Oburg.

dents and helping them succeed in not just his class, but all of their classes.

Remember Mr. Hursh? He was known as the teacher with the interesting mustache. Hursh was a social studies teacher who taught at DHS for a long time. If your parents went to DHS, they probably know who he is. Today Mr. Hursh is still living in DeKalb because he likes the peace and quiet. He misses the interaction with the students everyday, and he also misses working with his friends.

He likes being retired because he can go camping in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee whenever he wants. He also appreciates the time he gets to spend with his friends and family.

While these individuals may have retired from teaching, their impacts can still be felt in the halls of DHS. These teachers will always be a part of the Barb family.

Sycamore's Annual Pumpkin Fest

Enjoy the festivities of Pumpkin Fest

by Grace Comer

As autumn arrives, Pumpkin Fest arrives with it! With the fall colors and hot apple cider, Pumpkin Fest is a huge part of autumn. With the floats and festivities, people from both DeKalb and Sycamore gather to watch the annual parade.

The idea of this festival came from Wally Thurow, otherwise known as Mr. Pumpkin. He started this tradition by displaying a few pumpkins on his front lawn. The first Pumpkin Parade was in 1956.

The festival has over 1,000 entries in the pumpkin display. Over 100 bands marched, and were judged by 19 judges in the marching band competition. DeKalb Marching Band won first place in the band competition.

Sycamore High School also held a craft show located in their field house. Proceeds will benefit the Sycamore School Music Programs. Each year, more than 30 DeKalb non-profit groups work together to



Carousel in downtown Sycamore. Photo by Grace Comer.

make this festival possible.

When asked how long he has participated in the Pumpkin Parade, senior Richie Spahn, one of DeKalb's drum majors, responded with, "I have [participated] for the past three years with band."

Spahn said his favorite part of Pumpkin Fest is, "how we can perform for a lot of people. It's one of the only parades we come to where

the entire parade is packed, and everyone is from the area so I really get a good sense of community and pride."

Pumpkin Fest is a time where families can come together and enjoy the colorful floats as well as time together. The annual event continues to be a Sycamore and DeKalb tradition for those who celebrate this time of year.

Girl In Pieces

by Inga Collin

Most teenagers have their ups - and - downs during their adolescent years. In Katherine Galsogow's *Girl in Pieces*, Charlie, the protagonist, might just have it worse than many of us.

The book takes place right after Charlie hit her lowest. She is living in a girls home and trying to recover from self harm, drinking and drug addiction, homelessness, and abuse. Going through all of this can be hard enough, but being a seventeen year old girl and alone, it could appear impossible.

Girl in Pieces is a fantastically written book about Charlie recov-

ering and trying to live on her own while also forced to grow up too fast. This story allows the reader to get a view of someone else's life and may relate to it, too.

I encourage everyone to read this heavy- hearted book if you are in need of finding life's worth and all the amazing, yet hard aspects of it.

Although *Girl In Pieces* is a teen-related book, it does talk about many sensitive and triggering topics. If mentions of self harm, suicide, or abuse trigger you, I wouldn't recommend *Girl in Pieces* yet.

This is a hard hitting read that is not for everyone. I do think that it

is very important that we are talking about these topics and not trying to cover up a very real thing that is happening in our everyday life.

Teenagers are constantly affected by the topics that Charlie goes through. While suicide can be a difficult topic to discuss, it is an important issue we are facing today. It relates to a large number of people, especially teenagers.

Girl In Pieces brings awareness to the problem while telling a great story. I really recommend *Girl In Pieces* and encourage you to find it in your local library. Happy Reading!

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Lights, Camera, Talent!

Showcasing Great talent

by Kate Seimetz

The semi-annual DHS talent show took place on October 12 with 16 acts and a total of 32 performers. This years talent showcased many singers with original songs.

One act in partiuclar had a heart felt message about suicide, and that it's not a topic to be ignored. Performing 1-800 by Logic ft. Alessia Cara, Khalid was Junior Avery Flores, who took the stage with the meaningful message on suicide.

When asked about the song, Flores said "Honestly the song means a lot to me. It talks about sucide, depression, and anxiety. And a lot of people have that and to be honest not a lot of people want to talk about it."

Another song that evening was an amazing orginal song performed by sophomore Sydney Alger called " Let me Explain."

Alger mentioned it was her second year doing the talent show. When asked why do it again, she said, "Well one of the things I have a lot prob-

lems with is stage fright. I can speak and dance in fornt of people. I can do all that. My problem is when I perform. So I do this kinda of stuff so that I can get better at it and inprove myself in that aspect."

Another fantastic act was the DHS Hip-Hop club with a jaw dropping performance to a mix of songs. It was one of two dance acts that performed.

Junior Jaylon Clair explained why he joined hip hop club. "I joined this group because I really just like dancing a lot."

This years talent show was a blast and was a night to remem-



Alisha Ramos-Rodriguez singing. Photo by Kate Seimetz.



Enzo Liou and Isabella Campos Schettino singing. Photo by Kate Seimetz.

ber. Everyone was having a great time.

Mr. Solomon, the organizer of the event, explained that, "The purpose of the talent show is to give students who may not otherwise have the opportunity a chance to showcase what they can do. Our music department is really strong right now, but we have so many kids who can sing or dance, but are not involved in these groups. This gives them a chance to do what they love in a different setting."

Thank you to Mr. Solomon and DHS Forensics for hosting the talent show. If you missed this showcase of talent, be sure to catch the talent show in the spring.



DHS Hip Hop dance club performing. Photo by Kate Seimetz.



Avery Flores singing. Photo by Kate Seimetz.



Keegan Moore and Romie Hansen singing. Photo by Kate Seimetz.



Keyshon Burke. Photo by Kate Seimetz.



Sydney Alger singing. Photo by Kate Seimetz.



Emily Jovanovich singing. Photo by Kate Seimetz.