

TOM-TOM

District 210 Implements Extra-Curricular Fees

by Morgan McPartland
Head Editor

Current economic times are affecting everyone – including LHS. While LHS encourages all students to participate in extra-curricular activities each year, the school spends a significant amount of money to provide its wide range of selections.

The Extra-Curricular Activity Participation Fees were presented to students involved in any athletic activity and most extra-curricular activities. Since the district understands that these difficult economic times are affecting the families of Lemont as well, it made these necessary fees minimal.

These fees slightly relieve the costs for things such as transportation, tournament entry fees and coaching/sponsor earnings at LHS. Be sure to look in the next few issues of the Tom-Tom for more in-depth information on the new participation fees.



photos by Marshall Photography

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Freshmen

Thoughts

by Morgan McPartland
Head Editor

Although the school year has only just begun, for many freshmen, it feels as if school has been in session for months. On Tuesday, Aug. 16, Freshmen Orientation Day, LHS freshmen were given an opportunity to explore the “new” school without upperclassmen.

During all lunch periods on this day, members of LHS clubs were given a chance to promote their activities to the incoming freshmen at an activity fair. Each club had its own booth to spread enthusiasm for school involvement and the Tom-Tom had the opportunity to speak to some freshmen about their high school experience thus far.

Freshmen Andrew Podczerwinski, Joe Sciacca, Rylie Jay and Holly Lemming all agree that “LHS is really big and confusing.” Their fellow classmate Christian Goushas felt the same, but added that “it was cool to get to know the school.”

Since LHS operates on a block or college schedule, many freshmen are still not used to the hour and a half class periods. “It makes the school day feel a lot longer,” said freshman Jacob Pack.

Aside from the change in schedules, having a different teacher for each of the eight classes is new for many students. Some teachers have already made an impression on a few students. “All the teachers are really nice,” said Sciacca and freshman Victoria Salazar.

Many representatives at the activity fair had positive things to say about the freshmen. “The freshmen seem so sweet and excited to be part of the school,” said senior Ritika Dhawan. From the looks of it, the freshmen of LHS hope to have a successful and exciting first year of high school.

What will You Do With Your High School Career?

by Maribeth Van Hecke
Editorials Editor

Walking into LHS the first day of school was rough. Each start to a new school year forces you to accept the fact that you are one year older and one year closer to graduation.

Even though it’s hard to jump right back into long classes, long assignments and long daydreams, taking advantage of LHS activities, education and experiences is something you don’t want to walk out of LHS without. High School is much more than schoolwork. It is the place where we as teenagers can go to learn, get involved and enjoy the things they love to do.

If you ask any of my friends they’ll tell you I’m too busy. I just like to be involved. Taking advantage of my opportunities is something that is really important to me. The range of LHS activities and sports is tremendous. You can be on the newspaper, Foreign Language Club, a varsity sport, be in the Spring Musical and explore your interests with various electives.

For being a rather small school surrounded by much bigger public schools, LHS has a great variety of classes that quench many interests. All students should try to take advantage of those classes, as well as challenge themselves.

We wouldn’t be anywhere if it weren’t for our educators. I believe LHS is filled



with passionate teachers. I have observed many excited about their material and teaching their subjects like they’re talking about their first child. Teachers aren’t here to bore and overload students; they want students to be interested and involved.

“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and diligence,” said Abigail Adams. This phrase might exhaust many. To me, it is inspiring. Very few people obtain greatness with luck, and if they do they have nothing to show for their success. If you can look back and see how far you’ve come, you will have a higher appreciation for yourself.

Come May, graduates aren’t necessarily upset about leaving the schoolwork, they miss everything they had attached to LHS. All students don’t need to join every club and challenge themselves with every AP class that has ever been at LHS, but they will surely find a more enjoyable High School Career if they get involved.

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New Year, new is here

by Mallory Christine
Features writer

It's the time of year you can honestly say you have straight A's. It's also the time you'll soon wish you could go back to when you still had straight A's.

While the school year is still in its early weeks, new opportunities are more available than ever. Don't have the time to check them out? Luckily, I've investigated for you.

Here's what's new for Lemont High School's 2011-2012 school year:

Sports

While the list of sports offered at Lemont High School hasn't seen much change, the way we experience them has. Porter's Corner, a new segment recently added to the Illinois Highschool Association webpage, is available for teachers and students alike to read about a coach's thoughts on a tough loss, a teacher's biggest influence, and other faculty members' expressed thoughts. A whole different kind of "locker room talk."

Extra-curriculars

Looking for interaction? Sign up for Interact! Two of our school's previous clubs, Mission Possible and Community Service for Everyone (CSFE), have come together to form one great, big super-club called Interact. According to its newsletter, Interact is "an internationally recognized volunteer organization in which students volunteer and make donations in order to help their community, state, and world."

The new program offers the chance to earn scholarships, meet new people, sing carols, work with children, pack food and more. "The merge of clubs has helped consolidate the students and activities into one club," says teacher and club sponsor Jenna Stevenson. "The same opportunities will be provided plus many more!"

Any questions? See Ms. Stevenson in W213 or pick up an Interact newsletter for more information in hopes of volunteering—the "Interact" way.

Academics

As most students have heard, the biggest hullabaloo in what's new this year is Haiku, a Learning Management System (LMS) designed to make modern-day schools' technological transitions as easy as possible for all students from techies to technophobes.

"[Haiku is] easy to use for both students and teachers," says LHS' Learning Resource Center Director Cathy Mayer. To add, Mayer says Haiku appealed to staff because it is "beneficial and cost-effective" towards the school.

A new school year is a dreaded, yet precious time in any teenager's life, so whether you're a freshman trying to get by or a senior trying to get out, don't let it pass you by.



Photo by Maddy George and Michael Gaytan



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CHICAGO FIRE BREAKS MLS TIE RECORD

by Ryan Peraino
Sports Editor



Photo courtesy of Goggle

The Chicago Fire (3-7-15) broke the Major League Soccer record for most ties in a season with their 1-1 tie against D.C. United (7-7-10) on Thursday, Aug. 18.

That tie breaks the record of 14 that FC Dallas set last year. The difference is last year FC Dallas was 12-4-14 and the runner up in the MLS Cup. The Fire dominated much of the game with numerous chances including some diving saves by D.C. United goalies Bill Hamid and Steve Cronin. Cronin came on at halftime when Hamid got injured.

In fact, Hamid made three one-on-one saves (and had some help from the post) against Chicago's Dominic Oduro to keep the score even at zero. Fire goalie Sean Johnson made one great open field save but that was all he saw during the first half.

"Johnson's play has been the one consistent part of the team all year," said senior Kasparas Jasenauskas.

In the second half, Cronin came in and saved a Logan Pause volley for his first save since giving up three easy goals vs. Toronto FC in his last outing.

In the 59 minute, Fire's Patrick Nyarko crossed a ball in that United defender Daniel Woolard headed right at Sebastian Grazzini's feet. Grazzini kicked the ball in the goal to give the Fire a 1-0 lead.

The Fire couldn't keep the lead though as D.C. United equalized the score in the 72nd minute off of a goal from former Fire forward Josh Wolff. It was a clever pass and there was nothing Sean Johnson could have done on the goal.

"This game was a story of the season. It was a very winnable game that the Fire just gave away," said freshman Roy Delatore.

The Fire started their tying ways on Opening Day when they tied FC Dallas 1-1. Since then they have had 14 more ties and there are still eight more games to go.

Head Varsity soccer coach, Rick Prangen believes that all of the ties are, "a product of a new team, with a lack of identity and lack of proven goal scorers."

This mediocre side tried to make some changes after their disappointing start by firing head coach Carlos de los Cobos and adding guys like Pavel Pardo, Sebastian Grazzini and Christian Nazarit.

Clearly these moves didn't work as great as they wanted them to because the Fire only has three wins in MLS play. Some of the only hope for the Fire is that they are a very young team having only four players over the age of 30.

Since MLS Playoff hopes are just about done, the Fire has to focus on the US Open Cup. The Fire are in the semi-finals vs. the Richmond Kickers on Aug. 30. They have won the Cup four times and are looking to make it five this year.

Even with the disappointments there still is hope and hardware to play for.



SPOTLIGHT: NICK TIEDT

by Kyle Griffin
Sports writer

Since he was a freshman, senior Nick Tiedt has been a key starting player on the LHS varsity soccer team.

He has started every game since being called up as a freshman and was part of a defense that only gave up one goal at home his freshman year. Tiedt played as a marking back his first two years and he played sweeper as a junior.

Tiedt's play has impressed several colleges as he looks to continue his playing career after high school.

Just before Tiedt started his senior season against Evergreen Park on Monday, Aug. 22, the Tom-Tom sat down to have a talk with the star soccer player.

Tom-Tom: How do you work to get better?

Nick Tiedt: It's all about practice and team bonding.

TT: Who is your favorite teammate?

NT: I like Kyle Koehler because he's a good leader.

TT: What is your favorite team you've played with since being a varsity player?

NT: My junior and senior year because of the team spirit we have.

TT: What is your ultimate soccer dream?

NT: I want to play in college.

TT: What advice you would give young soccer players who want to be successful high school athletes like you?

NT: To be determined and practice hard.

TT: Do you guys have any weird team rituals?

NT: Touch the sign on the way out of the locker room.

TT: What is your favorite high school soccer memory so far?

NT: When we drove down to Peoria my sophomore year to play Peoria Notre Dame.

TT: How close is the team?

NT: We hang out all the time outside of practice and have FIFA parties.



Photo of Nick Tiedt by Maddy George and Michael Gaytan