

Tom-Tom

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Student Achievements at LHS

by Shannon Ehle
News writer

Adding to an already overwhelming list of student achievements, the LHS student body is starting the year right.

At the Board of Education meeting on Monday, Sept. 12, several students were mentioned for their recent accomplishments.

Jessica Kaminsky (class of 2011) created a drawing of the Lemont Village Hall Building last semester. The piece was purchased by the Village Employers in August and presented to a retiring Village employee at the August Village Board meeting. It was also featured in the June edition of the "Village News." Kaminsky is now pursuing a degree in art.

Kevin Driscoll (class of 2012) recently auditioned for the Illinois High School Theatre Festival's "Almost Maine" and received a roll in the All-State cast. Driscoll was one of many high school students who auditioned for a part in the play and one of the 18 who received a role.

Marjorie Dallmann (class of 2012) is recognized as the first LHS student to receive a perfect 36 on the ACT. In 2010, over 1.5 million students took the ACT, and only 588 achieved the perfect score. Dallmann plans on studying computer engineering at MIT.

Aubrey Tally (class of 2013) sang the National Anthem at the Lemont 9/11 Tribute program on Friday, Sept. 23.

On its quest to produce college bound students, LHS is not only succeeding in preparing them academically but also has a student body involved in its school and community.



Photos by Tony Hamilton

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“Beat the Spread” Class of 2011 breaks record

by Nicole McKevitt
News Writer

Class of 2011 achieved a new record with 110 students “Beating the Spread,” scoring above their predicted PLAN test scores on their new ACT composite scores.

The PLAN is taken sophomore year and develops a predicted ACT composite score range.

There is room for great academic improvement from September of sophomore year to April of junior year when the students then take the PSAT, a practice ACT. The faculty and staff have been working hard to improve test scores. LHS Data Analyst Katy Brockett stated, “The teachers have increased their focus on learning strategies, not just memorizing information that is quickly forgotten.” Brockett went on to say that she believes “The teachers are doing a great job of both teaching their course content and helping their students process and retain new information that lasts over time.”

When last year’s seniors took their PSAT, the administration compared their old PLAN predicted scores from 2009 to their actual ACT composite scores. 364 LHS students matched taking both tests. 110 of those students “beat the spread” in many cases by four points or more. That’s a little over one third of the total matched students.

“Our [students] test scores are getting better,” says Brockett.

“Success creates more choices for students to do what they want with their lives. At LHS students can have it all: the opportunity to engage in a strong academic program that will take them into the college of their choice and grow as a human being.”

Congratulations to those 110 students, LHS faculty and staff for this outstanding achievement.

Congratulations Gagnon Family!

by Marisa Mars
News Writer

Gillian Thia Gagnon was born on September 27 at 7:01 p.m. to proud parents Brent and Sabrina Gagnon.

Gillian, 6 lbs. 13 oz. and 19.5”, is the third child in the Gagnon family. She has an older brother, Grant, and an older sister, Grace.

Brent Gagnon, Dean of students, said “Gillian is wonderful, but only because we’ve been getting help from Grace and Grant.”

Lemont congratulates the Gagnons on the newest addition to their family.



Photo courtesy of Google and Tony Hamilton
Manipulated by Mary McKevitt



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: HELP YOUR GRADES? OR MAKE THEM WORSE?

by Ashlee Berner
News Writer

Trying to balance school, sports, clubs, national organizations, and a social life can be extremely difficult to accomplish. A majority of the student body is involved in something that requires a good chunk of time and can be distracting from what matters most: school.

Wendy Mazur, junior at Lemont who plays varsity soccer and cross country states, “For days when I have just practice, it’s usually not too bad to stay on top of homework and school work, but when we have games sometimes we get home late which is tough.” Varsity sports are competitive at this level, with tournaments, meets, and several games a week that require extreme devotion. Students devote so much time to sports that sometimes students forget to stop and focus on school. But coaches make sure that students are aware of their schedule. Chris Zogata, head volleyball coach, said “They [volleyball players] balance it very well. They are aware of the calendar and are aware when we have busy weeks and plan for that.”

When asked if sports affect focus during the day, Mazur said “When I have a game or a meet, I constantly find myself thinking about it during the day preparing. And nights when I’m up late doing homework the next day I’m usually more tired which can make me less focused.”

Students that aren’t involved in sports at this time of the year have other activities they participate in such as NHS, NEHS, Interact, Student Council and Speech. Lindsay Wright, a freshman this year at Lemont, is involved in Student Council, Speech team and volleyball says, “I usually have to stay up late to get it [homework] done, but I know I have to stay on top of school work to keep an A average” when asked if it’s hard to keep up with school work.

Mrs. Kramer, an English teacher at Lemont stated “I really don’t notice more missing work from the students who are in extracurriculars than from those who aren’t. In fact, many of the students who are in extracurricular activities are more responsible about budgeting their time because they have to be.” when asked if students on sports keep up with their work less than students who aren’t on sports. When on a sport, students have practice every day after school and don’t get home until later. Kramer also said “I have some football players in every class I teach, and most of them have never had any late assignments even though they have practice every day” But when students need extra help, Kramer says that is harder to fit that in because of their busy schedules. Even though athletes have a lot more in their schedule but Kramer says this, “I think time-wasting activities like constant texting and spending time online late at night are causing students more problems academically than being involved in activities or working.”

Students can stay on top of their school work and sports as long as they prioritize their time correctly.



Photos by Tory Hamilton



Photo courtesy of Google

We all remember Wonderland, that beautiful imaginative place that Alice found when she fell down the rabbit hole. But now, some people can’t look at that once bright and colorful sanctuary without recalling the haunting images they saw in the well awaited, *Alice: Madness Returns*.

Originally to be labeled as *American McGee’s Alice: Madness Returns*, *Madness* is the sequel to the smash hit computer game *American McGee’s Alice*. These adaptations are darker than Lewis Carroll’s classic stories; they feature blood and ruin, weapons instead of toys and twisted versions of the characters we once knew and loved.

In *American McGee’s Alice*, young Alice Liddell is the only survivor of a mysterious fire that claimed the lives of her whole family. For ten years she was institutionalized in a mental asylum after she lost touch with reality. When she finds herself dragged back into Wonderland, she notices her insanity has twisted her old sanctuary. Returning Wonderland back to normal, Alice regains her stability and is released from the mental asylum.

Alice: Madness Returns takes place one year after the events of the first game. Alice is now under the care of a psychiatrist but she finds herself still haunted by the fire and is brought back to Wonderland in order to save it from the ruin that is corrupting it.

New Alice, New Wonderland

Sam Moffett
Features writer

While venturing through new domains, Alice tries to figure out the cause of her family’s death and how to save herself from a mental relapse.

So what are the positives of this game? The two biggest positives are the plot and graphics, *American McGee’s Alice*, while impressive at its time, is no match for the well-developed plot and visual art of *Madness*. The computer game, released in 2000, is a straight-forward, third person action game. The 2011 sequel is also a third person action game, but also a survival horror and platforming game. The Spicy Horse Company really took the technological advantages and made *Madness* a creative work of art.

Through all the secrets and breathtaking views, there are still some negatives looming around in the new Wonderland. While the platforming can be fun for a while, it becomes quite repetitive. The game also tends to throw minigames at you, which is fine at first but once again becomes repetitive and unnecessary.

“I think it’s a really good game if you’re looking for something out of the ordinary.” says junior student, Tanya Schmitz when asked about the game.

Total Recall: *Alice: Madness Returns* is a visually breathtaking game with a mix of strong and weak points.

Average rating: 7 out of 10.



50/50

What are the odds?

by Maddy George
Features writer

You have cancer.

Three words nobody wants to hear in their lifetime. Especially if you're 27 years old, have great friends, an amazing girlfriend and are in the prime of your career. Oh, and you're told your chances of survival are 50/50.

The film 50/50 takes a comedic twist on what would seemingly be a morbid plot. The movie follows Adam (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) through his journey battling a rare cancer.

The source of light-heartedness comes from his best friend and career sidekick, Kyle (Seth Rogen). Adam



Photo courtesy of Google

and Kyle's friendship is uniquely hilarious and yet completely relatable. Gordon-Levitt and Rogen do an incredible job of making their character's long-time friendship believable, funny and heartfelt.

Adam's relationships with his parents, doctors, fellow cancer patients and therapist take off some of the emotional weight that the cancer has put on him. The film focuses on how Adam deals with his disease, the way it affects his existing relationships and, oddly, how it helps build new ones.

The plot itself does an amazing job of balancing the humor with the harsh reality of Adam's situation. It shows how his illness affects every aspect of this life; depressing his loved ones and exposing those he thought were loved ones. Interestingly enough, it evokes the question: if your chances were 50/50, who would stand by you?

Top Halloween Costumes of 2011

by Alyssa Cinatl
Features writer

Halloween: a night where you receive free candy and become your alter ego. Each year the media influences certain trends. Last year the most popular were Lady Gaga, the Jersey Shore Cast, Toy Story, Twilight, and Glee. But this year there's a new variety of costumes trending. What will *you* dress up as this year? You might find yourself in some of these popular costumes:

1. Harry Potter

With the Harry Potter series coming to a close this year, it's no surprise that many will honor the lightning shaped scar on Halloween. The streets will be filled with black robes, striped ties and glasses. Expecto Patronum!

2. Zombies

The Walking Dead will be among us! This costume, popularized by the TV show, is simple to create: just tear up some old clothes, throw on some fake blood and even back over the costume with your car!

3. Jersey Shore

It's t-shirt time! Open up a can of hairspray and spray tan and you'll be all set for this costume. Jersey Shore will be a Halloween trend yet again. Girls will be decked out with poofs in their hair and boys will be exposing fake abs. Add an extra Italian twist to the costume this year and fist pump!

4. Classic Witch

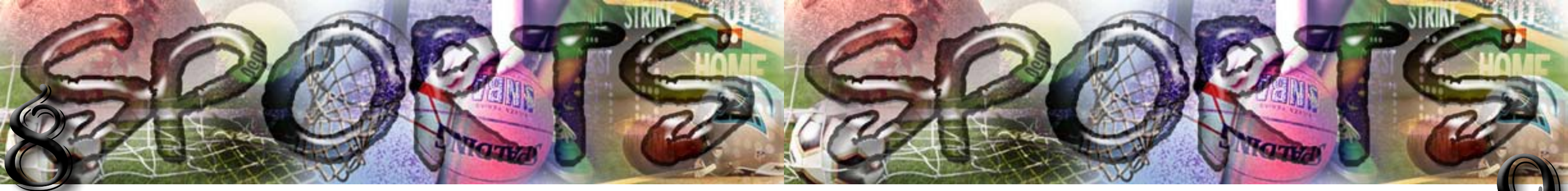


Photo courtesy of Google

Sources say that witches will be making a comeback. Most girls have been a witch for Halloween at least once. So dust off that costume and see if it fits, because witches are in. What is a witch's favorite subject in school? Spelling!

5. Angry Birds

Flinging birds at green pigs quickly became the hottest iPod game. And now it may be one of the season's hottest costumes. These adorable birds are sure to be flying around for candy this Halloween. So if you are out of ideas for a costume this year, choose one of these. Whether it's simple and can be made from materials at home, or you make a quick run to the store, you'll fit in nicely. Enjoy!



Illinois pounds Indiana to stay UNDEFEATED

by Tom Folliard
Sports writer

The University of Illinois' football team added another victory to their stellar season. This is their seventh straight victory dating back to last year's Texas Bowl win over Baylor.

The Illini ended the game with a final score of 41-20. The Big Ten's top receiver A.J. Jenkins reeled in two touchdowns in the first half, both over 65 yards, to help Illinois take control of the game.

Illinois is having an unexpected run this season led by sophomore quarterback Nathan Scheelhaase. His performance in last week's 38-35 comeback victory over Northwestern tied his best quarterback rating of the year at 119.7.

In an interview with ESPN.com, coach Ron Zook said, "We're a good team, but as I told them to be a great team, we've got to do a lot more."

The Illini are looking forward to their next game against Ohio State. Although the Buckeyes are in an unusual slump, they are going to be one of Illinois' toughest games this season.

"We wanted to be 6-0 going into this game, and we're looking forward to going back home and playing Ohio State," said Scheelhaase. Do not be surprised if Ohio State edges out Illinois in Champaign this weekend.

BLACKHAWKS welcome another TOEWS to the team

by Emily Lejman
Sports writer

The Chicago Blackhawks recruited many players for the upcoming 2011-2012 season. Some of the top new players include Dan Carcillo from the Philadelphia Flyers and Jonathan Toews' younger brother, David Toews.

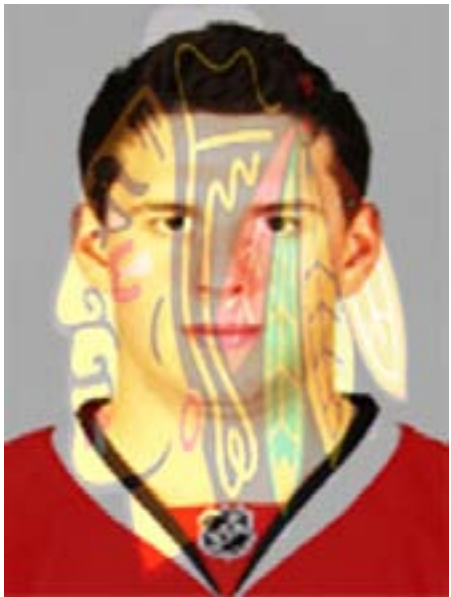
21 year-old David Toews will wear number 26 and fight for the center position.

After watching an interview on BHTV, David Toews summed up his emotions on the team by saying, "It's great to be a part of such a great organization. I'm looking forward to the upcoming season and a lot of work".

This isn't David Toews' first appearance in the NHL. In 2008, Toews was drafted onto the New York Islanders in the 3rd round (66th pick overall).

According to Chicago CBS sports, David is camping out in Jonathans' downtown condo while he fights for a spot on the team.

Having an older brother as a captain of the Chicago Blackhawks and previous Stanley Cup champion could bring up a lot of attention towards Jonathan, but David says that this year is his time to shine.



Photos courtesy of Google

Tiger gets ANOTHER CHANCE to play at major league level after DISAPPOINTING YEAR

by Paul grossi
Sports writer

With a crazy year in golf, another event is set to go soon. Fred couples, the team captain of the team, made all of the decisions on who was going to be on the American team and Greg Norman on the international team. Couples chose Tiger woods and Bill Hass as his captain picks. On the other hand Norman picked Aaron Baddely and Robert Allenby as his captain picks.

The decisions that were made left some puzzled, but in the final event players started to play solid golf.

Hass needed a win in the Coca-Cola tournament at East Lake Golf Course to make it on the President's cup team; on the other hand Baddeley only had to beat one opponent, John Senden to get on the international squad.

Baddely had a commanding lead in the final round of the Coca-Cola tournament, but at the end did not get the finish he wanted. However, thanks to John Sendens' bad performance in the tournament he was put on the team.

"I put them both on notice that those two were under scrutiny, and whoever played the best at THE TOUR Championship would obviously get the final nod," Norman said.

Baddeley realized that the call from the captain didn't even mean much and that his performance at the Coca-Cola tournament would have to be spectacular. Baddeley is a rookie on the team and will be joining Allenby who's been on five international teams. Even though he did not make the tournament last weekend he still has experience on the famed Australian Sandbelt course which he has played since he was twelve.

In response, Allenby said, "I've had some success there, and the relief was humongous. Greg will tell you himself how happy I was, and you know the first thing I said was that you'll get 12 billion percent out of me to get the absolute best out of my ability that I have to play the game of golf."

Tiger, being one of Couples picks, has been the world's top golfer for several years and has much experience of being on the President Cup team.

He had been sidelined to several injuries but is expected to play in this weekend's past tournament. "We're practicing very hard up at Medalist, and I'm playing as much as I possibly can, something that I hadn't not done all summer, because I hadn't been cleared to do it," Woods said.

With a great golf year coming to an end many great players battle to the finish. Decisions made by couples and Norman of the international team feel that their teams are best suited for the Presidents cup. You have to tune it to see the final results.



Photo courtesy of Google



10 FINALLY FOOTBALL PART 2

by Ian Stratta
Sports editor

You would think that, with such a long lockout, football would be very sloppy at the beginning, considering all the time players have lost this offseason to get prepared for the season itself. Nonetheless, the game seems to be more exciting than ever.

Through five weeks, there have been 50 300-yard passing games which includes nine 400-yard passing games and one record breaking 517-yard performance by Patriots QB Tom Brady in the first week of the season.

Perhaps the most surprising player of the young season is number one overall pick in the 2011 draft, Cam Newton. Newton has thrown for 1610 yards in his first five weeks while setting the rookie record for most passing yards in the first two games of his career.

No, the lockout hasn't affected the offense, but with so many yards allowed on defense, I believe that the lockout has really hampered defensive coordinators from preparing their defenses for the league's most prolific offenses. With all of these porous defensive and impressive offensive performances, expect one of the highest scoring years for the NFL in recent memory.

The Chicago Bears have had an up and down season so far. Last Monday, Chicago lost to the Detroit Lions 13-24. Quarterback Jay Cutler has been criticized for leaving last year's NFC championship game because of injury, and many have questioned the young quarterback's toughness. However, Cutler proved in this game that he is one of the toughest quarterbacks in the league because of the awful offensive line play and their nine, yes you heard me write, nine false start penalties. Cutler and running back Matt Forte had great games overall, but it was not enough to stop the Lions as their running back Jahvid Best ran for 163 yards and sealed the game.

However, with their treacherous schedule over the first five weeks is behind them, the Bears face a much more manageable October, playing the Minnesota Vikings and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers who have a combined 4-6 record through the first five weeks of the season, so don't expect a lost year for the Bears just yet.

Photo courtesy of Google

Girls JV volleyball team remains undefeated in conference

by Effie Tounas
Sports Writer

The Lemont girls' JV volleyball team has had an impressive 2011 season so far. The girls went into their game against Bremen High School on Oct. 4 more eager than ever to win. The fact that they had a 9-0 conference record added to their positive spirit.

Going into their game, Coach Dina Kyriakoulis said of the girls, "I expect good competition. They should be ready no matter who they play. They should be focused, enthused, and always ready to play. Oh, and don't forget confidence."

The first of the two games ended close, with a 25-21 score as Lemont took the win. Freshman libero Tess Cannon assisted the Lemont team as she consistently passed to the targets.

Bremen quickly caught up to Lemont in the second game, yet the girls' spirits were not let down. With constant chanting and appraisal from the varsity team and fans, the girls won the second game with a score of 25-11.

"The JV team is doing really well; they all work really hard. If they keep it up, they'll have a promising varsity team," said senior defensive specialist Katie Pellegrine.

With their victory against Bremen, the Lemont girls JV volleyball team now remains undefeated in their conference with a 10-0 record, and a 19-7 record overall.

Their next match will be Oct. 13 against Hillcrest.



FIND New Tom-Tom feature TOM-TOM

Drawing by Charmaine Balisalisa



Be the first Tom-Tom reader to email Mr. Clark, with the page number and location, of our new mascot: Tom-Tom! He will be hiding in every issue, send emails to SEANC@lemont.k12.il.us to win a prize!
GOOD LUCK!

Athletic Performance of the Week

Girls Swimming:

Patty Zaporowski

Patty just transferred here from Hinsdale South High School this year. She has made a name for herself, in just this short amount of time. Patty anchors the winning relays. Her strokes are 50 free and 100 free. She has always finished first in all her races. She is one of the main reasons the girls swim team is undefeated this year.



Photo by Charmaine Balisalisa