



COOKIES FOR SOLDIERS

by Marisa Mars
News writer

Lemont High School's Interact club is "The community service club for Lemont High School. [They] provide opportunities for students to volunteer and help out their school, community, state, and world", according to club sponsor Jenna Stevenson.

Interact is comprised of the former clubs Mission Possible and Community Service For Everyone. Stevenson says Interact will continue to participate in former CSFE activities such as the Chicago Food Depository, Ronald McDonald House and senior centers in the area as well as former Mission Possible activities, including Red Ribbon week, Home Town Heroes and the shelter box fundraiser. There will be new activities and Interact is "open to trying new events while maintaining some of the more popular events that are a tradition for

the club," according to Stevenson. She also says the club is welcoming ideas for events from staff, students and Lemont organizations.

Recently, the club baked cookies for soldiers. "Baking the cookies was fun, especially since it was for a good cause", says Interact member Shannon Burke, a junior at Lemont High School. In 1-½ hours, the students of Lemont's Interact Club were able to assemble holiday packages for the soldiers currently serving our nation.

Stevenson said the club baked over twenty dozen cookies for soldiers, including snicker doodle, chocolate chip and sugar cookies. "Students decorated cards to send the soldiers and put together the holiday boxes that would hold the cookies," she adds.

Students can Interact with their community and make a difference through this club.



Photo by Brittany Glowa

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“i-educate”

by Nicole McKevitt
News writer

The iPad was first introduced to the world on January 27, 2010 by Apple Inc’s late CEO, Steve Jobs. The iPad is used as a platform for audio-visual media including books, movies, music, games, and web content.

The iPad is now proven to be a beneficial tool for school academics. From math games, to vocabulary flash cards and anatomy visualizers, there’s an app for every subject and every level of instruction from preschool to higher education levels.

The Lemont High School Special Education department is now starting to use the iPad in the classrooms. Ever since the adaption started, Lemont students have benefited in many ways.

Freshman Alyssa Wood has a Junior sister Anna who helps her with her care. Anna says, “The iPad helps Alyssa and I because you don’t have to bring your books home every night. All of our textbooks are on it as well as the novels that are read in our English classes. One of the apps we have reads our material out loud and it helps you follow along as it highlights the words.”

Apple Inc. states, “The iPad Apps help personalize instruction, address a variety of learning styles, and create highly interactive classrooms. Not only does the iPad help make a more engaging learning environment, but it also results in performance improvements across the board.”

Anna also states, “What makes the iPad so great for a classroom is that it makes reading and studying for school quicker and easier. It’s great that our Special Education department is starting to use the iPad, and I hope that in the future the iPad can be used in more of our classrooms.”

Many avoid the inevitability of having technology play a major role in the future, but with the iPad’s success rate and user-friendly features, the iPad is an inevitability that can’t be avoided.



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Do I Hear Jingle Bells?

by Ashlee Berner
News writer

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock. That's right; it's that time of the year again, its Christmas time. Well, not quite. Every year companies and stores start advertising for Christmas long before the Christmas season is actually upon us. Already, there have been numerous commercials advertising the "awesome deals" for the holiday season Christmas shopping. "I can't believe that people are already advertising for Christmas shopping, it's way too soon", said Kelsey Berner.

Not only are there commercials on TV advertising Christmas, but walk into a store and there are Christmas decorations throughout the store. Decorations aren't the only thing you'll see either. There are also bows, wrapping paper, holiday tags, fake trees and outside decorations.

"Personally, I love going into stores and seeing decorations everywhere. It puts me in a better mood and gets me excited for the holiday season", said Liz Martinez.

Just when you think that commercials and seeing merchandise in the store isn't enough, you turn on the radio and there is Christmas music as well.

"Okay, I love Christmas and I don't mind the decorations in stores and commercials, but the music is a little too much. It's not Thanksgiving yet, I think they should hold off on the music still, at least until Thanksgiving is over", said Megan Santiago.

Whether everyone likes it or not, Christmas is in the air, and it's not going away, it is here to stay.

NEW TOM-TOM FEATURE



FIND TOM-TOM the thumb monkey

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!

[RULES] The following may not participate in the search: all the members of the Tom-Tom staff and their family members. The winner of an issue may not participate in "Find Tom-Tom" in the next two issues. Be very specific in terms of location of the thumb monkey.

Drawing by Charmaine Balisalisa



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Couture Corner Presents...

by Michael Gaytan
Fashion columnist

Trying to stay up to date on the current fads and styles can be a challenging task. Just as seasons change, articles of clothing may be in one day but out the next. Fashion is a commitment.

That said, having dedicated so much of our time to school and co-curricular activities, how can any student stay up to date on every trend? What resources are available?

Last year, alumni and fashionistas Erinn O'Connor and Caroline Celis dedicated their Tom-Tom time to educating high school girls on everything glam. Through their column, Couture Corner, LHS gained a touch of style and class.

By their example, I am transforming the column into a beacon for everyone at LHS. The column is inspired by one of the most influential fashion icons: Lady Gaga. She and her hit song "Black Jesus † Amen Fashion," are the foundation of the column.

Couture Corner formally announces the creation of Amen Fashion: LHS's very own fashion column. It will publish bi-weekly with fashion advice, fads, seasonal trends and more.

Like Mother Monster herself,

"I am just changing the world, one sequin at a time."



Photo by Michael Gaytan



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Days to Remember in December

by Maddy George
Features editor

DECEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT

Photo courtesy of Google

1ST: WORLD AIDS AWARENESS DAY
2ND: NATIONAL FRITTERS DAY
3RD: NATIONAL ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD DAY
4TH: WEAR BROWN SHOES DAY
5TH: BATHTUB PARTY DAY
6TH: PUT ON YOUR OWN SHOES DAY
7TH: ANNIVERSARY OF ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR
8TH: NATIONAL BROWNIE DAY
9TH: NATIONAL PASTRY DAY
10TH: HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
11TH: NATIONAL NOODLE RING DAY
12TH: POINSETTIA DAY
13TH: ICE CREAM DAY
14TH: NATIONAL BOUILLABAISSE DAY
15TH: NATIONAL LEMON CUPCAKE DAY

16TH: NATIONAL CHOCOLATE COVERED ANYTHING DAY
17TH: NATIONAL MAPLE SYRUP DAY
18TH: NATIONAL ROAST SUCKLING PIG DAY
19TH: LOOK FOR AN EVERGREEN DAY
20TH: GO CAROLING DAY
21ST: NATIONAL FLASHLIGHT DAY
22ND: NATIONAL DATE NUT BREAD DAY
23RD: FESTIVUS
24TH: MICHAEL GAYTAN'S BIRTHDAY
25TH: NATIONAL PUMPKIN PIE DAY
26TH: BOXING DAY
27TH: MAKE CUT-OUT SNOWFLAKES DAY
28TH: CARD PLAYING DAY
29TH: PEPPER POT DAY
30TH: NATIONAL BICARBONATE OF SODA DAY

31ST: New Year's Eve

While many believe December is simply a month of Christmas trees and presents, most don't realize how December is chalked full of random, completely irrelevant holidays that give you a reason to celebrate every day!

Whether you choose to wear brown shoes on the 4th, act like a ding-a-ling on the 12th or play with a flashlight on the 21st, celebrate as much of December as you like. Just remember to respect everyone and what they choose to honor, even if it is the bicarbonate of soda...



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All **BAD** Things Must Come To an **END**

by Sam Moffett
Features Writer

With the mind-sucking series coming close to an end; fans, enemies and critics are all prepared to view the next installment of the *Twilight* series: *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1*.

The *Twilight* series, written by Stephanie Myer, took the world by storm with its vampire themed romance. The books gained immense popularity and were turned into a half-baked film series. Though *Twilight* was a national best-seller, all the praise and fans aren't enough to hide the illogical attributes the books and movies both share.

The characters are incredibly underdeveloped and bland, so bland to the point where the character development is nonexistent. The main character, Bella Swan, is a bad example of a role model for several reasons. In real life, young girls should be independent and know their self-worth without being male dependent; Bella on the other hand throws herself off cliffs and motorcycles just for attention and abandons her friends and family so that she could marry the sparkling guy who could kill her at any second. She throws her life away for just one man and ignores the boy who could actually make her happy. She is completely unbelievable as a person and remains to be one of the top disappointments of the *Twilight* series.

Speaking of disappointments, let's bring up the supernatural beings. When people talk about the vampires from

Twilight, the floating spirit of Bram Stoker shudders in horror. THEY AREN'T VAMPIRES. They're just sparkly fairies who, for some odd reason, like to drink blood and kill people with their pretentious attitudes and underwhelming powers.

The storyline mainly focuses on how beautiful Edward Cullen is and Bella's teenage angst. The transfer of material from book to movie is less than successful. In the first book, there is a chapter about Bella doing a blood typing lab in science class. This was actually ironic because it clearly shows Bella's dislike for blood, which

leads to complications and other major plot points in the fourth volume. In the movie, this scene is completely cut out, leaving the void to be filled with bad acting and pretentious stare downs. The romance between the two lead characters isn't even real love, it's a shallow attraction between two underdeveloped characters.

To put it bluntly, *Twilight* makes *Vampires Suck* look more like an Anne Rice story.

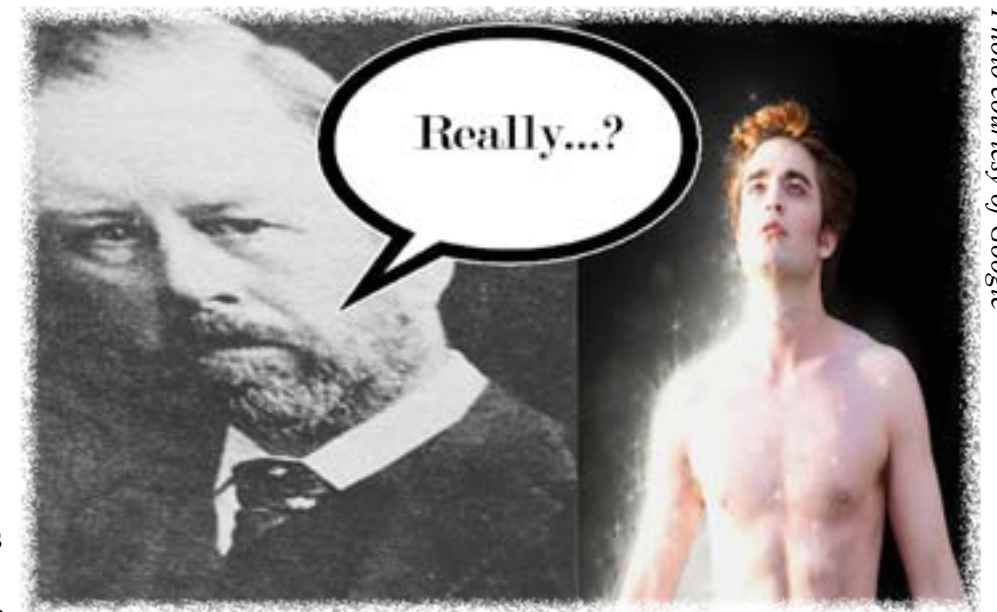


Photo courtesy of Google



by Alyssa Cinatl
Features writer

The Twilight Saga Breaking Dawn Part One came out November 18, 2011. Thousands of teens patiently awaited the premiere of the movie and there was a positive feedback from many. What is it about the very idea of Twilight that has everyone crazy?

As these teen girls cuddle up with their books and movies, they watch Bella go through the passionate love triangle between Jacob and Edward. Twilight is everything teen girls want life to be. They can try to deny it, but deep down every girl out there wants to fall in love with the perfect boy. Edward is a unique balance between a gentleman and a rebel. His bloodsucking, eternally damned charms have us under a spell. He loves

Bella unconditionally and is completely devoted to her. The star crossed lovers risk everything to be with each other, even if their very lives are at stake. They have teens asking, “Where can I get one of those?”

While the romantic aspect is a huge part of the story, so is the suspense. Vampires, werewolves and protective fathers, oh my! The element of danger makes Twilight thrilling; it moves you through the character’s emotional roller coaster so you’re dying to know what comes next.

The author of the books, Stephanie Meyer, could be the one sucking us in. We all learned in school when writing you need to paint the reader a picture using very descriptive words. Meyer has mastered that skill. Her vivid words let you believe that the story of Bella and Edward is happening before your eyes.

“Now is the era of vampires, it’s just super trendy” said actor Matt Lanter in the movie, *Vampires Suck*. Although this movie is a spoof of Twilight, he’s not wrong. These pale, thirsty creatures are trending. They’re taking over TV networks with hit shows like *True Blood* and *The Vampire Diaries*. We all want to read the books and watch the movies so we can be a part of it. You don’t want to be left out when your friends discuss the pros and cons of Team Jacob.

The Twilight Saga has people rushing to book stores, and more recently to the movie theatre. Whether it’s because of the romance and suspense, or you just like Taylor Lautner shirtless, we all love Twilight.



Photo courtesy of Google



Wrestling Season Has RETURNED

by Effie Tounas
Sports writer

The cold weather only means one thing: the start of the 2011-2012 wrestling season. And as the practices begin, so does the boys’ anticipation for their first match.

Last year, three boys from the varsity team qualified for the state competition: sophomore Chris Giatras, junior Glenn Malecki and senior Derek Nagel. Although the boys had wrestled hard in the state match, only Nagel had placed second.

The 2010 team was led by senior captains Marty Bruckner, Derek Nagel and Andrew Mason. They remained undefeated in their conference and ended the year with their dual team record of 20-7.

Although no boys have been honored with the title of captain yet this season, Coach John St. Clair said that there were “many qualified seniors” and that the coaches had decided to wait until the football season was over to give the boys a fair chance.

This year’s team has a few promising newcomers that will join the varsity team. Junior Jason Walsh had wrestled on the junior varsity team and is expected to move up this season. Freshman James Brennan is also one of the youngest to be expected to compete in the varsity matches.

“We hope to be strong all across the lineup. There are a lot of hard working kids. We will just have to wait and see what happens,” said senior Eric Kirkman.

St. Clair also commented, “We had taken third place two years ago and fourth place last year. There are high expectations of the wrestlers. With all the seniors, I expect numerous state qualifiers and I hope the team will earn another state trophy.”

The boys’ first meet will be Dec. 3; senior John Tomala said that he is “excited to start wrestling again.” Good luck this year boys.

MLS CUP

by Tom Folliard
Sports writer

The LA Galaxy won the MLS Cup Nov. 20 with a 1-0 win over the Houston Dynamo. This is the Galaxy’s third title in team history.

The only goal was score by team captain Landon Donovan 71 minutes into the game. This is Landon Donovan’s twentieth playoff goal, leading all active players in the MLS.

The Galaxy’s other team captain, David Beckham, played the entire finale on a pulled hamstring. Beckham may have played the best of the Galaxy players, despite Donovan winning the MVP.

According to Bruce Arena in an interview with MLSSoccer.com, “David’s a champion. I’ve been around great athletes and competitors in my life in different sports and this guy is as good as they come – unbelievable desire to win and compete.”

After all the hype and confetti dies down, all 19 MLS teams will be back to the practice fields preparing for the 2012 season.

Left in the dust after this season was the Chicago Fire. The Fire have had three straight disappointing seasons since its back to back semi-final appearances in 2007 and 2008.

The Fire started off with only two wins in its first twenty-five games. Yet, this did not land them in last place because of its fifteen draws, leading the league.

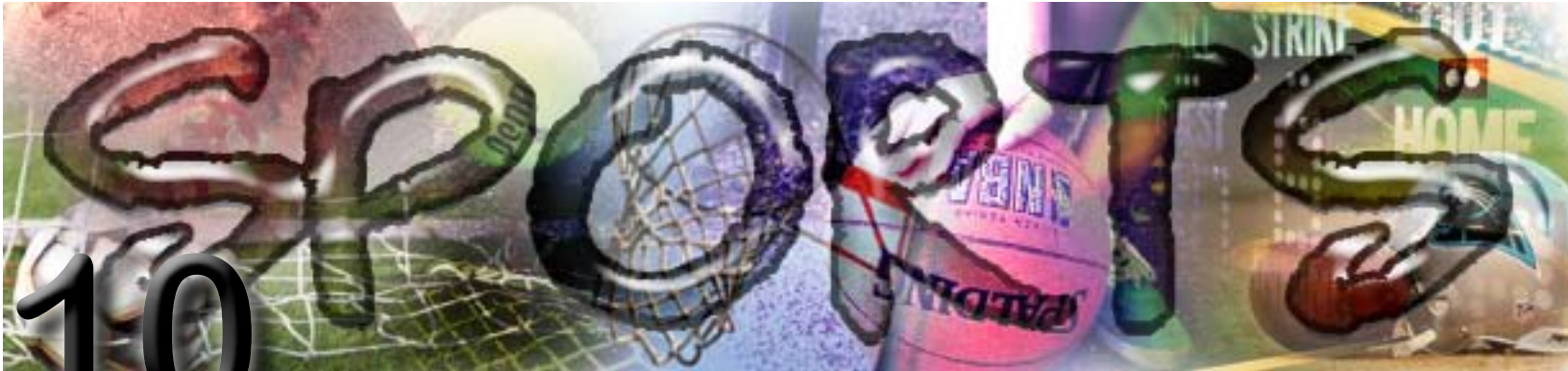
Surprisingly, next year the Fire may be a title contender. The Fire added three new players, and changed its lineup at the end of the season. In its last eleven games, the Fire won eight of them, losing only two. This was a bigger run then the Fire had in the last five years.

“I really think the Fire can finally turn it around. With the addition of better scorers and an overall better defense, the end of the season gave us a preview of the things to come. It might even be worth getting season tickets next year,” said junior Alex Wontorczyk.

As the Galaxy continue to celebrate their much-deserved championship, they painted a target on their backs.



Photo courtesy of Google



10 Lemont linemen making it big in the BIG TEN

By Ethan Parafink
Sports writer

In Michigan's 31-17 victory over Illinois on Nov. 12, two former teammates at Lemont, and two of the best lineman in the Big Ten, shared the field as they went to work in the trenches.

Michigan captain David Molk and Graham Pocic of Illinois are both starting centers for their respective teams, after playing together at Lemont.

Molk, in his senior season, is again a candidate for the Rimington Trophy, which is awarded to the top college center in the country. He was a finalist for the award as a junior last year, after starting every game at center and leading one of the best offenses in the country.

Molk was also named to the All-Big Ten first team by the coaches last year. He was named a captain by his teammates this season, his third straight as a starter.

Pocic, a junior for the Illini, is in his second season as a center, after being named an All-Big Ten Honorable Mention last year.

Both players were part of the Lemont team in 2005 that made it to the IHSA Quarterfinals for the first time in school history. In 2007, Pocic helped lead the team to the state finals, where it finished as the Class 6A runner-up.

Molk and Pocic will both look to help their teams finish strong and earn a bowl game. Michigan has a record of 9-2, after beating Nebraska; while Pocic and the Illini are 6-5 on the season, following a tough loss to Wisconsin.

The Rimington Trophy will be announced on Jan. 14, 2012, so stay tuned, as Molk has a great chance of taking home the award.



Photo courtesy of Google



11 Varsity Cheer Begins Season

by Emily Lejman
Sports writer

Lemont's Varsity Cheer team has been very successful in its previous years. Being state champions three years in a row shows the dedication and potential the team has.

Last year's state team consisted of four upperclassmen and fourteen lowerclassmen.

This year, the team only consists of two seniors, seven juniors, two sophomores and seven freshmen. This is one of the youngest varsity teams Lemont has ever had. Nicole May and Alex Lyeweski are the only seniors on the team. May, a captain, has been a part of the past three state titles Lemont won and Lyeweski has been part of two titles.

To be as successful as the teams were in the past, Lemont's varsity cheer team has to have as much dedication as the previous years and work towards achieving their goal.

Lyeweski said that their overall goal for the season is to bring home another state title and stay consistent through the team's routines. "Consistency helps a lot when we are waiting to perform because we are confident in our routine and sell it well". Coach Glowa also added, "If everyone can come together as a team and nail their routine, we will be very successful again".



Photo by Michael Gaytan

The varsity cheer team has been preparing for its upcoming season by practicing almost every day after school. Watching them cheer at the previous football games shows how much they know their routines and shows the unison they have in each cheer.

Now that the football season is over, their full attention can be on their upcoming performances and the Lemont Girls Varsity Cheer Team can come out victorious again.

The girls will be performing in their first competition on Dec. 4 at the Sandburg Midwest Fest.



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LEMONT FALLS JUST SHORT OF *State Championship*

by Ian Stratta
Sports editor

Upsets were abundant this past week in the world of football.

Last Thursday, the Denver Broncos beat the New York Jets with a triumphant last drive behind Tim Tebow. The number two (Oklahoma State), four (Oregon), five (Oklahoma) and seven (Clemson) ranked teams all lost this week, all but one (Oklahoma) to unranked teams. And now both number one seeds in the IHSA class 6A playoffs lost in the semifinal round this past Saturday.

Batavia lost to Crystal Lake (Prairie Ridge) in a home matchup 33-22, and Peoria (Richwoods) edged Lemont 34-31 in a heartbreaking double overtime loss for the Indian pride.

Lemont controlled their game well through the first two quarters; they entered halftime with a one-touchdown lead and then extended the lead to 28-14 in the third quarter.

However, Peoria came back and scored twice to tie the game up at 28. Defense dominated the rest of the game as neither team scored in the fourth quarter.

Neither team had to compete in an overtime game all season long so neither had much experience in the situation. In fact, Lemont's last overtime game was nine years ago in a loss to Burlington.



Josh Young taking a kick at the semi-final game

Head coach Eric Michaelson does not think that the team's lack of experience in high pressure situations was the main cause of the loss. He rebutted, "We've practiced overtime situations so I think we were prepared."

Both teams kicked field goals in the first overtime to tie the game up at 31.

Entering the second overtime, Lemont started off on the 10-yard line. Senior quarterback Damon Aleman rolled out to the right to fool the defense into thinking he was about to throw to the right side of the field. He then promptly turned and threw the ball to the left side of the field to senior Brad Uher. Unfortunately, the wind seemed to stop the ball in its tracks as Peoria sniffed out the play; they then caught the ball for the interception and the game.

The Knights then used easy running plays to get to the two-yard line and kicked the short field goal for the win.

Senior linebacker Kyle Krull was devastated by the loss saying, "Everything was just gone. Everything I've worked hard for ever since I was little was done. I never felt so sad and hurt before."