



Final-y **DONE**

by Marisa Mars
News writer

With winter break approaching so quickly, students are “checking out” for the semester. According to Michael Pryor of the Social Studies Dept., it isn’t just the students getting tired. “By December, both students and teachers start to feel a little burned out.”

“Sometimes, though, it seems like students do not care about their grade until November or December,” Pryor says. These students think they can slack through the first few months of the semester, but then “pour it on around November and December.” He believes that in the end this may just be human nature.

While this human nature may dictate procrastination or less effort, finals are quickly approaching. Freshman Hellen Kollarik feels there is “too much information in too little time, and testing for five hours straight for three days,” is a bad situation. She also doesn’t like that the semester ends the day before Christmas Eve.

Junior Jessica Halper agrees with her, stating, “I feel like I am somewhat prepared, but I haven’t had a lot of time to study with all the homework I have.”

This year, the finals schedule will be Gold day (G1, G2, G3) exams on Wednesday, Dec. 21 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:41 p.m. Blue day (B1, B2, B3) exams will follow the same time frame on Thursday, Dec. 22. The last two finals (G4, B4) will be taken on Friday, Dec. 23, beginning at the same time and ending at 11:04. Make up exams will take place on Friday from 11:14 to 1:00.

Although break is almost here, don’t stop working yet—final exams still have to be taken.



Photo courtesy of Michael Gaytan

LHS students studying in the library

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IMEA All-State Band Festival chooses Maggie Brown

by Ashlee "Bernstein" Berner
News writer

Junior Maggie Brown will be participating in the upcoming Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) All-State Conference, which will be held from January 25-28 2012 at the Peoria Civic Center.

In the band program, there are different seasons, marching season, and then there is concert and symphonic band. "During marching band I'm the Head Drum Major and during symphonic band I play the Contra Bass Clarinet" said Brown.

"The Illinois Music Educator Association All-State Band Festival is a concert that will take place at the end of January. Students from all over Illinois will participate in the festival. To be able to attend I had to try for the IMEA district band back in September. 2000 students from from District 1 (most of the Chicago area) auditioned for spots in the Orchestra, Concert Band, 9-10 choir and senior choir. After the district festival is over, IMEA picks the top students from each district, in each band/choir to come down for the All-State Festival" said Brown.

Band takes up lots of time and effort. It is a very big commitment for the students that decide to do band. "Band has really impacted my life in many ways. I have more leadership skills because of my Drum Major position. I also play at much higher skill level now than I did at the beginning of my freshmen year. I have made lifelong friends with people I would only know or even hangout with because they were in band. It has had a positive impact on my life" said Brown. "Maggie (and any other student) is able to try out to for All-State only if they make each district's All-District band. There are nine districts in Illinois and Lemont is in IMEA district #1. The All-State band is made up from only the absolute best students from each district" said Dave Nommensen.

Going to a contest like this can bring back great things to the Lemont High School band. "The experience that Maggie has in both the district and all-state level bands will be brought back to our group and any new or interesting techniques can be shared" said Nommensen.

"Maggie is a hard worker and it is the top individual honor a music student can attain. She is the marching band's head drum major and puts in countless hours for the band program" said Nommensen.

Lemont High School is honored to have students achieve great things here in the activities they participate in. Lemont wishes her the best of luck.



"Band has really impacted my life in many ways." - Maggie Brown

Photos courtesy of Tony Hamiton



IIT Boeing Scholars Summer Program

by Nicole McKeivitt
News Writer

Are you looking for a unique learning opportunity to enhance your learning experiences? Want to start thinking about next summer, instead of this cold winter season? Then you should consider joining the 2012 Boeing Scholars program through The Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT).

The IIT Boeing Scholars program enhances learning in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) as well as architecture, business, and psychology- for up to 100 high-achieving rising juniors and seniors per year from Chicago-land areas. The Academy, which is non-residential, takes place on IIT's Main Campus, and provides four weeks of intensive, project-based summer programming, periodic workshops, seminars, and field trips during the school year. They also provide college and career advising, leadership skills training and student grant competitions.

Lemont Guidance Counselor Denise Dalton says that, "The program is special because there aren't too many opportunities like it within driving distance from Lemont. Kids can meet students from the City of Chicago and the surrounding suburbs, which I think is a great social opportunity for our students as well. I really want to start promoting these programs because the STEM fields are critical; and the guidance department wants Lemont students to choose majors and career fields that will lead to great jobs and successful futures."

The non-residential summer program will take place on weekdays starting Monday, June 27 to Friday, July 22. Each day is from 10am to 5pm.

Dalton also says that, "If students can attend one of these programs and discover an area of study that they never knew before, and possibly attend college to study that field, that'd be a great success for us."

For further information, go to: http://www.iit.edu/undergrad_admission/pdfs/boeing_scholars_brochure.pdf?cm_mid=1117902&cm_crmid=%7BBBD126EB6-861F-E111-932A-00155D0B3207%7D&cm_medium=email

A teeny fact about Lemont's Public Library

by Will Vanderbilt
News writer

It seems as if public libraries are becoming less of a craze since the development of electronic research resources. However, Lemont's Public Library has been trying to spark the interest of teenagers back into library usage.

According to Debbie Somchay, adult services Librarian, and Rachel Snyder, who has been working at the library in the teen department for 3 months, the library is not being affected by the invention of eBooks and iPads.

The library has events built around teen's interest. They range from movie nights to advisory groups; all of which are free. The turn outs of these events are usually about 8 to 10 teens, but Snyder, says she wants to try to get 20 to 30 teenagers at each event.

The next event is a teen sketch & improv troupe which will have actors, Josh Zagoren and Dan Krall, come to the library and teach teens the ins and outs of improv. Snyder is, "Most excited," about this event.

This event will lead to an improv show (with the teens that go in attendance as cast) that will be performed at the library sometime in early summer.

Snyder really wants to hear what teens are interested in and any good ideas for future events. Email her at rsnyder@lemontlibrary.org, or just go to lemontlibrary.org and click on "teens" to explore some things the library is doing for teens.

No matter if you read, act, like to meet new people, or just are in the mood to have a good time the Lemont Public Library is always happy to have you. "Fun is the Word of the day" -Snyder.



LHS National Merit Scholars

by Shannon Ehle
News writer

The National Merit Scholarship Program honors LHS seniors Rebecca Baker, Marjorie Dallmann, and Alison Rehfus. Their 2010 preliminary PSAT/NMSQT scores earned them this special recognition.

Of the 1.5 million juniors who took the test in 2010, approximately 7,500 of them earned the National Merit Scholarship. The LHS seniors who are honored with the award ranked among the top three percent of all students in the United States who took the test.

Baker was very excited to hear that she was receiving such an honor.

Dallmann, who hopes to go to MIT next year, was very excited to find out that she was a National Merit Scholar. "If the award helps me get into MIT, than my entire future changed because of it... I guess I'll just have to wait and see," said Dallmann.

"My main goal when I took the PSAT was to receive a scholarship to help pay for college. I had hoped I might be recognized, but I wasn't sure what to expect," said Rehfus.

Tony Hamilton, Director of School and Community Relations, said, "While their accomplishments to date are indicative of Lemont High School's reputation as one of the top schools in the state, what they achieve in higher education and the 'real world' after they receive their diplomas in the spring will speak volumes as well."

Including this year's honorees, LHS has had six National Merit Scholars in the past three years.



Photos courtesy of Tony Hamilton

Girls Night Out

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Photo courtesy of Google

JINGLE BASH ROCK

by Alyssa Cinatl
Features writer

While many bring in the holidays with Christmas carols, B96 prefers to Party Rock. On December 17, B96 Radio held their annual Jingle Bash at the All State Arena, sponsored by Sobe Life Water. The performing artists were: Selena Gomez, Joe Jonas, LMFAO, Jason Derulo, Cobra Starship, Karmin and headliner Enrique Iglesias.

Last year they had artists such as, Mike Posner, Jason Derulo, Auburn, Far East Movement, Jump Smokers, Bruno Mars, Nelly and headliner Justin Bieber. B96 also has an annual Summer Bash. This previous summer featured Far East Movement, Jay Sean, Joe Jonas, Keri Hilson, Lupe Fiasco, New Boyz, Pitbull, Cody Simpson, Big Time Rush and headliner Chris Brown.

Junior Sara Diaz, who attended the 2010 and 2011 Jingle Bash said, "I like going to Jingle Bash because they don't have just one artist, they have a variety of artists. It's always exciting!" All the people who attended any of B96's concerts have been pleased. Fans on Twitter have been tweeting to B96 their excitement of the concert.

All of the artists attending this year have shown their excitement on www.b96.radio.com. You can also go to their website to see videos of the performances from this year's bash and previous bashes.

If you haven't gone to a B96 Bash before, try and win some tickets for one. It's a great concert.



Promises

by Sam “Woodward” Moffett
Features writer

During the holiday season, you walk down the streets with your friends, jamming out to some over the top Justin Beiber song or whatever. You pass a house with a group of people on the driveway; their bodies huddled close together against the flurries of snow. As you look closer, you make out the camouflage design of an army uniform. After the soldier hugs all of his companions, a young woman launches herself into his arms, her face red from her sobbing. They passionately kiss goodbye and he drives away, the family heading back inside except for the young woman. She remains on the driveway until the car turns around the corner.



Photo courtesy of Google

The car stops at the stop sign that you and your friends are standing by. You and the driver lock eyes for a split second and in that split second something hits you. Thousands of men and women won't be home for the holidays. It's a thought that stays with you long after you and your friends go your separate ways. You think about all the families who have been told by their soldiers that they would be home for the holidays. It hurts you...but then it strangely gives you comfort.

They're doing what they think is right. They want to protect our country with all of their might and are willing to give up seeing their families in order to do so. They should all be considered heroes no matter how small a part they play in the game of war. Those who come home should be honored like the heroes they are, they should be lifted high in the air as their families rejoice. But those who don't make it home are the ones we should think of this holiday season. So raise your glasses to honor the salt of our Earth, the people who do the right thing continually. They should be honored for what they truly are.

They aren't just people in uniforms; they are our army, our protectors, our heroes.



AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

by Maddy George
Features editor

Tune in February 12 at 7 p.m. so you don't miss the 54th annual Grammy Awards. Nominations were recently announced with rapper Kanye West receiving seven nominations, British singer Adele earning six, pop singer Bruno Mars with four and the late soul/R&B singer Amy Winehouse was nominated for her duet with Tony Bennet.

Other nominated artists include: Katy Perry, Mumford and Sons, Rihanna, Bon Iver, Taylor Swift, P!nk and many more.

This year's Grammy Awards will air on CBS and are being sponsored by Pepsi and Pandora. Be sure not to miss out on what is sure to be another dramatic awards season with your favorite artists!



Photo courtesy of Google

Best New Artist:

The Band Perry
Bon Iver
J. Cole
Nicki Minaj
Skrillex

Album Of The Year:

Doo-Wops & Hooligans
Bruno Mars

Born This Way
Lady Gaga

Wasting Light
Foo Fighters

21
Adele

Loud
Rihanna



Bowl games to watch

by: Emily Lejman
Sports writer

With many important dates coming up, football is going to be the hot topic for many fans as the New Year approaches. These face-offs below are games that you do not want to miss:

Illinois (6-6) vs. UCLA (6-7)
December 31, 2011

The fighting Illini went undefeated in their non-conference games but only went 2-6 in the Big Ten, while UCLA was suffering from a fired coach. With each team having disappointing seasons and only six wins, this will be a battle to stop the bleeding for one of these teams.

Texas A&M (6-6) vs. Northwestern (6-6)
December 31, 2011

This will be Texas A&M's final game as a member of the Big 12 and Northwestern of the Big 10. Against Texas A&M, Northwestern is going to need to be well-prepared in terms of film study, because the Aggies boast a strong offensive attack led by first round NFL prospect quarterback Ryan Tannehill.

Michigan State (10-3) vs. Georgia (10-3)
January 2, 2012

Both teams fell in their conference matchups though the Spartans fought closely with Wisconsin throughout the game and Georgia fell behind quickly after thirty minutes of play. Both teams have great defenses (Georgia ranked No. 3, Michigan State ranked No. 5), but while looking at the turnovers each team has had (Georgia-22 Michigan-15), the Spartans look more experienced.

Besides the bowl games listed above, there are multiple face-offs that will be taking place in these upcoming two months. To find out when your team takes the field, you can visit

<http://espn.go.com/college-football/bowls>.

Flying under the radar

by Tom Folliard
Sports writer

The LHS boys basketball team has started off its season with a 8-1 record. This success of head coach Rick Runaas' team is led by junior Juozas Balciunas and senior Paulius Otruskevicius.

On Dec. 14 the Indians finished first in the Lincoln Way Winter Classic. Its 63-50 victory over Addison Trail gave them its first tournament title in recent memory. Otruskevicius had a season high 23 points and 13 rebounds, while Balciunas chipped in 17 points.

"People want to give coaches too much credit and too much blame. We are better this year because we have better players," said Runaas.

The boys also pulled off the upset against Eisenhower Dec. 16 with a 30-point victory. The run-and-gun offense off Eisenhower was shut down by the Indian's defense, led by senior captain Matt Lipowski.

Lipowski has been the heart and soul of the defense from day one on the court.

"Defense is something you can control. On offense no one tries to commit turnovers or miss shots but on defense it is all about how hard you work. Coach Runaas gave me the best defender award last year as a junior so as a senior I need to be even better," said Lipowski.

During the boys first home game Dec. 6, the team pulled in a massive crowd of nearly 500 fans. By the time the sophomore game ended, there was nowhere left for fans to sit on the home side of the bleachers.

"It was time to show them what we are all about. It was unbelievable to see all the people there to see us. I guess that's what happens when you win," said Lipowski. Runaas added, "I hope we play well so they want to come again."

The team's next home game is not until January 6. It has a tough upcoming schedule, especially this winter break in the Romeoville Christmas Classic.

The whole Lemont community sees the potential for this season growing day by day. "We have a lot of season left and hope that this positive start will propel us into success throughout the season," said Runaas.

This year the team plays more together and organized then they have in a while. "We are such a close team this year that whoever the four other guys are on the floor with me is who I enjoy playing with most," said Lipowski.



Big East Goes West

by Ethan Parafink
Sports writer

The Big East Conference, following the pattern of the rest of the NCAA, announced a major change that five new schools will be added to the conference for the year 2013.

The University of Central Florida, University of Houston and Southern Methodist University accepted full membership and will compete in all Big East sponsored sports, while Boise State University and San Diego State University will compete as members for football only.

The moves will dramatically transform the landscape of the conference, which was originally founded in the Northeast, as it moves west and envelopes almost all parts of the country.

"Over the last 32 years, the Big East Conference has constantly evolved along with the landscape of college athletics," said Big East Commissioner John Marinatto in a press release on BigEast.org. "The inclusion of these five great Universities, which bring a unique blend of premier academics, top markets, strong athletics brands and outstanding competitive quality, marks the beginning of a new chapter in that evolution."

The five new schools hope to continue their mid-major success against bigger and better schools in the more challenging Big East. Boise State has been one of the best football programs in recent years, winning eight conference titles since 2002 and finishing in the top ten of the national polls each of the last three years. The distinctive blue turf of Bronco Stadium, where Boise State plays, gained much publicity early on during the recent Broncos' success. It has become a staple of college football and now there is even a bowl game played at the stadium.

Like Boise State, Houston has risen to the top of college football in recent years. This success is partly due to current Cougars quarterback, Case Keenum, who has set nearly every all-time NCAA passing record. Houston is also one of the top golf programs in the country with 16 NCAA titles.

A very good overall athletic program, SMU has won fourteen conference titles in men's basketball, has made the NCAA Championship in men's soccer sixteen out of the last eighteen years and is making its third straight bowl appearance in football.

One of the largest universities in the nation, UCF competes in 16 varsity sports and has made bowl games four of the last six years in football. San Diego State has had recent success, as well, in football with a win in last year's Poinsettia Bowl and an appearance in this year's New Orleans Bowl.

The five new teams join Cincinnati, Connecticut, Louisville, Rutgers and South Florida as the teams competing in football in the Big East Conference and UCF, Houston and SMU join DePaul, Georgetown, Marquette, Notre Dame, Providence, St. John's, Seton Hall and Villanova in all other sports. With the additions, the Big East will have a large footprint and a presence spanning across the whole country.



Photos courtesy of Google



by Ian Stratta
Sports editor

NBA preview

For the first time since the 1998-99 season, the NBA will have a schedule with less than 82 games. The NBA commissioner David Stern and NBA players' union executive director Billy Hunter had been negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement for 149 days until an agreement was made.

Last year, the Atlantic division got much tougher with the arrival of Carmelo Anthony in New York. However, the Boston Celtics won the division without much trouble. Boston, the New York Knicks and the Philadelphia 76ers all made it to last season's playoffs.

The New Jersey Nets were only 24-58 last season. However, if the Nets land current Magic center Dwight Howard, they will win the division; otherwise, I do not see anyone else winning the division besides Boston. The Knicks will not get enough leadership from Carmelo Anthony or center A'mare Stoudemire.

The Chicago Bulls absolutely dominated the Central division and finished with the best overall record in the NBA at 62-20. The Indiana Pacers did not have the greatest of seasons at 37-45, but they made the playoffs at the eight seed and pushed Chicago to X games in the first round.

There has been talk of Chicago trading for Dwight Howard as well as the New Jersey Nets. In my opinion, we should not make the trade. While Dwight Howard would be a great addition to the team, we would likely lose our great, young front-court including the likes of Joahkim Noah, Taj Gibson and Omer Asik.

Even with Indiana's signing of former New Orleans' all-star forward David West, expect the Bulls to once again bring home the division title.

With the imminent departures of Atlanta Hawks guard Jamal Crawford and Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard, the Southeast will become one of the easiest divisions in the league, and the Miami Heat will win without much trouble. It may look a lot like last year's Central division after the loss of LeBron James, ironically, to the Heat.

The Northwest division got much tougher last season through trades and such, but the Utah Jazz seemed to be less than stellar despite their offseason additions. Look for Utah center Al Jefferson to have a bounce-back season, bringing the Jazz with him.

However, it will not be enough to unseat the Oklahoma City Thunder as the division winner.

With only one team making the playoffs, the Pacific division was by far the easiest division in the country. Look for the Lakers to make the playoffs for the X year in a row. I also believe the Golden State Warriors will have a better season under new head coach Marc Jackson.

Unlike the Pacific, the Southwest division was the toughest division to play in as four of its teams made the playoffs, including the NBA champion Dallas Mavericks. I don't see the Mavericks or the San Antonio Spurs having the same success they have had in previous seasons as they are all getting much older. As my biggest upset of the year, I see the Memphis Grizzlies winning the division with the Dallas Mavericks close behind.

With young stars Rudy Gay and Mike Conely, the Grizzlies can once again shock the world and make a statement in the playoffs. They are my pick to win the Western Conference.

Miami will be an improved team from last season, and they will undoubtedly make the Eastern Conference championship. The Bulls will give them a run for their money; however, the Heat will return to the NBA championship for the second year in a row.

NBA Championship pick
Miami Heat def. Memphis Grizzlies

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.

Athletic Performance of the Week

Girls Basketball:

Courtney Toth

Toth accumulated 15 points, 8 rebounds, and 4 steals against Evergreen Park on Dec. 9. Later that week, she scored 20 points and had 7 rebounds against Joliet Catholic Academy on Dec. 13.



Photo by Tony Hamilton



Some **NCAAB** teams hoping to stay **undefeated**

by Paul Grossi
Sports writer

People may be shocked to see the recent college basketball ranking sheet. Teams like Missouri and Xavier are some of the new teams that were on the AP top 25. One particular team that is getting a lot of attention is Illinois and their undefeated record of 10-0.

Illinois is a local favorite and a team trying to continue its winning ways. Bruce Weber led his team Sunday to another victory over Coppin State. ESPN.com reported that at one point Illinois thought they weren't going to lose. The team worked together and advanced to 10-0. The team is working hard in hopes of staying undefeated, and trying to become a top ranked team.

Their schedule doesn't get easy as they will have to take on a ranked Missouri team and later the talented Ohio State Buckeyes.

Many college students tuned into either the Kentucky game, or the Ohio State game. Number one ranked Kentucky faced an undefeated Indiana team, while the number two team, Ohio State, took on the Kansas Jay Hawks. Both games were thrilling but didn't end the way many expected.

A last minute three taken by Christian Watford from Indiana was the reason Indiana won, and Ohio State just couldn't pull off a win. Kansas held most of the game and definitely took advantage of Jared Sullinger not being in the lineup for Ohio State.

Some other notable teams would be the Notre Dame Fighting Irish and the DePaul Demons. The Irish are coming into the season with most of their all star players from last year gone. That could explain why their record isn't the best. On the other side, DePaul is a different team this season. The team is 6-3 and a majority of their losses were close games.

With the two top teams falling last weekend, the AP ranking sheet changed and the new number one team is Syracuse. Their next game is this Saturday, and they will be taking on North Carolina State. Tune in to see if another top team will fall or if Syracuse will continue to stay undefeated.

The road to the **PLAYOFFS** 2012



by Effie Tounas
Sports writer

Only once in the past 12 years has an NFL team repeated the previous championship. However, the Green Bay Packers will be named the NFC North Champion, with a record of 13-0. It is obvious that the Packers and the New England Patriots are going to be playoff threats.

NFC Wild Card contenders will range among the Chicago bears (7-6), the Atlanta Falcons (8-5), the Detroit Lions (8-5), and the New York Giants (6-6). The eligible contender for the first Wild Card spot may be the Atlanta Falcons after their two victories against the Jaguars and Buccaneers, while the Detroit Lions may take the Wild Card number two spot. The Chicago Bears cannot accurately expect a 2-1 finish after Cutler's injury.

Contenders for the AFC Wild Card will include the New York Jets (8-5), the Pittsburgh Steelers (10-3), the Tennessee Titans (7-6), the Oakland Raiders (7-6), and the Cincinnati Bengals (7-6). The Steelers will take the number one Card, and the only way they cannot get this spot is if they pass the Ravens. The number two wild card spot may be the Jets as they will win two of the games against the Eagles, Giants, and Dolphins.

With Tim Tebow receiving all the credit for the Denver Broncos' turnaround, he cannot be the only reason for their ascension. If the Broncos claim victory of the AFC West, then they too will become a threat to playoff games.

Finally, here are the teams I predict to become conference champions in the AFC: Patriots (10-3) will take East, Ravens (10-3) to North, Texans (10-3) to South, and Broncos (8-5) to West. In the NFC: Giants (7-6) will take East, Saints (10-3) to South, 49ers (10-3) to West, and, as previously stated, Packers to North.

The 2012 NFL playoffs are set to begin next month on the 7th, six days after the regular season ends. Divisional playoffs begin Jan. 14 and 15, and the Super Bowl XLVI is scheduled to be played on Feb. 5.