

December Board Review

by Marisa Mars
News writer

In December, Lemont High School had a busy month and the December board meeting reflected this.

The Lemont football team was recognized as a semifinalist team; athletic director John Young recapped the team's accomplishments before coach Eric Michaelson introduced his coaching staff and individual players.

Roy Nees, foreign language teacher, gave a faculty update. In this update, he mentioned the thank you letters sent by Nancy Thiele's Business and Technology class to those who inspire the students. The recipients of the letters were very appreciated to have been remembered, according to Nees.

Nees also mentioned an update on Haiku. According to him, there were over 54,000 page hits on Haiku in the month of November alone.

Lemont looks forward to a second semester as successful as the first.



photo courtesy of Tony Hamilton

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Mary Ticknor selected as next District 210 Superintendent

by Nicole McKevitt News writer

The Lemont High School Board of Education put its five month search to an end, choosing Mary Ticknor to serve as the district's next superintendent.

Ticknor will become the 16th superintendent for District 210, after Lemont's superintendent position opened with the retirement of Dr. Sandy Doebert, who has led the district since 2002.

"Ms. Ticknor is a very experienced educational leader," says Doebert. "I cannot adequately express the honor and pleasure that it has been to work for District 210 for 18 years as Assistant Principal, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent."

Ticknor currently serves as the Associate Superintendent at Community Consolidated School District 181, a 4,000-student grade school district that serves throughout Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Hinsdale, Oak Brook and Willowbrook, and includes seven elementary schools and two middle schools.

"The Board of Education was fortunate to be presented with a strong pool of

candidates, many of whom were highly qualified to fill the role of our next superintendent," says District 210 Board of Education President Beverly Marzec. "Ticknor's experiences in education made her a strong candidate for the position, but after getting to know her through the interview process, it became quite evident to the board that she would be the right person to lead our district."

Ticknor earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from the University of South Dakota in 1983, and a Master of Education degree from South Dakota State University in 1990.

After working in education for 20 years in South Dakota, Ticknor joined District 181 in 2004, when she took over as principal at Hinsdale Middle School for three years. As principal, she was cited for "Outstanding Leadership in Social and Emotional Learning" by the University of Illinois-Chicago's Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (2005), and also earned the District 181 Ambassador of Excellence Award (2006).

In 2007, Ticknor moved on to the district office, becoming District 181's Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

Ticknor has served as an Associate Superintendent at District 181 since 2008 – first as Associate Superintendent/Chief of Operations (2008-10), and is now the Associate Superintendent for Human Resources.

Director of School and Community Relations Tony Hamilton says, "I have had the opportunity to meet with [Ticknor] on several occasions, and it is evident that she is both ready and excited to serve as our next superintendent."

Ticknor and her husband, Duane, reside in Lisle. They have one adult son named David. Duane currently serves as an assistant coach for the Changwon LG Sakers of the Korean Basketball League.

Ticknor will take the reigns on July 1.



LHS Announces January "Students of the Month"

by Morgan McPartland Head Editor

health department.



At the Board of Education meeting held on Jan. 9, four exceptional Lemont High School students were recognized for their accomplishments and honored with Student of the Month awards. The honorees were senior Monica Furczon, junior Sam Abboud, sophomore Ann Baillie and freshman Tyler Schoell.

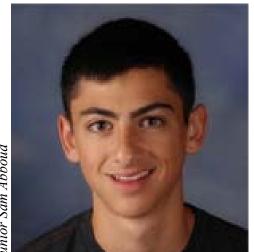
Each month from October through May, LHS honors one student from each grade level for his or her hard work and contributions to not only the school, but the community of Lemont as well.

The four honorees are chosen from the



various departments within LHS, and this month, Furczon was chosen by the Special Education department and Abboud was chosen by the guidance department. Baillie was chosen by the driver education department and Schoell by the LHS

How does one become a "student of the month?" "I worked hard and stayed on task," said Abboud. "I'm a pretty dedicated student and I'm involved in some clubs and play basketball."



Each month, local businessman Brad Greevic (of Edward Jones, Inc.) donates money to a charity selected by the students of the month. For January, the award winners chose both the Ronald McDonald House of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana and the Alzheimers Association of Greater Illinois to receive donations.

"It was a good feeling to know that the teachers had recognized the effort I put into my [schoolwork]," said Furczon.



photos courtesy of weheartit

Are You by Cara Dohse

Studies show that 70% of teenage girls don't bother to participate in normal everyday activities due to lack of self worth. When did individuals stop believing in themselves and lose their selfworth? When did they start to believe they weren't good enough?

My dad was sitting at The Corner Bakery in California taking a break from work meetings. When he finished his meal a female employee with disabilities walked over to his table and mumbled something to him. He didn't understand and said, "Pardon me?"

After two more times of repeating herself she spoke more clearly and said, "Are you fabulous?" The question brought a grin to his face. "I am fabulous!" said the lady and she continued to ask my dad questions about his life. When she was done she picked up his plate and asked one last time, "Are you fabulous?" She became anxious for the correct response, so my dad replied, "Yes."

She said, "I am fabulous!" as she walked back into the kitchen. My dad returned the next day in hopes of conversing with the delightful young lady again. When he finished his meal a young man walked over to his table, picked up his plate and walked away.

Everybody forgets everyone is equally important, unique, special and fabulous in their own way. No individual is worth more than the next person. Every person is fabulous and a treasure to the world.

ELIEVE IN DURSELF.

Literature Blight by Ryan Kahle **Editorialist** When casually browsing through a bookstore, the brightly

Dirty, Dirty Capitalist

colored and intensely graphic-laden covers of modern consumer fiction scream from the shelves. And they must; screaming begets attention, and attention sells books. Recently, the gap between Literature and fan fiction has both

widened and deepened. Literature, as the accepted definition goes, is writing in which expression and form in addition to ideas of permanent or universal interest are essential features.

Fiction can be defined as something feigned, imagined or invented.

It seems there is a basic devaluation of writing at large when an author is producing and marketing his work solely for profit; as the value of the writing business increases, the intellectual value contained in many now-widely available works decreases.

This degradation in intellectual value is not limited to the fiction itself; the parasitical print extends its roots into the topsoil of American culture, sucking out the already-scarce capability for intelligent and critical thought.

AP Literature student Shannon Ehle readily agreed, saying "readers aren't very smart about what they read; they are often fooled by pretty colors and fancy fonts."

In a society that is speeding towards a visual-based media, reading is falling to the wayside. Newspapers have become passé. Printed books garner readers solely by cover art. In a society that hasn't produced true Literature in almost 50 years, blight is taking hold.

There is something very wrong with the art of producing written language and its now-mindless consumption; fan fiction can be stopped, it simply requires thought.





A student who has a 95% or above in a class should not be required to take the final at the end of the semester. Those who have a high A in a class must have held a continuous grasp on the curriculum throughout the year. Thus, the review exam would not be necessary for them to take, as they clearly understand the course and have tried their hardest to maintain their grade.

Students who have obtained a high grade know that an appropriate amount of time and effort needs to be put into play in order to *keep* this high grade. They are obviously smart enough to know that they should study for the course to carry on succeeding. Therefore, they would without a doubt study for a final exam. They would not simply allow their grade to decline without any amount of review. These students are dedicated and guaranteed to take the time necessary in order to keep their high grade. Students like this know the damage that one test can do to their grade and their GPA.

Students who maintain a 95% throughout the semester must not get lower than a C on the final. If they were to receive a 69%, they would get a B in the class. Does that seem fair? Should students who constantly work to maintain a high A in the class have to suffer because of one test? Failing one test that is worth 20% of the final grade has the capability to lower even the smartest student's grade. It is ridiculous for a student's grade to decrease because of one test! It is ridiculous for a student's stress level to drastically increase as their hours of sleep drastically decrease from hours of studying!

On the other hand, even mediocre students would benefit from this. Having a set rule like this would motivate high schoolers to work hard to reach 95% and study harder than they ever have. Applying a privilege like this could do nothing but good for the students of Lemont High School. This would maintain better grades overall and leave the students and teachers more cheerful when going on the winter or summer break.

- Greta Zilyte

by Mallory Christine *Features Editor*

Ever wonder what insignificant details exist about your fellow Lemont High School students? Well, now you can know—in the new Tom-Tom feature, Tom-Tom Talks!

Bi-monthly, Tom-Tommers will seek out five LHS students at random and publish their answers to that issue's question. The nuttier your answer, the more likely you are to be featured in the Tom-Tom—so keep your creative juices flowing.

This week's question: What is your New Year's resolution?

Remember: stay honest, stay weird—and check back every other week for the newest Tom-Tom Talks!



"To do well on my diet." —Becky Navratil, senior



"Just live life and hope for the best."

-Shannon Davis, sophomore



"Make new friends and graduate high school."

-Chris O'Brien, senior



"My New Year's resolution is to not make a resolution."

—Joe Ruggiero, junior



"To gain some sanity." – *Jenny Worden, sophomore*

"A student who has a 95% or above in a class should not be required to take the final at the end of the semester."



NAM MYOHO RENGE KYO: PART I

by Mallory Christine *Features Editor*

I walked in pink-cheeked and merrily naïve. My brain and feet were sore from a combination of city drivers and dancing the previous night away, but my eyes felt fresh as they absorbed the many skin colors on happy, middle-aged faces.

After almost mistakenly walking into a small glass room filled with meditating Buddhists, my friend and I found our way to the ever-more crowded room where the New Year's celebration had begun almost an hour earlier.

Only a few experiences have ever made me forget I exist (the latest being my first time seeing *Avatar*—and this was way cooler than *Avatar*). But upon entering the room and watching adults of every kind wipe a tear from their closed eye or put their arm around the stranger next to them, I did.

We wove past a maze of people chanting and bobbing their heads to the drummers onstage and finally plopped into our seats. My friend leaned over to me. "What is this?" he asked. "I have no idea," I said.



Photo courtesy of Google

The 411 on Musicals

by Sonia Vavra *Features writer*

In this day and age, most LHS students' idea of entertainment is following their acquaintances' every move in front of a glaring computer screen until the early hours of the morning. Most of the time, the thought of seeing a musical might not even cross one's mind as something "exciting." But how wrong is this teenage presumption?

A musical is a form of theater that involves dialogue, singing, acting and dance all in one. Not only does someone have to act in a musical, but they must also memorize the songs and dance moves. Lemont High School junior Aubree Tally, for example, has grown up being in both plays and musicals.

"I have been doing musicals since I was in second grade," said Tally. "In musicals you really get to create your own interpretations of characters you are trying to portray and you get to put a little of yourself in each character. You learn how to adapt your voice and movement to the type of show and character you are in."

All this hard work comes together to provide a fantastic show for all ages that is a musical. The best part: this can all be found in sweet home Chicago.

Chicago has many theaters where musicals are presented, including the Chicago Theatre, Cadillac Palace Theatre, Oriental Theatre and Broadway Playhouse. Various famous musicals such as *Wicked, Billy Elliot* and *West Side Story* have all been in Chicago very recently. Like me, junior Gina Koziel has seen several musicals in Chicago.

"Recently, I saw *Wicked* for my 16th birthday," said Koziel. "I love musicals. The cast is always full of truly talented artists who know how to bring a story to life right before your eyes. It's amazing what they do."

Although it may not be on a student's list of top priorities, seeing a musical can and will be a very memorable and entertaining experience. So instead of passing the time by staring into the endless abyss of a computer screen, save up some babysitting money, round up some friends and enjoy the wonders that a musical has to offer.

To find out more about upcoming musicals in Chicago, visit http://broadwayinchicago.com/.

CONOR MATTHEWS: by Luke Whittingham Features writer

Are you sick of having the same message delivered to you from the same mindless beat? Lemont High School junior Conor Matthews' gospel message with an upbeat rhythm will change your musical world.

Matthews has truly taken a chance by delving into a genre of music that's unfamiliar to most LHS students. He began writing music at age thirteen, and has since led three bands.

Today, Matthews writes his own music and has even signed to a label. Unselfishly, Matthews looks to "open the eyes of his listeners" and help people with his music.

The crowd Matthews reaches varies in size and location. His band has played from local shows at the Front Street Cantina in downtown Lemont to large venues of up to 400 attendees. "We play at open mic night at the Cantina," said the contemporary Christian artist. "We recently got asked to play there every Sunday."

But what does LHS think of this genre of music? "His voice is a mixture of Bono and Omarion," said senior Steve Tomala.

"I watched him play at Relay For Life," said sophomore Claire Cronin. "However, my musical interests still lie in Steve Tomala."

Matthews' band manager, senior Naem Mufarreh, is selling CDs in school and around Lemont—and LHS students are excited for the release. "I listened to his 'Coming Home Tonight' teaser on Facebook," said sophomore Anna Zechel. "I'm really excited to buy the CD."

Matthews continues to produce new music, but sends the same message. You can find more information about Matthews and his band at www.facebook.com/conormatthewsmusic.



Photo by Luke Whittingham



My Blackhawks Experience

Sports writer

The goal of a person working a camera, at any event, is to capture what the people want to see. If those people happen to be professional athletes for a certain sports team, then so be it. That is what I got a chance to do on Jan. 2 for the Chicago Blackhawks at their game against the Edmonton Oilers.

Ryan Peraino, sports editor for the Tom-Tom, and I got a chance to shadow the works of the video crew of the United Center as they filmed the Blackhawks. Prior to the game, we got a tour from our mentor for the night, video coaching manager Rich Kulefsky, where we got to see the vast expanses of the United Center. We even saw a few well known people.



Photo by Kurran Buck

As we walked around by the locker rooms, we saw Michael Frolik doing his pregame stretches in the hallway. We got to look into the Oilers' locker room, and nearby was the Blackhawks coaches' room, where we saw Coach Joel Quenneville and his assistants discussing a strategy for the upcoming game.

As game time was approaching, we got a chance to see where the media, including journalists and the television networks, would sit for their broadcast. We walked past commentator Pat Foley in the hallway as he talked to a United Center employee, and saw his partner Troy Murray in preparation mode. Our work was about to begin, so we returned to the United Center video room near the locker rooms of the Chicago Bulls and Blackhawks.

Kulefsky and his employees showed us a mere piece of what they do for each sporting event at the United Center. They showed us the basics of the two programs that they work with, which not only record the game but also help to record statistics. They even told us how they are working on using a program where they can have players view film on an iPad. Just think, 20 plus players each having their own iPad to view the game film! Just a little pricey, right?

As the game started, we began to watch a live CSN feed of the game, so we saw how they prepared to go on the air. We then proceeded to watch what you would watch at home, at least up until the middle of the second period.

At that point, we watched some of the game live in front of our eyes and saw forward Dan Carcillo's hit on defenseman Tom Gilbert. This hit would not only injure the both of them (lower body injury for Carcillo, upper body for Gilbert) but would earn Carcillo a 7-game suspension and end his season.

Whenever you get a chance to do something like this, please take it. I had a great experience, and I'm sure Peraino did, too. You might just get to hang around a few sports stars.

BULLS BARREL ON

by Adrian Kalata Sports writer

With dominating defense, the Chicago Bulls are off to their best start at home in 15 seasons. Producing a 13-3 record, the Chicago Bulls are ranked as the number one team in the league. Point guard Derrick Rose, who has missed the last three games due to a sprained toe, has proven himself a leader thus far with an average of 20.8 points and 8.7 assists per game.

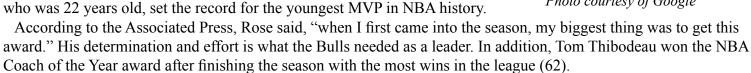
A suited Rose watched his team beat the Phoenix Suns 118-97 to earn a 6-0 record at home. Forward Carlos Boozer ended the game with a season-high 31 points, scoring 26 of them in the first half. Guard C.J Watson also scored a season-high 23 points, forward Luol Deng added 15 points and center Joakim Noah 13. All five Bulls starters scored in the double digits.

Much of the success of the Bulls has been credited to Rose, who was selected first overall in the draft by the Chicago Bulls in 2008. In his rookie year, Rose averaged 16.8 points on 47.5% field goal shooting, 6.3 assists and 3.9 rebounds per game. Rose was also awarded the NBA All-Rookie First Team.

The 2010-11 season was the best season the Bulls had since the years with Michael Jordan. The Bulls made it to round three of the

NBA Playoffs before getting knocked out by the Miami Heat. Rose,

Photo courtesy of Google



As the Bulls improve, so does the attendance at the United Center. In the '01-'02 season, the Bulls averaged 18,934 people. The '09-'10 season brought the average number up to 20,725. More people are jumping onto the "bandwagon" as the Bulls progress through the season.

Junior Mike Puzynski explained that, "bandwagon fans can be annoying. They act like they have followed the Bulls their entire life." Later Puzynski also stated that, "bandwagon fans are also a good thing. They help make the Bulls more popular and they fill the seats at the home games."

The Bulls continue their season playing away on Friday against the Cleveland Cavaliers. This will be their 17th game of the season. As they look to stay atop of the power rankings, the Bulls might not have their leading scorer Derrick Rose to contribute.





TEBOW TIME

by Ryan Peraino Guest Editorialist

When Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow was drafted two years ago, "experts" claimed he would never be a good quarterback. They said his throwing motion was too long and wouldn't work in the NFL.

Since Tebow has taken over as quarterback this season, the Broncos are 8-4 and he has brought them into the playoffs and advanced them to the divisional round.

Even during his six game win streak people found excuses for why he was successful. They said that it was because the other team was injured, the other team lost the game, Tebow didn't win it, and the excuses go on and on.

"He is a decent quarterback for one fourth of the game," said Lemont senior Dean Kulis. "He's not worth all the hype." Bottom line: this man is a winner. He has won in college (two national championships) and now he is proving that he can win in the pros.

Tebow is so unpopular in the media for many reasons. One reason is that Tebow is an outspoken Christian and is very in-your-face about it. In every interview he does he always mentions and thanks god for his ability. He is genuine in his belief and even when he plays poorly he still thanks god.

Another reason Tebow isn't liked amongst the media is because he won the starting quarterback job because of a popularity contest. Kyle Orton was named the Broncos starting QB out of training camp but Tebow supporters put up a billboard and called for Tebow to be quarterback. Broncos Coach John Fox wanted to please the fans so he put Tebow in.

However, the main reason Tebow isn't an accepted quarterback is because he isn't a traditional quarterback. He often runs and hardly throws the ball which is a rarity in the NFL today. His throwing style isn't traditional and he takes longer to release the ball.

This being said, Tebow is a very hard worker and has worked himself into an NFL quarterback. The man finds a way to win and has mounted seven comebacks in his short career.

"I like Tim Tebow," said junior Tommy Gasenica. "He has gotten me to watch Broncos games every Sunday."

Tebow has captured the attention of many viewers and many talk shows are talking about him. After his game winning drive against the Steelers, Tebow set a Twitter record for the most tweeted sports event in history with 9,420 tweets per second.

After the Broncos and Tebow's poor performance this weekend against New England, some people are suggesting the Broncos blow the whole QB situation up and draft a new quarterback in the draft because they don't think the team can win with Tebow. The Broncos are too far down in the draft to pick up any great QB and Tebow can be a franchise quarterback.

This loss wasn't all Tebow's fault but because of who he is, it all falls on his shoulders.

Despite this weekend, this man will continue to thrill people every Sunday and will just keep getting better and better each year. With his hard work he can turn into the quarterback that can lead a team to the promise



Photo courtesy of Google

by Effie Tounas Sports writer

Although off to a rough start, the Lemont Girls' Varsity basketball team was prepared and eager for Friday night's game against Argo.

Their 5-13 record, though, made some players nervous for the game. Junior Courtney Toth, new to the varsity team, commented on how she was one who was a little worried, yet predicted that they would, "come through with a win."

This was the girls first time playing Argo so far into the season. Head coach Bill Bozue said that Argo was "a tough competition" and that they had a 6 foot 2 inch center, which was rare in the girls' high school basketball league.

Keeping her title as "leading scorer," Toth scored a total of 20 points against Argo. Although down at half time, Lemont was able took the win with a final score of 34-29.

"We've come a long way from the beginning," senior Alena Pranckevicius. Toth also commented on how much they have improved since the beginning of the season.

The girls have a recent record of 6-13 after Friday night's game. The girls' next game on Thurs. Jan. 19 at Oak Forest.



Photo by Tony Hamilton

Girls Basketball is Back in Motion It's a Bittersweet Symphony

by John Fiori Sportswriter

It was a bittersweet performance for the Lemont Indians Wrestling team sending six wrestlers to the championship, but falling short in team points to Lincoln Way Central.

Batavia High School hosted the annual Batavia Tournament on January 14th. The highly ranked Indians were the favorite to win the tournament, but were upset by LWC losing by 23.5 points. Coach St. Clair comments on the team's success at Batavia, "I obviously wish we could have come in first but I feel we wrestled pretty well".

The Indians sent six wrestlers to the championship including seniors Glenn Malecki, Eric Kirkman, Jake Kaminsky, Jake Latanski, and John Tomala also Junior Chris Giatras. The only wrestler to fall short of the bracket board was Malecki.

Malecki lost 7-2 in a close match against LWC's Robbie Mikenis. Mikenis is ranked 5th in 3a and took down Malecki twice. In a deadlock match, Mikenis edged Malecki in the final minutes. Malecki living by a certain quote dictating the outcomes of his matches, "If it's meant to be it's up to me."

With the only pin in the championship, Tomala dominated his opponent with ease pinning him in 40 seconds of the first period. Tomala hip tossed his opponent adding to the crucial team points the Indians needed.

The Indians had three wrestlers edging out one point victories. Kaminsky, Giatras, and Latanski all beat honorable mention opponents earning themselves first place honors. Kaminsky depended on his flawless conditioning beating one of his better opponents yet. "This is where the extra laps in practice pay off in matches like these," says Kaminsky.

Also placing were four other Indian wrestlers including a third place finish from senior Mark Kirkman, a fourth place finish from senior Bobby Bromberek, and freshman Jimmy Brennan taking fifth.

The Indians finished up the last of their three tournaments on Saturday with great success. They look to continue that into their next home meet on the 21st.

Photo courtesy of Google



BACKONTHEMAP

by Eric Gruber Sports writer

Lemont basketball is off to an amazing start at 15-2. The addition of junior point guard Juozas Balciunas has sparked the Indians to many wins this year.

The players seem to be playing with a different type of energy level this year. The confidence of the team has been there throughout the season. "We are a better team. Everyone really gets along and our teammates would do anything for each other," said senior Matt Lipowski.

The Indians are off to a 15-2 start and are clicking on all cylinders. "We are playing as a team and doing what we are suppose to do," said Balciunas.

One of Lemont's losses was to Evergreen Park on the road by one point. The other loss



Photo by Tony Hamilton

was to Crane in the Romeoville tournament by four points, who is ranked top 20 in the state.

Both of Lemont's losses have come in very close finishes and Balciunas has learned from that saying, "As the season went on, I have really learned to handle the pressure better."

Lemont won the Lincoln Way classic tournament earlier in the year and placed third in the Romeoville Christmas tournament.

The Indians have a solid 6-1 record in conference and have a big game against rival Oak Forest at home this Friday. Lemont has almost already doubled their win total of last year. "As a team I think we come into every game with an extreme amount of confidence. We believe we can play with any team and win on any night," said Lipowski.

There have been many different contributions to the team this year. The steady scoring of Juozas Balciunas has helped in many wins. Sophomore Jake Terrazas has come in to start at the center position and pulled down a bunch of rebounds and provides scoring every night.

Seniors Joe O'Brien, Paul Ostruskevicius and Matt Lipowski have provided senior leadership and steady scoring all year.

The bench play of Lemont has been very important also. The energy and scoring of junior Joey Hehir sparks the team each and every game. Sophomore Mike Wisz, one of the most efficient three point shooters on the team, provides scoring every game.

There are many more bench players that contribute and all fill their roles just right and do whatever it takes to do to win the game.

Lemont will continue to try to have a record-breaking season.