

Lemont High School
800 Porter Street
Lemont, IL 60439

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ARTS ISSUE





GI speech team by Paul Grossi Staff writer

GI, also known as group interpretation, finished big last year. The group, led by Dan Franke ranked superior at conference, placed first at sectionals and eventually went to state. The Tom Tom had the chance to interview some cast members from group interpretation, including junior Aubree Tally.

Tom Tom: How has GI done in the past?

Aubree Tally: Last year was the first year we did very well. We did the script “Bullets over Broadway”. We were ranked superior at conference and placed first at our sectional and then were one out of finals at state.

TT: Can you explain GI and how well you get along with the people?

AT: Generally GI is associated with the speech world and all the kids who do GI were most likely on the speech team. You have to be super in sync with every other cast member.

This is a fairly new thing, especially for a very talented person like Tally. With GI you have to get along and cooperate with everyone, which could be a tough task for some, but certainly not a problem for the members on GI.

Senior Steve Hanson, also on GI, said, “Group Interpretation is a great opportunity to work with friends and involves competition and hard work into that something that is really fun to be part of. We all give 110 percent into everything we say or do, and Mr. Franke doesn’t let us quit until everything is perfected”

Sophomore Robert Rigler said “GI is one of the greatest things I’ve done at LHS and I recommend it for people who like to act, be silly and have fun.”

Conference is Mar. 10, sectionals are Mar. 17, and if GI places first, second or third, they will go to state, which would then be Mar. 23-24.

Dan Franke was unable to respond in regards to GI.

*Check us out on
Facebook! LHS Tom-Tom*

Show Us Your Jazz Hands

by Laura Harding
News writer

For a night of music and dancing, join the LHS Jazz band on March 3 at Willowbrook Ballroom for its annual Jazz Dinner Dance.

The band hosts family members, students and teachers alike for a formal dinner, live music and fox-trotting. Playing pieces by Glenn Miller and Frank Sinatra, and polkas; Terry Redford leads the band in swinging melodies all can enjoy.

Although directors select the set list for each of their bands, the selections vary from year to year. Director Terry Redford directs the Honors jazz band, Matt Doherty the intermediate jazz band, and Dave Nommensen the Beginner’s jazz band.

This will be the 23 annual Jazz Dinner Dance. “It’s a good party,” said Redford, “it’s also a fundraiser, but mostly, it’s a good party.”

In addition to music and dancing, guests can win prizes in the Top Hat Room. Guests can buy raffle tickets for a chance to win various baskets, cash or other prizes.

For those attending the dinner, tickets are 50 dollars apiece; doors open at 6:30 p.m. To attend only the dancing beginning at nine p.m., admission is ten dollars

Photo Courtesy of Google



Kevin Driscoll: The Actor

by Tom Foliard
Staff writer

Senior Kevin Driscoll just started acting a few years ago. He's had experience with the speech team, drama club, theatre and even all state. Now, as his high school career comes to an end, the Tom-Tom sat down to talk to Kevin about his future plans.

Tom-Tom: What are some of your accomplishments thus far?

Kevin Driscoll: Every role I get is an accomplishment, but I made all state this year for acting, which was one of the best things I've ever done. I met a lot of awesome people and learned a lot in the experience.

TT: What has been your favorite role?

KD: My favorite role was probably Cheech in last year's group interpretation because I got to have an Italian accent and be just this big hard [explicative].

TT: What was your biggest inspiration to get into acting?

KD: My biggest inspiration was my brother Sean. Although there were a lot of people who I owe for getting me involved, my brother Sean convinced me to audition for my first production.

TT: Has speech played a role in your decision for your college major?

KD: Speech has played a large part because it made me further realize my love of performing, making me want to major in it in college.

TT: What are your top college choices as of right now?

KD: My top three choices are DePaul and Roosevelt's theatre conservatories as well as Illinois State.

TT: Who is your favorite actor and why?

KD: My favorite actor is probably Sean Penn. He is just an amazing actor who no matter what character he plays, it is phenomenal.

TT: Who is your favorite actress and why?

KD: My favorite actress is a tough one, but Tina Fey - she's kind of hilarious.

TT: When did your love for acting start?

KD: My love for acting started during Beauty and the Beast, my first production. It was then that I realize how at home I felt on stage and how much I loved it. It has truly been a great ride and I encourage everyone to try some kind of acting in his or her life because you never know what will happen - I certainly didn't.



Photo by Tony Hamilton

4 ARTS ISSUE

Lemont High School Choir

by Ashley Murphy
Features writer

What is art? Art can be drawing, painting, reading, and writing. . The correct definition of art is the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination. Singing is an art, also

In many ways, choir is like a journal. The kids in choir release their energy and feelings in the way they sing. The amazing thing about choir is the fact that girls and guys can come together with the same interest and do what they love in class.

Choir is taught by Mr. Nommensen and from what has been said, students really enjoy the class. Choir isn't just a class for the students at Lemont High School; it's a hobby. LHS freshman Sarah Valentino says, "[Mr. Nommensen] helps [students] by testing each girl and boy's voices to the best of their ability. He lets us try different pitches and his exercises for your voice always put a smile on your face."

Concerts are big events for the choir students. The choir works hard to be perfect by the time the concerts roll by. At the same time, the concerts are loose and fun to be at. LHS freshman Annie Ternes says, "To me concerts are exciting. It's fun to sing the songs that you've been practicing for all semester to people. I felt prepared when the concert came because we practiced for it and we were prepared."

Many people may ask what the choir sings. To some, classical opera music comes to mind, but it's not at all. Annie Ternes says, "we've sang different types of music. Some are more modern. We just sang 'Send It On,' by the Disney Channel stars."

Choir may look like a blow-off class, but it's actually a class at LHS that kids can take and let their voices be heard. It's fun, but takes a lot of hard work and dedication. Now *that* is real art.



Photos by Tony Hamilton



The Artist

by Sam Moffett
Features writer

It was just another one of those days; one of those days that just seemed to get worse and worse. McDonald's fired him and Chelsea left him for Bill. He swung his baton round and round his finger, whistling to himself a catchy tune from his favorite David Bowie song. It was a disappointing day of business. The group of art majors never showed up and the guard that was supposed to work called off due to the flu.

As he walked through the aisles, he felt the weight of the day lift off his shoulders. When he arrived at the museum he had always felt calm amongst the beauty of the artwork. The simplicity of some sculptures, the complexity of delicately painted faces. He was an artist, but a secret one. He fancied daydreaming about a different world more appealing than patrolling the museum as the head of security. He had always loved to paint but found no time in his miserable life to indulge in his notions of art.

A sound then interrupted his thoughts, a sound similar to the dripping of water from a leaky faucet. It sounded as though it was coming from behind him, but when he turned around he saw nothing but the blank white hallway he had walked down a thousand times before. He began to walk away but the dripping sound started again. He whirled around and saw nothing but the plain hallway and the pictures that hung on the walls. As he walked away, he felt the eyes of the pictures follow him, watching his every move while he searched for the source of the sound. He began to feel uncomfortable underneath the oil painted eyes, all of them looking too realistically soulless to him. As he stared at one face, he finally saw it. Paint was dripping off the canvas.

He shook his head and thought it to be a hallucination, but the dripping noise came back. All of the other portraits began to bleed paint, rivulets of blues, red, and browns swirling around his feet like a rain puddles. He tried to step away from it, but he was sinking into the pool of colors, drowning within them as everything turned black.

When the man opened his eyes he found himself in a blank white room. As he stood up he looked around for a way out but saw a gigantic white canvas and a table full of palettes, paints and water jugs. A blank canvas... His for the taking. He ignored it and tried to walk away in order to find an exit but found himself turning around and picking up a paintbrush. As he began to work, he felt the weight of his lonely life lift off his bulky shoulders, his creativity pouring out of his soul and filling the canvas. He noticed that as soon as he was low on a certain color it would strangely refill. After hours of meticulous work he finally stepped back and beheld it.

He had created a wondrous world, a world that he wished he could live in. Thick forests and crumbling castles, angels by the river and planets filling the sky like stars. He smiles to himself and turned around and ran into some sort of fabric. He tried to push it away but it won't move. He claws and kicks at it... but then feels the texture of the fabric. It's a dark blue canvas. He turned around and saw the gurgling streams, the glittering wings, the large planets hovering in the sky. Why, he was within his painting! His art was standing there in the flesh, the trickling of the streams and giggling creatures sounding all too real. The man pinches himself but to no avail...

This was as real and as stunning as any dream he ever had, the calls of adventure and peace making him feel for the first time in his life that he was home.



Out of the Blue

Sarah Newton
News writer



Saint Augustine said, “Men go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the circular motion of the stars and they pass by themselves without wondering.” The same is happening at LHS; we wonder around without realizing the talent that is within these walls. It is time to reverse that trend.

Blueprint LHS is determined to display the art work of students in every classroom. The Art 3/4 classes work during their first semester to create a piece of work relevant to what they are studying in a department. This past semester Blueprint LHS focused on the Social Studies classes. The teachers jury the art and chose which piece they want to exhibit in their classroom. This year 14 out of 55 works were displayed.

Senior Catie Crutchfield had two pieces chosen, the charcoal drawings of presidents Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy. “I think the coincidence about Lincoln and

Kennedy’s assassinations is really interesting. I wanted to honor them because they were both great presidents who unfortunately had sad endings to their lives,” says Crutchfield.

Currently, the English, Science and Social Study classrooms display the art from Blueprint LHS. In the coming years Blueprint LHS will expand to Math, Language, Electives and P.E.

“I like having the art work to look at in class,” says Morgan Rex, senior. “It makes the classroom more enjoyable.”

During the second semester, Art 3/4 is staying busy with their new project, Blueprint Lemont. With the same concept as Blueprint LHS, students choose a building or piece of landscape around Lemont and donate the work to the area it represents.

“I like to display our students talents and share it with the LHS school and community,” says Ryan Hennebry, Art teacher.

So look around LHS, there is more talent hidden amongst our peers than meets the eye.



Artwork by Catie Crutchfield



Art Sculpting Human History

by Maribeth Van Hecke
Editorials Editor

Who needs art? It's not like we need it. Except maybe to distinguish ourselves from every other living being on the planet.

Drawing, painting, acting, dancing, writing, composing; creating. It is what makes us human. There is no art without us and, as history has shown, there are no humans without art.

We need art to express ourselves and pass around ideas that aren't always best said in conversation. Sometimes, as humans, we just need release.

Many artists will agree that art is their way of escape or way of coping. LHS senior Kendall Smith says, "music has gotten me through a lot of hard times in my life whether it be listening to a song that reflects my mood or getting my emotions out through playing."

Along the same lines of expression, LHS sophomore Sara Andreas uses dancing as "an escape from reality," and also says it gives her, "time to think."

Likewise, using art to communicating different ideas and values sometimes works better than words, and has been used for centuries.

Art in human history dates back to 35,000 years ago, and many collections started in caves. Many of these cave paintings are found in France and Spain and are mostly of animals. Some experts think the prehistoric artists were trying to express themselves by painting the world around them.

In the days of ancient Rome, the most familiar form of "art" was coins with the imprint of their leader's head, much like ours today. The coins were easy to carry and gave people far and wide an idea of who their rulers were.

During the Renaissance, having your portrait done was a symbol that your memory might live on. Now, rather than just royalty and church leaders getting portraits of themselves and their families, even merchants and tradesmen were asking for them.

Around the same time, many European churches learned to use architecture, paintings and stain glass windows to teach their illiterate members. Churches relied on artists to teach the story of Christ.

In modern day, art is found in more than paintings and coins. It's in our hand-held technology, the clothes we wear and the music on the radio. These are the forms of our own modern art many would argue we cannot live without.

No matter whether it's through expression or spreading different ideas and values, art has been sculpting human history as long as we have.

Photo Courtesy of Google

Amanda Kolar

“Untitled”

I hated the song [the people who are in the picture] were dancing to.



Shannon Turley

“Zombie Boy”

The drawing is of an actual model named Rick Genest. His whole body is filled with tattoos within that skeleton theme. The reason why I chose to do him for my project is because I love art, and he completely dedicated his whole body to art. I think that's beautiful.



Front Art-work Credits: (Left Column- Top to Bottom) Ashley Dewar, Betsy Theis, and Rebecca Scott

Kayla Grajeda

“The Mask that Hides what Most Don't See”

I went with the mask theme because most people in high school are all just trying to find themselves and who they are.



Samantha Zoltek

“All Roses Lead to Rome”

I chose the flower theme because I took a painting class when I was 8 years old and the focus was on flowers.



Lizzy Forzley

“Untitled”

The [clay feathers] were meant to be for Thanksgiving, but we got it for Christmas so it didn't fit the table.