

# Tom-Tom

## Mi Phone 5

by Jonathon Clark  
News writer

Take this time to reflect on the past decade. Think about all the technological advances that have helped steer the “Technological Age” in which we are currently living. But even “revolutionary” life-changers like Facebook, portable gaming and reading devices and Blue Ray fall short of the magnitude with which the iPhone has influenced our society.

At 8 a.m. on Sept. 21, the next generation of iPhone, the iPhone 5, was released to the public. Prior to the phone’s release, pre orders sent Apple stock soaring to 700 dollars per share. Within four hours of being released to the public, shipping lines for the new phone were backed up two entire weeks.

The first question on people’s mind may be, “What makes this phone different from the previous iPhones?” Apple corp., the iPhone’s manufacturer, guarantees faster service, compared to previous phones. This mighty promise is backed by the iPhone 5’s new use of 4G LTE technology, subsequently making your internet connection more reliable and faster.

The iPhone 5 is creating a stir among local Apple enthusiasts. Senior Nick Westerhausen “definitely” plans to buy the new phone.

Westerhausen adds that “There are many new features that really grab my attention such as the A6 chip which also makes the performance of the phone so much faster.” He also mentioned being pleased with the phone’s new 4G internet capabilities, but his favorite addition is the 4 inch retina display.

The 4 inch retina display is an increase to the size of the iPhone’s screen. When asked if a current phone could be compared to the new iPhone Westerhausen’s answer was decisive. “I believe that Apple has designed the best App Store along with the best phone to this day,” Said Westerhausen.

The iPhone has become an iconic figure to the millennium generation, and is one of the most useful technologies available. Is this a fact? It can be used to check homework, send emails, or even communicate through social media, and don’t forget about the phone call. The possibilities with the phone are endless.

That being said, the iPhone 5 is far from perfect. The phone’s battery is less than subpar, it costs around twice as much as other smart phones, and although 4G LTE is an upgrade, it’s not the fastest network possible.

With new iPhone generations bearing new technologies and advancements soon to follow, and with the rising value of Apple inc., the only question remaining is what does Apple have planned next?

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## Homecoming Week RECAP

by Nicole McKeivitt  
News Editor

From cheerful sorority girls on college day to “Hoedown Throw Down” dance competitions, this year’s Homecoming was one of the craziest, most highly participated spirit weeks LHS has seen.

Throughout the week, each class gave it its all. The usual rivalry between the juniors and the seniors stayed intense throughout the whole week. However, the seniors were able to pull out a victory after coming in second two years in a row.

Just like every senior, Tricia Flanagan was thrilled about their win. “I’m so excited we won spirit week, all of our hard work has finally paid off. Winning spirit week is a great way for us seniors to start off our last year at LHS.”

Even though the juniors came in second, they are already looking forward to next year’s spirit week. Junior Homecoming Princess Lizzy Forzley says, “Homecoming week was fun and competitive. It completely exceeded my expectation this year. I cannot wait for next year.” To secure a win for next year, Forzley thinks that the juniors “should recruit the entire freshmen teams for next year’s Class Color Day Assembly. They completely owned the games.”

The freshmen came in third and the sophomores finished in fourth place.

During the week, the participation level was incredibly high. This helped make the week very competitive and intense. Many students signed in for spirit points, helped make their class banners, and participated in the Class Color Day assembly games on Thursday. Most importantly, many donations were made to spirit links, the food drive and the book drive. All of the donations are being given to charity, and the Book Drive was in honor of Erin Ernst.

During Friday’s assembly, the results of the week were announced: the sophomores won the class banner contest, the juniors donated the most books to the book drive and won the most points in the Class Color Day games, and the seniors donated the most spirit links and food for the food drive.

The Homecoming Court results were also announced: Freshmen Olivia Matthews and Ace Matthews, sophomores Seth Neetz and Annette Lesnicki, and juniors Lizzy Forzley and Ed O’Malley won Homecoming Princes and Princesses. Seniors Angelica Kociolek and Jon Clark won Homecoming King and Queen. The JV and Varsity Cheerleading and Poms Teams also performed for the students and staff.

The Spirit week ended with the Homecoming Football game against T.F. South and the Homecoming Dance on Saturday night. Freshman Lindsey Mazur’s favorite part about Homecoming week was the dance. “I loved homecoming. I had a great time getting all dressed up, taking pictures, and of course dancing. Dancing all night sure makes your legs sore.”

LHS 2012 Homecoming Week started off the school year in a positive way and great memories were made.



Photos courtesy of Ashley Murphy



# World Wide Champion Found in Lemont *The Midsummer Station*

by Michelle Awad  
Features writer

Instead of her traditional summer routine of endless bike rides and late night movie marathons, junior Bridget Lynn claimed first place in a fiddle contest held in Ireland this past summer.

First, the question must be asked; what is fiddle? “Fiddle is the same thing as violin,” Bridget said, “It’s basically an instrument used for traditional Irish folk music, as opposed to classic violin.”

Bridget earned this opportunity after placing first in the Midwest fiddle contest known as, The Fleadh. “After competing in the Fleadh for 6 years, it felt great to finally win,” Bridget says. “It’s been my dream to play fiddle in Ireland.”

As a lesson learned from winning this contest, Bridget reminds others “to never stop doing what we love and to never stop trying because our goals may seem unrealistic.”

Bridget did not have the opportunity to be a tourist in Ireland, though. “In Ireland we were practicing nonstop. It was exhausting. I don’t think I’ve ever been happier, though,” Bridget said. “Ireland felt like home.”

What is next for her? Will she retire? Will she move on to a different type of music after conquering this one? Bridget plans to continue giving lessons to younger children just beginning to play fiddle. Bridget told us she would love to see one of her students have the same opportunity she had.

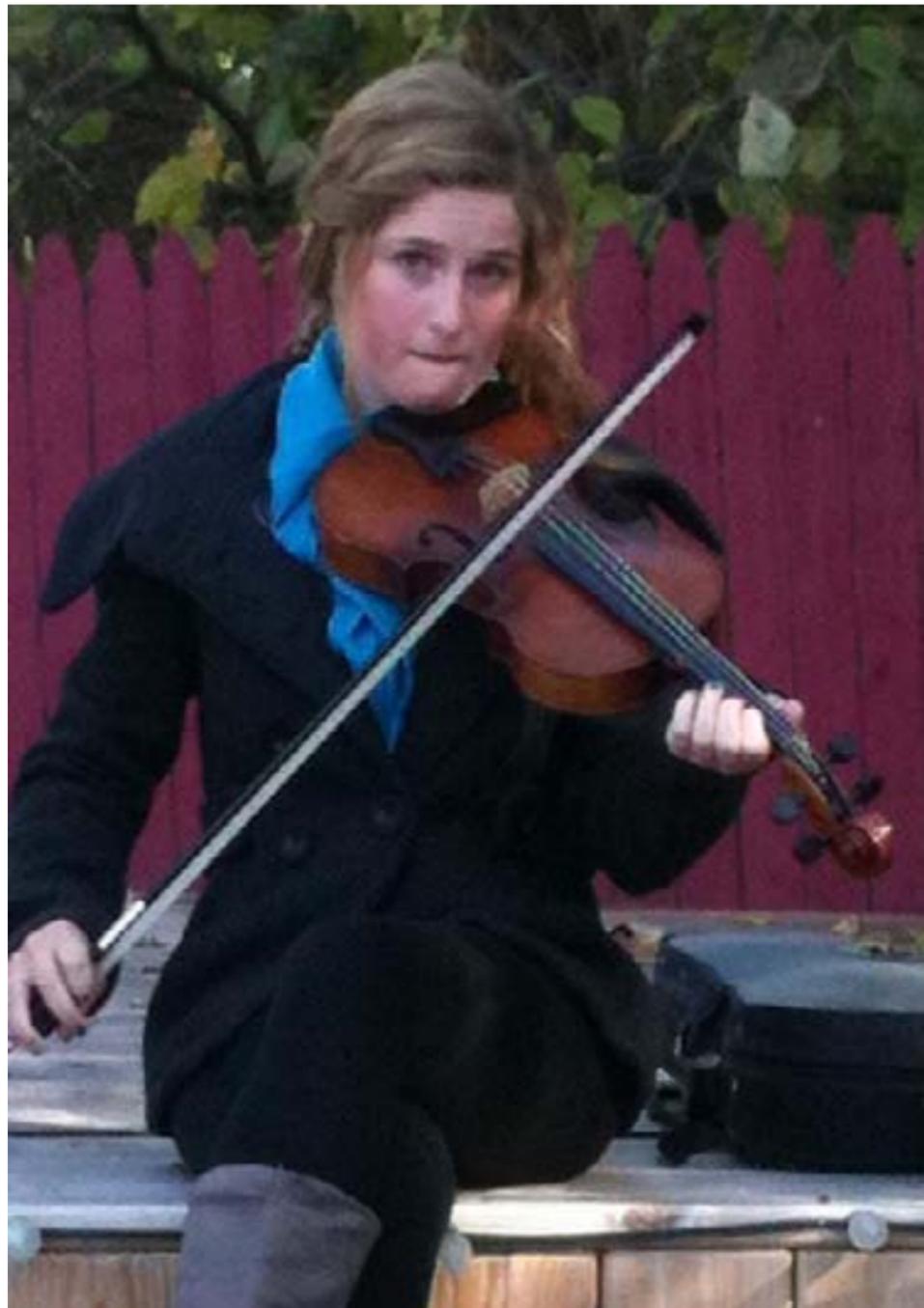


Photo courtesy of Bridget Lynn

by Sonia Vavra  
Features Editor

The perfect combination of upbeat pop songs mixed with an interesting electronic sound is found in Owl City’s new album *The Midsummer Station*.

Adam Young, creator/songwriter of Owl City, came up with *The Midsummer Station* as an album to appeal to those that enjoy happy, upbeat pop songs, and that’s exactly what this album has to offer.

Each song on the album provides the listener with an exciting array of good feelings that make you want to get up and dance. Nearly every song can capture the listener’s attention immediately due to their catchy beats and lyrics.

Owl City fan Sara Van Hecke shared her opinion on the new album. “*The Midsummer Station* still holds true to Owl City’s distinct sound and style,” said Van Hecke, “[but] it is different from his previous albums because I can sing and have a dance party to the whole thing. I love it.”

Although Van Hecke felt very highly of the album, my opinion differed from hers slightly.

Owl City did the opposite of what other pop artists do. He changed his music from more lyrically in-depth and meaningful songs to more of a pop album focused on gaining more listeners on a popularity scale.

*The Midsummer Station* is definitely not a bad album, but I question Young’s motives on gaining fans as opposed to just making music for the pure joy of making music and inspiring his fans.

Overall, *The Midsummer Station* is a nice album to dance to, but not an album to sit and listen to and question the songs’ meanings. Album Rating: 3 out of 5 stars.

Owl City comes to the Vic Theatre in Chicago on October 6, 2012.

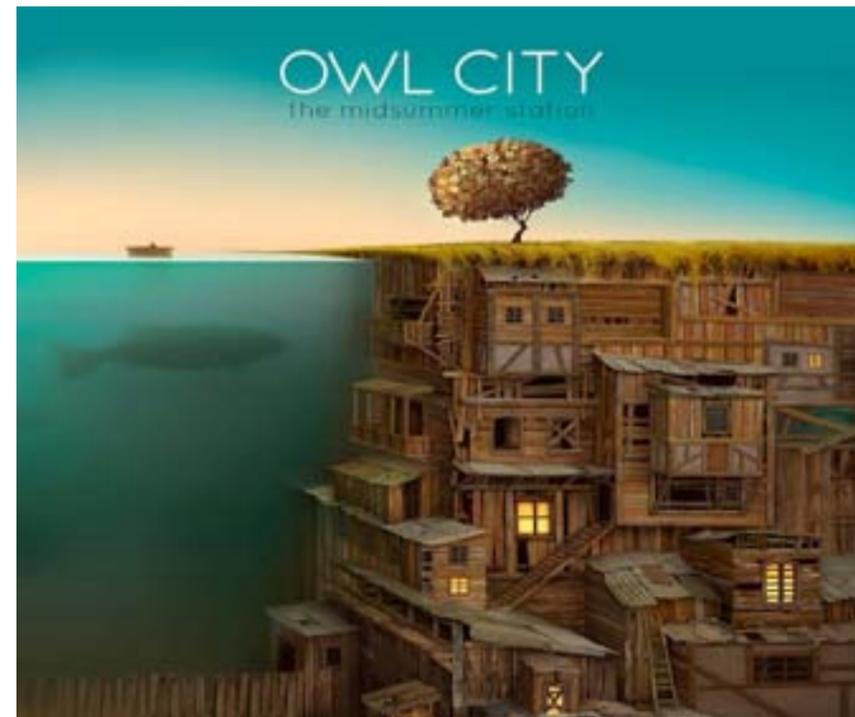


Photo courtesy of Google



# Homecoming Now *and* Then

by Alyssa Cinatl  
Features writer

Wearing costumes, buying dresses, finding dates, competing classes, football, yearbooks, dancing; homecoming brings in lots of activity for Lemont High School. The tradition of homecoming football games and dances began in 1910 with Illinois being one of the first states to popularize it along with Missouri according to Active.com. Lemont High School celebrates the tradition with its Spirit Week, Homecoming game, and of course the dance.

Many students are comparing this year's Homecoming themes to last year's. Some students say this year is better; some say last year was better.

This year's spirit week days were College Day, Disney Day, Western Day, Class Color Day, and Blue and Gold Day. The Homecoming theme was Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Last year's spirit week days were Nerd Day, Movie/TV Character Day, Superhero Day, Class Color Day, and Blue and Gold Day. The Homecoming theme was Egyptian Nights.

Senior Katie Washagan feels that, "Last year's homecoming was a lot easier to dress up for. You were able to come up with an idea in a night for a costume or a skit. This year you, you can't just put together a princess costume out of nowhere. It was easier last year." and many students agree with her point.

"LHS and the Chocolate Factory should be a really cool theme" an anonymous sophomore said, and added "if we get free chocolate of course".

Last year we defeated Tinley Park while this we, unfortunately, lost to T.F South.

Students can continue to compare the days of Homecoming, but all can agree that it is equally a fun time at Lemont.



Homecoming class color day games 2011 Photo courtesy of Tony Hamilton



Homecoming class color day games 2012 Photo courtesy of Ashley Murphy

# LHS Students Risk Lives Each Day

by Jordan Gembara  
Editorialist

Most students at Lemont High School would not expect to face life-threatening situations on a daily basis. However, many do every time they enter and exit the school's parking structure.

Every morning upperclassmen park in the parking garage. The students are trusted to drive responsibly, yet to many the garage is a place of terror. Screeching tires, blaring techno music, and plenty of profanity are sounds heard daily by anyone in the area. Kids hastily whip around corners, not considering what the consequences may be if they hit another car—or worse, a person.

"I pretty much fear for my life every time I enter the parking garage," freshmen Stefan Puskar noted. "I don't even drive, and I still almost get hit every day just walking to the car." The students in the parking garage are irresponsible and act as though they have only started driving months ago.

Drivers in the garage are affected even more than the pedestrians. Trying to maneuver out of the garage in the tight space provided is difficult, but senior Katie Washagan believes one's fellow drivers may be the most difficult obstacle.

"[Other drivers] give you no space to back out," said Washagan. "I feel more comfortable parking in the east lot each day."

At other schools, either a police officer or a teacher is stationed to prevent such hazardous driving. Junior Nick Brown suggests this is not the case at LHS. "There is no authority of any sort to keep the kids from driving like maniacs," stated Brown. "Everyone acts like they don't know how to drive."

Though the student opinion may be negative, Dean Brent Gagnon is optimistic. Each year the school takes more steps to make the garage a safer place. New lights, mirrors, and cameras have been installed, according to Gagnon.

"Common sense overrules all rules," said Gagnon. "Would it take ten extra seconds to drive slower? Yes, this care and consideration is what prevents accidents."

While both drivers and pedestrians feel unsafe just to be in the area, there has only been one accident so far this year. Though Officer Dan may not always be present every morning to oversee activity in the garage, it is ultimately up to the student body to drive appropriately.



Photo courtesy of Ashley Murphy



# The Price of Beauty

Paige Buschman  
Editorialist

Lemont High School is THE place to be when late September rolls around. Why? The answer is simple: its Homecoming season.

This year's theme was based on "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", and dance goers had to spend as much for Homecoming as the chocolate lovers in the movies dished out for golden tickets. But did they have to? Whats the Damage?

## Whats the Damage?

Most girls spent money on a brand new dress, accessories, getting their hair, nails, and makeup done—all which can cost up to five hundred dollars. Both genders may have bought new shoes. Many guys bought flowers or corsages for their dates, a new shirt, or pants. To put a cherry on top, it cost twenty-five dollars per ticket, just to get it—fifty big ones for you and a date. Grand total for a homecoming couple? I could be in excess of six hundred dollars a pair.

Many dance goers, like LHS sophomore AnnaMae Dziallo think that spending money on the dance is unnecessary. Dziallo said, "I think its a little unnecessary and that people blow the dance out of proportion. Its only one occasion so its not very important".

Oh, but it is. And why is Homecoming such a big enough deal that people spend hundreds to go? Because that's tradition and because they can. Homecoming is technically a time for alumni to revisit their old school, but the tradition of a dance has become so ingrained that many students know nothing about it- beyond its apparent social importance.

When asked about how tradition affected her wallet, Lemont Senior Ashley Baldyga said that "her sister did it, her mother did it, and it's her turn". She confessed to spending three hundred dollars on homecoming this year and one thousand on prom last year. "If you have the money, go for it," she said. How to Spend Less

## How to Spend Less

If you don't have the money there are ways to avoid emptying your pockets every September. Thrift stores aren't trashy anymore; they're hipster. They carry new styles and vintage dresses at for five to twenty five dollars—hundreds in savings.

There's no shame in at-home makeup application and hair styling. The reason people have friends is so they can give each other make overs, right? Homecoming is the best time to utilize that.

Also, start shopping early. Macys, Deb, H&M—they all have sales. CLEARANCE is key. The earlier you start looking the more likely you are to find amazing deals, and the more time you have to coordinate your outfit.

## What it Comes Down to...

Is that no one can tell someone else how to spend their money, and gossiping about what everyone spends isn't important. What needs to be realized is that Homecoming is only one night. Chances are that what happened Saturday will not change lives.

Maybe guys should stop buying twenty dollar rose bouquets for their demanding girlfriends. Perhaps, girls should be looking at more practical ways of spending two hundred dollars like investing in college savings, an ACT prep classes, or even charity. But not an outrageously priced dress from Peaches they'll wear once and shove to the back of their closet- never to be seen again.

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# YOU CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL

by Adrian Kalata  
Sports Editor

The Lemont football team finished off homecoming week and kicked off the weekend as they lost against T.F. South on Friday. Athletes, fans, and students left the game in despair as T.F. South took home the 21-20 victory.

Without the help of senior Chris Giatras, Lemont was forced into overtime where senior Joe Hehir missed the extra point attempt to tie the game, finishing 21-20.

With eight seconds left in regulation time, Hehir lined up to attempt a 42-yard field goal that would have won the game for Lemont. The team headed towards the sideline as the ball ricocheted off the lower crossbar.

T.F. South was first to respond in overtime as running back Joe Young completed a 2-yard run into the end zone. Lemont refused to flinch as senior Mitch Balek ran the ball to bring the overtime score to 21-20.

And 21-20 remained the score as the special teams failed to connect the extra point attempt. The loss brings the team record to 5-1 and 2-1 in the South Suburban Blue.

Although Hehir was not at his prime, senior Connor O'Brien told the Lemont Patch he would "take [Hehir] any day... There wouldn't be anyone else I'd want to kick that ball except Joe."

The team begins to lift their head as they put the loss to the side and prepare for their Oct. 5 game vs. Hillcrest.



Photos Courtesy of Peter Marzano Sr.



## What's Your Next Step?

Are you ready for life after high school? Now is the time to start planning. Attend JJC's annual College Fair and find the college that's right for you!

- Talk with representatives from more than 100 colleges and universities, all in one place.
- Understand your financial aid options at a free seminar, available in English and Spanish.
- Attend as a group; bring your family and friends along!

### College Fair

**Tuesday, October 9**

**5:30 - 8 p.m.**

Joliet Junior College Main Campus  
1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, IL 60431



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