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Red Ribbon Week

by Nicole McKevitt
News Editor

LHS will be hosting Red Ribbon Week from Oct. 22 to Oct. 26. Red Ribbon Week is a great way for schools and communities to unite and take a stand against substance abuse.

According to <http://www.nfp.org/>, "The Red Ribbon Campaign was started when drug traffickers in Mexico City murdered DEA agent Kiki Camarena in 1985. This began the continuous tradition of displaying red ribbons as a symbol of intolerance towards the use of drugs." The National Family Partnership's mission of the Red Ribbon Campaign is "to present a unified and visible commitment towards the creation of a drug-free America."

Assistant Principal Dave Clark wants to inform the students of the origins of the movement and how it came about. "The most important take-away from the week is to raise awareness regarding the choices teens face and the consequences of drug use/abuse. All of our students have been inundated with information about the dangers of drug abuse from an early age. Parents, programs such as D.A.R.E. and health classes are among the numerous groups who seek to educate young people about the consequences of their choices."

Clark also says that, "Red Ribbon Week at LHS is a reminder during your high school experience to be Drug Free. The goal is to provide students with a visible reminder - the Red Ribbon - regarding the pledge they make to be drug free."

Whenever you see a red ribbon around school, think about the horrible consequences drug abuse can have and make your pledge to be drug free.

Photos courtesy of Google



What better way is there to honor the National Day of Writing than with writing? Writing for money, of course! The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) asks this: To what extent is the Constitution still valid? Enter an essay and an audio recording of your essay for a chance to win a \$30,000 VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship. All essays MUST be submitted by October 25! See last page for details.

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The Great Debaters

by Jonathon Clark
News writer

Twenty seven days until the Presidential Election is over. As for the rest of October, prepare for some National debates, and consequently information force fed to you.

Whether you enjoy the election or not, public speaking, especially at debates, can drastically sway an “in betweeners” vote. On Wednesday, Oct. 3, Republican candidate Mitt Romney and Democratic President Barack Obama put their speaking skills to the test for the first of four debates in October.

Obama, known for his public speaking, was shockingly “out of sync,” according to blogger Kenneth N. Davis, author of *Results Of The First Debate: Choosing Between The Presidential Candidates*. From the same report, Kenneth said, “The first debate results are in, and most opinions are that neither man did well on that score.”

Glenn Hubbard, one of Romney’s economic advisers said, “[Obama] didn’t seem in command of his own budget or his own programs.” John Ward, a news writer for the Huffington Post, concentrates on some of the key debating skills used in their first debate in his article *Mitt Romney Versus Obama: 4 Key Moments From First Presidential Debate*.

Ward describes the contrast between Romney and Obama through presentation and preparation. He says that Obama was “listless,” while on the other hand Romney was “in control of facts” and “energetic.”

Was this a decisive blow to either side? Most would say no, including Ward and Davis. Even Hubbard expresses some concern when saying, “I think Governor Romney clearly did well tonight but there are going to be several debates.”

The next debate occurred on Oct. 16, 2012, between the vice presidential candidates, Joe Biden and Paul Ryan. The debate emphasized on foreign and domestic topics.

The initial reaction from the media leaned towards a slight victory for Biden. Frederick E. Allen, the “Leadership Editor” of Forbes, commented on how last week was through his mind a “clear victory for Mitt,” but goes on to say “Tonight I’d have to hand the win to Joe Biden.”

The reasoning for Biden’s success in this debate was also one of Allen’s points. Allen explains that the current Vice President was “Tough and strong throughout, relaxed,” and sometimes even “humorous.”

October is a crazy month for politics as every debate is completed and then meticulously examined by the media, much like Ward, Davis, and Allen. Hundreds of media sources attempt to supply you with their knowledge and opinions on what is being conversed at the debates, and for good reason. Seeing how a presidential candidate holds himself and conducts his demeanor can create good or bad media for the candidate’s campaign. And there is no better place to examine our next leaders’ luster than through a two hour T.V. debate.

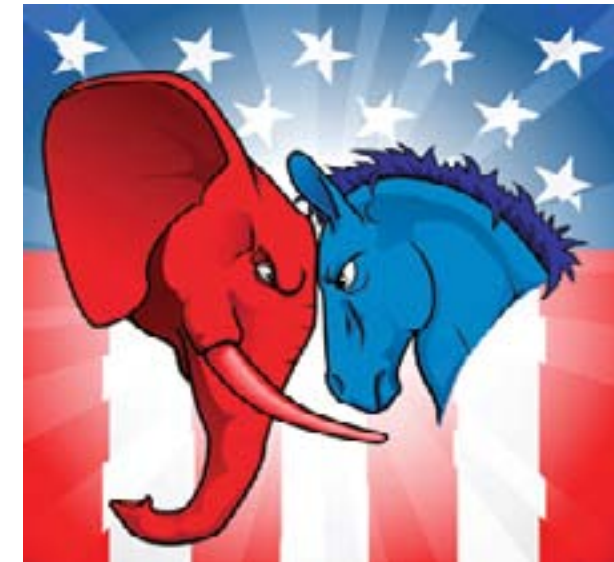


Photo courtesy of Google



IT'S "ELECTION" NOT "ELECT-SHUN"

Paige Buschman
Editorialist

November 6 is a very important day this year. Not only is it the first Tuesday in November or the one year anniversary of a massive 5.6 earth quake hitting Oklahoma--it's Election Day. Politicians can't seem to stay out of each other's business or out of the news. So, who cares? You should. Today, it is news when a country decides to allow free elections. While citizens of some countries stand in line for hours to vote, only 64% of Americans turned out for the 2008 election. That means that 36% of the population is still sitting on the couch, and a lot of those people are newly legal. Though projections show that the 2012 election is expected to get a higher turnout, it won't break 65% without a miracle. Why do young Americans take voting for granted? Senior Jessica Halper thinks that kids are simply uninterested in politics. «[Some kids] don't think it applies to them,» she said. She also supported the idea that teens- like many adult Americans- believe their single vote "won't make a difference." Halper plans to vote though; she believes that it's important for high school kids to care about the election. "We'll be the next adults," she said. Imagine that. Perhaps- the reason high school students don't pay attention is because they don't realize how much these elections will personally affect them in the future. Since most aren't of voting age, they don't concern themselves with the "complications" of the voting processes. But real attention pays off though. Senior- Jack Bort said he'll be voting as well, but doesn't push kids to care, rather to be informed. "[Kids] don't need to pay attention if they don't want to," said Bort, "but if you're going to complain you better have voted to try to make a change." There is not a single bad thing they could come from the youth taking an interest in politics. As Halper said, they are the adults of tomorrow. Some of these kids may be working for the government themselves one day, or maybe even running for political office. One vote can change the world. By adding a ballot you're adding a voice—you are the "yay" or "nay" behind change. The importance of voting is bigger than students at Lemont High School. It is bigger than the citizens of Lemont, the state of Illinois, or the United States itself. These changes are global. By electing new leaders, new policies that change people's lives – for better or worse – are made. Being a part of the right decision is beyond important. It takes less than a half hour to vote. Being a minor is no excuse. Research candidates. Define what you believe in. Be informed on parties and current events. Make the difference.

Photo courtesy of Google



Fate or Fad

by Madelyn Kulis
Editorialist

Disfigured victims, raped women, massacred villages and child soldiers; the Lord's Resistance Army shows no mercy. Earlier this year, a video was going around the internet all about Joseph Kony, who was the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

In countries such as Rwanda, Kony claimed the Lord could directly communicate with him and that he was doing the Lord's work. Kony gained an army and went to different villages where his army would burn down houses, kill families, abduct children and turn them into child soldiers.

Kony 2012 was a movement started by Jason Russell when he put together a video on the situations that were happening. Soon, everyone was behind the movement sharing the video on Facebook and tweeting it; celebrities even started showing their support.

Just a few months later, all has been forgotten, and the question left standing is: Was it even that important or was it just another fad?

Teenagers go through fads all the time, but when a topic so powerful, so emotional touched ones heart enough to share it and let other people hear about, how does it just fall down the drain? Surely, it wasn't just one of those things were everyone else is doing it and one felt pressured into it too. Or was it that one little slip Russell had- stripping in public- that made everyone think, "This man is crazy and who is to say the cause isn't as well."

Lives are taken, children are left to die, and after just a couple months, everyone just gives up. No one took real action- America, who pushes for freedom, did not do one thing, but send a thirty minute video around the internet.

Michael Pryor assessed that since it "doesn't directly impact us" no one sees real need to push for help. If there are no viable resources in that area, there is no purpose of the U.S. Army saving innocent lives.

Maybe it isn't in America's best interest to stop the LRA, but isn't it human nature to want to help others in their time of need? Helping seems to be sending sympathy over the internet, not taking the steps needed to stop the act.



Photos courtesy of Google



Live from New York, it's Saturday Night

by Alyssa Cinatl
Features writer

Saturday Night Live: an iconic American live variety show watched and loved by people of all ages. Since its Pilot episode on Oct. 11, 1975 it's been wildly popular in bringing many people live music and lots of laughs.

The show was created by Lorne Michaels, whom originally pitched the idea in Canada where he's from. But they knew that a new idea this good was worthy of NBC in New York.

The show was made to be edgy. In the 70's, the only other thing like it was Johnny Carson's show. It continues to tiptoe along the line of what you can say and what you can't say on TV, making it all the more entertaining.

No celebrity is safe from being made fun of on Saturday Night Live. Some like Mark Wahlberg may not enjoy it, but Michaels always says that celebrities should take it as a compliment if they're satirized on the show.

Sophomore Alyssa Stecyna says that her favorite part of Saturday Night Live is the way they can easily make fun of trending topics. Freshman Brian Dohse says, "I love how the hosts come on there and make the show a lot better."

There are some challenges to taping a live show. Dan Franke says there are many skits from past seasons where cast members do everything they can to avoid breaking character and laughing, but end up laughing anyways. "I think that's my favorite part because those are the most real moments of SNL."

Saturday Night Live is a star maker. Some of movie and TV's biggest stars such as Alec Baldwin, Tina Fey, Jimmy Fallon, Kristen Wiig, Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Will Ferrell, Andy Samburg and so many more began on Saturday Night Live.

Not every skit and episode is a homerun, but the audience is guaranteed a few laughs when they watch it. And there are no other shows quite like Saturday Night Live.

TWIN-ING!

by Lauren Kowalczyk
Features writer

Have you ever wondered what it's like to have a twin? Most people have grown up with just a younger or older brother or sister. So what exactly is it like to be fortunate enough to have a twin?

Everyone has at least thought about what it would be like to be a twin. Sure some people may think it would be annoying or even hate it all together, but there are people that would cherish having a sibling just like them.

Junior Amy Hughes said, "Having a twin you could feel less like an individual. One twin could be living in the shadow of the other; I personally would not want a twin." As you can see, Amy is just one of the few people who would not love the idea of having a twin.

Twins are very unique individuals. Yes they may look the same, but it doesn't mean their personalities are exactly the same.

But, it is not uncommon for twins to be very similar. Juniors Tess and Ed Moeller are twins. They don't look alike seeing as they are different genders, but in most ways they are very similar people.

Being a twin, there can be many positives and negatives. Tess Moeller explained, "It is actually kind of cool to have a twin because no matter what you have someone there for you [who's] your own age."

When asked the same question, Ed Moeller responded with, "My favorite part about being a twin is probably the matching outfits! But no, in all seriousness, I love having someone to talk to about certain things."

Whether you've always wanted a twin or you're just curious about how life is as one I'm sure twins also wonder what it's like to just be a regular sibling.



Photo courtesy of Nina Moeller



It's Adventure Time! A Closer Look into the Land of Ooo

by Sonia Vavra
Features Editor

Cartoon Network has been and still is a favorite TV channel of many LHS students. It is an excellent channel to enjoy old childhood cartoons and discover amazing new cartoons.

One of these amazing new cartoons is called *Adventure Time with Finn and Jake*.

Lots of things make this show incredible, but not many people give it much of a chance. Many teens watch this show and scoff, explaining that it's "too weird" for them. But what's wrong with being weird?

Senior Aubree Tally shared her interest in the unique cartoon. "[The first time I watched it] my mind was blown. It was just so weird and out there. I dig it."

At first, *Adventure Time* seems peculiar, even bizarre, with its characters featuring a talking dog Jake, an Ice King, a Korean-speaking rainicorn, a Vampire Queen named Marceline, the only human in the Land of Ooo Finn, and many more.

In *Adventure Time*, best friends Finn and Jake go on a ton of super cool adventures, ranging from playing a game of Card Wars to saving princesses from the Ice King, and everything in between. But the question on every non-*Adventure Time* fan at LHS mind is: What makes *Adventure Time* so cool?

Here's something mind-blowing to ponder while watching: *Adventure Time* is a post-apocalyptic environment.

Yes, this show takes place hundreds of years in the future when almost all of humanity has been wiped out due to the Great Mushroom War. Although this fact is not clearly stated in the show, many clues hint to it. For example, right in the beginning of the theme song, what seems to be nuclear waste and old technological debris is scattered around the ground. Other remains from daily human life such as decrepit houses and an underground mall can also be found.

So not only is *Adventure Time* hilarious, colorful and exciting, but watching the show with the previous fact in mind makes it that much *more* awesome.

Get your awesome dose of awesome by watching new *Adventure Time* episodes every Monday.

Spooked about American Horror Story?

by Chanelle Fortier
Features writer

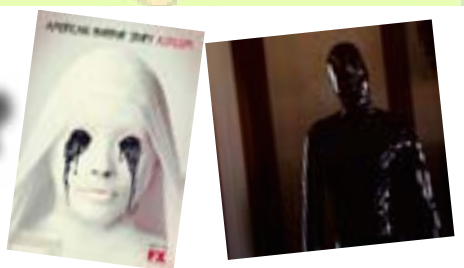
The leaves are changing colors, the weathers getting colder, and it's becoming that spooky time of the year again. If you're into twisted, terrifying television series then *American Horror Story* is a show to tune into.

With mysterious characters and a twisted plotline, *American Horror Story* has become one of the most watched shows on FX. The second season of the show is supposed to bring a scary, chilling tale that takes us into a church-run insane asylum for the criminally insane, set in 1964.

With its thrilling and captivating plotline, it's hard not to become addicted to the series. Sophomore Laura Ringo said, "I was obsessed with the first season. It was scary but yet I can't believe how good the plotline is."

Perhaps most people wouldn't think that a television series could be that horrifying, but you shouldn't be fooled by the commercials which don't allude to the show's terrifying plot. Senior Nicole Fardig says, "I started watching the show since it premiered and I can't get enough of it. It really leaves you on the edge of your seat after every episode. I have been waiting forever for the new season to start!"

In season one, viewers were taken through the lives of a family that had moved into a haunted house with many gruesome stories behind it. The characters encounter many 'ghosts' that turn their world upside down. The second season premieres Wednesday, Oct. 17th at 10 p.m. on FX.



Photos courtesy of Google



Looking Beyond the Rink

By Erika Truschke
Sports writer

Hard practices, long nights and homework; how do most kids handle all the pressure? This is the typical life of a dedicated student athlete. I play girls’ travel hockey for CYA (Chicago Young Americans) 19’s team. Every rink, field or court you go to, there are numerous dedicated student athletes present.

Most girls would rather spend their nights hanging out with their boyfriends, or at the mall buying the latest and greatest clothing line. But my teammates and I would rather spend quality time in a hockey rink. We put on pounds of equipment, sweating to get only a fraction of a bit better than before.

Ever since I was three months old, I was dragged around from hockey rink to hockey rink because of my brother. As I grew older, I began to play hockey myself. To this day, I haven’t stopped; my passion for the game grows bigger every day.

Hockey is a very dedicated sport to participate in; it requires a lot of time, effort and money. Different challenges arise every week with the crazy schedule. Travel hockey requires a maximum of 20 hours a week between practices and games.

“Hockey takes up *a lot* of effort and energy, but in the end, it’s all worth it,” says teammate Molly Klare. Every day is a new experience along with new challenges. The challenges we face “heavily conflict with our personal lives but as most people don’t realize, hockey is our life.”

The practices run at least twice a week with outrageous times, leaving some teammates to arrive home later than midnight. Not to mention, games and tournaments are planned over the weekend which take up most everyone’s free time, leaving little time for homework and other extracurricular activities.

At the start of every game, you hear the crowd roaring and feel the adrenaline rushing through your body. The thrill of every game sparks whether the game is tied or down by a goal; the excitement is always building.

During a game, “it’s time to focus” says Head Coach Anthony Booth for CYA 19’s. A game time is where you put everything behind you, and give 100% effort for the hour and 30 minutes you are on the ice. During a game, “it’s time to focus” says Head Coach Anthony Booth for CYA 19’s. A game time is where you put everything behind you, and give 100% effort for the hour and 30 minutes you are on the ice.



photos courtesy
of Erika Truschke

Cont. from previous page

Booth, 12 year veteran coach, says, “I love to watch the progression of a player’s skill and love for the game.” Coaching for the 19 year olds, Booth loves being involved in the college recruiting process and “helping each girl achieve their goals.”

Within the confines of a hockey rink, there are more aspects than just a clean sheet of ice and *a lot* of smelly hockey equipment. There is a team willing to stand by one another in times of struggle. My current team, along with teams in the past, have always been there for each other for homework help. Realizing that our teammates can sometimes be more beneficial to us than our actual teachers is a great resource.

Current teammate Alexis Molotky, a post grad student athlete from Sacred Heart University, agrees that being a student athlete has its “ups and downs.” Molotlky explains that the transition from high school to college in balancing school and hockey “is a major difference that is hard to adjust to at first.”

The passion for hockey is an ongoing emotion. People may not understand why skipping school dances, countless hours of practice and intense workouts are all worth it. True athletes understand what it takes to be a dedicated to a particular sport.

The journey will only continue to get harder from here on out. In a lot of cases, it’s the last year players will be participating in a travel sport. The next big step is college, where student athletes look forward to face new challenges, just like high school, only more complex than before. Dedicated athletes will always have passion for their sport no matter where life’s endeavors take them.

Swimming Along

Peter Marzano
Sports writer

While most teenagers are done with any pool-time until next summer, the LHS Girls’ Swimming team is flourishing in full force.

Breaking out of the gate with a near flawless record of 9 wins and 2 losses, Lemont Girls’ Swimming is quickly making noise in the South Suburban Conference.

Led by sophomore Annette Lesnicki and junior Erin Bendle, the quick start has electrified the team, uniting together to become a powerhouse in the SSC.

Competing at the top half of the SSC, it is no mystery that the Girls’ Swim team is already building up some excitement for the postseason.

However the end of the season is still far away and team members find it vital to maintain focus with a month left until the Conference meet.

Junior Erika Kubowitsch said that this is the, “hardest part of the season,” and that the LHS Girls’ Swim “has a great morale.” She also notes that while the beginning of the season energy has worn off, the team is starting to bond well together.

As far as how the season has been going along to this point, junior Lauren Lumsden said that the team has had the best relay since she was a freshman, and that it is a common goal among the team to win the SSC girls’ swim title.

The Girls’ Swim Team’s head coach, Erin Boyd, said that her team “surprises her every day,” believing that the team’s wide range of skills has led to their success in the regular season to this point.

Despite the early season success, much difficulty is still ahead for the girls’ swim team before the conference meet at Bremen on October 24. With Lemont’s close competition against Oak Lawn and Tinley Park, the Conference meet will build up some nail-biting action.

With meets against conference opponents TF South and Shepard leading up to the SSC Meet, there is still time for the girls’ swim team to continue to improve, and take home the SSC title.



Girls' swim team.
photo courtesy of Tony Hamilton



The Scoop with LHS

Golf

Kieran Ruane
Sports writer

The golf program, boys and girls alike, has seen great success over the years. But this year, both teams were looking for a season unlike any other at LHS.

The Boys

Under the guidance of Mark Hollatz, the boys' golf team has been a dominant force in the south suburban conference. And since 2009, the team has won 3 conference championships, 3 regional championships, and 2 sectional championships. The team also placed fifth at state in 2009, seventh at state in 2010, and third at state in 2011. Last season, the team also sent an individual golfer, Shane Purtle, to the state competition. Purtle placed third at the competition, held at Illinois State University each year.

This season, the team won the SSC Blue conference championship, going undefeated in all conference matchups. Also, 6 individual golfers competed at the regional competition, and 3 golfers competed in the sectional competition.

Being involved with a sport or club at LHS can really help you develop as a person during your time at Lemont. Senior Joe Paloian knows all about this principle.

"Golf has changed me as a person over the years I've been with the program" said Paloian. "I have developed a sense of honesty and integrity, because there are times when you know you're doing something wrong on the course and nobody else may see it, but it's up to you to do the right thing, and to fix that about yourself."

This season, the team also included a lot of first-year varsity golfers and underclassmen. Sophomore Matt Groebe reflects on this past season.

"Last year we lost a lot of experience when we lost our senior golfers. This year everyone on the team had to play really well to have a successful season. Throughout conference matches we stayed strong and consistent. All year everyone played the best they could offer and I think that's all that matters, not having a good team but individually playing your best and putting your efforts together in the end for a successful result. Also, the seniors and experienced golfers really helped all of us inexperienced guys by being supportive and helpful throughout the season." Cont. on next page



LHS varsity golf teams



photos courtesy of Tony Hamilton

Cont. from previous page

The Girls

Like their male counterparts, the girls' golf team at LHS has seen great success over the past few years. Under the coaching of Bill Mondrella, the girls have won three conference championships and one regional championship over the past three seasons. Last season the team also sent Emily Lejman to the individual state competition.

This season, the girls had a 10-2 dual match record, and won the SSC Blue conference championship. The team also sent two individual golfers to the sectional competition, and one golfer, junior Bridget Lynn, to the state competition. Senior captain Nicole Fardig is happy with the team's success this season.

"I was very happy with these seasons' results. I think it was a very successful year because we became conference champs, we were able to send 2 girls to sectionals, and Bridget went down to state."

Most of the time, a team can only be as good as it's coaching staff, and under the guidance of Mondrella, the girls' program continues to progress with each new season.

"I started the girls' golf program in 2002 with 5 girls and we have consistently raised our numbers every year to actually have a varsity and JV team. We have won three regional titles and were five strokes from going downstate as a team last year. We continue to strive to our goal of being one of the top tier girls golf programs in the state. I also had my first state qualifier last year, Emily Lejman. I feel that we are a program on the rise. Our summer program is getting more and more younger, grade-school girls interested which is promising for the future."

And speaking of progress, junior Emma Houran made the switch from the junior varsity team to the varsity program this year.

"Being with the varsity team was a lot of fun. It was definitely more competitive and there were a lot more opportunities to play in matches and tournaments." Houran also received a lot of support from the experienced golfers on the team. "[The seniors] were really supportive at matches and tournaments. They also helped out a lot at practices, always ready to help out and give tips to the younger golfers on the team."

Both programs at LHS definitely exceeded their goals for this year. With both teams having more than successful seasons, and a lot of younger golfers coming through the ranks, it's safe to say that Lemont will be seeing some great golf teams in the years to come.

Boys' Soccer Kicks off Playoffs

by Adrian Kalata
Sports writer

The real effort and commitment of the varsity boys' soccer team are about to be put to the test as they begin their run to the IHSA State Finals. The team has earned a 14-3-5 over the regular season despite having only four starting seniors.

The boys regular season had its ups and down, but is now putting what they've learned and achieved into full charge as they faced Chicago Washington in the home playoff season opener.

One of the main struggles of the boys' team was unwilling to attack the ball aggressively. Assistant coach Mark Tomczak hopes that the team will "get some of these minor problems fixed by the playoffs." However, team has found success in many of their set pieces, like free kicks and corner kicks.

For many seniors, this will be one of the last seasons they have as an organized soccer team. Senior Piotr Okon, starting goalie, says that "it's sad to realize that 7 years of playing soccer is starting to come to an end." Okon also said that "we just have to finish strong."

Senior Kyle Hamann is the only player officially playing post-high school soccer as of now. He has signed to play at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Hamann said "there's nothing like receiving a scholarship for playing a sport that means so much in your life." Tomczak also said that he hopes what players "learned... a good work ethic and good habits over the 4 years in high school and they can take those things with them to college."

Tuesday marked the end of the boys' season with a 2-1 loss against Chicago Washington. "We played our hearts out and put everything on the line. It just didn't go our way," said senior Alex Wontorczyk. Junior Andrew Chialdikas said the team "was together the whole way through."

Photo courtesy of Google

