

Tom-Tom

Lemont High School

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Issue 13

NHS Welcomes New Members

by Laura Harding
Head Editor

On Nov. 29, 91 juniors and seniors were inducted into Lemont High School's chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS).

Inductees were recognized for their outstanding demonstration of scholarship, leadership, service and character. Juniors and seniors receiving a 3.5 grade point average were invited to apply for admission into NHS.

The induction ceremony welcomed new members and allowed current members to be "re-inducted," into the society by lighting their candle.

NHS President Jonathon Clark, Superintendant Mary Ticknor and Principal Thomas Trengove welcomed family members of inductees in the Performing Arts Center (PAC). NHS chairpersons gave short speeches describing the four pillars of the society: scholarship, leadership, service and character.

After members and new inductees lit their candles, NHS chairperson Claire O'Leary led in the reciting of the NHS oath.

A short reception in the lobby of the PAC included refreshments and photo-ops.

NHS welcomed 91 new members on Nov. 29.



Current members were re-inducted as well.



Photos courtesy of Sean Clark

"Inductees were recognized for their outstanding demonstration of scholarship, leadership, service and character."

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TOM-TOM STAFF

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DESIGN EDITOR
Ashlee Berner

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Nicole McKevitt

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Carly Tucker

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NEWS

Beat the Spread and Prarie State Scholars

Beat the Spread Honorees

Samuel Abboud	Anne Finnelly	Brandon McAdam
Joseph Averion-Puttrich	Tricia Flanagan	Timothy McAuliffe
Salvatore Baldassano,	Beau Freebeck	Bradley Menzyk
Mitchell Balek	Connor Ganzer	Kyle Obbish
Antonio Barauskas	Paige Gawrys	Michael Puzynski
Michelle Bobak	Christos Giatras	Jacob Ricks
Nicholas Bonner	Thomas Griffin	Mackenzie Rohrer
Zachary Brosseau	William Hayes	Bryan Roy
Shannon Burke	Ivan Holguin	Amanda Ruban
Jenna Chapman	Natalia Jezyk	Nicholas Runnfeldt
Alyssa Cinatl	Matthew Kaminski	Tanya Schmitz
Nora Collins	Rachel Karpiesiuk	Bryan Shamasko
Sali Culafowski	Chandler Kelly	Lynn Stanwyck
Amber DAndrea	Angelica Kociolek	Reilley Sullivan
John Dillenburg	Aaron Korte	Courtney Toth
Bryan Dirst	Maha Longi	Daniel Totura
Vincent Dory	Michael Madsen	Zanas Tumasonis
Kevin Dowiarz	Sam Marzo	Chloe Vavra
Amanda Dziallo	Scott Matulik	Matthew Vitt
Erik Erdmier	Wendy Mazur	Anna Wood
		Rayan Zubi

Prairie State Scholars

Kelly Collins
Christopher Dowling
Helena Fugiel
Kimberly Gannon
Aaron Korte
Szymon Koszarek
Ethan Parafink
Paul Rachwalski
Sarah Reaves
Mackenzie Rohrer
Justin Stanwyck
Lynn Stanwyck
Daniel Totura
Katherine Washagan



Tom-Tom NEWS Chess Club

by Monique Devitt
News writer

Critical thinking, intense concentration and countless hours of practice. All required to be a successful chess player.

Chess club is halfway through their season with a 5-3 record. Last year they finished in the top 40% in the state competition and they plan to do just as well or better this February.

Coach Ken Suslek said, "The team is off to a great start and I have high expectations as always". Last year the team lost their number-one board, but this has only made the team practice harder.

Although winning is fun, Coach Suslek believes players gain more than a good time. "Chess helps develop a sense of logic and planning. To be successful, a player must look several moves in the future and try to develop attacks," said Suslek.

Team captain junior Zak Krepps said, "I've gained critical thinking skills and advanced observational skills from being a part of the team."

This is just one of the multiple benefits of being a part of the team. Suslek believes that chess club provides students with an extracurricular activity that exercises more than just muscles.

The biggest meet that chess club participates in is the state meet. "State is definitely my favorite part of being a member of the chess club" said returning member junior Alex Albrecht.

Annually the LHS chess team qualifies to participate in the state competition by competing in six conference meets and one team tournament.

The state competition is in February. The team stays in a hotel in Peoria, IL for two nights and has the opportunity to play against the best chess players in Illinois.



The chess club won second place in their division in the 2011-2012 season.

Photos by Lauren Kowalczyk

Tom-Tom NEWS

The Spirit of Giving

by Marisa Mars
News writer

December weather has the residents of Lemont bringing out their sweaters and coats once again. Not everyone has clothes to keep them warm, though, and the Future Business Leaders of America are looking to fix that by holding a winter clothing drive.

The clothes will be donated to the Hope and Friendship Ministries in Lemont, according to event organizer and senior Monika Filar. "I hope that everyone participates a little at least!" Filar said. "It's a great way to give during the holidays that could greatly affect someone's life and make their winter more enjoyable." Filar also said the drive is during the holiday season so even those who can't afford it can enjoy the gift of new clothes.

From Dec. 3-11, students and faculty can donate to the drive by bringing clothing items to their 3B classes or to room N231 and marking their teacher's name. Faculty members without a third period class on B day can donate to a class of their choosing.

This year, FLBA has teamed up with Interact to maximize their donations. Through the Interact donation, students and faculty members can donate personal hygiene items, which are also in great demand.

At the end of the drive, the class with the most donated items will receive a pizza party during their lunch period on Dec. 13.



Future Business Leaders of America member Monika Filar helped organize a clothing drive to donate to Hope and Friendship Ministries.

LHS Advances Two Students for VFW Writing Contest

by Carly Tucker
News writer

The Writing Center has announced two Lemont High School seniors as the VFW writing contest winners. Lynn Stanwyck and Kim Gannon were selected as the region winners for the contest.

Gannon and Stanwyck successfully argued the prompt: "Is the Constitution still valid today?" in their essays, which they wrote and then recorded in the Writing Center. As students of A.P. Government, they were able to deliver both educated and insightful arguments. "Winning was very cool because I did my research paper on this topic," said Gannon.

The VFW writing contest is a scholarship opportunity that was available for all LHS students to participate. Gannon and Stanwyck will go on as candidates for the national contest and competitors for the grand prize of \$30,000.

Both spent a lot of time and effort on their arguments and feel that it all paid off in the end. Stanwyck said, "This experience, along with winning, has been very rewarding. It's nice to be acknowledged for my hard work and my writing."

On Sunday Dec. 2, the ladies attended the local recognition event which took place in downtown Lemont. On Jan. 12 they will attend the district recognition where they will find out if they moved on, according to Gannon.



Photo by Lauren Kowalczyk

Seniors Kim Gannon and Lynn Stanwyck won the VFW writing contest hosted by the Bridge.

EDITORIALS

The (Unwritten) Rules of the Road

by Laura Harding
Head Editor

Sure, you passed your test and you're ready to go, but the real test is on the road. Keep these tips in mind when you're cruising so other drivers don't hate you.

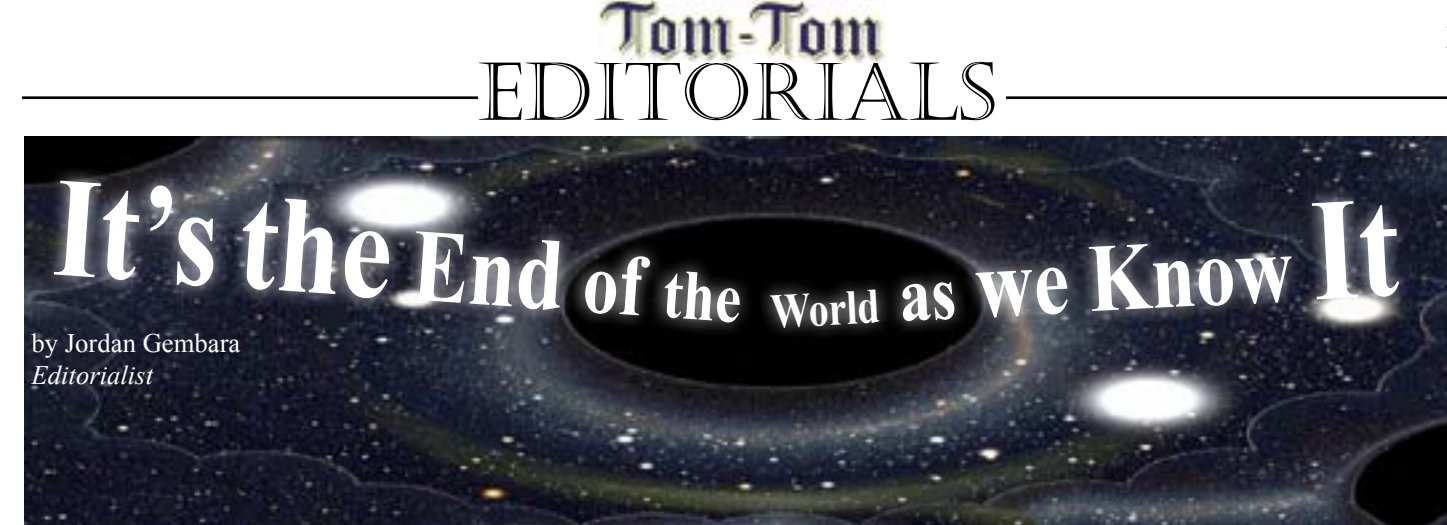
1. There's a speed limit for a reason. Not only does it mean "Don't go faster than this," it also means "Please don't go slower than this. Unless it's a blizzard or monsoon or some other weather catastrophe, then you should probably avoid driving in the first place."
2. If somebody happens to be going slower than the speed limit, don't tailgate. The only thing worse than following a slow driver is parking your car in that person's back seat.
3. Texting and driving is bad, we all know that. You know what else is bad? Any (but not limited to) of the following: Doing your makeup and driving, reading a newspaper and driving, Tweeting and driving, playing Angry Birds and driving. Basically, if it's something that takes your eyes off the road, don't do it.
4. It's hard to see at night – that's what your lights are for. First, use them. Second, don't blind other drivers with your brights. Don't be that guy or girl. Everybody hates them. Do you want to be hated?
5. Common courtesy: If you see a cop, let your fellow drivers know. Flash your brights once or twice... They'll get the message.
6. You know that saying about people in glass houses? Here's another one for you: "People in cars shouldn't pick their noses." Just like you can see out your windows, others can see in.
7. If you come to a road that merges (and isn't on a highway) don't be the driver that speeds ahead of everybody else to try getting in front. That's when all the other drivers team up against you and don't let you in. Then you get stuck waiting for somebody to let you in, but nobody does. They all know what you did.
8. While we can appreciate your choice in music, sometimes we just want to listen to Jack Johnson instead of the bass-dropping beat you're throwing down at the red light. Loud music is fun; all we ask is that you turn it down a bit when you come to a stop.
9. When people have to make left turns, getting closer and closer to their bumper won't make traffic clear any faster. Safety first, after all.
10. Flipping the bird is for special occasions. If you just throw that guy around whenever you want, it's going to become meaningless. Then what will you do when you actually need to express your distaste for another driver's idiocy?



In addition to the written rules of the road, drivers should follow the unwritten rules as well.



Photos courtesy of Google



Sixteen days. Until...what? The Superbowl? The release of the iPhone 6? The newest Twilight-inspired spinoff? Unfortunately, not quite.

Sixteen days until the end of the world.

According to the Mayan calendar, the world as we know it ends on December 21, 2012. People across the globe are anxious and uncertain as the date draws nearer. But how exactly *is* the world going to end? And how are we so certain that it *will* end?

Experts from NASA are positive the predicted apocalypse is anything but true. Credible scientists worldwide know of "no threat associated with 2012." There are no proven facts that ensure the end of the world and our planet has been "getting along just fine for more than 4 billion years".

Yet, people still can't help but to have fear of what is to come. With many rumored endings, people can't help but doubt some of our smartest minds today.

So what are the possibilities? And how accurate are they?

- **Total Blackout:** Sources claim that an "alignment of the Universe" will cause a two day blackout lasting from Dec. 23 – Dec. 25. However, these rumors are not confirmed nor have any basis of being plausible.
- **Planetary Alignment:** Some people are afraid that the alignment of the planets may cause other catastrophic events, like the blackout. Yet there are no alignments in the next few decades and in past alignments there were no such similar outcomes.
- **Planet Collision:** Others predict that wayward planets (a supposed Nibiru or Planet X) will collide with Earth. But there is no proof of any such planets headed for our home. Eris is the only known planet in radius, but it is about 4 billion miles away and will remain in the outer solar system.
- **Meteor:** The Earth is constantly being impacted by all types of comets and asteroids, though these are never large enough to do any serious damage (the last large impact was 65 million years ago during the dinosaur age). Today, NASA scientists are constantly surveying space to locate any threatening asteroids near us. However, no such threats have been identified.

If all of the possibilities are being eliminated, why are people still living in fear? The answer isn't quite known, though the media and mere word of mouth are likely candidates. People need to open their eyes and ears to the facts—there is no proof of the end on Dec. 21.

So whether you spend the day preparing for the world to stop, or spending the day as you always would, science has proven that life will go on. 2012 will end, bringing us 2013—and a whole new year to predict new possible ways for the Earth to end.

“But how exactly is the world going to end? And how are we so certain that it will end?”

Photo courtesy of Google

Photo edited by Ashlee Berner

FEATURES

Say What You Need to Say

by Michelle Awad
Features writer

Slavery is evil and women deserve the right to vote. Perhaps if the first amendment never passed, these ideas may have just stayed ideas. They became reality because someone decided he or she would speak up.

More often than not, people forget just how much of an impact the freedom of speech has had, and how often they take it for granted.

It was time for our first amendment to get some recognition. Students and teachers alike were asked, "What does freedom of speech mean to you and how would your life change if it were taken from you?"

For some, their freedom of speech helps define them. "I don't know what my life would be like without it," said junior Morgan Micetich. "In the absence of freedom of speech, I would feel as if a huge portion of not only my freedom, but also my life would be taken away. It would feel as if a part of who I am has died or withered away," she said.

To others, it means responsibility. "I think freedom of speech means the ability to say whatever you like to whomever you like. This ability comes with responsibility, though, because words can cause as much pain as physical pain," said junior Margaret Rogers.

From a historic perspective, social studies teacher Dan Priestley says, "The crucial significance in the 1st amendment is variance and plurality of opinion and in a democratic society. This is imperative. Once varied opinions, especially politically, are limited your society ceases to be a democracy."

Social studies teacher, Jodi Nye, seconds this opinion. "I would argue that of all our freedoms the most sacred and fundamental is freedom of speech, without it all other first amendment freedoms would be meaningless.

Moreover, freedom of speech is a necessary component of any democracy," she said.

The very thought of our "most sacred and fundamental" right scares many. "Freedom of speech is something that a lot of people take for granted. Can you imagine not being able to stand up for what you believe in? Society would never change, never grow, never evolve," said junior Anna Zechel.

Everyone has an opinions, ideas, and beliefs. However, not everyone is born in a place where they can freely express them. Never let a day go by without exercising our most essential amendment.



Photo courtesy of Google

Turning Trash into Treasure

by Sam Moffett
Features writer

Art can be such a complex thing. All the paint, the colors, the shading. But through all the sculptures and their embellishments, a new kind of art sneaks through the cracks of charcoal and canvases and lands in Lemont High School. It takes the form of something some students have seen before: the form of cardboard.

The "cardboard project" is taught by art teacher Ryan Hennebry who was heavily inspired by cardboard artist Chris Gilmore, a man known for making life sized sculptures out of cardboard.

"I chose cardboard for the simple reason that it's a recyclable product. It's a way to turn something that'll usually be thrown away into an art project," said Hennebry.

Though the project looks difficult, Hennebry explains that the process in creating cardboard art is very simple. "I show [the students] Chris Gilmore and have them look at the possibilities of cardboard art and give them inspiration. They sketch and brainstorm ideas and then draw the images on the cardboard. They have to plan out which sections they should carve out."

With his classrooms art on display in the cafeteria and on Haiku, Hennebry is very happy with the message the art shows. He said, "It's the going green initiative. Kids really get a sense of making something aesthetically pleasing out of something ordinary."



Designer Sherri Hill

Photos courtesy of Google

Tom-Tom FEATURES

Springy with Sherri Hill

by Rachel Bogo
Features writer

130 days and counting. Prom is a few months away, but designer Sherri Hill is getting a head start on the upcoming year with her Spring 2013 collection.

Her collection went from colorful short dresses to long dramatic gowns and everything in between like high-low dresses and ball gowns. It all started in 2008 when Hill launched a fashion house under her name, and has now taken global domination with over 30 countries around the world.

"A prom dress means more than you think it would. It needs to be perfect. It's so important because the girl feels like a princess and everyone's attention is on her. She wants to look outstanding," said senior Grace Pender.

Famous faces such as Miss USA 2011 Alyssa Campanella, Miss Universe Leila Lopes and Kendall and Kylie Jenner walked in Hill's fashion show on Sept. 7. The famous faces continued to travel into the audience with Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte, the reigning Miss USA-Olivia Culpo and the boss himself Donald Trump.

The famous designer has sponsored the Miss USA pageant for some years now, and also her work has been seen on some stars: Selena Gomez, Lil Mama, Miranda Lambert and Vanna White.

After making her runway debut last year, Kendall Jenner came back to stomp on the catwalk-with her sister Kylie. Kendall says, "You can't be really shy to wear it [her dresses]." When asked what would be coming up after she walked in the 2012 show Jenner replied, "I don't know, hopefully great stuff."

A girl can buy a dress anywhere, but to buy a Hill design you must go to a prom boutique that carries her dresses. Peaches and That Girl sell Hill creations, but you can also find them on any prom website.

As the new year approaches, so does prom. Get ready for Spring, and remember: The early fashionista always gets the gown.

Designer Sherri Hill releases her new line of dresses for the 2013 season.



Water: A Liquid Miracle.

by Maggie Brown
Features writer

Water. A simple combination of hydrogen and oxygen that is necessary for life. Yet, we still somehow find a way to take it for granted. We've all been told that drinking water is good for you, yet some people would be surprised by the vast amount of benefits one could get by drinking it regularly.

According to jillianmichaels.com, men should consume about 128 ounces of water a day and women should consume about 88 ounces. Luckily you don't have to drink that total amount to get your daily fill, and your bladder will thank you for that. Water can be found in foods that you eat as well as other beverages that you drink throughout the day. Whatever way you consume your water, the benefits that you will receive are amazing.

Your body is comprised of 60% water, and not surprisingly, they perform several functions like aiding in digestion, circulation, and maintaining your body temperature. You may be shocked to know that without water, your body would poison itself. According to Kaiser Permanente nephrologist Steven Guest, MD, "Body fluids transport waste products in and out of cells. The main toxin in the body is blood urea nitrogen, a water-soluble waste that is able to pass through the kidneys to be excreted in the urine" Your kidneys get rid of the toxin in your urine. As long as your body is fully hydrated, your kidneys will function at full strength.

Women everywhere will be glad to know that know that drinking water actually helps keep wrinkles away. According to Atlanta dermatologist Kenneth Ellner, MD, "Dehydration makes your skin look [drier] and wrinkled, which can be improved with proper hydration." Drinking water can also aid in weight loss. Although it does nothing to make you lose weight, the calorie count in water is significantly lower than in other beverages like soda or sports drinks.

In fact, water doesn't contain any calories at all. It also fills your stomach so you'll be less likely to snack during the day.

Junior Sean Dutton says he tries to drink 2 liters of water a day because "water keeps me hydrated the most. It quenches my thirst." Dutton prefers it over other drinks because he feels it gives him more energy due to the electrolytes.

Sophomore Katie Lynch tries to drink 2 liters a day as well, "I don't always do it, but I try." Lynch does this so she can stay properly hydrated throughout the day. Lynch said one of the benefits she noticed from staying hydrated was that she's "always energetic."

Whether you like it bottled, flavored or straight from the tap, drinking water is beneficial to your health. By making sure you get your recommended amount each day, you are taking a step towards a healthier life.



Drinking water makes you less likely to snack throughout the day.

Winter Time, Dry Skin Time

by Ashley Murphy
Features writer

It's that time of year again: Cracked fingers, rough legs, itchy arms and loads of Chap Stick. With the right moisturizers and lotions, winter doesn't have to be so miserable. Here is a list of dermatologist recommended moisturizers for your dry skin.

- **Cetaphil:** The University of Kansas Medical Center Department of Dermatology recommends Cetaphil moisturizing cream for face and body moisturizer for people with sensitive skin. It is great for anytime of the year.
- **Lubriderm:** Dermatologist Jessica J. Krant, M.D., recommends Lubriderm moisturizers for all types of skins. Whether your skin is rough or baby smooth, Lubriderm is a healthier choice for your skin.
- **CeraVe:** Dermatologists recommend CeraVe moisturizing cream for skin that is not only dry, but itchy. They also recommend CeraVe for some using prescription medications for their skin.
- **Eucerin:** Eucerin original lotion is recommended by dermatologists for extreme dry skin. This intensive repair lotion is very thick and a bit oily, but perfect for cracked up and flaky skin. This lotion is recommended for patients undergoing radiation.

These lotions will clear up your skin in no time. Former Lemont High School student Daphne Stratta states, "Last winter was the worst. I couldn't find anything that would help my rough skin, but that Cetaphil was perfect for not only my legs, but for my face!"

The key is that none of these lotions contain oils and scents that will dry out your skin. Scented lotions from Bath and Body Works can dry your skin out more and damage it. For people with dry, sensitive skin, using scented lotion can be worse than not putting lotion on at all. It is crucial to try these lotions and see what works best for your skin this season.

Winter time not only calls for holiday cheers, but calls for the driest skin of the year. Stick to this list of lotions and your skin will be smooth and replenished all winter long.



Body lotions can be used to keep skin from being too dry.

SPORTS

PERFECTION FOR THE IRISH

by Cody Caballero
Sports writer

Twelve games down, one to go. The Notre Dame Fighting Irish have completed a perfect season and clinched their BCS National Championship birth. The Irish will take on the winner of the SEC Championship between Alabama and Georgia.

Over the past six years a team from the SEC has won the BCS National Championship; Notre Dame looks to put an end to that streak.

With the perfect record hanging in the balance, Notre Dame fans are excited to see the Irish playing for a National Championship.

Senior and Notre Dame fan Connor O'Brien said, "Notre Dame is the only undefeated team in college football right now and they deserve every right to play in the title game. Led by Manti Te'o and a solid defense they can win the national championship."

Manti Te'o (linebacker) is also in the running for the Heisman trophy against some of the best players in all of college football. According to ESPN Expert's poll, Manti Te'o is in second place behind Johnny Manziel quarterback for Texas A&M.

Notre Dame fan Jake Lemming said, "I would like to say yes that Manti Te'o would win the Heisman but Johnny Manziel is too good and it is his to lose."



Notre Dame completed their season with a perfect record.

“With the perfect record hanging in the balance, Notre Dame fans are excited to see the Irish playing for a National Championship.”