

Tom-Tom

Lemont High School

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Issue 16

Pencils of Promise

by Monique Devitt
News writer



Photo by Alyssa Cinatl

Poster advertising Pencils for Promise fundraiser

collect money during each lunch from Jan. 14-17 to raise funds for pencils of promise.

Pencils of Promise asks for donations of \$25. For every \$25 that is donated, one child will be educated for an entire year. In addition to aiding children in third-world nations, participating schools will be entered into a raffle to have Justin Bieber perform at their school.

"Pencils of Promise supports a really great cause and is an honest organization that gives 100% of the money to those that need it most", said student council vice president Eddy Sinovich.

Students, staff and community members can also donate online through January 31.

"Pencils of Promise supports a really great cause and is an honest organization that gives 100% of the money to those that need it most"

-Student council Vice President Eddy Sinovich

Listening to the morning announcements probably wouldn't qualify as most students' favorite thing about a school day morning, but when students hear about an opportunity for pop star Justin Bieber to visit LHS, it certainly makes some ears perk up.

Pencils of Promise is an international non-profit organization with the belief that every child around the world deserves an equal opportunity to receive a quality education. They are achieving this goal by building schools in third-world nations, training teachers and providing students with pencils.

Founder and CEO of Pencils of Promise Adam Braun stated, "I was in India and I asked this little boy on the street what he wanted more than anything in the world. His response, 'a pencil' was my motivation to create this non-profit organization."

Last week, members of Lemont High School's student council volunteered to

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Animal Connections

by Jonathon Clark
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I woke up yesterday and talked to my dog for an hour and a half. I don’t believe Spunky was ignoring me, but after ten minutes he began to look the other way and move on to the squirrels running around my yard or the Fed Ex truck making a stop at my neighbor’s house.

As humans there are thousands of ways we can communicate, talking and hand gestures to name a few. Many consider this communication a crucial necessity to our existence, and who are you to disagree?

Take a moment to contemplate what communication gives to us. It not only moves economy internationally, but it also supplies more basic necessities such as eating or creating shelter. I wouldn’t be able to share the wonderful intricacies of this story without communication. Communication continues to be a catalyst of maintaining simple human life.

As you’re picking up the pieces of your brain that just exploded, imagine a summer night where you are constantly badgered by the noise of crickets, amazed by the illuminating fireflies, or struggling in your nightly blinking contest with a local raccoon you’ve nicknamed Rico. Jump to fall where you notice the wolves’ howl reverberating around you, the screeching of a crow, or maybe a cozy cat’s purr of success. To some, these are regular daily occurrences and may even be a nuisance, but I dream about these animal connections.

The communication from animal to animal is filled with grace and simplicity. Back to our caveman days, before complex linguistics was a possibility, you would most likely hear grunts and witness hand motions. This is reality for animals today.

Scientists like to explain our use of speech as superior intellect. I agree, but there is just something so beautiful at what a bear grunt, a lion growl, even a cricket chirping can accomplish.

Of course species create different ways of communication. The obvious being a growl vs. a chirp, but when you get down to it there are growls and barks which are both similar by nature but used for a different purpose to get a specific outcome.

When talking to Ryan Gaffney, Lemont High School senior and local animal lover about his dog Casey, I learned not only that various communications are attempted, but often advanced. Casey, whom Ryan has nurtured for “eight-and-a-half” years, has a nice relationship with his owner. He also shares an invisible fence with the neighbors’ dog, which gives them something to bond over.

Casey’s communication with other species has varied over the years. As Gaffney explains, “When Casey was younger he would bark a lot more at the animals, but as he aged he decided to start using a more patient strategy: waiting and chasing.”

Children often find themselves in a pickle because they want a large number of pets, but have little desire or skills required to take care of them. When Gaffney was little he had three hamsters: Fluffy, Fluffy Jr. and Peanut. Fluffy was “very nice,” but “[Fluffy Jr. and Peanut] bit me quite a few times and weren’t very playful,” said Gaffney.

Was this because of a communication deficiency or breakdown? “No,” Gaffney said, “I treated all my hamsters with similar love and care.”

So the conflict for Fluffy Jr. and Peanut must have been internal. What was the difference between Casey’s advancements and Peanut’s peanut-itude? That is the question I ask you.

The Carrie Diaries: Part I

by Rachel Bogo
Features writer

In 1997, author Candace Bushnell took a blond, curly haired woman impacted by fashion and the thought of finding love in New York City and made her an icon of today. That woman is Carrie Bradshaw.

36 years later Bradshaw is back, but in a new form – a high school senior. On Jan. 14, 2013, Bradshaw made her small screen comeback with The Carrie Diaries.

Courtney Toth, LHS senior and viewer said, “I really enjoyed it. I think it’s extremely cute and the plot line is intriguing.” Based on the book from 2010, it follows Bradshaw in Castlebury High School and all the drama that comes with it including mean girls to the decision on what to do after high school.

In the first episode, Bradshaw gets ready for her first day of school and the death of her mother is revealed. Carrie’s friends are introduced, along with Sebastian Kydd-who Carrie had a past fling with. Will they finish what they started?

While watching the show the audience will be happy with the actors they chose to portray Bradshaw’s friends, and pleased with AnnaSophia Robb’s performance as Carrie Bradshaw, made famous by Sarah Jessica Parker. Toth explains, “My first impression of Carrie is she is just like everyone else. She wants to fit in with all the other high school kids, but as the show went on, she showed she can be her own person such as by creating that unique purse.”

Viewers will be watching to see what goes down between Sebastian and Carrie and also the characters’ problems within the school and each other. Toth clarifies, “I hope to see more flashbacks into her life back when her mom was alive so I can get a better understanding of her life.”

The thought of what’s better – book versus show – comes to mind. Is the story of Bradshaw more impacting on paper?



Poster advertising the new TV show “The Carrie Diaries.”

“...the plot line is intriguing.”

-Senior Courtney Toth

Senoritis Spreads

by Michelle Awad
Features writer

It's that time of year again: freshmen are mentally recovering from final exams, sophomores are assigned their second semester physics projects, juniors start fretting about the ACT and seniors, well, just stop.

Senoritis is defined by Urban Dictionary as, "A crippling disease that attacks high school seniors. Symptoms include: laziness, an over excessive wearing of sweat pants and sweatshirts, lack of studying, repeated absences and a generally dismissive attitude. The only known cure to this phenomenon is graduation."

By high school seniors' second semesters, most college applications are already sent in, mid-year reports are received by colleges and their high school courses are not top priorities.

"School just doesn't [have] precedence anymore, knowing I've already been accepted into the colleges I want to attend," says senior Zach Taylor.

What do colleges think of Senoritis? According to the College Board, most universities believe that if someone has worked

this hard for acceptance, they shouldn't stop now.

They also believe you should be in top condition for college. As Stanley E. Henderson, associate provost at the University of Illinois explains, "Just as you would want to be in top condition for the start of an athletic season, so, too, do you want to be in top condition for the academic season." He says, "The habits you form now— your academic strength conditioning—will either help or hurt you in your transition from high school to college."



Photo by Alyssa Cinatl

At a certain point during senior year, students find it easier to take a nap than take notes.

The Tom-Tom regrets to report that a few errors were made in last week's issue.



"To work in my painting studio more and get more projects done."
-Ryan Hennebry, art teacher

Senior Chris Giatri was also improperly quoted.

We apologize for any inconveniences.

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20/20 Vision

by Bridget Lynn
Features writer

After six years off the radar, Justin Timberlake has finally surged back into the music scene. On Jan. 14, Timberlake released the anticipated "Suit & Tie" single, which generated more than 4 million YouTube hits within the first week.

"Suit & Tie" has given iTunes chart topper -- Bruno Mars -- a run for his money. The single has already made history with over 300,000 paid downloads in the first week. This has only been accomplished by seven other songs in iTunes history including artists such as Taylor Swift, Carrie Underwood and Ke\$ha.

Time has taken no toll on his talent: Timberlake remains true to his soulful, funk roots. The addition of Jay-Z's hip-hop energy provides a warm contrast to Timberlake's bluesy vocals. Junior Sami Gazaf-eri expects Timberlake's new album, *The 20/20 Experience*, to be, "just as good, if not better than his previous because of his distinct style and fresh take on music. Although his style is different than what is popular now, Timberlake's music is classic and most often catchy."

According to *Billboard*, *The*

20/20 Experience is "expected to surpass Timberlake's previous album, *SexyBack* by a margin of more than 100,000 hits." This album will be Timberlake's third in more than 10 years. In a YouTube video titled "I'm Ready", Timberlake says his reason for such scarce production is his desire to produce what he loves: music.

Let it be known that JT is no stranger to the online community. His featured skits with Andy Samberg on the late night show *Saturday Night Live* went viral within hours. Even those not so familiar with his music recognize Timberlake's musical intelligence. Senior Keaton Wall thinks "his [Timberlake's] skits on SNL are hilarious. It's funny how he takes random lyrics and puts it together with surprisingly decent music."

Who knows exactly what to expect on Timberlake's new album? Without any set release date for *The 20/20 Experience*, Timberlake leaves fans on edge.

"And as long as I've got my
suit and tie
I'mma leave it all on the floor
tonight"

-Justin Timberlake, *Suit & Tie*



Photo courtesy of Google
Edited by Jordan Gembara

Getting a Little Crowded

by Kieran Ruane
Sports writer

In 2012, Lemont basketball had arguably their best season ever with a 28-2 overall record and a share of the SSC Blue conference championship. Last season was a breakout year for the Indians and expectations are even higher for this year's team.

The team knows that they will need to stay consistent and disciplined heading into playoffs. Now some may ask, "What's the best way to keep the team's confidence up heading into the final stretch of the season?" That's right, Pack the Place.

Pack the Place is an annual state-sponsored event in order to get more fans involved with the team and to motivate the players as they battle through a tough stretch of the season. Both coaches and players agree that Pack the Place is a great way to get the team motivated and ready to face the challenges thrown at them throughout the course of the season.

"It's great," said head basketball coach Rick Runaas. "It definitely helps our kids as it gives them an extra boost of motivation."

Senior guard Joe Hehir agreed, saying "Pack the Place is great. It gives us all such a confidence boost, and there's no better feeling than stepping on that court and playing in front of all of your hometown fans."

Pack the Place was held on Friday, Jan 25. The Indians squared off against SSC Blue conference rival Bremen in a heated contest. The Indians defeated the Braves of Bremen with a final score of 62-44.

Hehir said after the game, "We feed off this energy. When we start getting hot and the crowd is behind us, we can't be stopped."

Lemont, now boasting an 18-2 overall record, will play their next game against Tinley Park on February 1.



Senior Juozas Balciunas takes a shot against Bremen.



The Lemont Indians beat the Bremen Braves on Friday, Jan. 25.

Photos by Alyssa Cinatl

A Feeling of Relief

Erika Truschke
Sports writer

Chills. The sensation most NHL fans felt when they spotted Lord Stanley's Cup enter Staples Center on Jan. 19. The Chicago Blackhawks faced off against defending champion LA Kings, in one of few games that kicked off the season after the "lockout."

The lockout involved negotiating salary caps limits and economic ticket sales. It lasted for 113 days. The agreement was settled on Jan. 6, finalizing a ten-year collective bargaining agreement and a shortened 48 game season for 2013.

With the first 10 out of 12 games on the road, according to a Blackhawks TV interview, captain Jonathan Toews said, "There are no excuses, it'll be a tough test; we are going to spend a lot of time together as a team which gives us an opportunity to come together."

Team chemistry shined during the LA Kings matchup where the Blackhawks secured a win with a score of 5-2. Marian Hossa scored two goals and tallied one assist while Toews and Patrick Kane were both marked for two points

each. Corey Crawford was awarded the Win in Net for stopping 22 shots on goal.

"Having hockey back is such a relief. Since it was gone for so long, having it back makes it all the more enjoyable," said senior Keaton Wall. "It's my favorite sport to watch on TV because of the intensity of the game."

Continuing the road trip, the Hawks took on the Phoenix Coyotes on Jan. 20. After Raffi Torres laid out Hossa in Game 3 of last year's Western Conference quarterfinals, the sense of hatred grew tremendously between both teams. With Ray Emery in net, the game was back and forth quite a bit. The Hawks pulled away with a 6-4 victory.

Eager fans packed the United Center, "Madhouse on Madison," for the Home Opener on Jan. 22. The crowd watched the Hawks steal a 3-2 victory against the St. Louis Blues. In another Blackhawks TV interview, Head Coach Joel Quenneville commented, "They had a great pace to start the

game, with quality scoring chances such as the 3 on 0 rush; don't believe the NHL has ever seen that before."

The feeling of relief and excitement still roams around the NHL as teams await more games in the short quest for the Stanley Cup. Because of the shortened season, predictions on who will take home the cup are up in the air.

The Blackhawks' next game takes place on the road against their biggest NHL rival, the Vancouver Canucks, on Feb. 1, at 9 pm.



Chicago Blackhawks celebrate after a successful game.



The Chicago Blackhawks rejoice after Captain Jonathan Toews scores a goal.

"Having hockey back is such a relief. Since it was gone for so long, having it back makes it all the more enjoyable"

-Senior Keaton Wall

Photos courtesy of nhl.com