

Tom-Tom

Lemont High School

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Issue 21

Local Scholarship Applications

by Marisa Mars
News writer



With the end of the school year quickly approaching, seniors are beginning to commit to colleges. But with this commitment comes a (often steep) fee. In order to ease this for some, local businesses and organizations are giving scholarships.

In order to be eligible for these scholarships, students need to fill out the local scholarship application, available on www.lhs210net. Guidance counselor Stephanie Bushnell said the counselors encourage

seniors to “fill out the local scholarship because there are a variety of requirements that would make many students eligible”.

Senior Lynn Stanwyck said she will be completing the application because the schools she is looking at are expensive and hopes this will ease the financial burden. A scholarship will “make it more likely that I will be able to attend any college I would like to,” Stanwyck said.

The application must be filled out in one sitting, as there is no “save” feature, and students are only permitted to submit it once. The deadline is April 2, 2013.

Once the deadline has passed, the applications will be distributed to the local organizations and businesses, and the scholarships will be awarded on Monday, May 20, Senior Honors Night. Around \$200,000 is given annually, according to Bushnell.

Other organizations and businesses that offer scholarships include the Lemont Chamber of Commerce, Lemont family Dental, the Township Officials of IL Scholarship program, and the Lemont Junior Woman’s Club. To be eligible for a scholarship from these, separate applications must be completed. These applications can be found in the guidance office.

Paying for college can be a daunting task, and the local scholarships aim to ease that.

“[A scholarship] will make it more likely that I will be able to attend any college I would like to”

~Senior Lynn Stanwyck

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High Costs Aren't Keeping Kids Away



With college looming in the distance for many high school seniors, cost becomes a huge factor in deciding where one wants to go to continue the rest of his or her education.

In the past few decades college tuition increased by as much as six times the cost.

While there has been growing debate over the price of education, recent studies show that despite high costs, college enrollment is rising.

In Oct. 2011 the U.S Board of Labor reported that “68.3 percent of 2011 high school graduates were enrolled in colleges or universities.”

In an affluent town like Lemont, college is one of the greatest expectations that parents, counselors and teachers have for their children and students. Guidance counselors Denise Dalton and Joan Sheesley said “Based on where we send transcripts, we see 60 percent of students attending four year colleges and 25 percent [of students] attending two year colleges.” Lemont, however, is just one of the many schools that sees a high number of its students attending college.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, between the year 2000 and 2010, enrollment increased 37 percent, from 15.3 million to 21.0 million. Much of that growth was in full-time enrollment; the number of full-time students rose 45 percent, while the number of part-time students rose 26 percent. During the same time period, the number of females rose 39 percent, while the number of males rose 35 percent.

Other Options

Junior colleges and trade schools are also educational institutions that have seen an enrollment rise because they are a lot more cost friendly. Sheesley notes “There are more students attending two year schools than ever before.”

Lemont High School class of 2012 graduate John Fiori is in his first year at the College of DuPage. Fiori said “Community college is definitely a better choice for school if you want to save money and aren't too set on what you'd like to study.” Fiori also stated “COD will end up saving me thousands of dollars and I'll still get to transfer to a university.”



Many high school graduates opt to attend a 2-year community college such as College of DuPage in order to save money.

Why Attend College?

So what encourages students to attend college when high dollar figures appear so discouraging? Dalton said “Parents think their kids have to attend college,” while Sheesley adds “College has been the American dream. People believe in having more education– that a better job equals more life fulfillment.”

Many students recognize that college is vital for what they would like to do in life. Senior Stefanie Guerrero, who plans to attend Bradley University this fall, said “I need a good education in order to succeed in the field I would like to go in to, which is nursing.”



Financial Assistance

The federal government offers student loans and many, if not all, colleges offer generous financial aid packages to bring in students who qualify. Many schools and organizations offer scholarships as well for those they recognize as high achieving or qualified.

Guerrero, who has a partial scholarship, said “The financial part of it is always on my mind and even with a scholarship I will still have debt, but it's worth it to have an education.”

In addition to these financial assistances, many students opt for public in-state schools where they will be granted in-state tuition. Loyola University is a private college in Chicago that has a tuition cost of over \$34,000, while the public, but equally esteemed, The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign costs between \$15,000 to a little over \$20,000.

As counselors, Dalton and Sheesley always encourage their students to continue his or her learning “in some way”. “We encourage some students to attend universities, some private schools, some junior college; you just really have to know your students,” said Dalton and Sheesley.

Given the severe economic downturn that our country has found itself in, many students realize how important it is to obtain a degree in order to have a higher paying job. While having that degree gives one a better chance of getting that big figure job, there is no promise.



by Jordan Gembara
Editorialist

Super-UN-Natural

Sparkling vampires? Wash-board abs on werewolves? Singing witches? Zombies feeling the sweet sensation of love? What has the world come to?

The creatures that once went bump in the night are turning into the newest heartthrobs of the nation. Today's studios have the advanced technology and special effects to create the "wow-factor" audiences crave. But instead of turning the world's favorite monsters into darker, creepier beings, they're making them much more relatable and incredibly sexy.

Less Sparkle, More Fangs

Dracula is the designated mascot for all vampires. As new vampires continue to join him, many differences are constantly springing up. While the 90's took Dracula and made him much more current with *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Twilight* has completely changed the definition of "vampire".

The appearance, actions and aura of vampires from the past and present are on complete opposite ends of the spectrum. While Dracula was pale and creepy, the stunning Edward Cullen is swooned over by girls everywhere. Dracula only had one thing in mind: sucking the blood of his next victim. Edward only wants to do good and protect his one true love.

While Buffy kept the familiar themes but just added in today's trends, *Twilight* has changed the world's look on vampires altogether. But there are still new vampires out there who stay true to the grim ways of Dracula. While the hit TV show *True Blood* is

full of attractive vampires, these good-looking vamps still want to rip their victims' heads off and suck them dry.

Where'd the Hair Go?

In *The Wolf Man*, citizens in nearby villages knew to lock their doors when the full moon rose at night. Today, teens would rather wander out at night to find the hunky werewolves similar to those in *Twilight* or *Teen Wolf*.

Like with the vampires, werewolves have gone from frightening beasts to young hotties with abs so smokin' you could bake cookies on them. The curse of the werewolf was once a horrible spell that turned the good into evil. However, in the modern world those bitten or turned use their new strength and abilities for the greater good.

When did those vicious, hairy mutts turn into the fearless heroes trying to eliminate the darkness in the world? Studios took the grim character of Larry Talbot and made him into the young characters of Jacob Black and Scott McCall. While Larry was dark and could not control his actions once turned, Jacob and Scott are determined to save their friends from any dangers out there.

But not every studio has flipped things upside down. Movies like *Underworld* stay true to the ferocious canines that have kids cowering under their sheets each night.

Something Wicked This Way Sings?

While the four heroes of the TV show *Charmed* weren't evil themselves, they were still faced with dark situations and scary enemies throughout the show. Witches clearly made the quickest transition in character among the supernatural. *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* is a classic TV show, but it also displays witches as humorous, happy-go-lucky people.

Unlike the other supes, witches have hit new levels by appearing on Broadway. The popular musical *Wicked* takes the terrifying elements of a witch and adds some color with fun, up-beat songs.

But not all of today's witches are singing and dancing on stage. In the newly popular TV show *The Vampire Diaries*, Bonnie Bennett starts off as an innocent, helpful friend who discovers her family history of witchcraft. Yet, as the show continues onward, Bonnie begins to tap into the dark aspects of her craft and develops powerful, but dangerous abilities.

While witches have always been less intense than the other supernatural beings, they still have made the similar transition from dark to pure.

The Walking... Teen Romance?

Night of the Living Dead started it all back in 1968 when it became the first hit zombie movie people had seen. Before then, zombies weren't as popular as vampires and werewolves were.

While Barbra didn't expect the dead to come after her while visiting her father's grave, audiences were terrified at the possibility that the dead may come back to get them too.

Resident Evil kept the horrors alive with the gruesome creatures that fed on human flesh. Yet, not all modern films followed the classic's main theme. The zombie film, *Warm Bodies*, takes the normally disgusting zombies and turns them into charming, helpless beings who just want to be human again. And a little love would be nice, too. Young "R" is a teen zombie who's heart restarts when he sees the lovely Julie. But when have zombies stopped to use those rotting brains of theirs and try to get the girl?

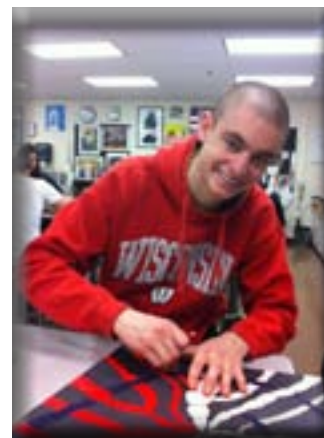
The incredibly popular TV show *The Walking Dead* stays true to the roots of a good zombie show. Action, horror and betrayal—and not to mention lots of zombie killing—fill the show as the seasons continue to air. Each week the characters must either re-kill the already dead or let the monsters hungrily rip them to shreds.

A new generation ultimately brings about change. While some are staying true to the original films, others are choosing to turn the favorite supernatural beings into something completely new. But whether you enjoy the classic scare-factor or enjoy the new demonic heroes, there's now something out there for everyone.

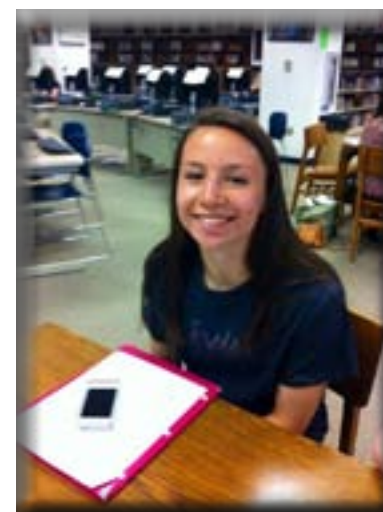
Tom-Tom Talks

by Sonia Vavra
Features Editor

It's March, LHS! That means another new Tom-Tom Talks! There are a lot of popular TV shows playing that other LHS students may not know about. This month's question: "What awesome TV shows are you watching?"



Brent Husa, senior: "I'm watching *The Big Bang Theory* and *How I Met Your Mother*."



Kim Jerantowski, junior: "I am watching *The Bachelor*, *Nashville*, and *American Idol*."



Sarah Semetulsis, senior: "I'm watching *Suits*. *Suits* is a good show."



Stephen Tuscher, senior: "I am watching *Doctor Who*, *Pretty Little Liars*, *Once Upon a Time*, *New Girl*, *Supernatural*, *The Vampire Diaries*, and *The New Normal*."



Kevin Lindgren, junior: "Right now I'm watching *Bones*, *Glee*, *CSI*, and *Zero Hour*."



Gabby Blinstrubait, junior: "*How I Met Your Mother*, *Criminal Minds*, and *Dexter*."



Photo by Alyssa Cinatl

Photo by Sonia Vavra



Photo by Paige Buschman



Photo by Sonia Vavra



Photo by Sonia Vavra

Frontline
fashion

Plugging Back In

by Alyssa Cinatl
Features writer

Pete Wentz, rocking out and lyrics you just can't understand-- it's all coming back. After a three year hiatus Fall Out Boy will tour again.

Their fifth album titled *Save Rock and Roll* will release on May 6. They also released a single on iTunes, *My Songs Know What You Did In The Dark (Light 'Em Up)*.

The sold out tour will kick off in their hometown of Chicago, according to MTV.

At first, Pete Wentz denied rumors that they were reuniting, according to the Chicago Tribune. But shortly after that announcement they made another announcement on Feb. 4 confirming the rumors.

The band stated on their website, falloutboyrock.

com "When we were kids the only thing that got us through most days was music. It's why we started Fall Out Boy in the first place. This isn't a reunion because we never broke up. We needed to plug back in and make some music that matters to us."

Some people greatly anticipate the return of Fall Out Boy. Junior Samantha Tinoco said, "I grew up listening to their music, so I'm excited for their comeback."

Sophomore Diana Vera is an enthusiastic Fall Out Boy fan. She claimed that when she discovered the band was reuniting it was, "the greatest moment in my adolescent life."

"I like their new song.

It's a new style and I hope their new album shows

their development as artists. They're in a different place now from when they made their old stuff." Vera commented.

Others, like senior Liz Martinez said, "I didn't even know they broke up until I heard they were getting back together."

The songs people are most familiar with include ones like *Sugar*, *We're Going Down*, *Thanks Fr Th Mmrs*, *Dance, Dance*, and *This Ain't A Scene It's an Arms Race*.

When some of the band's new songs play on the radio some will turn it up and sing along and others may comment, "Hey, ya haven't heard from them in a while."



After a three year hiatus, Fall Out Boy (left to right Pete Wentz, Patrick Stump, Andy Hurley and Joe Trohman) will tour again for their fifth album *Save Rock and Roll*.

Photo courtesy of Goolge

Concussions in Sports

by Ethan Parafink
Sports writer

Concussions are already one of the biggest issues in sports. With increased research and information on concussions in recent years, they are being diagnosed more frequently than ever before. And because concussions are now known to cause many possible life-altering problems, much has been done to prevent them.

However, there is still much to be known about concussions. What exactly are they? What are the causes and symptoms? What is being done to treat and prevent these injuries in sports?

What is a concussion?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that is caused by a blow to the head or body, a fall, or another injury that jars or shakes the brain inside the skull, according to WebMD.com. Loss of consciousness is not required to be diagnosed as a concussion, but it is a very likely indicator that a head injury has occurred.

Symptoms and treatments

Symptoms of a concussion can range from mild to severe and can last anywhere from a couple hours to a few days. Common symptoms include lack of concentration, not being able to remember new information, headache, nausea, blurred vision, dizziness, balance problems, sensitivity to light or noise and being overly emotional.

A concussion patient will usually have many of these symptoms simultaneously, but any of these symptoms after a blow to the head should be taken seriously.

Impact on Pro Sports

Many sports, physical in nature, lend themselves to numerous injuries including concussions. As concussion research has improved in recent years, they are being diagnosed more frequently in the sports world and are now one of the biggest topics of sports safety.

National Football League commissioner Roger Goodell has taken a number of measures to try to reduce the number of concussions and the long-term problems that they cause. The league has shortened kickoffs, put in more rules to protect defenseless players and has placed an overall emphasis on head safety.

In the past few years, there have been many former football players to emerge with long-term head injuries and degenerative nervous problems. In many instances, these long-term problems cause severe depression and have even led some former players, such as Junior Seau, to take their own lives.



A helmet to helmet hit in the NFL. as they are in more physical sports. In general, almost every major sports league is taking action to try to minimize dangerous head injuries.

Head safety is also emphasized in the National Hockey League. Hits to the head are illegal in the game and are generally always called as penalties.

This helps somewhat prevent concussions, but doesn't totally eliminate them – players still take hits to the head, can take pucks to the head and, when fighting, take punches to the head. Arguably the league's top player – Sidney Crosby – was sidelined almost all of last year with concussion symptoms, which really gave initiative for the league to protect players' heads.

Other sports such as basketball and baseball can also cause concussions, but concussions are not as prevalent

Impact on High School Sports

Just as professional sports pose risk to concussions and other head injuries, high school sports do as well. Football has by far the highest rate of concussions among high school athletes, followed by ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer and wrestling.

Lemont has a concussion policy in place for all sports in which athletes who sustain a concussion cannot return to a practice or game until cleared by a physician. In addition, Athletic Director John Young has made head safety a priority with coaches.

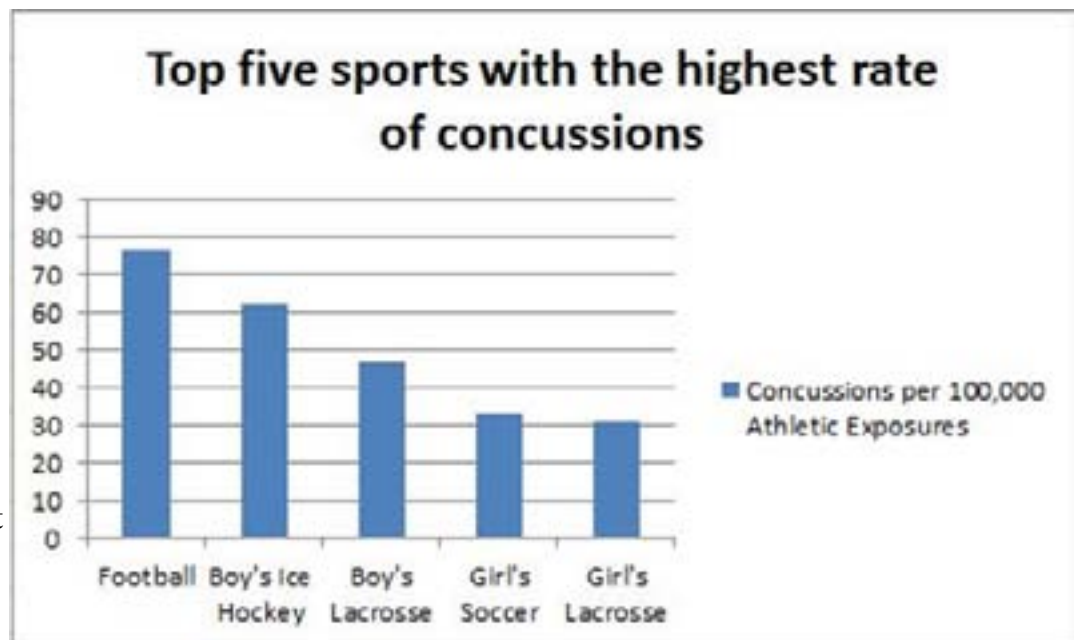
“We have instructed our coaches to teach proper technique and safety in daily preparation and practice routines,” said Young. “Specifically, we have our football coaches teach proper tackling techniques to minimize the risk of concussions in practice and games. We have also adopted Impact Testing to pre-screen cognitive thinking skills in order to pre and post-test our athletes in high contact sports.”

Because of the high rate of football concussions, Illinois House Representative Carol Sente is trying to get a measure passed to limit high school football practices to one day of tackling per week. She believes this will help prevent excessive blows to the head, but many coaches believe it would make games more dangerous because players would not learn proper tackling form. “We need time to teach tackling the right way,” said Lemont head coach Eric Michaelson. “If we only have one day, my fear is that technique would get short-changed and eventually lead to more injuries.”

Prevention

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, there are a number of ways to prevent or at least minimize risk of concussions and more serious long term head injuries. It says to be educated about concussions, to wear proper equipment at all times during the sport, to learn and practice safe techniques and if concussion symptoms are present, to not return to the game or practice until cleared by a doctor.

This last step is very important as a second concussion after a recent one can cause long term nervous and memory problems. Young said he believes in order to try to prevent concussions that, “it is necessary to continue to find ways to make better equipment, reduce the risk for certain sports and the actions or instructional methods that will emphasize risk management.”



Taken from a report by Northwestern's Medill School

“Concussions are now known to cause many possible life-altering problems, much has been done to prevent them.”