

Tom-Tom

Lemont High School

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Issue 24

IN THIS ISSUE

Growing Internet Trends for High School Students

2

3 A closer look at social networks that high school students are currently using.

Fried Lemont

4

A tour of Lemont's favorite fast food joints.

6 Haters Gonna Hate

What's popular today, is not tomorrow.

LHS Compliments

Anonymously sending compliments about LHS students.

Cubs Preview

A closer look at the Cubs' upcoming baseball season.

Chicago Fire: The Road to Redemption

An update on the Chicago Fire soccer team.

7

Cher Lloyd Concert

by Monique Devitt
News writer

Last November LHS students and community members joined together to win Goodwill's Fall Haul by donating nearly 51,000 items, more than all other competing schools in the Chicago land area. By doing so, LHS won two iPads and a concert from pop singer Cher Lloyd.

Lloyd rewarded LHS students with a private concert on March 18 along with a pre-show by DJ Flipside and commentary by Showbiz Shelly and Jay Niice from B96, a Chicagoland pop radio station.

Classes were shortened to an hour and by 1:25 PM students began to filter through the gymnasium doors, with Flipside kicking off the show.

Lloyd hit the stage and began performing for an eager crowd with her hit-single "Want U Back". She followed with a cover of Swedish pop star Robyn's "Call Your Girlfriend" and "With Ur Love" from her debut album *Sticks + Stones*.

Many students were very excited about the concert, not only because of the assembly schedule, but because Cher Lloyd is a world famous pop star.

Lloyd rose to stardom after placing fourth on the British show *X-Factor* and became known as a standout contestant.

Junior Mary Vermejan said, "I was really excited for the concert and it was even more exciting that she performed exclusively for our school."

DJ Flipside came back to wrap up the show with a few more of his bass pumping, rhythmic pop mixes after Cher congratulated LHS students for their hard work and support of Goodwill's Fall Haul.



Showbiz Shelly and Jay Niice from B96 radio station.



Photos by Alyssa Cinatl

THE TOM-TOM
WELCOMES

freelance submissions

TALK TO MR. CLARK FOR DETAILS
ROOM #329 SEANC@LEMONT.K12.IL.US

Cher Lloyd performed for students at LHS after they raised over 50,000 items for charity.

Growing Internet Trends for High School Students

HEAD EDITOR
Laura Harding

DESIGN EDITOR
Ashlee Berner

DESIGN ASSISTANTS
Jordan Gembara
Marisa Mars

PHOTOGRAPHER
Alyssa Cinatl

NEWS EDITOR
Nicole McKeivitt

NEWS WRITERS
Monique Devitt

EDITORIALS EDITOR
Laura Harding

FEATURES EDITOR
Sonia Vavra

FEATURES WRITERS
Alyssa Cinatl
Sam Moffett
Bridget Lynn

SPORTS EDITOR
Adrian Kalata

SPORTS WRITERS
Kevin Dowiarz
Kieran Ruane
Erika Truschke

COLUMNIST
Jonathon Clark

SUPERVISOR
Sean Clark

by Nicole McKeivitt
News Editor

For high school students, websites such as Tumblr, Pinterest, Weheartit and Twitter are the latest trends.

These websites are a virtual place to communicate, share photos, express your voice, and to have some fun.

What is Tumblr?

Tumblr was founded in Feb. 2007 by Founder & CEO David Karp. According to Tumblr's website "Tumblr lets you effortlessly share anything. It lets you post text, photos, quotes, links, music and videos from your browser, phone, desktop, email or wherever you happen to be. You can customize everything, from colors to your theme's HTML."

Senior Wendy Mazur enjoys using her Tumblr account. She says that Tumblr is "A blogging site where you can post and repost photos, quotes, etc. that you are interested in." She says that it is different from other websites because "it's less about connecting with others and more about just posting things you like."

On Tumblr, you can follow other blogs and then their posts shows up on your dash. If you like something they posted you can click the reblog button, and then that

post is on your blog as well. People who follow you will find everything you post on their dash. From there, they can reblog your posts and you can communicate with each other through the Ask Box.

Mazur recommends Tumblr to people who "are looking for a sort of creative outlet, and are sick of the usual Facebook and Twitter scene."

What is Pinterest?

In March 2010, Pinterest was founded by Ben Silbermann, Paul Sciarra and Evan Sharp. The site is managed by Cold Brew Labs and funded by a small group of entrepreneurs and inventors.

Senior Sarah Sorich says that, "Pinterest is a website where you can show off all the things you love to everyone else without being ridiculed for your sense of style."

According to www.aromaticwisdominstitute.com, "Pinterest is described as a 'virtual pin board' that functions kind of like an online scrapbook. This photo-sharing website allows users to create and share collections of images."

The website also details, "The site makes an effort

to bring users all across the globe together based on their interests. You can pin all sorts of media to your pinboard, like videos, photographs, graphics and text. You can also re-pin anything you like on your board by hovering over the image."

Sorich loves Pinterest because, "There are great recipes and ideas out there for other people to get a hold of."

"I would recommend it to other people because it is so much fun," says Sorich. "It's different from other websites because you can post the things you like and have other people re-pin them from you."

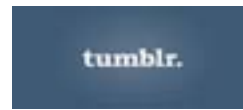
What is We Heart It?

We Heart It's website says that, "Sometimes when you're browsing the web you find amazing images you want to save and show to your friends. We Heart It lets you save these images, and helps you discover and share your inspiration with the world."

We Heart It also allows you to organize the things you love, search your interests and follow your friends.

According to Mazur, "Weheartit.com is a website

>continued on page 3



where you can "heart" (like) photos. You can also add your own hearts (photos)."

Every image on We Heart It has a little heart button over it that you can click to save the image to your heart. Now you can also add this special Heart Button to your browser and use it to heart images from any other website.

We Heart It's website also says that "We'll generate for you an image with your latest hearts or any set you have, and you can post it to Tumblr, Facebook, Twitter or any other site you can post an image."

Mazur loves We Heart It

because "It is a great place to get photos to reblog on other websites such as Tumblr and Pinterest."

What is Twitter?

Jack Dorsey created Twitter in 2006. According to Twitter.com, Twitter is "a real-time information network that connects you to the latest stories, ideas, opinions and news about what you find interesting."

Twitter.com also says that, "At the heart of Twitter are small bursts of information called Tweets. Each Tweet is 140 characters long, but don't let the small size fool you—you can discover a lot in a little space."

On Twitter "You can see photos, videos and conversations directly in Tweets to get

the whole story at a glance, and all in one place," says Twitter.com.

Senior Greta Zilyte says that, "A tweet is to Twitter as a status update is to Facebook.com. I was peer pressured into making a Twitter account, but now I use it more than I use Facebook."

Zilyte likes Twitter because, "I can follow parody accounts, accounts that post quotes or accounts that just post funny pictures."

On www.mediabistro.com, it says that, "Facebook might be

the social media giant, but Twitter is playing the underdog pretty comfortably: according to new stats from eMarketer, Twitter is currently growing faster than Facebook in the US."

Is Facebook's Popularity Going Down?

In a released report from Facebook in May 2012, the use of social readers is on a drastic decline.

According to Examiner.com, the growth rate of Facebook has slowed down "The number of Facebook users who regularly follow social readers (almost 18 million as of April 2012) has dropped to a much smaller 9 million on May 8th, 2012. These dwindling readers are expected to continue to decline."

Examiner.com says that one of the greatest contributing

factors to the sudden drop in popularity of Facebook social readers are the "sense of invasion and loss of privacy that they require for use."

While some may now find them annoying or too personal, "There are still a strong number of Facebook users who 'enjoy finding about the daily news stories' from their favorite site," says Examiner.com.

Zilyte says that, "Facebook usage is going down among high school students because students don't want factors of their personal lives (pictures, posts) being seen by future colleges and employers."

Sorich also thinks that Facebook's popularity is going down because, "More people are getting interested in websites like Pinterest, Tumblr and Twitter."

Mazur however thinks that Facebook's usage is not going down for LHS students. "I do think that we've become more connected with other social media sites such as Twitter and Tumblr, and I don't know if that's necessarily a good thing."

The question that many wonder now is that since social media websites such as Tumblr, Pinterest, We Heart It and Twitter's popularities have risen, will Facebook become the new Myspace? Senior Melissa Bruckner says that "There are new websites that are evolving, slowly Facebook will become a past trend and will disappear."



Fried Lemont

by Jonathon Clark
Columnist

The fried sensation that the world has succumbed to makes sense. It's cost effective, time efficient and addictive. McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Burger King have all become international profitable organizations. That being said, statistically these organizations prosper most where they began, in America.

Lemont, being a small suburban American town, beholds its fair share of these institutions: McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Taco Bell, Burger King, Subway, and former home to Wendy's (may it rest in peace). Lemont also maintains a slew of local fast food establishments including El Burrito Jr., The Lemon Tree, and we use to have a local establishment by the vivid name of Gut Busters.

Those are just a couple. Does anyone reminisce chewing on a chili-cheese dog from Mama D's? Mama D's is on the border line of fast food. This initiates our first question: what constitutes fast food?

Many would answer any venue that gives you something fried through a drive through would suffice. This novice observation is actually pretty close. Fast food can be defined as food that can be cooked, prepared and served at a rapid rate.

Connecting to local Italian cuisine restaurant Mama D's and its current situation as fast food joint or not, there is one variable that helps determine if it's in or not:

time. Although many of Mama D's dishes are fried and take a short amount of time to serve, the majority of their dishes will take up to twenty minutes, a wait that senior Justin Brady calls "over the max time limit for fast food."

You may ponder: Does time really hold significance in the restaurant business? As Career Success.com helps explain, time is crucial and essential to how an establishment "functions and presents itself." Think about it, time spent preparing a dish determines the validity of your restaurant as respectable organization. McDonald's doesn't take twenty five minutes to cook a burger, rather five at most.

This establishes the consumer's idea about McDonald's. To the everyday consumer, a lot of time means meticulous construction with finer materials being used and generally a higher price. Adjacent to, we see McDonald's give us the cheaper product of a lesser quality burger, but produced at a quicker rate. This lower quality/higher production rate can be seen across the board in fast food, from local bistros to international places.

Fast food is such a large component of a town's economy—especially a suburban town. This is because of the attention and revenue these restaurants create. Our local fast food establishments create thousands of stopper-bys a day. Lemont's Taco Bell has around 200 customers per day.

This not only creates revenue for

our town through taxes and tacos, but if broken down you can see the greater benefit of fast food baristas. In all towns, fast food joints require you to stop, collaborate and listen. In actuality, they require you to pull in either through a drive through or parking space to acquire your food.

This gives the consumer time to look around and recognize other stores in which he or she may need supplies from. Just the sense of being at a local fast food restaurant increases the chance of further shopping, even locally. As LHS senior Eddy Sinovich helps explain: "I work at Chipain's, and a lot of our business corresponds with the other establishments on the strip. These include Subway, El Burrito Jr., Dunkin Donuts, etc."

One benefit of having these establishments locally is the job opportunities for high school students. From a survey recorded at LHS, 3 out of 10 working high school students are working at a fast food restaurant.

Former Lemont High School Student Natalie Kostrubala allows an excellent insight to working at a local fast food establishment. Kostrubala tenure has accumulated 2 and ½ years at Lemont's McDonald's. She explains that "It's been fun; every day is a different experience." When asked what fast food restaurants bring to a town like Lemont, Kostrubala responded "Definitely money, one thing that fast food brings is profit, especially

>continued on page 5

Pursuit of Happiness: Mind Games

by Bridget Lynn
Features writer

Instincts, motivation, self-actualization, incentives, needs and drives—individual happiness. Psychologists across the globe have developed theories, established approaches and researched the mental growth of happiness in humanity.

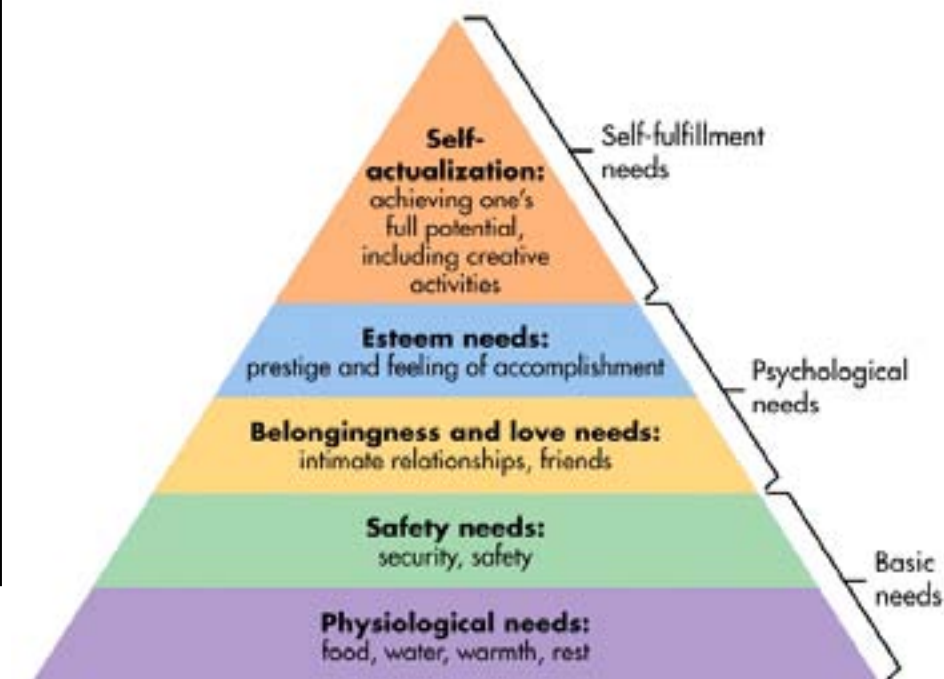
In 1970, humanistic psychologist Abraham Maslow created the Need Hierarchy consisting of five levels: physiological, safety, love and belongingness, esteem, and self-actualization. According to the book *Psychology: Concepts and Applications* by Jeffrey S. Nevid, these levels are essential to human motivation, all while fulfilling an individual's unique potential and capabilities.

Physiological factors of happiness entail the prefrontal cortex of the left cerebral hemisphere, which explains the need for balance of negative emotions from the right prefrontal zone. Cogni-

tive factors of happiness stem from the sociability and extraversion of an individual to manifest greater satisfaction levels regarding personal happiness.

Positive psychology is the new contemporary approach to studying happiness in human beings. According to Jeff Reese (Professor of Psychology at University of Kentucky), positive psychology means, "focusing on what is wrong with us and needs to be "fixed" but understanding how our strengths can be nurtured and promoted for improved living in all individuals."

In the quest for happiness, humanity is influenced by biological, mental and psychological forces to achieve this state of contentment and well-being. Humanity must recognize happiness manifesting itself within everyday activities. For Reese, "teaching usually leaves [him] richer for the experience, I seem to learn as much as I teach."



Haters Gonna Hate

by Sam Moffett
Features writer

When you look at it, strange things entertain humans. People shaking their bodies around to music with no lyrics, throwing milk in supermarkets, a guy rapping about deals he gets at a thrift shop. Why do these get so many views on YouTube? Why are these videos so entertaining?

"It's just funny," said senior Paige Cremerius, "It's different for the times because we really haven't had anything like this. The internet is still relatively new and this is something new for it."

The best word to describe all this is random: people like to see strange things and laugh at them; we like to get Rick Rolled or just plain confused at what we are watching. All the simplest things – and the most random – are becoming memes and catchphrases.

A cat that doesn't smile is now the epitome for unhappiness and a woman saying she doesn't have time for specific things turns into a catch phrase for those who don't want to do anything. People saying a 'thug life' chose them and a man who never seems to have a stroke of luck are just a few examples of how the internet blends into reality and becomes a part of our lingo and life.

Senior Kim Gannon says that timing is a big part of it. "The first fad is over and then, specifically Harlem Shake, it's like a structured flash mob that gives people an outlet to watch others go crazy."

With the new fads now fading, there's only time. Time to wait for the next big obsession to hit the internet.

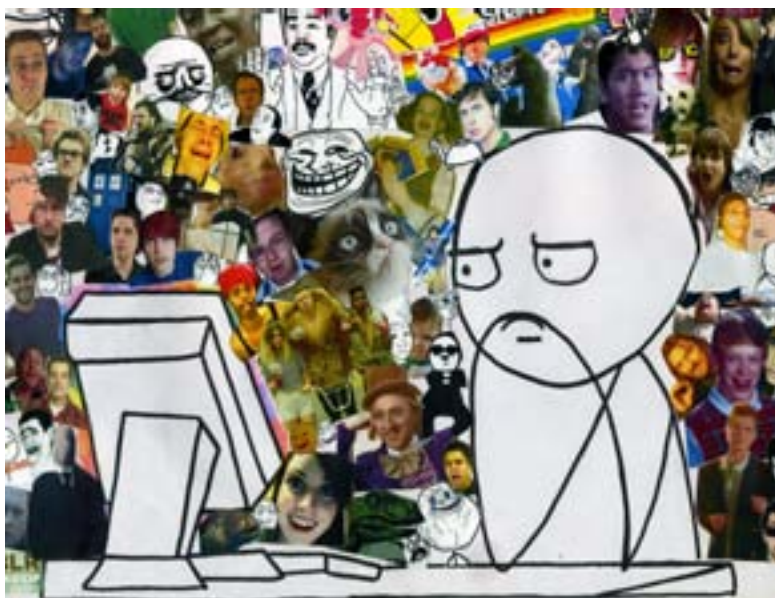


Photo created by Sam Moffett

LHS Compliments

by Alyssa Cinatl
Features writer

On Feb. 25 an anonymous student at Lemont High School created a Facebook account by the name of "Lhs Compliments". The biography of the account read, "Message us a compliment about someone at LHS and it will be posted anonymously. Nothing hateful will be accepted. So go ahead and brighten someone's day."

The idea is to send the group a message with a student's name saying what you like about them. Lhs Compliments will then set that compliment as their status. The idea has received overwhelming review from the students at LHS.

The creator of the account – who wishes to stay anonymous – says roughly 100 compliments have been posted overall. With more than 750 Facebook friends it was bound to get lots of response. "At one point there were multiple compliments per minute, now it's not as many. I do have a back-up person to help if it ever gets that viral again," said the creator. Not only were students receiving anonymous compliments, some teachers did too.

The creator said they got the idea after seeing another high school create a compliment page of their own. "Their page wasn't nearly as popular as this one. I just thought it would be a great addition to LHS."

There were also lots of posts showing their love and appreciation for the page. Posters said thanks to the creator and that this was an amazing idea. One anonymous poster complimented the creator saying, "This page actually brought a smile to my face to know that some good is actually being done in the town. Keep giving compliments and make people's day."

Students felt that this is exactly what LHS needed on Facebook, a site that can often stir up negativity or "Facebook fights".

The creator said, "I know from my personal life that a simple compliment can really change someone for the better. My intentions were never to bring a spotlight to me because, to be honest, people would probably characterize me as being shy. My intentions were and will always be to bring positivity to LHS!"

Chicago Fire: The Road to Redemption

by Kieran Ruane
Sports writer

The Chicago Fire have long been a team under the radar in the world of Chicago Sports, lurking in the shadows of teams such as the Bears, Bulls, Hawks, Cubs and White Sox. This season however the Fire are looking to emerge as one of Chicago's top teams, as well as MLS' top teams.

The Fire ended the 2012 season on a poor note; after finishing fourth in the Eastern Conference with a regular season record of 17-11-6, the Fire fell to the Houston Dynamo 2-1 in the first round of the MLS playoffs.

After the disappointing end to the 2011-12 season, the team knew changes needed to be made. The Fire obtained midfielder Dilly Duka from the Columbus Crew in a trade that would see Ghanaian forward Dominic Oduro go the other way. They also acquired Brazilian forward Maicon Santos from D.C. United, and American midfielder/former Fire youth product Brendan King from Alta IF in Norway. These players bring a fresh, positive attitude to the Fire camp, but with a new team always comes new struggles.

"I think the new players are great for the Fire," said Freshman Fire supporter Mike Prasauskas, "The team looks to be coming together at the moment, but a new team always needs time to develop chemistry to get the best performances out of the players."

Senior Mike Madsen also talks about his views on the new

Cubs Preview

by Kevin Dowiarz
Sports writer

As Spring Training closes up, the Cubs are looking to improve from last year's dismal record. They will open up their season in Pittsburgh

against the rapidly improving Pirates.

Do the Cubs have a chance to improve from last year's record? Most would say yes. James Lulek, a senior baseball player and avid Cubs fan said, "I think they'll do better than most people expect, but still won't be a factor in the playoff picture." The Cubs may not make the playoffs this year, but they are expected to improve.

The current goal is to turn young players with a lot of potential into solid, everyday players. The playoffs would be great, but right now, all the organization is worried about is getting those everyday players. Lulek went on to say "It's all about the rebuilding this year. Playoffs become an expectation in two or three years." With players like Starlin Castro, Darwin Barney and Anthony Rizzo, all of whom are in their early 20's, the restoration is looking good.

Don't expect a rapid turnaround from the Cubs this year. Prepare for another sub .500 season. However, there is cause to be excited: the Cubs have a lot of potential in their young players. This year may not be "the year", as many Cubs fans like to say, but three to four years from now may just be the year that fans have been waiting for.



Photo courtesy of Google

Cold Weather Barrier

by Erika Truschke
Sports writer

Cold weather still lingers in Lemont as the Boys' Varsity Baseball team finally began their season over spring break. But the cold weather and snow didn't keep the determined LHS team from succeeding.

Last season, the boys' finished with a successful 23-10 record. The uneventful loss in the Regional Final game against Lincoln Way West sparked sour feelings.

At the time, Brian Storako was an assistant coach for LHS. He expressed, "the loss did not sit well with the staff and players."

This season, Storako was named Head Coach and looks to uphold a winning team like last year's. "If we get the job done on the field,

we [coaching staff] believe this team can be very successful."

Leading up to spring break, the boys practiced 24 times and "look forward to actually playing a game," said senior Joe Sambucci. "We were really mad because all of us wanted to go outside and play some baseball, but 'mother nature' wouldn't allow it."

Even though the cold weather was still present, the team played their first game of the year on Wed. March 27 against Plainfield East. The boys captured a 5-1 win. Sambucci commented, "It felt great to finally play, and were even more happy with the 'W'."

On the other hand, junior Jake Terrazas said, "We were all a

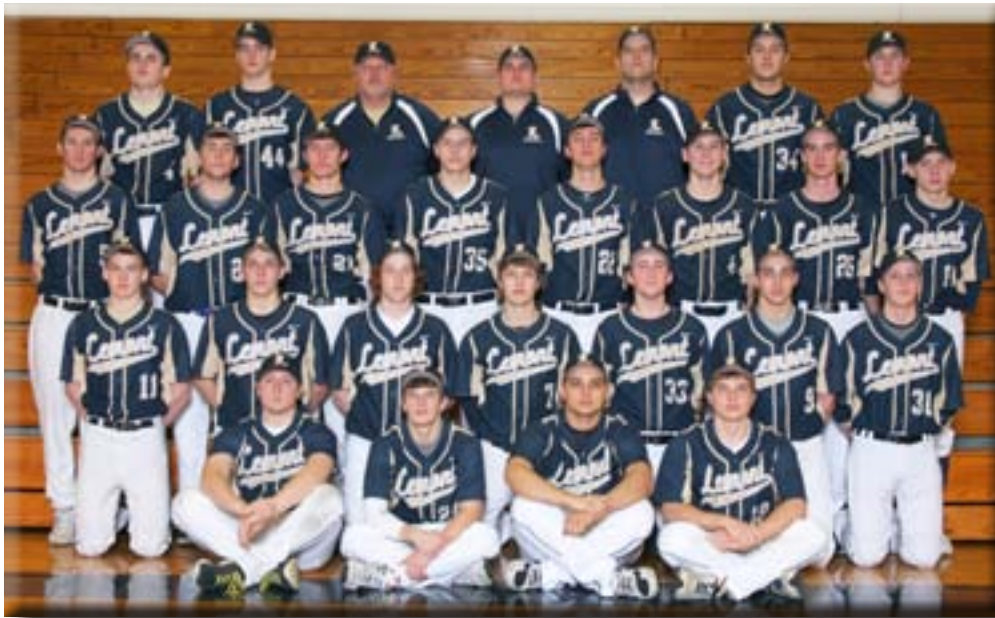
little anxious on the field, and that definitely showed during the first couple innings at the plate."

The boys played a second game on Sat. March 30 at Barrington. A tough 10-7 loss evened out their record to 1-1.

As school resumes on April 1, the team played a two game match up against TF South at home on Tues. April 2; then again on Wed. April 3, but at North Central College.

Overall, the coaches and players had mixed feelings about the delayed weather start. Focusing on future games is important, but also keeping the playoffs in close vision is needed too.

Terrazas said, "We have a pretty good idea of where we want to be at the end of the regular season and hopefully we'll be playing our best baseball going into the playoffs."



2013 Lemont boys varsity baseball team

"It felt great to finally play, and were even more happy with the [win]."

--Senior Joe Sambucci

