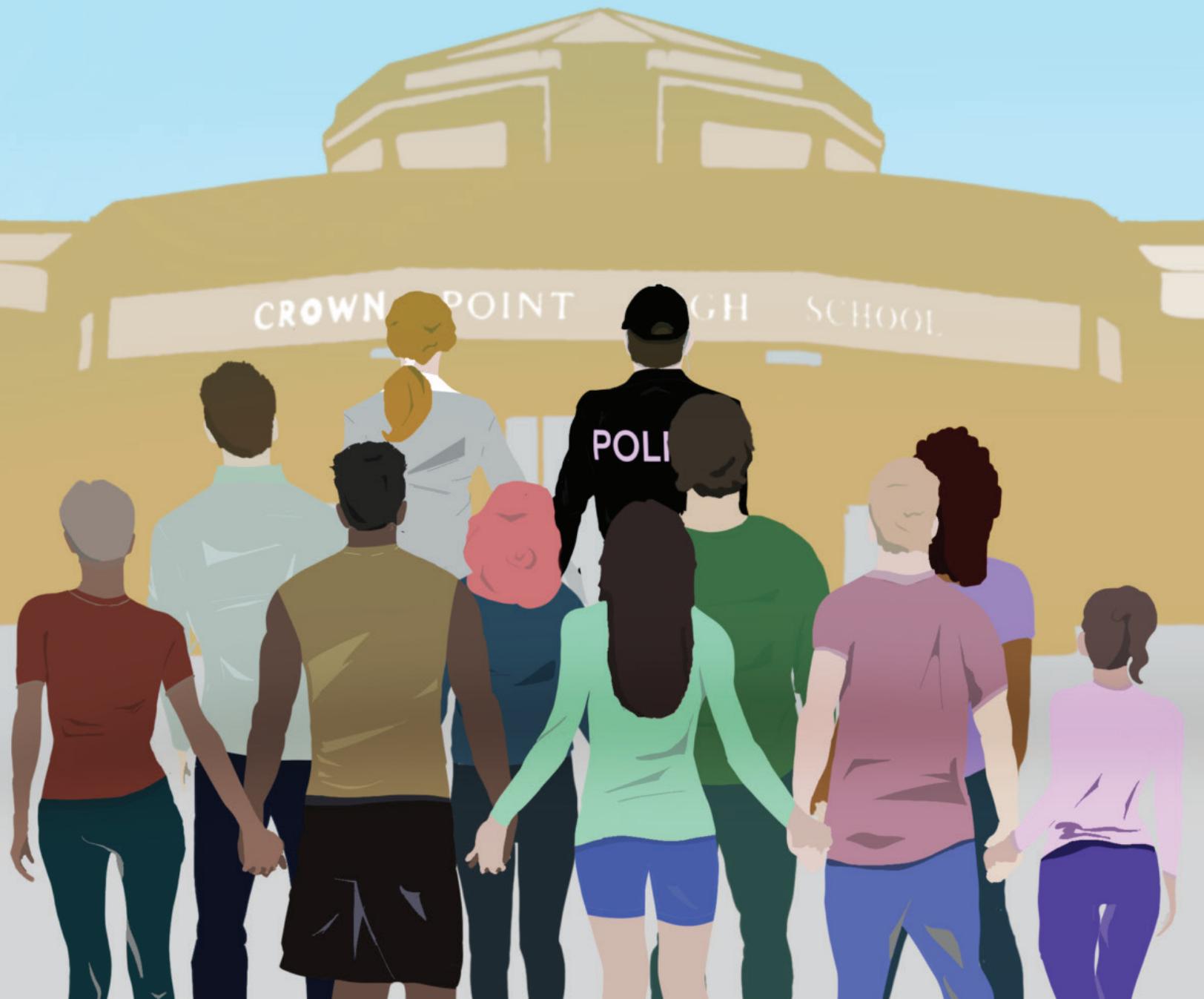




School Safety: A Community Effort



T.O.C

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Seniors Elena Iloski and Kyle Alb walk during the Grand March in the gymnasium. At the conclusion of the Grand March, seniors Chloe Fridrich and Rocco Jann were crowned prom queen and king. The dance followed at the Halls of St. George, marking the first school sponsored prom since 2019.

PHOTO BY EMILEE LUCHT



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THINK AHEAD

Upcoming dates and events

April 30
ISSMA
Group I
Qualifier

CPHS's wind ensemble, chorale and symphony (advanced) orchestra will travel to Penn High School in Mishawauka, IN to compete in ISSMA.

May 1
NHS Induction
Ceremony

Students accepted into the 2022-2023 season of NHS should attend the induction ceremony. Students will receive their NHS certificate.

May 4
Military
recognition
ceremony

Seniors joining the armed forces will be awarded their honor stoles. The ceremony will be held on the CPHS front lawn at 1 p.m.

May 5
Awards
Night

Selected seniors will be awarded Crown Point Community scholarships. The ceremony will be held in the CPHS gymnasium starting at 6:30 p.m.

May 13
Last day of
AP Exams

AP final exams will wrap up on this day. After a year of stressful AP classes, students can take a breather. CPHS final exams will start May 30.

May 13
Friday Night
Lights

This senior only event will be held on the football field from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be food, games and gift bags.

May 16
All City Band
Concert

The final concert for the CPHS bands will start at 6 p.m. and will be held in the auditorium.

Roles in School Safety



Students

If you see something say something. Get involved in the school.



Teachers

Support students and watch for potential issues in the classroom.



Officers

Keep track of who goes in and out. Security on a building level.



Corporation

Maintaining safety plan and learning from other schools.

from TOP to BOTTOM

School safety require community effort from corporation level to student level

BY ABIGAIL GODSEN [co-editor-in-chief]
ARIEL MOORE [reporter]

From school shootings to fights to intruders, we've all seen the headlines that strike fear into our hearts. Now more than ever, safety is everyone's concern. In order to create a positive and secure school environment, however, everyone from the school corporation level to the student level must work together to ensure school safety.

A safe school should be where students feel comfortable, and the school is prepared for when issues arise, according to senior Sol Wozniak.

"When envisioning a safe school, I imagine every student walking through the school doors without any quiver of stress of being harmed, or harming, within their mind. There should be a place where every student or staff member can be promised there is somebody within the school that will listen to them," Wozniak said. "These, along with airtight outside security and two-steps-ahead security team to prevent school shootings or outside threats."

As part of creating a secure school environment, Dave Coulson, supervisor of school safety, sees students as a crucial part of their plan.

"It's from top to bottom. We start with the students and understand the awareness that they maintain throughout the school day from the time they arrive to the time they leave. Students are an integral part," Coulson said. "Safety and security is our number one priority here at the corporation, and that's from the level of the students' safety, to our staff, to the teachers, to the administrators and to our visitors that come in here. We have to ensure that everything we can do, we do do."

This is noticed by both adults and students when looking at how other school systems operate and deal with school safety issues.

"Seeing how other schools are doing in terms of safety has shed light on how CP is doing. I've definitely seen schools that are more dangerous and others that are more strict," senior Michael Duffy said. "The school keeps a fairly good environment regardless of the issues. While we do have fights, the school has seemingly done a good enough job that it isn't as bad as a lot of other schools."

Keeping in mind the increasing number of school related headlines, learning from other schools and past events is one way to ensure the school has the best possible plan of action in case disaster does strike.

"We look at past instances that have occurred throughout the country. The lessons learned from those events, how do we take that tragedy, and all those are tragedies, and see what we can learn from them," Coulson said.

"It's from top to bottom. We start with the students and understand the awareness that they maintain throughout the school day from the time they arrive to the time they leave. So you students are an integral part."

- supervisor of school safety
Dave Coulson

However, creating safety plans is not a one person job. In order to create the most effective plan possible, schools rely on inputs from those within the school systems to ensure needs are being met.

"It's not just one person who is in charge; it's just not a handful of people. To keep our school safe, we rely on everybody. You've probably heard Mr. Marcinek (principal) say 'If you see something say something.' We really value input from our teachers, students and parents in trying to make this a safe learning environment for everybody," assistant principal Mike Depta said.

School safety looks different depending on what position you are in the school. According to sophomore Madeline Thunberg, school safety should be a top priority that everyone takes part in.

"School safety looks as though everyone makes



Students and staff leave the building during the April fire drill at Crown Point High School. As part of the school's safety protocols, there are mandatory drills in case of emergency events, as well as an app that alerts teachers about drills and emergency situations in the school.

PHOTO BY ABIGAIL GODSEN

it a priority. Making it a priority benefits both yourself and the school, as it protects everyone. Making school safety a priority doesn't mean just practicing when drills occur, it means to constantly be looking out for ways to make our school a safer place," Thunberg said.

Communication is a key tool used to create a safe learning environment for students and staff. Thunberg agrees with this sentiment, especially from the student perspective.

"I think that the school does an excellent job at keeping communication very open when it comes to school safety. I think that everyone knows who they can go to for help with an issue, along with where to go and what to do for each scenario that we have drills for, because of how well the communication is between the students and faculty," Thunberg said.

Trust is another crucial part of the equation. This is something that school resource officer Leslie Malerich makes a priority in her work.

"Not only do we communicate among ourselves, but we do have a lot of students that communicate with us. We have to make sure we are approachable, so if a student says 'Hey I need to talk with you about

"I could be looked at as just not a police officer. I don't want kids thinking we're here to take them away in handcuffs all the time, especially working here in the high school. We're not here to get you in trouble; we want to make sure you succeed in life."

- patrol officer
Philip Mason

something,' they feel comfortable coming and talking with us," Malerich said. "Every student is different. We have to find different ways to connect with them so, that way, we're here to help them. If there is anything they need, they can trust us to help them."

Overcoming the societal barriers associated with being labeled a "police officer" in order to connect

with students can be an issue, according to patrol officer Philip Mason.

"One thing, for me, is that a lot of kids feel intimidated that we're police officers. We're more like counselors. It feels like most of my job here isn't dealing with the criminal side but dealing with kids that need help with everyday life or just problems they're having with students and their social life," Mason said. "I could be looked at as just not a police officer. I don't want kids thinking we're here to take them away in handcuffs all the time, especially working here in the high school. We're not here to get you in trouble; we want to make sure you succeed in life."

When students are able to rely on those around them, it allows for students to get the help they need, even if it may seem intimidating.

"Communicate. A lot of kids are afraid to tell on somebody, but, when they think something off or see something, just let an adult know. I know kids are afraid of ruining their reputation and telling on somebody," Mason said. "I think that's really important. We've had students here and their friends have had issues, and they've come to us and let us know what they think has been happening at home so that we can



■ Before and after school, police officers will direct parking lot traffic to make sure the cars and buses can safely enter and exit the school. This is part of the work resource officer Leslie Malerich and patrol officer Philip Mason do to maintain order within the school.

PHOTO BY AUBREY BANKS

help find the resources to help them out in their home life.”

Beyond communication, being able to adapt is another aspect of school safety. Oftentimes what happens outside of school can translate into the classroom posing a safety hazard for students and staff.

“Safety is an ongoing thing. I think it’s changing all the time. With what’s going on in society all the time, it sort of trickles down to what we experience here in the building,” Depta said.

From the parent perspective, what potentially comes into the classroom from the outside world is just as much of a concern as what happens inside the school.

“The biggest thing that I keep in the back of my

mind and pay attention to all the time, is the alarming, scary stuff people don’t want to think about: someone entering the building, a student having a breakdown, if a fight broke out and it continued on too long etc. Even the fact of no one stepping in and saying ‘stop,’” paraprofessional and parent Jennifer Hawkins said.

Definitions of school safety can range from extreme instances such as intruders to everyday situations such as traffic in the parking lot.

“I’d say the high school parking lot gives me safety concerns, as it’s every man and woman for themselves during the peak time of school ending,” Hawkins said. “With the construction going on, everything’s tighter than ever. We all could work on patience, polite driving etiquette, consideration to others that are working

“We have a pretty good learning environment here and that’s accredited to students, teachers and staff members. That credit goes to everyone that works here, I think everybody puts forth that cooperative effort and makes this a great place to be.”

- assistant principal
Mike Depta

and turning a head around while backing up.”

Keeping the traffic situation requires the efforts of all people on the road. Although Hawkins has concerns regarding the parking lot situation, she appreciates the efforts made to make it as safe as possible.

“I appreciate the administration and officers that have a safe and effective way for car riders to get dropped off and picked up. The due diligence with the traffic directing and controlling the lights helps move traffic is a huge plus,” Hawkins said.

“I’m very thankful I’ve never had to experience a shooting in the whole four years of watching the news of tragedies from other schools.”

- senior
Sol Wozniak

As adults in the building, teachers have to be aware of all the possible scenarios that can happen inside and outside of the classroom.

“As a teacher, I am concerned about all the fighting that goes on. At any school, it’s a bit of a problem with teenage kids. It’s a concern of mine,” social studies teacher Mary Lux said. “When I think of school safety, I think about ensuring the safety of students in our classrooms and our building. I think that my biggest concerns with school safety are, obviously, conflict among students, conflicts from people outside our school and the history of school safety in the United States is obviously a concern. Drug use is a concern as well.”

Because of these possibilities, preventive efforts are being made to ensure the continued cultivation of a safe school environment.

“I think that we make many efforts to create a



■ As part of school safety protocols, teachers watch the halls to monitor student activity during passing period.

PHOTO BY ABIGAIL GODSEN

positive climate and culture for our students. Our resource period is really helpful, clubs that promote activism in the community, clubs that promote diversity in our school,” Lux said.

In agreement with this statement, Wozniak has experienced the effects from all the work put into making the school inviting and secure.

“I appreciate how trustworthy the teachers and staff are at this school. They’re always understanding and willing to listen if a concern pops up. The counselors, too, work tremendously hard for everyone’s sake and are always inviting if somebody needs to dis-

cuss personal issues, or advice for college, or anything really,” Wozniak said. “I’m very thankful I’ve never had to experience a shooting in the whole four years of watching the news of tragedies from other schools.”

Despite the issues that may occur during the school day, the overall positive climate can be credited to community efforts according to Depta.

“We have a pretty good learning environment here and that’s accredited to students, teachers and staff members. That credit goes to everyone that works here. I think everybody puts forth that cooperative effort and makes this a great place to be,” Depta said.

Did You Know?

In **spring 2016**
physical conflicts &
student bullying
were the **2** most commonly
reported school problems in the
United States

During the **2017-2018 school year***
80%
of public schools
in the United
States reported
one or more inci-
dents of violence,
theft, or crimes

approximately **38%**
of public schools in the United
States reported
providing treatment for
mental health disorders

Information from: <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2020/2020063.pdf>

EARTH DAY EVERY DAY

Crown Point initiatives to protect environment, new water bottle filling machines, electric bus

BY KAITLYN CHANDLER [reporter]



ART BY KAITLYN CHANDLER



Junior Michael Greenberg collects and dumps recyclables for Green Machine. They collect recycling around the school every Wednesday.

PHOTO BY KAITLYN CHANDLER

clean air benefits, less noise pollution and less repair costs for the electric bus are powerful reasons to support our commitment to the environment and our students,” Vasquez said.

Another new addition to the is the installation of new water bottle filling machines funded by the school district. Principal Russ Marcinek discusses the importance of these new water bottle filling stations.

“I think the water filling stations help our school because they are progressive. These stations are becoming the norm at business offices, colleges and universities, as well as public buildings, and they are good for the school as a whole. It helps the environment by allowing plastic water bottles to be reused,” Marcinek said.

According to Marcinek, it is crucial that students take care of the environment, especially with the poor health of Indiana’s water sources because of the close proximity to the great lakes.

“The great lakes account for approximately 20% of the earth’s freshwater supply. In our region, it is important to control plastics and do our part to keep our valuable water source as clean as possible,” Marcinek said.

Beach discusses the many opportunities that are available for students to explore sustainability to help the environment of not only Crown Point, but the state in order to celebrate Earth Day.

“We are going to be doing a little activity for Earth Day over at the fairgrounds for micro-plastics. It is going to be a joint effort between my club (Green Machine) and Mrs. Cosme’s GEMS club,” Beach said.

“Everyone is welcome to join us for that. It should be towards the end of April. We will do some microplastic sampling because even though a lot of people focus it on beach areas, we also find it in our lakes. People pick up the big stuff, but you don’t think about the little micro-plastics, but those little things turn into big things, and those big things add up.”

It can be difficult for students to find ways to incorporate environmental sustainability practices into their day-to-day lives. Beach shares her thoughts on what students should do to make sustainability easy and more normalized.

“If you can make one small change such as not using a plastic water bottle and saying no thank you to a straw, then that is going to have a big impact. You guys are in high school now, so if you think 20 or 30 years down the road, if you start saying no to straws now, how many straws will have you said no to? It’s not about doing everything at once, but if you can make small changes here or there, then the world will become a greener place,” Beach said.

According to Marcinek, it is everyone’s responsibility to do their part to reach a greener, healthier planet.

“I think that all human beings should be aware of the environment and do their part to keep it clean and healthy. This is our planet and we share it with one another. School is a place of learning, and my hope is that our building is a reflection of the way we would treat our outside environment. Take care of it like you would your own home,” Marcinek said.

Often, people do not realize the value in everyday things until they are gone. Imagine not having access to fresh water and clean air.

According to a recent report published by the Environmental Integrity Project, Indiana is ranked number one for having the most polluted water, so this thought is becoming a reality. With the health of the environment on the line, Crown Point students and staff realize the importance of taking action for a greener future.

Environmental Science teacher and advisor for Green Machine, Melissa Beach, discusses how her students are learning about climate change in Indiana by taking a field trip to the Dunes Education Center. There, they studied the concentrations of sugar in the sap of sugar bushes native to Indiana.

“They got to do different measurements on the tree with tree height and with concentrations of sugar in the sap. They took GPS coordinates because the area that we were plotting is part of the national database. Each year, they take these measurements on the trees, and they compare it to past years, so they can see how climate change and warming temperatures has affected (the sugar bushes),” Beach said.

Environmental Science student Ashley Milner discusses her eye-opening experience at the Dunes Education Center about our carbon footprint, which is the amount of greenhouse gases released from human actions.

“They talked about how the carbon footprint is affecting the sugar bush all around the world and how

this specific sugar bush in Indiana is so important because they are dying all over the world,” Milner said.

Milner adds her thoughts on why teaching students about the environment is crucial to environmental sustainability.

“This is our planet, and we share it with one another. School is a place of learning and my hope is that our building is a reflection of the way we would treat our outside environment.”

-Principal
Russ Marcinek

“I think it is important because without the environment, we are dead. We only have one world, so we better make it count,” Milner said.

On top of teaching about climate change, Beach focuses on limiting plastics in the environment through the Green Machine’s recycling efforts

“Our big focus is recycling the plastic and alumi-

num here at the high school. We recycle several hundred pounds a week. The students work really hard because they not only go around to the rooms that have bins and collect (the plastic and aluminum), but they bring it back to my class and then they sort through it by hand,” Beach said.

Milner reduces her plastic waste by staying away from single-use plastics, and she thinks it is a simple way for students to help the environment.

“I just don’t use single-use plastics, and I try to reduce my shampoo and conditioner bottles, which is huge. Single-use plastics are really easy to give up,” Milner said.

Not only are students working hard to keep the environment clean, but the Crown Point School Corporation is doing their part to sustain environmental health as well. Recently, the CPCSC adopted their first ever electric school bus. Monica Vasquez, Director of Transportation, discusses the positive effects this bus has on the community and environment.

“The electric bus has no vehicle emissions, which provides health benefits for our community and no noise pollution, which provides a quieter, peaceful ride for our students,” Vasquez said.

According to Vasquez, while gas-powered vehicles can travel farther, the benefits of the electric vehicle outweigh the negatives. Vasquez anticipates the CPCSC adding more electric buses in the future.

“The electric bus can travel approximately 135 miles before it needs to be recharged. While a gas powered bus can travel farther before refueling, the

Speak UP

Student opinions on relevant topics

How do you try to be more eco-friendly?

"I recycle. I definitely want to be more eco-friendly to improve the conditions of the earth. It would probably be good to research this because a lot of people don't know a lot of ways to be eco-friendly besides recycling."

- senior
Makaela Watkins

"I do try to reuse water bottles by refilling them, so I don't throw them away right away."

- junior
Jacob Schopp

"I use reusable straws and whenever I'm at a restaurant I decline using plastic straws. I'll also recycle all of my cans and plastic containers."

- junior
Carmen Chaidez

"I wash all my stuff out of the containers before I recycle them."

- freshman
Brooke Jones

"I bring my plastic bottles to the school because I can't recycle them at home."

- senior
Chenod Hryniowiecki

"I use reusable cups instead of disposable water bottles."

- freshman
Skyler Bobbitt



CARTOON BY KAITLYN CHANDLER

Editorial

Small actions can make differences to protect environment, local ways to become involved in community

We have all heard about global warming and how our time is running out to take care of our environment. Although it may seem like such a big ask of anyone, there are small things we can do individually to make an impact now that we are seeing the effects of climate change now more than ever.

One of the easy ways for students to start helping their environment is by car pooling. Car pooling limits cars on the road and, therefore, reduces our carbon footprint. This can make a big difference towards creating a healthier environment.

Just recently, Crown Point School Corporation started reducing their carbon footprint by instating a new electric bus with the hopes of having more in the future. We as students could follow their lead and start making changes in our own lives.

The school as a whole has pushed efforts to educate students on environmental sustainability. GoGreen is a club that encourages students to get involved in the school community, and they have placed plastic recycling bins throughout the school to encourage students to recycle plastic. If a small school club can make a difference, the world can too.

Even if you may not be able to join some of the clubs around the school to get involved, there are still ways students can start making a difference. Some of these could be using the water bottle fillers seen in the locker bays throughout the school or recycling pop tabs.

One trend to take part of would be thrifting. Thrifting is a fun activity where you buy used products, mainly clothing, and give them a new home or re-purposing them to be something new. This is an environmentally alternative option to buying brand new clothes.

There are so many opportunities for students to get involved in their environment, but it is important to know that any little bit helps. Even if it may not seem that recycling one water bottle won't make a difference, every small effort adds up. Once we start working on being more eco-friendly, we can begin to savor our time on the Earth that we are trying to save.

Next time you go to use a plastic water bottle or throw away something that could be recycled, take the step towards helping your environment.

Column

High gas prices are negative impact of crisis in Ukraine, don't use President Biden as scapegoat

BY ROSALIE DEGENHART [co-editor-in-chief]



Cities being bombed, families being separated and refugees flooding the borders of neighboring countries. This is the reality of Ukraine. Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, and millions of Ukrainian citizens

are still facing the heartbreaking aftermath.

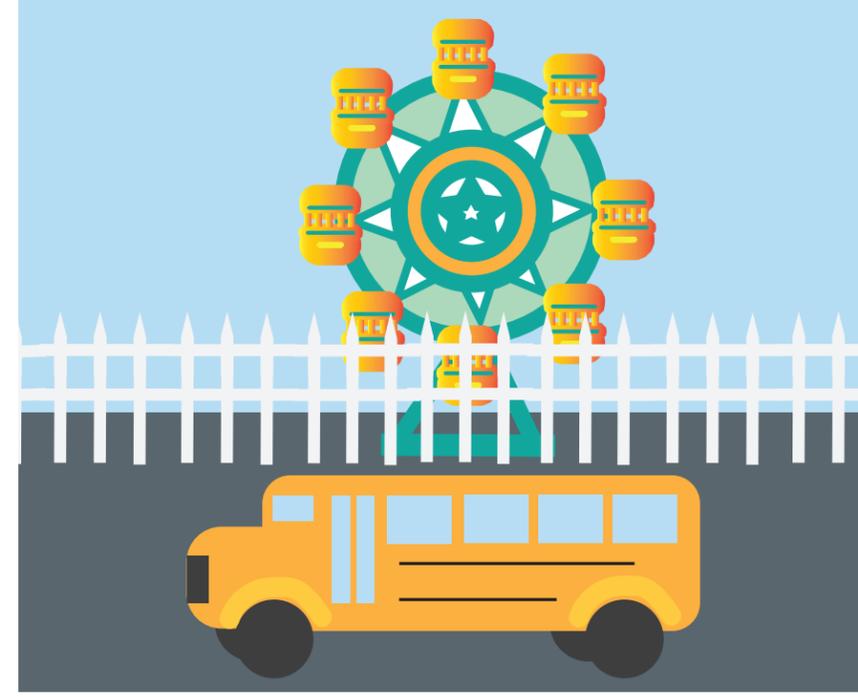
The news is currently flooded with updates on the situation in Russia and Ukraine, filling Americans with sorrow and sympathy for the thousands of refugees and those mourning their loved ones. While many are showing their support through fundraisers and rallies, some are bypassing this reality only to focus on an unavoidable inconvenience: increased gas prices.

As of April 5, the average gas price in Indiana is \$4.08. Last year on that day, Indiana's average gas price was \$2.78. To further compare these drastic prices, the highest gas price ever recorded was \$4.11 on July 17, 2008, which was surpassed on March 8, 2022 when gas prices hit \$4.17. It's no shock that this is a financial problem for many Americans, especially for those trying to completely fill up their gas tank. Many have become vocal on social media, yet many are placing the blame on the wrong target.

Russia is one of the top producers of crude oil and petroleum in the world, and the United States imports less than 2 percent of these products from Russia. However, on March 8 President Biden ended oil trade negotiations with Russia, economically isolating them. Many blamed Biden for the increase in gas prices, but these accusations are clouded with prejudice and falsities.

Yes, Biden is responsible for temporarily banning Russian imports and increasing the demand for gas. Like many other nations, he views Russia as the enemy, so backing out of trade agreements was an announcement to the rest of the world that the United States does not support Russia. Instead, the United States will be accepting 100,000 Ukrainian refugees.

The situation needs to be put into perspective that while our gas prices are increasing, thousands of lives are being lost. We are truly witnessing the horrific aftermath of genocide through a TV screen.



CARTOON BY KAITLYN CHANDLER

Is the shifting school schedule worth the complications it poses?

Pro:

School calendar shift is worth it for upcoming year

BY ABIGAIL GODSEN [co-editor-in-chief]

Last year, Crown Point School Corporation approved shifting the school calendar to an earlier start, that has shortened the 2022 summer break to overlap with the Lake County Fair in August. In my opinion, the long-term goal is worth the minor inconvenience this summer.

First of all, the information about the schedule change has been available on the school corporation website for the last two years. I even wrote a story about it last year when I was an assistant editor. We knew this was going to happen eventually, including the challenges it may pose.

This calendar change will create a less stressful end to the first semester for students and staff as well as allow for more breathers throughout the school year. The shift may be annoying now, but the ends justify the means if we want to create a healthier learning environment for everyone.

Con:

An earlier start extends stress regardless of breaks

BY LIVY HELMUTH [assistant editor]

Extending the length of fall, winter, and spring breaks would not properly compensate for a shortened summer break and a longer school year.

When students are away from school for longer stretches of time, they may have difficulty retaining information from earlier in the year. This makes not only final exams and tests more challenging, but AP examinations as well.

Summer break provides students with ample time to complete online courses and should be an exciting transition from one year to the next. Even if summer break is only temporarily shortened, the long term impact this may have on the following school year is too notable to ignore.

In short, we must approach the pacing of our school years like a marathon, not like a series of sprints.

IN THEIR VIEW

"It's better for it to start earlier because the breaks will be longer, and we can end the year earlier."

- junior
Ava Hubster

"I think we should have a longer summer while there's still time to be outside."

- freshman
Kayden Karlson

Column

Libraries serve as community center of information and learning, even in the media age

BY ABIGAIL GODSEN [co-editor-in-chief]



In the age of media, there are those that feel that libraries are going out of style. When you could go to Google for information, why would you choose to go to the library? To me, although some feel libraries

are old news, libraries are just as important now as they were 20 years ago.

When most think of libraries, they likely think of getting a book to read or doing school research, but libraries provide so much more to a community than one might expect. For one thing, libraries are a place where people can gather as a public area. At the local Crown Point Community Library they have areas for club and business meetings, private rooms for people to receive tutoring or do school work, events for little kids to get involved in learning and so much more.

Libraries have also evolved to be more technology savvy. They now have online databases, free wifi and computer areas. These areas allow for people who may not have a computer or wifi at home to be able to stay connected and continue working. Libraries give people the opportunities they wouldn't have in other circumstances. By saying that libraries are no longer relevant or providing essential needs to the community, we are discrediting the work libraries do do.

As someone who wants to go into library sciences, I am obviously supportive of libraries and their work, but I also see it from another perspective. As someone who loved going to the library when I was younger, I found my love for learning and connection through my experiences there. I have also done work with Crown Point Community Library where I was able to interact with patrons and the people who work there. In my time there, I saw the passion these people had for being able to provide these resources to people and enrich people's lives through reading and exploration.

Like everyone else, I go to Google if I have a quick question, and I don't always go to the library to study. However, having the opportunity to be able to have free access to information and a safe place to work is something I wouldn't diminish the value of.

Love of the Arts



■ Senior Isabella Teodori performs as dream Anastasia during "Quartet at the Ballet" in *Anastasia The Musical*. *Anastasia The Musical* had its closing night on March 20, 2022.

PHOTO BY KAITLYN DUFFY

Band, choir and orchestra practice music for ISSMA competitions; *Anastasia The Musical* ends performances, reflects on production

BY JOSHUA HEDGES [reporter]
LIVY HELMUTH [assistant editor]

Competition season has begun for not only Crown Point's athletic teams, but also for Crown Point's arts programs. During the spring months, band, choir and orchestra groups prepare their instruments and voices to compete at ISSMA.

Senior Rachel Florkiewicz recounts the nervousness of performing choral music at ISSMA for a smaller crowd and of waiting to perform.

"At ISSMA, there is a smaller crowd that you are performing for and sometimes you can hear the choir that goes on before you," Florkiewicz said. "If the group before you does really well, that can add pressure. The judges can be very intimidating. It's different from just a regular performance."

Junior Timmy Ziants plays the violin in the advanced/symphony orchestra, and he notes the specific qualities the group must practice before competing at ISSMA.

"At rehearsal, we tend to make more mistakes as a part of the learning process," Ziants said. "We clean

our dynamics, shiftings and learn the correct notes to play."

As a percussionist for band, junior Olivia Rhee balances her ISSMA pieces throughout the spring.

"For about three weeks, I was practicing everyday," Rhee said. "Practicing is not always just playing. It's listening to the soundtracks a lot and trying to play along with them. All while you're marking your music and counting."

Similar to how athletic teams require teamwork to win games and competitions, band, choir and orchestra members have to cooperate to create award winning music. Florkiewicz enjoys getting to know the people in choir with her and working on difficult pieces with them.

"Singing in a group creates a familial bond because of the team work that goes into creating great music," Florkiewicz said. "It's so amazing and so powerful to get to know the people I am singing with and to get to rehearse with them almost every day. It can be satisfying to hear our progress with difficult music that we initially thought we could never get through. In a few months, we are able to sing through

everything completely with proper dynamics and everything."

At the end of a performance, Florkiewicz adores the following applause and finds further inspiration from the audience.

"Being able to create an experience for an audience inspires me to practice," Florkiewicz said. "When we perform, we can sometimes hear people audibly gasp or we may receive a standing ovation. Creating that experience and evoking that emotion from people is a very powerful thing and something that I will always love."

Ziants wants to assure any beginner musicians starting that, in time, they will improve and to not get discouraged.

"Be patient and don't be too hard on yourself. When you're listening to professional musicians play, don't be discouraged because they've most likely been playing for 20+ years and you've just started. Don't be too hard on yourself because you'll get there eventually," Ziants said.

Regardless of negative stigma, Florkiewicz points out her improvement not just in choir but also in her

daily life.

"I feel that there is a bad stigma attached to the arts and a negative depiction of the people that are in them," Florkiewicz said. "I genuinely wish I knew why that was because joining choir was one of the best decisions I've made in my entire life. Being able to walk into a classroom, feel comfortable with everyone that's there, and being able to do what I love is all so amazing. All I wish is for others to experience that."

Another way for students to express their love for the performing arts is the school's theatre program. Sophomore Austin Shofner recently performed in *Anastasia The Musical* as an ensemble member, and he recalls the process each production goes through.

"It definitely takes a while to put on a production," Shofner said. "It takes a few months because there's a lot that goes into it. We audition, build the set and rehearse. Although it's only two and a half hours of the audience's time, it's been a while for us."

Freshman Abby Taylor was a part of the show's costume crew and ensemble, where she gets to research historical fashion relevant to the musical's setting.

"I enjoy the idea of being able to figure out what a person is wearing and how it fits in the timeline," Taylor said. "I like comparing what the characters' wore to today's standards of fashion. It's fascinating how different they are."

Even with the months of work, Taylor finds joy in the community that theater provides around

her.

"I enjoy how we all are like a big family," Taylor said. "We don't really care if someone is a sophomore, freshman, junior or senior because we are all connected and friends with each other."

When it comes time to finally take to the stage, Shofner recognizes the anxiety a first performance can bring.

"Singing in a group creates a familial bond because of the team work that goes into creating great music. It's so amazing and so powerful to get to know the people I am singing with and to get to rehearse with them almost every day."

- senior
Rachel Florkiewicz

"I always get so nervous going up on stage. When we do our opening number, that is when I'm the most nervous because we haven't seen the audience yet. After that, I warm up to the audience and it's not as bad," Shofner said.

Although the eyes are on the performers, the show could not go on without the musicians below in the orchestra pit. Rhee gives a unique perspective on performing in the pit.

"It's very odd playing in the pit for me because of my drum set," Rhee said. "I'm too loud, and I'll over bear everyone, so they put a shield around me. I can only really hear myself and a speaker."

Rhee's experience of playing in the pit has given her a new view of the roles her drum set can play, regardless of its volume.

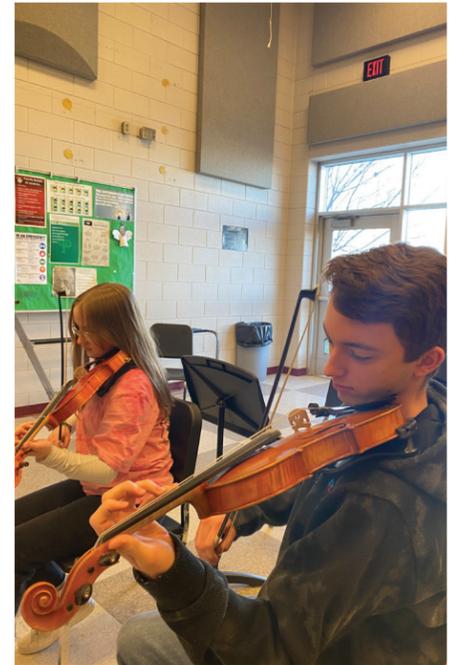
"It's very eye opening that just because I'm playing a loud instrument, I don't have to be the spotlight of the show," Rhee said. "You have to learn how to blend with everyone because the pit's basically a full orchestra. You have to be aware that there are quiet instruments being played."

Down in the pit, Rhee feels a sense of comradery with the other musicians and notes the sense of unease everyone can get at first.

"Everyone gets nervous going into it, and there's no need to be nervous," Rhee said. "You just have to jump right into it, and no one judges anyone about their level of playing or experience. You meet a bunch of friends, and it's such a good way to get into a social group."

Taylor advises those interested in trying out for any theater or any other arts programs to audition.

"Don't be afraid to audition," Taylor said. "It's such a good opportunity, and even if you don't make it in, you can always help out by joining a crew. Never let your fear stop you from at least trying."



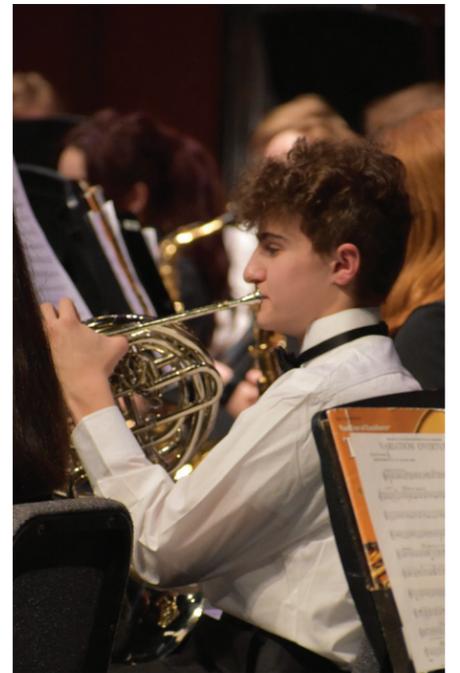
■ From left to right, senior Ella Hahn and junior Timmy Ziants practice during their advanced orchestra class. Advanced orchestra combines with wind ensemble to form the symphony orchestra.

PHOTO BY ROSALIE DEGENHART



■ From left to right, senior Rachel Clausing, sophomore McKinley Cowser and senior Rachel Florkiewicz rehearse their chorale pieces for ISSMA. Choral competes at ISSMA on April 30.

PHOTO BY ROSALIE DEGENHART



■ Freshman Brandon Aydt plays the french horn during a concert for concert band. Wind ensemble will be competing at ISSMA on April 30.

PHOTO BY MARIANNE GERONA



■ From left to right, sophomore Andrew Luri, juniors Aiden Guzman and Jeremiah Arona, seniors Evan Parent and George Trajanoski and sophomore Elijah Pappas perform at the square to raise money for St. Baldrick's. They raised around \$200.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CLARE DILLON

Playing it Forward

Students show kindness through various fundraisers, motivated to help others in need

BY ROSALIE DEGENHART [co-editor-in-chief]
AUBREY BANKS [assistant editor]

Genuine kindness can be found when the right resources are given to the right people. While the end of the school year is near, Crown Point High School students are still exhibiting genuine kindness by helping others.

Key Club raised \$3,590.86 in March for St. Baldrick's, a foundation dedicated to raising money for childhood cancer, and donors can draw awareness by shaving their heads. This year, seven students campaigned as potential shavees, and their goal was to raise money for other people, so the student who raised the most money would have to shave their head. Senior McKayla Henry was a potential shavee this year and was motivated by her own morals to raise money.

"Growing up, my family didn't have the most money. We aren't poor by any means, we got by, but just thinking how this money can potentially help even one kid really made me happy," Henry said.

Henry's motivation to raise money for St. Baldrick's comes from personal experience, as well as from interactions with friends and family.

"My uncle passed away from bladder cancer when I was younger and that took a huge toll on my family because we knew he was sick," Henry said. "All of these people around me were getting eaten up by

something that they shouldn't have, and I would hate to see a child go through that."

To Henry, taking that step to make a child feel confident in themselves is worth shaving her head.

"When little kids see that they are unified with someone else, like seeing another kid that looks like them in a classroom, that makes them feel better," Henry said. "If I have to shave my head to make a little kid feel better, that they're not alone, I'll do it."

Uniting students under a common cause is what senior shavee George Trajanoski did to raise money for St. Baldrick's. To express his talent as a CPHS band member, Trajanoski put a group of jazz band players together to play at the Square and collect money for St. Baldrick's. Junior Jeremiah Arona helped Trajanoski raise money, and he was also able to express his love for music.

"It was so fun. Getting to play music that we love makes us happy, and if it makes other people happy then that's all we want. We go to bring out the good in other people and make their lives better by playing music for them," Arona said.

Arona, Trajanoski and other musicians played a variety of pieces on the square for approximately 2 hours, and they raised around \$200 for senior shavee Ashton Erik's campaign. Arona knows how important

it is to raise money for foundations as impactful as St. Baldrick's, and he gives advice to those wanting to help others.

"Do what is right, and do what is best. Go with your gut feeling and just be yourself," Arona said. "Children are the future of our generation. Raising money for them will not only help us, but our future because they are the ones that are going to push our society forward."

Student Council will host their annual Dance Marathon on May 20 to raise money for Lurie's Children's Hospital. Senior Brianna Murdock is Student Council's senior treasurer and plays a role in organizing the event. Murdock is involved in other clubs that fundraise for organizations, such as Chick-fil-a leadership academy and the Cure, and she is a Certified Nurse's Assistant. Her job as a CNA has been influenced by the opportunities she has to help others through

"Children are the future of our generation, and raising money for them will not only help us, but our future because they are the ones that are going to push our society forward."

- junior
Jeremiah Arona

Top 5 St. Baldrick's Shavee fundraisers

Ashton Eriks
\$714.10

Sam Brewer
\$314.10

Mateo Arguelles
\$236.20

McKayla Henry
\$92.59

George Trajanoski
\$77.18

\$3,590.86

raised by
Crown Point High School

Last year,
Student Council
raised
\$10,331.61

for Dance Marathon.
This year, their goal is

\$10,000

school-sponsored events.

"It's shown me how to navigate different things in terms of wanting to help people. It's definitely made me comfortable with reaching out to people and getting other people to help others," Murdock said.

Student Council hopes to raise \$10,000 for Lurie's this year. Student Council President Rocco Jann explains the importance of the Dance Marathon and why it started.

"Dance Marathon started as a charitable event at Indiana University that was and still is held in memory of Ryan White, who was a young man who passed away due to his diagnosis of HIV/AIDS," Jann said. "In honor of his dedication to speaking out against the intolerance and prejudices associated with that illness, Dance Marathon raises funds for various children's hospitals across the country."

With all the current issues in the world, Jann comments on why it's beneficial to help other people.

"I think it's important to help other people, since everyone deserves to be given the opportunity to become their best selves and achieve what makes them truly happy and fulfilled in their lives," Jann said. "In the midst of all the world's current pressing issues, I feel that it is so much simpler for people to just help each other when they need it. Always remember that we can do so much more when we are united."

Swinging into the Season

Softball team begins season with 8-5 record, returning players hope for success in rest of season

GILLIAN GATLEY [reporter]

As the warmer weather begins to make an appearance, the softball team begins their 2022 season. The team started off strong with wins against Lockport Township and Andean.

With the start of a new season, Coach Angela Richwalski is focusing on making sure the team works well together in order for the mix of new and old players to do their best on the field.

“We have a mix of veteran players and varsity rookies, and at this point in the season we are working on getting everybody on the same page, learning to communicate properly and effective-

ly, and improving our decision making skills,” Richwalski said.

Due to the mix of returning players and new players on the varsity team, senior Sydney Meyer highlights the importance of leadership from older players and how it has influenced the younger girls.

“Most of the seniors have already been stepping up to lead and help underclassmen, especially in the off season, and you can see some of it,” Meyer said. “Even the underclassmen are stepping up to help us.”

As the season progresses, the team is looking forward to some of their harder games and focusing on what



■ Junior Jasmine Nichols hits a pitch against Chesterton. The team won the game, pushing their record to 4-1 at the time.

PHOTO BY ABIGAIL GODSEN

they can improve in order to be prepared for the upcoming games according to Lexi Howard.

“We’re all excited to play Lake Central this year because they lost a lot of seniors,” Howard said. “So I think a lot of us are excited to see if we can beat them this year.”

Though the season has just started, the team kept at it during the offseason. Howard points out that there is work being put it regarding many facets of the game.

“We worked on a lot of hitting for a while, just to get into the rhythm,” Howard said. “For fielding we did a lot of different drills to get us used to pregame stuff.”

Not only did the athletes continue to improve with their high school teammates, according to Richwalski, many also continued to play on travel teams

and gain experience that translates to the high school season.

“We’ve been weightlifting all year, we also had practice and camps in the fall,” Richwalski said. “Most of our varsity athletes play anywhere from

50 to 100 games over the summer and fall with their club teams and they gain a great deal of experience and skills from playing with those teams as well.”

With the players all striving to do their best both on and off the field, Richwalski em-

phasizes that changes to the varsity lineup are inevitable throughout the season.

“Like my players, I’m constantly looking for ways to improve the lineup.

There are usually minor tweaks on a regular basis. The athletes are generally used to it and it doesn’t bother them too

“Most of the seniors have already been stepping up to lead and help underclassmen, especially in the off season, and you can see some of it”

- senior
Sydney Meyer

much,” Richwalski said.

As a returning player, Howard emphasizes that she has learned a lot from her previous year with the Crown Point team and is excited to translate her experience over to this season.

“Definitely hustle, and just do what the coaches tell you, just adapt and try to do your best at all times because you’re only there for a certain amount of time during the year,” Howard said.

Howard is not the only one applying their past knowledge to this season. Meyer stresses the importance of hard work and dedication.

“It’s taught me to never give up and work your hardest because when you get those chances to get on the field you really want to take them seriously and do your best,” Meyer said.

According to Howard, the excitement the team feels for the seniors is growing as the season progresses and they are able to show their skills.

“I’m excited for a lot of the seniors to shine this year and do their best so they can leave on a high note and for us to celebrate them,” Howard said.

With the seniors playing their last season, Richwalski points out how some of the team’s seniors have already put on a good show at the games that they have previously played.

“Some of our returning players like Sydney Meyer, Emily Phillips and Brinkley Kita have come out and turned in some truly phenomenal performances in games already,” Richwalski said.

As the season moves into full swing, Howard outlines the basics of what the team struggles with the most and what they are doing in order to combat their struggles.

“Our coach is really trying to focus on hitting because a lot of us struggle with live pitching, whether it’s just making contact or getting good solid hits,” Howard said.

With the few games that have been played so far, Richwalski feels as though the performances the team has put up shows promise of what the rest of the season will look like.

“We have had some great showings so far, we have a lot to work on, but we also have a lot of potential to have a really great regular season and potentially win quite a few games post-season,” Richwalski said.

The team will play their next game on April 26 against Merrillville at home.



■ Senior Nick Cicero is cheered on by his teammates as he throws shot put in the meet against Michigan City on Apr. 12. The team won the meet, scoring 121 points.

PHOTO BY ABIGAIL GODSEN

Boys track team wins first meets, hopes to compete for sectional, conference titles

SAMUEL BREWER [sports editor]

The boys track team began their season off strong with two wins against South Bend Washington and Munster. The team has been getting ready for the last few months and is ready to compete.

“The team is excited and focused as we begin meets. This is what they have been practicing and working for. They want to compete against other teams and see their results from all the training they have been putting in this past off season,” Head coach Nick Bruno said.

With this excitement, Bruno has big goals for the team to accomplish.

“The goal for the team this season is to compete for a DAC and sectional championship,” Bruno said.

Track is a sport of many different events, so it is hard to say which is the most important, but for Bruno, there are a few highlights this year.

“Right now our sprinters and long jumpers’ efforts and performances have

stuck out to me. They are working hard and continuing to get better each day and meet,” Bruno said.

One of those sprinters is senior Jason Kostick, who is prepared to race in the final season of his high school

“This is what they have been practicing and working for. They want to compete against other teams and see their results from all the training they have been putting in.”

- head coach
Nick Bruno

career, but also working towards something bigger.

“I am sad this is my last season in high school, but I have high hopes of continuing to run at a higher level in

college next year,” Kostick said.

Kostick is also working towards his own personal goal this year in reaching the state meet.

“One of my main goals this season is to run in the state meet. I ultimately want to run under 11 seconds in the 100 meter and under 22 seconds in the 200,” Kostick said.

Another person looking to improve this year is senior thrower Nick Cicero. He has high hopes for the team’s ability to compete in the Duneland Athletic Conference.

“My goals for the rest of the season is to get better at disc and to throw 45 feet for shot. I think that as a team we will be able to finish pretty high in the DAC,” Cicero said.

Even though track is a mostly individual sport in nature, team support is a big component outside of the individual events.

“This team is a very close group. They support each other and push one another to get better. If someone is out for a meet, a teammate is there to step up and fill in for them right away,” Bruno said.



■ Brinkley Kita winds up to pitch against Chesterton on Tuesday, April 12. Kita threw a no hitter to help the team win the game 3-1.

PHOTO BY ABIGAIL GODSEN

SPORTS SHORTS

Baseball ■ Boys Golf ■ Girls Tennis
Girls Track ■ Moments of the Month

Girls tennis team builds on core from last season's roster, places first at Plymouth Invite

SAMUEL BREWER [sports editor]

The girls tennis team opened their season with a 5-0 win over Hobart. They also came first in the Plymouth Invite, finishing with nine more points than second place Fairfield. The team is coming off of a very successful 2021 campaign, where the team were crowned regional, sectional, and conference champions. According to returning junior Liv Rhee, the team's goals are clear.

"I want the team to win conference, regionals, and try to get through the first round of semistate. My only expectation for myself is to play better than I did last season. I think as long as everyone keeps working as hard as we are right now we definitely can reach these goals," Rhee said.

Also setting big goals is head coach Brian Elston, who sees that the team is coming off a great season and is holding the majority of their team from last year.

"We have our ones back, so that made the team a little bit stronger. . . We're excited about the new year, we're excited because we have experience from last year and hopefully that

carries us through to having a good year this year."

One of the positives of having such a large part of the squad returning is the experience they have had with playing the big games and even making a run in the postseason, but for now, Elston sees the confidence in the team's own

"The team is all really tight, we all get along. I think it's super important to have a lot of trust with your team game."

- junior
Liv Rhee

ability.

"For now we don't see the pressure. Maybe as we get closer to sectionals we'll see some more pressure. Right now it's more confidence. They've been in situations like (playing in big games) and they've survived and got through it. Hopefully if we get a shot to be in a situation like that we won't be as nervous for it," Elston said.

One newcomer to the team is freshman Ana Baron, who plays at the first singles spot. Although Baron has never played in a high school tennis match before, she feels that the work she has put in with the team in the past has prepared her for the role she is in now.

"I feel like I've put in the work and practiced enough. I'll just try my best," Baron said.

According to Elston, one of the strongest parts of Baron's game is her mental coolness during games.

"With Ana it just seems like nothing ever phases her. She's got a good demeanor, which is a big problem for high school kids. She's got a very lowkey kind of approach to the game for one, so she can think a little better instead of being nervous, and two she's just got some good shots," Elston said.

According to Rhee, since most of the team has been together for so long, the team's chemistry is one of the squad's strengths.

"The team is all really tight, we all get along. I think it's super important to have a lot of trust with your team because it always makes the mental game easier knowing your whole team has your back," Rhee said.

The team's next match will be against Merrillville on April 26.



Senior Gabe Stout winds up to pitch against Michigan City on April 14. The team won the game 17-7.

PHOTO BY KAITLYN DUFFY

Baseball looks to improve with old and new players

BY GILLIAN GATLEY [reporter]

The baseball team started their season on April 1 with a win against Griffith. The team went on to win their next game against Hanover and lose their next two to Lake Central.

With a few games under their belt, senior Ryan Hannan feels that the team will begin to find their rhythm as the season progresses.

"It's only the start of the season, we have a lot of games left to play and I think we're going to get it together, get that team comradery and just go out there and play," Hannan said.

Hannan is not alone in the thought that teamwork and comradery must play a part in the upcoming season. Senior Blake Sabau outlines what the team is working on in order to improve.

"Working as a team. A lot of us haven't played with each other in a while so just getting better as a team, getting used to working together, and the work ethic," Sabau said.

With the team coming together, assistant coach David Hoffman highlights the importance of working on the fundamental skills needed to help the team play well.

"Defensively we need to reduce the amount of errors we are making. We have given up quite a few unearned runs, so we need to reduce the amount of free bases we give up," Hoffman said.

According to Sabau, changes to the lineup are frequent during the beginning of the season in order to help the team work better on the field.

"So far he (Head Coach Steve Strayer) has been making changes but it's the beginning of the season," Sabau said. "We trust the coaches enough to do what they have to do to help us win."

With these changes, Hoffman emphasizes the importance of having utility players that can play different positions and switch around when needed.

"Baseball is such a tough game. Guys are always working on things and trying to get better. We have guys that can play several positions which always helps when we have pitching changes and lineup changes," Hoffman said.

The team will play next against Valparaiso on Tuesday, April 26.

Seniors lead girls track to find success with underclassmen-heavy team, new head coach

BY SAMUEL BREWER [sports editor]

The girls track team is beginning a new season with new head coach Joe O'Connell. For many new coaches, learning the ins and outs of the team can be difficult, but with a roster of kids numbering in the triple digits, O'Connell needed some time to adjust.

"There's over 100 girls on the team, so before you can go outside you have those kids in the fieldhouse. I haven't dealt with something like that before, so figuring out how to operate practice was probably the toughest transition. Now as I'm starting to get to know the girls better and they're starting to understand the expectations and what things are like things are going more smoothly," O'Connell said.

One of the seniors on the team, Katelyn Koryczan, got some extra pre-season practice, as she was invited to the Nike Indoor Nationals, where she competed in New York.

"Going to nationals was a huge dream of mine and was a great experience to get to compete there. It was honestly a big shock to walk into such a nice facility with announcers calling off your name," Koryczan said.

According to Koryczan, the experience gave her the opportunity to race against some of the best.

"Running against some of the best athletes in the US definitely helps me out mentally. After racing in New York, it gave me a boost of confidence for the season that I can win my races since I've raced against some of the best," Koryczan said.

Another senior entering her final year at Crown Point is Rhena Kiger. Kiger plans to run at Valparaiso Uni-

"I think very realistically trying to win conference and sectionals are two achievable goals."

- head coach
Joe O'Connell

versity in college, but she still has her eyes focused on this year.

"My personal goals this season mostly revolve around just getting faster overall. I have also started doing a few new events, and I would personally like to work on being patient and trusting my training. I want to feel good about my performances in my new events without too much pressure or

expectation," Kiger said.

As for O'Connell, he set the team goal high, wanting to win both the DAC and sectionals.

"I think very realistically trying to win conference and sectionals are two achievable goals. I think we have a lot of depth that helps us in those areas," O'Connell said.

A large number of the members of the team are underclassmen, with only 14 seniors being a part of the team. Koryczan is dealing with some of the early season struggles that can come with such a young group.

"We have a very young team this year and many have never competed in any meets before so there's a lot of nerves right now, but the few upperclassmen that we have are trying our best to keep the team focused so we can all have a good season this year," Koryczan said.

The team is still in the beginning stages of what is inevitably a long season, but Kiger believes that even with the nerves that a new season comes with, the team is ready to enjoy the competition.

"I know a lot of girls were both nervous and excited. I am hoping that energy continues into the season as my teammates find their strong suits and events they enjoy competing in," Kiger said.

Boys golf push to improve on last year's success

BY GILLIAN GATLEY [reporter]

The Crown Point boys golf team start their season on April 21 against Illiana Christian at home.

Senior Seth Gozo highlights what the team is hoping for this season in terms of long term goals and performances.

"For this season we're hoping to go undefeated in the DAC, win our DAC, win sectionals again, and make it out of regionals this year because we always have a tough time," Gozo said.

Gozo isn't the only one looking toward the future and planning ahead for those bigger matches to come. Junior Ray Filter emphasizes the importance of putting in the hard work now so the team will be ready when it's time for

the bigger matches.

"The team is working on always getting better and minimizing the mistakes we make on the golf course because we need to be ready for when the big-time tournaments roll around in June," Filter said.

According to Filter, in order to achieve these goals the team is working on staying calm under the pressure of intense matches and making sure they play to the best of their ability.

"The toughest thing for the team this year will be playing our game and staying calm under pressure," Filter said. "We need to make sure to go out and just play golf."

Although the team is still working on improving, Coach Ryan Bishop believes the team is showing promise for an exciting season due to the per-

formances that were displayed during their previous season.

"After finishing in the top 15 in the state last year and returning all our players, I expect our team to be one of the best in the state," Bishop said. "How far up they will go depends on how much better we can get with the limited amount of time getting up to speed and playing our best golf in the tournament series."

With the team looking promising this year, Gozo, expresses how excited he is to lead the team and its younger members.

"I'm always talking to these other kids like 'you've done this before, you know what to do, you've hit this shot like a thousand times already so you can do it, you just have to go and do it now,'" Gozo said.

MOMENTS OF THE MONTH

- **4-12** Softball pitcher Brinkley Kita **throws a no hitter against Chesterton. The performance helped push her team to a 3-1 win at home.**
- **4-19** The baseball team **beat LaPorte 6-2. This win pushed the team's overall record to 7-4.**
- **4-16** The girls tennis team **won the Plymouth Invite. They finished the invite with 35 points.**
- **4-12** The girls track team **won their first meet against Michigan City. They won with 115 points**

“The Batman” redefines superhero genre featuring sinister atmosphere

BY LIVY HELMUTH [assistant editor]

“The Batman” brilliantly intensifies the thrill of the action genre with spouts of horror and presents what is arguably the most comic book accurate depiction of its entire cast.

“The Batman” does a remarkable job of redefining the superhero genre by creating an atmosphere much more sinister than past releases. The consistent suspenseful, horrific feeling to the movie demands careful attention and allows for an uneasy ambiance.

The movie opens on the streets of a crime ridden Gotham, and even though Batman never appears in the opening sequence, the mere threat of the vigilante terrifies all criminals. All criminals, that is, except the film’s primary antagonist: The Riddler.

Paul Dano’s psychotic depiction of The Riddler is masterfully unnerving to watch and unlike any other representation of the character. Along with The Riddler, other classic Batman characters, such as Catwoman (Zoe Kravitz), James Gordon (Jeffrey Wright), and The Penguin (Colin Farrell) make stellar appearances

throughout the film.

Robert Pattinson adds new depth to Batman and plays an incredibly accurate Bruce Wayne. With the assistance of a few technological upgrades to his batsuit and batcave, Bruce Wayne’s incredible mind is expertly showcased by Pattinson.

The underlying score for “The Batman” is iconic and more reminiscent of horror movies than action movies. The entire movie is visually very dark as well, making for more eye catching action sequences and more tension.

A very minor drawback to “The Batman” is that the film takes off running with seemingly no introduction to some of its characters. Therefore, newer Batman fans may be confused keeping up with unexplained character personalities and relationships. Despite being not very welcoming to new fans, the skipped backstory provides a relief to most long time Batman fans.

Another arguable downside to “The Batman” is the film’s long length. The movie’s runtime is an astounding 2 hours and fifty-six minutes, and though there are very few dull moments throughout the film, the plot has

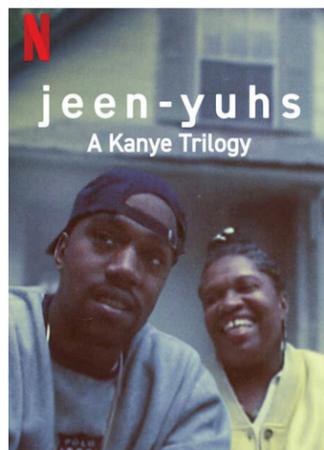


an unfortunate tendency of dragging. This works for some specific moments as a gradual build of suspense, but other moments pass at a snail’s pace.

Overall, “The Batman” manages to successfully darken the style of the superhero genre. Though this movie may not be the best recommendation to those new to Batman or those uninterested in longer films, “The Batman” is a must see for any long time Batman fans.

Kanye West docuseries, “jeen-yuhs: A Kanye Trilogy,” reveals artist’s humble beginning

BY MARY MARCINEK [assistant editor]



Kanye West is one of the biggest names in the music industry. Recently renamed as “Ye,” the rapper/producer/fashion designer has won around 272 major awards, including 22 Grammys,

and he has gained a net worth of \$1.8 billion. Netflix’s new docuseries, “jeen-yuhs: A Kanye Trilogy,” dives into the star’s humble beginnings.

Luckily for Ye fans, a man named Clarence “Coodie” Simmons saw Kanye’s potential early on, and, as a filmmaker, he acted on what he saw in young Kanye and started filming the artist. At the time Simmons began filming, Kanye was an aspiring teenage rapper, and the majority of people doubted his success in the harsh music industry.

The Netflix documentary walks viewers through Kanye’s come-up as an artist through a series of three 90 minute episodes. Simmons’ narration demonstrates the first-hand experience of constantly being in the presence of a young, charming and ambitious Kanye. Simmons was Kanye’s best friend at one point, so the perspective

he provides is rare for viewers to see.

Against the odds of the unrelenting music industry, Kanye makes his way up the chain despite constant criticism. Among this criticism, the documentary goes into two of Kanye’s most detrimental setbacks during his career: a car crash in 2002 and the death of his mother Donda West in 2007. The feature of these events in the trilogy is significant, as it may alter the way many people view Kanye.

The star has been involved in a number of controversies throughout the years, but he still has millions of loyal fans that have his back. An aspect of “jeen-yuhs: A Kanye Trilogy” that makes it enticing to any viewer is the fact that it does not try to sway anyone’s opinion about the artist. While the episodes display Kanye’s lovable qualities, they don’t hide his faults.

Best of the B.E.S.T

BY ARIEL MOORE [reporter]

Best App



Reddit has a variety of different communities for everyone’s differing tastes. This is a great app to learn more about interesting topics and talk to others anonymously about the subject of interest.

Best Follow



@Isakys_tm is the Webtoon creator of *Lalin’s Curse*, and she posts original digital art of her characters. Although she’s on hiatus, she will occasionally post artwork of the characters in her webcomic. Isakys’ artwork is absolutely beautiful and pleasing to the eye.

Best Animal



Fluffy cows are so cute and look incredibly cuddly. This adorable animal is from the Scottish Highlands. They may not be in America, but they can still be seen and enjoyed at a distance on Google images.



“The Walking Dead” airs final season, uncertainties arise with new societies

BY ROSALIE DEGENHART [co-editor-in-chief]

The critically acclaimed TV series “The Walking Dead” is slowly coming to end. The final season is divided into three parts, and the second part is currently airing. The series is taking its sweet time to wrap it up, but it is well deserved after 10 years of such an amazing show.

This final season is one like no other. Main characters Darryl, Carol and Maggie, who have been in the show since the beginning, have encountered a new society known as the Commonwealth. Without giving too much away, just know that the Commonwealth society is unique and brilliant, but it makes readers question the progression and outcome of the entire show: how have other people been surviving the apocalypse? Has a solution been found to end the apocalypse, or, at least, make surviving more simple? Are the luxuries of the Commonwealth too good to be true? Is Rick Grimes alive?

The final season of “The Walking Dead” is sporadic. It jumps back and forth from plot line to

plot line, town to town, character to character, but, like always, I can’t seem to get enough because I know that every intricate detail contributes to the final episode.

With the introduction of a new society comes new problems and trust issues. The Commonwealth is one of the first societies where Darryl and Carol, who were living in the Alexandria society, give in to assistance and let someone else take charge. However, Maggie is skeptical and doesn’t give in to the luxuries of the Commonwealth.

Another group that the main characters encounter are the Reapers. Among the Reapers is Leah Shaw, a woman who shares a romantic past with Darryl. Darryl’s loyalties are split more than once when he has to decide between Leah or his family (Maggie, Carol, etc).

As the final season progresses, more and more faults are revealed about the Commonwealth, but viewers can only wonder what dark secrets Lance Hornsby, the deputy governor of the Commonwealth, is hiding.

IN Review

“The Mind explained” discusses diverse brain-related topics

BY AUBREY BANKS [assistant editor]



Narrated by Emma Stone, this Netflix docuseries uses both animation and real life to explain different concepts and topics relating to the human brain. With some episodes covering topics such as dreams, memory and anxiety, viewers will be able to learn more about the human brain.

Each episode is only about 20 minutes, so it is easy to binge-watch and makes understanding psychology a little easier.

Stella Sapiente elevates classic punk style telling eerie storylines

BY JOSHUA HEDGES [reporter]



From the small punk band The Lillingtons, this final album leaves a mystic yet pumping track for listeners. The starting song “Golden Dawn/Knights Templar” sets the feel for much of the album’s songs: echoing guitar strums leading to a rolling roar. The lyrics also add much to the music’s feel, as each song describes its own eerie story.

The album as a whole is definitely a unique piece of its own that shows the maturity the punk genre can have. It is in no way whiny like “Down” by Blink-182, and you will not be screamed at like many songs of Pears.

P.L.A.Y.I.N.G FAVORITES

16 Personalities Quiz

The 16 Personalities Quiz is a fun way to learn more about yourself and your friends based on your personality type. Based on the Meyers Brigg’s personality test, this quick quiz can give you insight on your strengths, weaknesses and potential skills you haven’t unlocked yet.



Semantle

Semantle is a fun word game like Wordle where you have to try and guess the daily word, but instead of letters you guess by how closely associated your word is to the actual one. This is a fun way to work your brain.

WE’RE SO O.V.E.R

Construction distractions

While the school is under construction for the foreseeable future, one of the downsides is the construction noise. The noise from the construction can be distracting during class and has even displaced some classes causing a daily disturbance.



Cold classrooms

Cold classrooms are one of the more annoying parts of the school day. Considering classroom temperatures can’t be changed, it is not like we can fix this issue, and being cold can be a distraction.

The Write stuff

Student pursues journalism through *NWI Life* internship

BY MARY MARCINEK [assistant editor]

No matter how young someone may be, or where they may live, there will always be opportunities to fulfill one's big aspirations.

Freshman Aadil Khan found his opportunity to utilize his love for storytelling into a local mainstream publication, *NWI Life*. He earned an internship position for the publication, and now writes articles and shares them with the public on this impressive platform.

"*NWI Life* takes one student from each of the northwestern Indiana high schools," says Khan. "We basically write an article per month on a teacher, a student, what's recently happened or what's going to happen."

Khan was motivated by his mother to take initiative on this rare opportunity.

"My mom had heard about the opportunity and she knew I loved writing, so she sent me the information and I signed up and got the internship," Khan said.

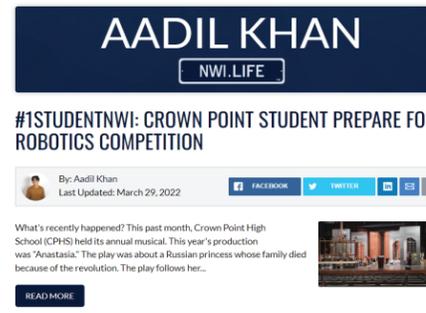
For Khan, the internship wasn't solely for exposure. He saw it as a chance to expand his own communication skills. However, his desire to improve his own conversational skills isn't entirely self-oriented. With aspirations to pursue a career in law, Khan utilizes interviews as a journalist as a practice method of how to communicate with others about their experiences.

"I've always been a shy person, and I haven't really known how to talk to people, and I've always thought of writing to help me better express myself," Khan said. "I'm going into law in the future, and I want to talk to people more about their experiences and stuff like that."

The skills Khan has gained through this internship don't just end with communication. He learned quickly that a whole team of reporters counted on the punctuality of his work ethic. He found that stress he put upon himself to make a deadline was actually worse than the actual time confinement.

"It's just taught me to do things in a way that will not only help my story, but just help myself," Khan said. "(The internship) has really taught me discipline and how you need to schedule things out more because I've had some deadlines where I have barely gotten things done, which was kind of scary to me."

The internship is home-based, so Khan doesn't have an authority figure of the publica-



my first article I wrote about. I got to interview a lot of her friends about how that passing affected them and what they missed about her," Khan said.

Through this experience, Khan was able to use his position in the publication as a student-reporter to give a first-hand description of middle school students going through heartbreak, but also remembering the joy their friend brought into their lives and the impact she had on the community.

Conversations through interviews deepen connections and understandings of others. It's a great privilege to uncover someone's experiences and share them with others.

"My favorite interview was probably Lisa Keene, the yearbook advisor. I've known her for a long time and this was my first year being her student. She's one of my favorite teachers."

As an (editor?) for the school yearbook, Khan puts his journalism experience into immediate use.

"This internship has really helped me with the yearbook because I want to be copy editor next year, and in order to get that job, you need to be skilled and learned in AP Style and Grammar, things that I have learned through this experience," Khan said.

For Khan, the internship is not viewed as a job, but as a fun way to fulfill his love of writing while also expanding his own skills as a sociable student.

"I've always loved telling stories, and I've always found ways to tell them more elaborately. It has just helped me express myself more," Khan said.

The student internship program at *NWI Life* is a great opportunity for high school writers looking to get their start in journalism through a legitimate publication.

"I would definitely recommend other students to take internships like this," Khan said. "I have learned so much about how to write, and I have gotten so much journalistic background."

To students interested in this type of internship, Khan emphasizes the importance of time management and self-discipline.

"I would tell students that want to take this internship to definitely use their time wisely. It's been kind of a struggle keeping up with these deadlines and doing school work. Just take some time out to sit down and write," Khan said.

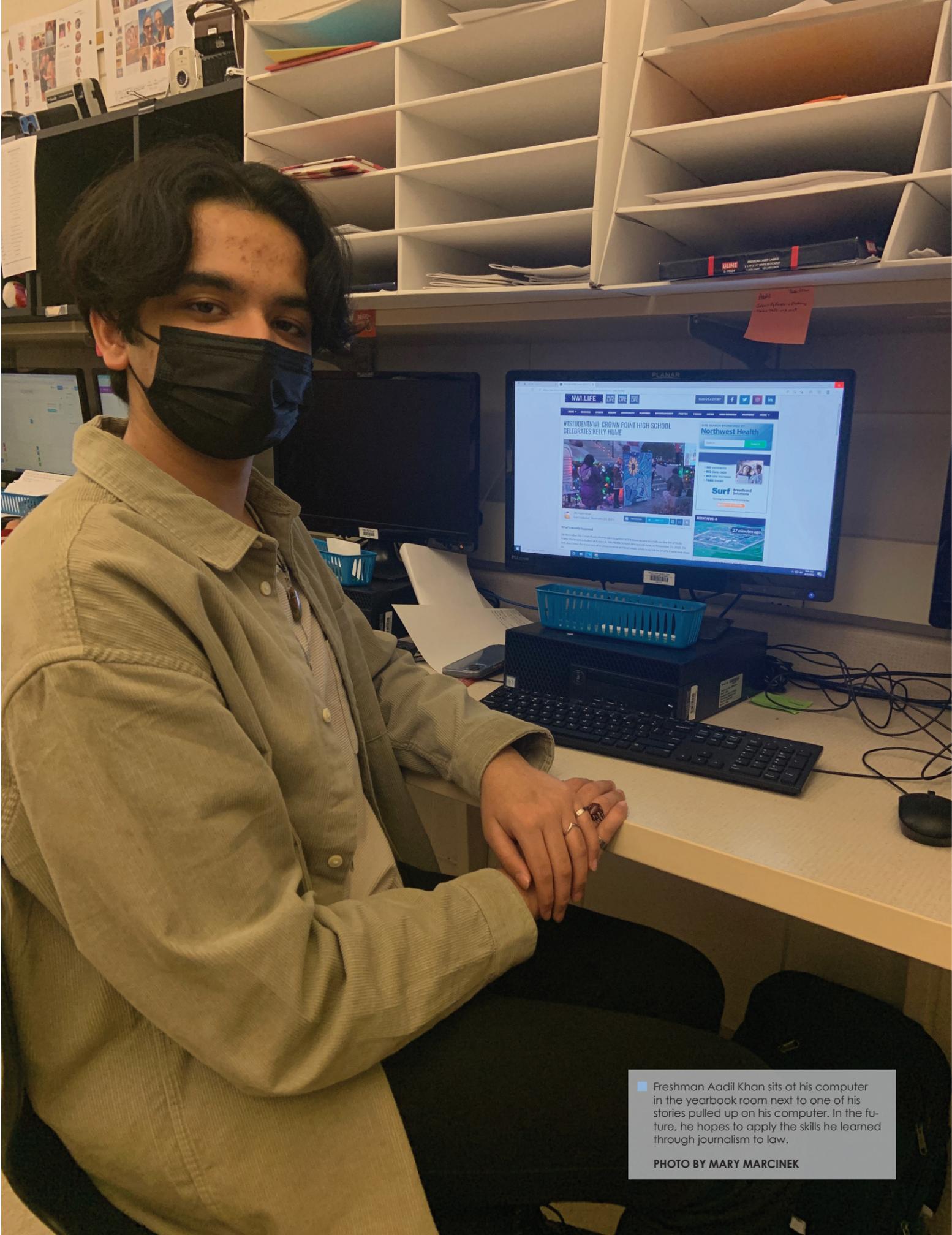
"I've always loved telling stories, and I've always found ways to tell them more elaborately. It has just helped me express myself more."
- freshman
Aadil Khan

tion to remind him to stay on track. Khan must have the responsibility and discipline to do it himself. Luckily for Khan, he has no problem with this and continues to create stories he loves from home for the *NWI Times*.

With the power to choose whatever topic to write about, Khan has written pieces that are very meaningful to him.

"My favorite thing I've covered so far was a story about one of my friends that had passed in 2020—her name was Kelly Hume. She was

Want to read some of his work?
Head over to *NWI.Life* at
<http://nwi.life/authors/aadil-khan/>



Freshman Aadil Khan sits at his computer in the yearbook room next to one of his stories pulled up on his computer. In the future, he hopes to apply the skills he learned through journalism to law.
PHOTO BY MARY MARCINEK

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

RACHEL CLAUSING

Senior



Q: Where do you see yourself in the future?

A: I want to become a Speech Pathologist. I am hoping to work with kids, possibly in a school or someplace that I can truly help people with the best of my ability. I see myself being successful in that field and doing my best to help people through life.

Q: Why do you want to pursue Speech Pathology?

A: I got into looking at speech pathology last year. I have always wanted to help people. I was looking at nursing originally and I really like languages and music. Speech pathology allows me to use languages and different ways of communicating with people, including music. My mom is deaf in one ear, so she had to go through speech pathology, and she has always told me how much that helped her through life.

Q: What is something that motivates you to be a better student?

A: I want to be successful in life and doing well in school will help me to achieve my goal. Having the ability to do my school work when I am supposed to will help me in the future with other things that I will do.

Q: If you could have one human talent, what would it be?

A: I would really like to be able to play more instruments. Right now I am in choir, but I would like to learn the piano and the guitar so that I can use that to bless others with my abilities.

Q: If you could give your freshman self advice, what would it be?

A: To never give up and to be confident in my abilities. My friends are here to support me and I will be able to do the things that I want to do in life.

What Do You THINK?

What strategies do you use to study for final exams?

"I'll probably study by writing questions and going over vocab and doing mock vocab tests. Other than that the study guides are the main thing, study them repeatedly."

sophomore Amanda Ramos

"On certain days I'll study for a certain subject. It depends on what final I'm taking first. Say I have a biology final on Monday then I'll study for it on or the days before Monday."

freshman Elicia Cruz

"I look over old slide shows especially for my AP classes. I reach out to my teachers and see if there's any extra help I can get. I make sure I take mental health days too, so I make sure I don't overwork myself."

sophomore Alphie Stonchus

"For finals, my favorite resource in Quizlet. I like to make a really long Quizlet and cram all night for at least three hours."

freshman Sam Caballero

"I focus on the classes I struggle more with. I like going through the homework and tests I didn't do good on."

senior Tuison Titus

"I study and prepare myself so it'll be easier and try not to worry about it too much. I usually use the notes the teachers give us. Sometimes I get in groups with friends to study."

freshman Molly Mulligan