

The



Signal

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Fenton Welcomes Sones de Mexico to Celebrate Hispanic Heritage

by Abby Hernandez & Sarah Guerrero Gorostieta

This Hispanic heritage month, Fenton's diversity committee invites all students to welcome Sones de Mexico to our very own Lewis - Huffman auditorium. This group is a world-renowned ensemble that will continue their work with Fenton's music department for a second year thanks to the JCS Arts and Education grant of DuPage county.

The six concerts spanned across second to seventh period on Thursday, September 15th. Group co-founder Juan Dies from San Luis Potosi, who was appointed a 2019 USA Fellow in Traditional Arts, told audiences that the motivation behind this performance was to promote the recognition of music from across all regions of Mexico, highlighting the genres of indigenous and African descent.

The Sones De Mexico ensemble, based in Pilsen, Chicago, was established twenty-eight years ago. Their mission continues to honor the timeless Mexican music genres that are unrepresented in global media. The performance featured artists Juan Dies (bass and guitar specialist), Lorena Iniguez (vihuela and tarima specialist from Jalisco/ Mexico City (CDMX)), Eric Hines, (percussionist specialist), Victor Pichardo, (violin and guitar specialist from CDMX), and Irekani Ferreyra (harp/violin/ requinto specialist from Michoacan/ CDMX).

During the performance, the ensemble projected a slideshow presentation that mapped the region in which each song originated from. Dies went into depth about the roots of each song they performed, which consisted of Xochipitzahuatl (from CDMX, of Aztec roots), which was performed in the Nahuatl language, La Petenera (Son Huasteco), Jesusita (a polka Norteña, heavily influenced by the Austrians and Polish that once heavily populated northern Mexican regions), La Culebra (a Mariachi piece), Jucheti Consuelito (from the diverse state of Michoacan, specifically from the Purépecha indigenous), and finally, La Iguana (a zapateado from the Veracruz region).

The zapateado of La Iguana, defined as "a dance style characterized by the lively rhythm punctuated by the striking of a dancer's shoes," prompted Junior Alexis Castro to join Lorena Iniguez on stage, who danced on a tarima, a board that acts as percussion when stomped on. When questioned on his spur-of-the-moment reason to interact with the performance, Castro says that he did it "just because. I felt an urge to dance, it was an opportunity I couldn't resist. I wasn't even scared, I just wish other people would have joined in."

Junior Alexa Calderon, a member of Fenton's mariachi club, appreciates the recognition of women in Mariachi that the ensemble incorporated in their presentation. Dies applauds Mexican-American women for "pioneering the women in mariachi movement", and calls on mariachi groups based in Mexico to follow suit.

With a focus on little-known music, band member Juan Dies explains that the group's primary goal is "constantly and continuously learn about

different genres. Mexico has such a rich, fascinating history, and there's always something new out there, just waiting for us to discover."

Ariana Hurtado, a Fenton senior, agrees that learning about one's culture is a lifelong journey. "It was so awesome being able to hear live music and see the dancing that went along with it! Although I am Mexican, it was really cool learning about the music from regions of Mexico I am not from," she states.

This two-time GRAMMY nominated group is not just a local Illinois treasure, but a global music champion as well. Before the pandemic, this group performed an estimated two hundred shows a year. From high school auditoriums to Millennium Park, the Chicago Symphony Center, Carnegie Hall, and as U.S. representatives at the 2008 World Folk Song Festival at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, this group has toured coast to coast, representing and serving its Mexican community across the globe in the most respectable and honorable way.

Fenton's music department is extremely grateful for the opportunity to continue to work in partnership with this ensemble, truly exemplifying the importance of cultural education across all subject departments. Music students throughout all band classes and activities will gain insight through upcoming workshops and interactive lessons.

Hispanic Heritage month runs from September 15th to October 15th, and Fenton's festivities are only just beginning. Upcoming celebration opportunities will be announced in the upcoming weeks, including the return of lunchtime loteria, aguas frescas, Hispanic movies presented by the Film Club, and so much more!



Photo courtesy of Garret George

Fenton's AP Bootcamp Helps Build Student Confidence in AP Class Settings

by Rosalie Nalborczyk

Fenton offers a lot of different AP classes. With these AP classes comes a lot of workload as well as a lot of questions. This year, it was Fenton's third time holding AP Bootcamp. It was a half day camp to support students in preparing for both the mindset and the strategies to be successful.

Held by Ms. Ward and more of your favorite FHS teachers, it was a choose-your-own-adventure. If you're taking AP Computer Science,

Mr. Carroll takes you through all of the principles of the course and how to aide your way through it. If you need help setting up AP classroom, Ms. McDougal helps students set up and log into MyAP. Ms. Gentile talks about AP History which can help if you are taking either AP US History or AP World History. Ms. Wright teaches college notetaking and how to effectively take notes.

If you're feeling overwhelmed, Ms. Norris talks about mindset and motivation when it

comes to AP classes. Because, like Ms. Ward said, "taking the jump to take AP classes takes a lot of courage."

When attending AP Bootcamp, there are former AP students who hold a panel where you can ask questions and get them answered from a student perspective rather than just an AP teacher. Because of AP Bootcamp, students are starting to feel more comfortable and confident in their AP classes.

Olivia Pasterska said, "AP classes help me strive to be better and

excel"

As well as Kristianna Krzyston, who said, "I enjoy AP classes because they teach me important lessons to prep me for college."

At Fenton, fewer students are dropping their AP courses and feel much more confident in their classes even though the work load may seem scary.

Ward states, "The program will be continued to help build student confidence."

Photo Op: Do You Think You've Found Your Community/Group?

by Lucy Johnson



Isabella Torres (Freshman):
"I do because we're all weird in our own special ways, we are all different and unique in our own way."



Kaitlin Hamilton (Junior):
"I think all you really need is a few good friends so I do think I've found my group."



Ms. Michelle Bibbel (Teacher):
"Yes, I have a peer group of science teachers that I get along with really well, I trust, and I can throw ideas off of."



Ariana Hurtado (Senior):
"Yes, because we push each other to be our best and support each other."

Fenton Adds Seventh-Period Lunch

by Sarah Guerrero Gorostieta

Seventh-period lunch made a debut on the schedules of hundreds of students at the arrival of the 2022-2023 school year.

Assistant Principal Julia Bray details that Fenton's "seniors seem to enjoy seventh-period lunch because they have the option to register for off-campus lunch during the first weeks of the school year. That, along with early dismissal for select seniors, allows these students to take advantage of a head start to their afternoon."

Though she wasn't directly involved in the executive decision to open this lunch period, Bray explains that the main purpose of this additional break hour was to "shrink the number of students that congregated in our limited lunch space, as well as to accommodate to our senior's scheduling needs."

During the 2021-2022 schoolyear, Fenton's front lobby was heavily occupied by long plastic tables and old metal chairs in order to accommodate the hundreds of students that piled into each lunch hour, as well as comply with COVID-19 safety restrictions and demands. Keeping those safety precautions in mind, the administration believed that the additional lunch period would disperse students throughout more lunch periods, not only requiring less seating availability, but also decreasing the cramming of students into what once was the most chaotic enclosed space here at Fenton: the lunch line.

Senior Daniel Vargas, who is scheduled for fourth-period

lunch, weighs in on the discussion of this year's lunch size, noting that he finds the cafeteria "way less crowded, which [he's] super glad for. Not only does it cut [his] time waiting in line, but [he] feel[s] that it really helps our lunch servers. If last year's lunch size was overwhelming for students, [he] can't imagine how stressful it must have been for them."

Junior David Aviles, a member of Fenton's Boys Cross Country Team, shares the impact of seventh-period lunch on his practicing capacities: "Over these last three years, I've become accustomed to eating at least three hours before I run to avoid cramping. When I began to feel uneasy during practice, I knew it was time to switch my lunch period."

Similarly, Senior Tera Pabico commented that she "felt uncomfortable swimming on a full stomach." She notes, "At first, I liked my lunch period because I had a study hall during eighth, but since I would bring a pretty heavy lunch due to feeling hungry throughout the day, it really made me uncomfortable during my swims."

Students across the globe have become conditioned to maneuver through changes across all aspects of their lives over these last few years. Although this might not have been a modification any Fenton student had anticipated come August 2022, the Bison, along with our amazing counseling team, has handled it gracefully.

Fall Play Tackles Shakespeare 'Mashup'

by Edgar Martinez

Fall weather is coming, and along with it is a plethora of activities that Fenton students should participate in. In particular, the upcoming fall play will run from October 20-22 in the Fenton auditorium. The selected play is a PG-13 comedy by the name of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* being directed by English teacher Dr. Mike Mitchell, who has has a notable director repertoire of over fifty plays he has overseen.

Tickets will be available the day of the play at the door, each ticket being five dollars. Be sure to contact Mitchell if you have any further questions.

Mitchell says he "hopes that viewers realize that this play is a mashup and spoof of Shakespeare's plays, not the usual grim and depressing experience."

Adding that "this play is attempting to achieve the unachievable by aiming to act out every one of Shakespeare's works."

In of itself it is quite the feat, yet Mitchell and his talented group are more than willing to give it a shot. In addition, Mitchell claims that he is most excited for the great talent this year and the incoming freshman to take their spot on the stage.

If you would like to support the play behind the scenes, you can become part of the stage crew and aid in the production and even usher at the door. (free admission included!) If you have any interest in further theater activities be sure to watch out for Bison scripts, improv club, and the spring musical.



Image courtesy of Mike Mitchell

Fenton Marching Band Performs at Annual NU Band Day

by Sarah Guerrero Gorostieta

For the past twenty years, the Bison Marching Band has joined schools from across Illinois (and a select few from Indiana, too) in the participation of Northwestern University Band Day. Occurring once a year at Ryan Field in Evanston, Illinois, these high school bands take the field with the Northwestern Wildcats Marching Band to perform during halftime.

The experience begins at 7 AM with a joint band rehearsal at Rocky Miller Park, which is located right beside Ryan Field, the stadium in which the bands are scheduled to perform. The Bison arrive at Fenton at 5:20 AM, catching an enchanting view of the sunrise on their bus trip to Evanston. Junior David Severiano exclaimed that his favorite aspect of the NU Band Day weekend is the sunrise and sunset the band watches together on Friday night and Saturday morning.

The band spends about 3 weeks preparing the music the Wildcats Band selects. This year's selections consisted of pop classics Toxic (Britney Spears), and Montero (Call Me By Your Name), performed by Lil Nas X. Freshman Kacper Grych states that in regard to his confidence going into rehearsal, he was extremely nervous and didn't feel prepared due to the complexity of the pieces. "I found the music really challenging, especially Montero by Lil Nas X. The written tempo was just too fast for me. I was also super exhausted from the night before, since we had a football game. However, the second we arrived at rehearsal, I was instantly comforted by the friendliness Northwestern's band displayed. I immediately felt ready to perform, since I was not only surrounded and supported by great university percussionists but incredible percussionists from neighboring high schools as well."

Staff member Mary Timmins, who attended NU Band Day in 2021, once again accompanied the band this year, and she applauds the Northwestern Band staff for organizing another incredible opportunity for students across the state. "They really do a great job of perfecting what NU Band day is all about. The band staff is so welcoming to everyone, and they provide thousands of students a space in which they can come together once a year to really immerse themselves in a culture they love. It never fails to impress me."

Grych agrees that this experience was an extremely informative one. "I didn't know too much about Northwestern before this weekend, but I think it's a great school, their band really impressed me, and this experience allowed me to realize that I possibly want to pursue a future in college marching. I'm finding myself to be even more dedicated in my music," he details.

According to senior Angel Santiago, a first-time band member, the upperclassmen set him up for a successful day. "I had high expectations for Saturday since I'd heard so much about the NU Band since my freshman year. I had the best time. I was so tired, but so was everyone else. Something really powerful about this group is that we never let the energy die." Santiago adds that "the Wildcat marching band is a stellar example of uniformity, it was so cool to see. Experiences like these are powerful- they prove that kids like us that we belong in a big 10 school like NU."

The halftime performance concluded with a rendition of Amazing Grace and May You Never Walk Alone, in dedication to Highland Park and its residents. The Highland Park High School Marching Band joined the NU Band Day festivities.



Photo courtesy of Rick Kambic

Choir Works for October Concert

by Jerry Gurrola

The Fenton Choral program invites you to the fall concert on Sunday, October 16th, at 3 pm. The afternoon will be filled with repertoire featuring "Easy on Me" by Adele and "Omnia Sol" by Z. Randall Stroope. The choirs have been hard at work rehearsing the selections and making a musical effort to showcase their hard work and talent.

Natalie Worwa, President of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and the Concert Choir, comments, "I'm very excited because our choir sounds really good this year! We have a very good amount of both boys and girls, it's nice and big which was something we struggled with previously. It's very different than the past years we have had. Usually we're in an inspirational pink-zebra type of kick but this year we're in a more classical music [genre] which I like because it's more [choral]. In Swing choir, we're doing more traditional pieces, so people will be more [familiar] with them."

This year, the choir is powerful with both classical and newer hits.

Ryan Peterson, Vice-President of the Concert Choir and Tri-M Music Honor Society Treasurer, will perform his long-awaited senior solo during this concert. He comments, "I've been waiting for it FOREVER! [Although] I've been waiting for it forever, I didn't really figure out what I wanted to do until the last second. I am very happy with the song I chose. It'll be really fun and I am just really excited to have my own little spotlight one last time as I've been singing in choir since 4th grade so it'll be fun to have my farewell moment."

Peterson is very excited about this concert and how it will elevate his performance for the rest of his last year here at Fenton.

Choir Director Ms. Seredy Williams is ecstatic about this fall concert, sharing, "I am excited because we haven't had a 'normal' fall concert since before the pandemic. I'm excited to kick the full year off with normality! We have a new accompanist, Emma Gingold, so it's exciting for that to come together on stage."

This will be the return of a more typical school year with the choirs being able to perform as they did before the pandemic; this time, with a brand new accompanist.

The pieces are coming along rapidly, and the choirs are ready to make this one of the best concerts. Please join them for this lively musical afternoon!



Photo courtesy of Seredy Williams

Want To Write For *The Signal*? Contact Us!

Fenton's school newspaper needs you! We're a flexible club that needs no prior experience!

We cover topics ranging from book reviews to social issues. Do you have something you're passionate about? Let it be heard!

Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 28 at 3:15 in room 309.

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B.E.A.T. Shares Passion for Best Recycling Practices

by Jadyn Golz

If you’ve ever walked the halls on a Wednesday after the dismissal bell rings, you might’ve seen small bins outside each door. This is an initiative by our school’s recycling club (BEAT), sponsored by Ms. Kelly Lamey, a chemistry teacher here at Fenton. BEAT stands for Bison Environmental Action Team.

This year, Lamey wants to highlight a concept called Wish-Cycling. Lamey states, “It’s when somebody really wants to recycle something, but it’s just not recyclable. The most common things I find are granola wrappers, candy wrappers, and chip bags...Because they’re made of more than one material, they might be recyclable but are not easy to separate.”

To help identify what can and can’t be recycled, BEAT has taped diagrams onto all the recycling bins showing what can be recycled here at Fenton.

Regarding materials that cannot be recycled, Lamey states, “I think you’d have to really get creative and find a second use for them. Make an art project out of it or something. Some sort of sustainability project.”

Lamey states, “I want to make people more aware of how to [recycle] correctly in their homes as well....There’s a lack of transparency in the world [in regards to] what happens with recycled materials. There are giant garbage patches in the Pacific, and we have a lot of American plastic in there.”

“Common mistakes I see are people putting their recycling in garbage bags. It needs to be loose and in the recycling bin as we do here,” said Lamey.

Another way Lamey tries to be more sustainable is by reusing plastic shopping bags. “I have a huge bag of them at home that I put them in. And I reuse them for you know, animal stuff. But, I let them build until it’s time to take them to the store,” Lamey states.

Lamey took AP Environmental Science in High School, which made her realize how important it was to take care of our environment and create a sustainable society. As a chemistry teacher, Lamey tries to incorporate

environmentalism into her classes.

“I love talking about the law of conservation of matter. [Recycling is] so deeply tied into chemistry.... I think we’re all always trying to encourage our students to learn more about sustainability, technology, and its impacts on our environment,” Lamey states.

One of her favorite lessons is that “aluminum is, in [her] opinion, the most important thing to recycle because it does not lose any of its integrity once it’s recycled. It can be reused a *million-zillion-trillion* times. Unlike paper, which will lose its quality with each opportunity [to be recycled].”

She also promotes recycling in her classroom by collecting students’ old school supplies.

“[It’s] one of the things that I try to do every year...I ask kids if they have any binders that they want to donate that are still in good condition... And it’s been very, *very* successful. Students need binders, and maybe they don’t want to spend their hard-earned money on school supplies.” She noted. Lamey has been doing this for about five years.

Mr. Jeff Baeder, another science teacher at Fenton, is also involved in Fenton’s recycling program.

Baeder believes that one of the most wasteful things a person can do is buy mechanical pencils because “plastic is made from oil. Your wood pencils are from sustainable forests, at least now. They know how to grow trees and stuff. It’s more like a crop. As a matter of fact, it’s almost become--*almost*, not quite, cheaper to create virgin paper than to recycle.”

Junior Victoria Barnas, a BEAT member, states, “I think I’m leaving a positive impact at Fenton because it’s a club dedicated to recycling, which has a positive impact on the world and Fenton all at once.”

Senior Diego Meza, another BEAT member, notes, “I wanted to join B.E.A.T because I really love our environment. Recycling is a very essential factor when it comes to preserving our environment, so this was the perfect club to join. I definitely do feel like I am leaving a positive impact at Fenton. In the end, this is all for our environment, and Fenton can be a great place for people who wish to do the same, and come together to better it.”

Homecoming Week at a Glance

by Samantha Lang

Homecoming week and the first school dance of the year is coming up. Students and teachers alike, are all excited for the joy and fun of homecoming and spirit week.

Junior Kaitlyn Somenek says, “I’m super excited for Hoco, I went last year and it was great.”

Spirit week this year begins on 9/26 and goes on until 9/30. The overall theme is “Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas.”

Of course, we’ll also have different themes for each day of the week, starting with Monday: Mandalay Beach (beach day); Tuesday: Circus Circus (wacky day); Wednesday: Hard Rock Cafe (pop/band tees); Thursday: The Venetians (class colors day); and lastly, Caesar’s Palace (blue and orange). For Thursday’s class colors, Freshmens wear blue; Sophomores, white; Juniors, purple; Seniors, pink; and staff, red.

There will also be activities throughout the week. Each of the four class councils is planning a day during all lunches for fun activities or games for students to possibly win prizes. Like always, student clubs and teams have an opportunity to participate in window decorating. To add to the fun, the bonfire will be back. It was a great success last year. There will be a DJ, food and games hosted by Mr. Lee Cassidy.

Along with all that, the pep rally is back. To the staff’s surprise, when the seniors were told that they would not have a pep rally this year, a bunch of them grouped together and made a list of compelling reasons on why they should have one. They then went to Principal Sam Bentsen and Assistant Principal Julia Bray to plead their cases.

Mrs. Casterton mentions, “They must have been convincing because a couple of days later we were told it was back. I thought it was funny that no one but the seniors really knew what a PEP Assembly even was because the last one was when the seniors were freshmen.”

Friday (9/30) is the big football game against Barlett at 7:30pm, with the theme of Greek life. The week will then end with Homecoming on Saturday, October 1st from 7:00pm to 10:00pm in the Fieldhouse. Tickets for the dance can be purchased at the bookstore from 9/20 to 9/29.

What Can I Recycle at Fenton?!

 CARDBOARD	 PAPER	 MAGAZINES	 FOOD BOXES	 MAIL
 FOOD CANS	 BEVERAGE CANS	 PLASTIC JARS	 JUGS	 PLASTIC BOTTLES & CAPS (#1 - #7)

Courtesy of Kelly Lamey

Overturning of Roe v. Wade a Shocking Loss of Rights for Women, Doctors

by Abby Hernandez

On June 24, 2022, many in this country faced a loss of rights. The Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, making abortion illegal in 13 states.

In these states, women can now be charged with a felony with up to 15 years in prison for having an abortion, and their doctors can be in legal jeopardy for performing abortions.

Since the ruling, many stories have emerged showing how imperfect an abortion ban is. For example, an 11-year-old rape victim in Ohio was forced to seek an abortion out of state because Ohio would criminalize her abortion. There are also medical reasons why an abortion could be necessary to save the life of the mother, and even in these instances, there are now states that do not allow an exception to the ban.

Many have said this is a target against women, specifically lower-class women, considering they may not have the option to leave their job and incur travel expenses to get to the nearest state that does allow abortion.

Roe v. Wade protected a lot more than just abortion. It covered the right to contraception, including condoms, plan B, and birth control. However, birth control is not just for sexually active people. It is also the first thing a doctor prescribes to a female to ease severe menstrual symptoms, reduce acne, and regulate a period.

Whether you believe abortion is right or wrong, a concerning result of overturning Roe v. Wade will be a skyrocketing of unsafe abortions, causing an increase in pregnancy-related deaths.

Banning abortion could bring kids into the world who will be neglected by their parents, unwanted, or put into an already over-burdened foster care system.

The Supreme Court Justices were the people to make the final decision on Roe v. Wade, yet, fewer than half of them are women. Overall, this ruling instills great fear in the young generation of today and represents an unprecedented loss of rights for a large number of Americans.

BOARDING PASS



BOARDING PASS

PASSENGER NAME

ARRIVAL

7:00 - 10:00 PM

DESTINATION

FENTON HIGH SCHOOL

DATE

10/01/22

TICKET NUMBER

FIRST CLASS

YOU MUST BRING YOUR ID

Courtesy of Lauren Lemm

Revised Referendum For Fenton Renovation on Nov Ballot

by Jadyn Golz

As many may already know, the June Referendum did not pass. However, this has not stopped our school from trying again to approve the much-needed renovations. The previously \$129.7 million plan has been reduced to \$99 million. Fenton will be contributing \$10 million in reserves. The average homeowner has an approximate tax impact of around \$285 per year. If you want to calculate your tax impact, there's a calculator on Fenton's Website under "Facility Referendum."

Voting will be held on the November 8th, 2022, ballot.

Fenton's building is 71 years old, built in 1951. Our security system was put in over 40 years ago when the school passed a referendum in 1975 for security updates. 1975 was the last time that Fenton asked for money until now. That was 47 years ago. Furthermore, Fenton sits on a dent in the earth. This means that rainwater floods our outdoor paths and our ventilation system. \$1-2 million of the referendum will be devoted to stormwater management.

Regarding age, our classrooms and learning facilities are also outdated.

Mrs. Kyra Behnke, a French and ESL teacher at Fenton, notes that "our classroom is so small that it makes it very difficult to do activities where students are up & moving around. Plus, the ventilation is terrible. There is no way to control the room's temperature, and students always complain that it smells bad."

Nearly every classroom faces ventilation and temperature control issues throughout the school. However, there are two places where our facilities desperately need upgrades: the science and culinary classrooms.

Fenton plans to add an entirely new wing dedicated to upgraded science facilities.

Mrs. Michelle Bibel, a Fenton Science teacher for 31 years, says: "A new science wing is a need, not a want, at this point. It needs to be a high priority. We are in need of large classrooms that have classroom areas, lab stations, and updated technology."

"The science classrooms are in deplorable condition. The faucets in our lab stations are broken so badly that they can no longer be fixed. The cabinets and lab stations in the 400 hallway are falling apart. The ventilation is also very poor. When we turn on the vent fans, they do not adequately remove fumes from the rooms. Our biology rooms are simply classrooms that have two sinks in them. We do not have any hot water in our science rooms, and the water that we do have comes

out rusty. Using microscopes in our biology rooms is difficult due to the placement of outlets. We don't have actual lab stations, so you have to stand around the room to use the microscopes. All of these examples make lab days very difficult."

She continues, "One of our science classrooms is not even handicap-accessible. You have to go down a set of stairs to enter the classroom. Students with crutches have fallen down the stairs in the past. The only other way to get into this room is to go outside the building and enter through an outside door that does not have an outside handle! Another growing issue is classroom usage. Students are now taking 3-4 years of science. This old wing was built when students typically took 2 years. We are literally running out of science rooms! It is very difficult to schedule all of the science classes students want to take."

Many of the same issues are present in our culinary kitchens: they were built for a past era when Fenton used to teach Home Economics. However, a new focus is being placed on actual culinary training for industrial kitchens. Unfortunately, we can't adequately prepare students with the home-style kitchens we have now. They're cramped and have little space to move around. Instead, Fenton would like to have a kitchen more similar to that of a restaurant.

Money will also be devoted to renovating our athletic facilities. Among other things, our lockers are cramped and have poor ventilation, and the front gym is small and lacks air conditioning. Our outdoor facilities are also in poor condition.

Senior Olivia Beecroft is a tennis team member and states that "it took them years to fix our [tennis] courts. Before last year they were cracked, and pieces of the courts were missing. It was very dangerous and very easy for a person to twist their ankle while playing. We had to hold our *own* tournament at someone else's school because they were too dangerous to play on. This previous summer, they 'fixed' [the courts], but there's still cracks and still tiny chunks missing from the court."

On top of that, Fenton plans to update the band room and music facilities. Our current band room has carpeted walls for sound absorption and unfinished, flimsy shelves holding larger instruments. The room is elevated in steps, making it difficult to adapt to fluctuating membership and varying orchestral setups.

Senior Ariana Hurtado, one of Fenton's Drum Majors, states that "with the passing of the referendum, the band room could not only get

the money it needs to fix outdated things like shag carpeted walls, but I think it would also promote the music department and gain kid's interest in joining band."

Mr. Garret George, Fenton's Director of Bands, states, "The carpeting on the walls has layers of dirt visible to the naked eye [and] our band room limits different styles

of learning students could be doing due to the singularities of the space."

Superintendent James Ongtenco states, "It's not going to get any cheaper."

Ongtenco continues, "As a father of six, that's not what I want for my kids... we're not going to ignore this."

Spotlight on Little-Known History: Gold Medalist 'Babe' Zaharias

by Jerry Gurrola

Born on June 26, 1911, Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias is named one of the greatest athletes of the 20th century due to her excellence in baseball, golf, and track. Originating from Norweigan Baden, Zaharias was fierce on the field from age 5, earning her nickname "Babe," meaning baby, after hitting five home runs in one childhood baseball game. She was recognized as Babe due to her excellence in baseball like Babe Ruth. She is the daughter of Norwegian immigrants who was a multi-sport star.

While watching the Olympics in 1928, Zaharias made a promise, noting that she would someday compete in the Track and Field events. With her sister, Zaharias was ambitious and determined to achieve success, practicing daily.

Roughly 40 minutes away from Fenton, she competed at the 1932 AAU championships in Evanston, Illinois, as her U.S. Olympic tryouts serving as a one-woman team. In just the span of a couple hours, she won six gold medals, and broke four world records ranging from the baseball throw, to the high jump. After the tedious process, blew away her competitions and achieved her childhood dream.

Despite her athletic achievements, she was often discriminated with her gender identity. She was typically depicted as a "muscle moll" and even a "third sex."

Due to the unfortunate discriminatory behavior that caused her to have a limit of economic and athletic opportunities, she devoted herself to golfing with the same determination she had in the other sports, and rebranded her image with a more feminine touch.

She spent countless hours enhancing her golfing skill, with some days having hit over 1,500 golf balls until her hands bled. Fortunately, she was given several opportunities in the golf world. Her hard work paid off as she was consistently competition earning herself the "Woman Athlete of the



Shutterstock.com

Year" in the Associated Press poll, an award she had earned back when her track success took place in the Olympics. With no surprise, she went on to earn the same award an additional four other times.

Later in 1950, Zaharias co-founded the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) alongside twelve other athletes, where she was elected as President three times. The purpose of this association granted competitors with improved pay days. Though, due to relationship problems, she distanced herself and moved on to continue her golfing career elsewhere.

In 1953, she was diagnosed with colon cancer. This was a shock to many as she had always been healthy. At such a rapid rate, she was cured of the disease. With lots of fundraising and bravery, she returned to golf and regained championship in early 1954.

Within a span of 3 years, she experienced a tremendous amount of debilitating hospitalizations, diagnosis, and stress due to her additional relationship. Unfortunately, Zaharias passed away on September 27, 1956.

Fenton Track and Field star Amber Hayde notes, "Looking at Zaharias' accomplishments inspires me to never give up. There were times I didn't [do] my best, and sometimes it gets to my head, but after reading about Zaharias, I know it's possible to do anything I put my mind to."

Zaharias was more than just one on the field; she was, another border breaker who went beyond her dreams.

Diving into Girls Swimming

by Maelyn Birchfield

The girls swim team is listed as one of the fall sports that have just begun this season. About 15 girls make up the team, with senior captains Jessica Vanleeuwen and Jazmine Aragon and are coached by Mr. Jeff Baeder.

During their season, they practice at Redmond Park after school hours every day, while having 12 meets throughout their season. Any level of swimmers is welcome to join the team.

Baeder instructs the inexperienced swimmers in freestyle and backstroke before attempting to teach them breaststroke and butterfly.

Aragon described the team’s strengths as “good communication and we all get along.”

Despite the team’s heavy emphasis on swimming technique, Baeder claims that he wants his team to develop leadership qualities while also learning how to fight through hard times and win and lose with dignity.

Though, the majority of the time, the swim team struggles with motivation since swimming is not the world’s easiest sport.

According to Baeder, “it depends on the swimmer, everyone has different motivation, but the big thing is always listening to them, and trying to understand where they are and what is going to make them swim faster.”

Given that Baeder has been teaching science and coaching swimming for over 20 years. In addition to the Fenton swim team, he also coaches the Wood Dale/Addison swim team during the summer.

While Baeder enjoys being able to share his love of swimming with others, he admits that it can sometimes be challenging to manage two occupations at once.

The swim team competed in their first competition of the year and have many more coming up.

Golf Looks To Sectional, Regionals

by Reagan Dakins

The Fenton Golf season is underway for a tremendous year on the greens.

Cameron Kopp, head coach of the Fenton High School golf team, encourages people to go to the matches and tournaments.

“Anyone can go and come watch the matches.”

Our Bison Golfers typically have two to three matches a week, giving the fans plenty of opportunities to see them in action on the course. The team this year has been doing fantastic in many different tournaments since beginning in August.

Captains Taylor Siekierski (Senior) and Sean DiCosola (Junior) are both looking forward to a great season.

Our golfers have big aspirations of “going to state” and “to try and win most, if not all, matches,” according to DiCosola and Siekierski.

Kopp has big faith in our team this year, mostly made up of seniors. Sectionals is the big goal for the golfers of Fenton team, which would then give them a shot at the regional championships.

The team has also learned the values that come along with golf such as “patience” and “hard work,” notes Sierkierski, making them prepared to face any team on the greens.



Courtesy of Cameron Kopp

Football Kicks Off its Season

by Reagan Dakins

The Fenton Bison football team kicked off the season with a battle against Elgin. On the field, the Bison work hard and never give up to do the best they can. The football team has big goals of winning the state “championship,” captain Richard Swanek says.

Two of the four captains, Swanek and Jordan Wilson, note that “a major motivation for the team is the team themselves.”

Our Fenton Bison Football players try to be very team oriented, “We’re the ones on the field, together, working hard,” Wilson states.

Coach Matthew Lynch is “looking forward to competing” in this upcoming season with goals for the team to “gain experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.”

The Bison have taken these team tactics to the field, working hard as a team in every game they have experienced so far this season.

At the first home game they fought against the Glenbard South Raiders to the very end, with the ultimate score being 49-14, GSHS.

In the first half of the game, Fenton’s Michael Warkentien scored a touchdown and made the field goal against the Raiders. In the second half, Brandon Mikhail scored which brought the Bison up to 14 points. The stands were filled with a roaring crowd of Fenton supporters wearing their best flannels and cowboy hats for the game’s Wild West theme.

The team’s next home game is against Bartlett on September 30th. It is also our Homecoming game, which holds many different festivities at half-time, such as the crowning of our King and Queen. Come see the Fenton Bison rally against the Bartlett Eagles!

Fenton Soccer: Goals for the Season

by Reagan Dakins

“GOAL!” is a recurring sound of what you hear when Fenton High School’s soccer team is on the field. The Bison are almost always the dominant on the pitch, playing their hardest. The season started off with a big win against Addison trail, 3-0. This kept that ball rolling, the team has a record of 5-2 in the Upstate 8 conference, ranking them third in the conference.

In the 2022 season, Coach Victor Ruiz is looking forward to “taking it a step further than last year,” wanting to “finish in the top three in conference.”

This team is fairly young, having several new players who are ready to take on the other teams and go for conference champs. The team has taken a strategic outlook to this year’s season and games. Constantly looking to outsmart their opponents.

Ruiz says, “A major motivation is the team, themselves, pushing themselves to be better.”

The team has high expectations of “working hard, dedicating themselves to the theme, and putting in the effort for themselves and the program, states Ruiz.

The next home game is on September 22nd against Downers Grove North. Make the trip out to the field to see our Bison battle their way to a win!



Photo by Reagan Dakins



Photo by Berenice Marin