

The



Signal

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Students Show Off Various Talents at Annual Show

by Jadyn Golz

On March 2nd, Students United (STUNT) held their annual "So You Think You're All That?" talent show. A variety of acts were performed and judged by a panel of teacher and student judges. Musicians, singers, dancers, and performers got to show off their talents!

Placing third was the student-led band, Mother Mary. Second place was taken by Senior Delilah Johnson and Junior Roza Grochal with a cover of "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" by the Beatles. First place was won by Nathaniel Rodruiguez (Junior) and his original comedy.

After winning first place, Rodruiguez states, "It's a very rewarding feeling. So much work went into making my performance as best as it could possibly be and knowing that all my hard work paid off feels amazing!"

Grochal notes that "[she's] learned that hard work pays off. Even if [she and Johnson] didn't place in the top three, [she's] still very happy [she] got to be a part of this experience and play for the audience."

"I did the talent show virtually over quarantine because it

gave me something to do during a time when there wasn't a whole ton to be passionate about. After the first year I fell in love with the experience and knew I had to continue in the years to come," Johnson recalls.

She continues, "This experience taught me about how talented your peers can be! I was very impressed by everyone on stage. The talent show is a great event because it gives students an opportunity to shine!"

"The reason I wanted to join the Talent Show was to showcase my speech and perform it in front of a new audience. After competing at so many speech tournaments, I was really excited to finally show off my performance to our school and the community!" Rodriguez notes.

"Honestly, the best thing I've learned from this experience was just to have some confidence in myself. I was so fortunate to get to tell an amazing story with a beautiful message and was also able to get a little silly with it! The more confidence I had in myself, the better I performed, which also makes it more fun to watch!" He continues.

Johnson notes, "Don't be afraid to try out! If you have a talent you'd love to share with others, then there's no harm in giving it a shot!"

Autos 2, Subaru Partnership

by Edgar Martinez

Our Fenton Automotive Students have been able to receive an authentic dabble into the life of an autos service professional with the recent collaboration of The Grand Subaru Dealership in Bensenville and Fenton's automotive department.

Career Pathways and applied technology division leader Ms. Michelle Papanicolau and automotive teacher Mr. Mark Drelicharz had reached out to the Grand Subaru Dealership and General Manager, Ryan Drouin in hopes of coming up with a collaboration, and they are both happy to say that there is a new program with them.

As a result, only Fenton's Autos 2 students have the opportunity to take a trip to the dealership every Wednesday and have a peek into what the life of an automotive technician does day to day. The days include tasks such as quick service, detailing, rotating, and most importantly, finance and accounting for vehicular sales.

Autos 2 student Jessie Kerbasch says, "Unfortunately, we can't do everything that a normal technician would do because of obvious reasons, but it's still great being able to see what we will do and the professionalism we're going to need when we go into our own careers later on."

This partnership between Fenton and Subaru is the first of its kind in our area, and luckily, we're the school that offers anything like it. Grand Subaru is the highest grossing and moving dealership in our area so there is no shortage of experience that our students can receive while there.

Drelicharz says, "I'm really happy that kids actually go on these mini field trips and are able to be assistants to real technicians, not only are they looking, they're touching and learning what they might see in the real world. I think this is one of the most important and finest partnerships that Fenton has ever had and I wish to see how far this new relationship can go."

For any of those interested in having a look at what Grand Subaru may offer for Fenton students, please ask Mr. Drelicharz or Ms. Papanicolau for further information, and of course be sure to sign up for autos classes next year!



Courtesy of Mark Drelicharz



Courtesy of Mark Drelicharz



Zoe Campos. Photo courtesy of Rick Kambic

If you were the President of The United States of America, what would be your biggest message to our nation?



Ms. Ranjana Rajendran:
“The biggest issue facing our country and the world is climate change. We need to address the issues surrounding that so that we can fulfill the objective of the constitution, which is to secure the blessing of what we are doing for ourselves, but [also] future generations, because we are all impacted by the same, we are all going to be harmed by the ability to regulate this.”



Ms. Kelly Torres:
“Our differences are what makes our nation special. Embracing our differences and reengaging with each other instead of fighting with partisan politics is the only way to move forward. We need to remember that we are more alike than we are different. We all want to live in a safe and secure country with a bright future. To do that, we need to stop fighting and start listening.”



Ms. Kelly Mullins:
“If I had influence, I’d use it to share everything that makes our country awesome. I’d also compel folks to serve others as a path to a purposeful life.”



Ms. Rachel Gentile:
“My biggest message would be unity and compromise because I truly don’t think that we can get anything done unless we see things from the other side and start compromising on things.”



Ms. Nicole Hendricks:
“[To] put our differences aside in order to work together to be a truly united nation.”

by Jer Gurrola

Speech Season Ends at State Competition in Peoria

By Sarah Guerrero Gorostieta

Fenton’s Speech Team has finished another remarkable season, and Speech competitors and coaches reflect on the memorable season, echoing that the team’s bond will forever be irreplaceable.

As a three-year member of the team, I can attest that this season, our group was more team-oriented than ever before.

Senior Tera Pabico, a four-year member of the team, details that “I loved our team this year because we showed up for one another, and we had fun doing it!”

Tera described the team’s new, revised team warm-ups as a “renewed focus on what it means to be a team.”

Dance parties and affirmation circles were first introduced to the team by four-year senior member Macaleigh Logue in late December, but as Tera states, “it takes a fully committed team to reap the benefits of anything we do.”

Peer coaching was essential to developing the skillsets of not only our growing novice group but our three and four-year varsity members as well.

Three-year Junior member Alexa Calderon explains that she “loved peer coaching because when you work as a team, you grow as a team. The novice I worked with taught me so much about my own competitive speaking techniques and that was necessary to the expansion of my Speech skills this season.”

What I loved most about this season was the love and support we offered each other, from our first invitational, all the way to the IHSA State Final round. Watching my senior friends compete in their final rounds, like Humorous Duet Acting duo Macaleigh Logue and Angel Santiago at Regionals, made me reminisce of a time when I was a Freshman competing at Regionals from my bedroom in 2021. Even then, we watched each other’s entries and mailed good vibes in the form of Padlet posts and GroupMe DMS, but nothing can compare to the presence of support and love in a final round. Having my best friend, Alexa Calderon, watch me compete at State Finals, was a heartfelt reminder of the two Freshman girls we once were, giggling at our Speech audition videos in 2020. We were terrified, but we endured and prevailed.

The IHSA State Finals series is an intense competition spread over the course of three weeks. Junior Nate Rodriguez advanced his Original Comedy, “iC, Se Puede!” to State Finals, taking sixth place in the state out of a nine-person final round. Senior Tera Pabico advanced her Informative Speaking Performance, with a speech titled “Honey-thing is Possible” to State Finals, and I placed third in the state in Original Oratory with a speech about the ethos of doing your own research, with a hint of Danny Devito and emoticon humor.

Coach Melissa Feinberg explains, “During the State Series, a competitor has

to perform before five judges at Regionals, seven judges at Sectionals, and six State prelim judges in order to advance to the State Final round. That’s 18 individuals with unique perspectives on what constitutes quality in an event. Then, in the State Final round, you have to compete against six to eight more kids that also consistently ranked at the top of their rounds.”

She adds, “The five judges in the State Final round may decide which competitor in the room will leave the tournament a State Champion, but you have to take in everything the previous 18 judges said with resilience and humility, in a way that doesn’t allow you to get too discouraged to stop before you can even see the State Final round. It’s a journey; it’s one foot in front of the other.”

Speech can become insanely stressful, there is no doubt about that. As Ms. Feinberg explains it, “Speech is so competitive and difficult because it is so subjective. The fact that our students can take criticism on their art and still excel in the way that they have without being discouraged speaks volumes about what Speech teaches them. Our students are equipped to handle criticism and stressful situations with grace, and that is what makes me the proudest.”

English teacher and head coach Ms. Nicole Hendricks contributes that “In a world where we can choose comfortable and easy, Speech students consistently choose to take on challenges. Kids with a fear of public speaking join Speech and come out of their season more confident, more empowered, and more in control of their tomorrow. This wildly fantastic extracurricular is transformative in the most incredible way.”

With a farewell to Speech seniors, Hendricks reminds us that “Although saying goodbye to our seniors is always bittersweet, they have equipped themselves with the skills to lead remarkable lives. Speech teaches students how to own their voices, love their stories, and advocate for their future. The beautiful thing is that no one can take those skill sets away.”

Interested in learning more about the wonderful world of Speech? Check out College of DuPage’s Summer Speech Camp, a two-week, intensive preparation program! The camp, which is open to varsity and novice competitors, runs from 1 PM to 5:30 PM beginning Monday, July 10th to Thursday, July 20th, 2023. Students will have the opportunity to discover more about public speaking, oral interpretation, and limited preparation events, as well as develop written and oral communication skills, all with the support and guidance of renowned high school and college coaches.

Please contact Ms. Hendricks at hendricks@fenton100.org with any questions.

Fenton High School Celebrating Women's History Month; March 8th Guest Speaker, Performance

By Jer Gurrola

Established in 1978 in California, Women's History Month, celebrated in March, recognizes women and their contributions to society.

Initially, this event started with a week-long honor, with collaborators ensuring the week run on the 8th of the month. After its rapid recognition, U.S. President Jimmy Carter urged the nation to participate in the National Women's History Week in 1980.

By 1987, the week-long event expanded to the entirety of the month under the congressional direction, which has led to its celebration every March since.

On the 8th, Fenton held their International Women's Day panel with a big turnout of over 100 students in and out of Fenton. Some notable event sessions included bingo, group discussions, and the Swing Choir performance. But ultimately, we had student speakers and influential women who advised the audience on the importance of recognizing women and their accomplishments and why the month of March means much more than it may seem.

Panel discussions ranged from retrospective challenges faced by male counterparts, the successes of each woman, and their story behind the gender inequity.

Zoya Siddiqui, a freshman at Fenton, ponders on her contribution to the panel by saying, "Events like these are [critical] because us women are in charge of the change we want to see in the world, and making it clear that we can accomplish things and that we are supported as women."

It's imperative to recognize the steps it took for women to finally have a liberating lifestyle, but also to take the initiative in advocating for themselves and other similar individuals globally.

"100 years ago, women weren't allowed to work or vote or own property, and now we have [many] women fighting for equality, so women's day is definitely a pat on the back. I think it also gives women a sense of solidarity, almost like a non-verbal 'we all have your backs' type of thing," states Siddiqui.



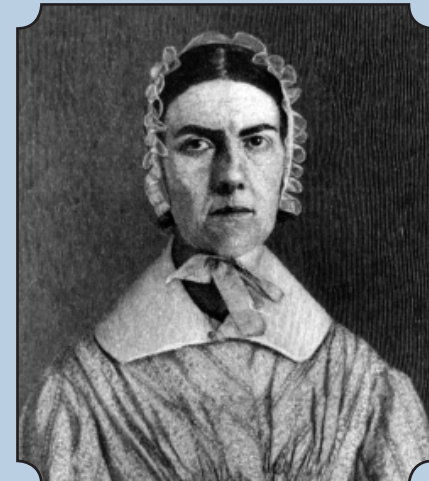
Phillis Wheatley; African American Poet

Recognized as the first African-American author of a published book of poetry, Phillis Wheatley held a lengthy background with many highs and lows that led her to her accomplishments. Wheatley had an unusual start to her success when she was born in 1753. She was kidnapped from Africa at a young age, sold into enslavement, and bought by the Wheatley family in Boston, Massachusetts. As a fact, she was named after the ship that transported her to the states. However, she still had to strengthen her reading and writing skills, which led to her writing talent, and she was encouraged to pursue Poetry. Despite its harsh beginnings, the Wheatley family offered a lot to Phillis' life, where she was tutored by the family's children and recognized for her work. And just years after her kidnapping, Phillis was reading at a thorough level, attaining knowledge in Greek and Latin classics and their original languages aside from the bible. And by 14, Phillis wrote her first poem in reference to Harvard, titled "To the University of Cambridge, in New England." She furthered her curious poet brain with inspiration from several readings. Once she developed her talent with years of hard work, Phillis was recognized by many worldwide, including George Washington. Upon publishing, emancipation was granted to Phillis, and she could live a somewhat liberating life with her husband, John Peters, who had also undergone a domestically unusual life. However, the rest of her life didn't seem so bright, with her facing the loss of two of their young children. Fortunately, despite the abnormal journey, she is still recognized for her dedication and creativity.



Fe del Mundo; Filipino Scientist

Fe del Mundo has been recognized for her rigorous work in founding the first pediatric hospital in the Philippines, alongside shaping the modern child healthcare system. Del Mundo was born on November 27, 1911, to a prominent family of eight siblings. Del Mundo experienced her family death tragedies, but the one that sparked her curiosity and determination the most was the death of her younger sister, Elisa, inspiring her to pursue a medical career. Del Mundo attained a well-rounded education career, graduating as valedictorian from the class of 1933 at the University of the Philippines in Manila. She ranked highly in medical exam scores, and with her medical experience, she developed a pediatric career. Attaining an opportunity, Del Mundo was able to further her knowledge at Harvard Medical School, where she was recognized as a student during a time when Harvard itself had its rare women admittance. Aside from Harvard, she studied various topics at the University of Chicago and Johns Hopkins University, among others. She often worked in children's hospitals wherever she was located and took pride in her work. Following the invasion of Japan, she returned to the Philippines, where she cared for children. Over time, Del Mundo became the head of the Department of Pediatrics at Far Eastern University. With her many accomplishments set in place, in 1957, Fe del Mundo founded the Children's Medical Center Foundation resulting in health care benefits to Filipinos, serving thousands of children with inadequate nutrition and dehydration. And with all of this, Del Mundo also established a pediatric hospital, which had a financial toll on her, but it worked out by providing her ownership.



Sarah Moore Grimké; Abolitionist, Author, Feminist

Born on November 26, 1792, Sarah Moore Grimké grew up in the prejudiced city of Charleston, South Carolina. From her young years, Grimké was irritated of the hatred of actions geared towards women. She experienced anti-slavery sentiments as well as gender inequality frustration in her educational journey. However, she had her older sister, Angelina, which gave her a path to walk to innovate solutions. Together, they took the initiative to join the Quakers' Society of Friends, where they found their beliefs aligned with the group helping them better understand and advocate for their concerns. Shortly after, they were expelled from the group due to her sister marrying an abolitionist outside of the Quakers, yet it didn't prevent them from furthering their social awareness. With her sister's courage in her letter to William Lloyd Garrison, published in *The Liberator*, Grimké was encouraged by her sister's action to advocate in the abolitionist movement, where they gained attention and became the first woman to testify on black rights issues. After making her appearance at the Anti-Slavery convention held in New York, the Grimké's launched their speaking tour in New England, where they continued their sentiments. What set Grimké aside from her sister was her writing accomplishments, which voiced her feminist beliefs, most significantly in the *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes*. Grimké started her journey by experiencing prejudice in her education and environment. She used those experiences to make a difference, using her verbal and written voice to express her integrity and beliefs, inspiring many to do so.

Ten Students Compete in March Upstate 8 Photo, Art Competition

by Edgar Martinez

Watch out for Fenton's Photo and Art departments with their participation in the Upstate 8 art competition on March 6th at the Gail Borden Library in Elgin.

The Upstate 8 Art conference is just like any other sport or club's competitions, 10 talented artists from Fenton are chosen to be sent and represent Fenton where their art will be showcased along with many other schools and their artists. Each piece will be separated into its respective category and be graded by multiple judges until a clear winner is decided.

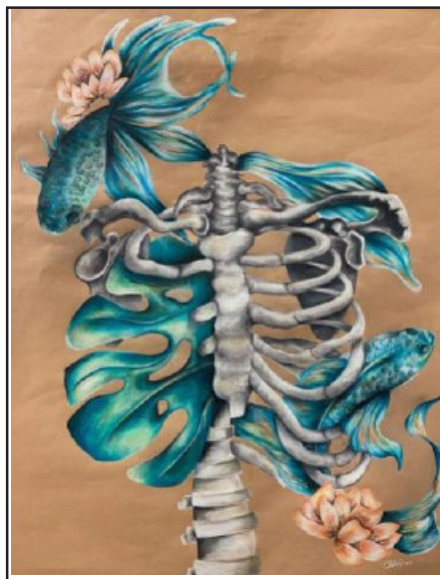
Our talented artists proving just how creative Fenton is includes, Lucy Johnson and her choker/bracelet jewelry pieces, Mariam Rihani with her "Symbiotic Clownfish," winning 2nd place, and Lucy Rodriguez with "Freedom in Transformation" in the Sculpture category, Laura Chudy and her "Leap" pottery piece, Zoya Siddiqui's "Inner Monologue" digital art piece, Kamaren Beamon's "Ice Cube" work, receiving an honorable mention from the judges under Digital photo. The most populated category is drawings, including Traiveon Malave's "Self Portrait," Natalia Szala's "A Breath of Fresh Air," earning her 3rd place, and Liliana Martinez's "Late" in the drawing category.

Lastly, Barbie Reyes brought her "Enso" piece under Mixed Media, receiving 3rd place. Rihani recalls, "the competition was fun because we got to do crown making and painting with the twist that we couldn't use a brush, also the day off from school was definitely a plus. Seeing all the other high-level artists and their pieces was great and I really hope to go next year,"

Art teachers Mr. Scott McNulty, Ms. JoAnna Rieger, and Ms. Angelika Zima handpicked the talented artists representing our school at this conference with the utmost confidence in their performance.

Rieger stated, "We in the photo and art department all had a very hard time choosing exactly who would compete for Fenton, it took hours for us to finally come to a final consensus considering just how much talent we have in this year's group."

If by any chance you are interested in the beautiful art our students can make, the art will remain in the Gail Borden Library for the entirety of March so please support your friends and family there if you have the time!



by Natalia Szala



by Mariam Rihani

Contest Drama Performs *Sylvia*

by Jadyn Golz

Of the many competitions Fenton participates in, Contest Drama is one of the most unique. Contest Drama is an IHSA activity that's been around since the 1940s. Each school competes with a forty-minute play with costumes, lights, sound, sets, etc. which have to be put up and taken down in twenty minutes. The play can be anything from a comedy to a tragedy as long as the work is published and is not a musical.

Historically, Fenton has performed dramas and plays with a more serious method. This year, however, they've decided to perform *Sylvia*, a comedy about a married couple and their dog.

English teacher and one of the directors, Dr. Mike Mitchell, states, "The way that I describe [*Sylvia*] is that it's a love story about a married couple and their dog. It's about how their dog starts to break up the marriage with some funny events and things that happen. There's an actor that literally plays a dog and has conversations with people on stage. It's fertile ground for some humor."

"After talking with Ms. Baker and Mr. Barr, we decided to do a comedy. Partly because we have some really strong comic actors already in the program and we just thought it would be a lot of fun," Mitchell recalls.

Last year, Fenton was a Sectional Champion and took 7th overall. Last year also saw three All-State Performers nominated.

"That was the most we've had for a contest drama since I've been here," Mitchell said.

Mitchell continues, "I'm

encouraged by the fact that we have Delilah Johnson coming back this year. She plays Sylvia in the play. She was one of the recipients of All-State last year. I'm hopeful that we will do well again with her in the lead."

Senior Delilah Johnson notes, "This role is an incredible challenge because I basically play a talking dog. It's very interesting trying to copy dog-like mannerisms. It's such a fun role to play though! I doubt I'll ever have the opportunity to play a role as weird and silly as this again."

"I decided to do a contest drama because last year the idea of a competitive play sparked my interest. This is my second year doing it and I love it so much! It's a really great opportunity to improve your acting skills," Johnson recalls.

Stage lights operator Ariana Hurtado (Senior) states, "I decided to do contest drama because I wanted to take advantage of another opportunity to work on a production. I was interested in the idea of competing with a play and wanted to see how it differed from the other shows we put on."

Hurtado continues, "I definitely have improved my quick-thinking skills because of Contest Drama. I only have a certain amount of time to program all the lights for competitions, and that has helped me to become better at thinking quickly on my feet outside of theater."

Johnson states, "Contest drama has taught me a lot about teamwork, especially because this play only has four cast members. We work very tightly as a team to create the best show possible!"

Penaloza Wrestles at State Tourney

by Edgar Martinez

Our Fenton wrestler's season has ended after a hard-fought and respectable season from the Freshmen wrestlers to our Girls' state qualifier, Yamile Penaloza. This is the second time that Penaloza has qualified for state and has won 12 matches in a row in sectionals.

Penaloza said, "The first time going to state was more about the experience. The second time it was more about opportunities and more about opportunities for college, too."

In the words of social studies teacher and wrestling coach Brian Hastings, "I think that our team has competed harder than they ever have before and are really showing promise, even our captains Jovany Zuniga and Sophia Sosa who had an exceptional season who were inches away from qualifying as well, but we're still proud of them."

Reflecting on her second trip to state and looking forward to her senior year next year, Penaloza said, "My biggest goal for next year is to be top 5. I will have to work hard in the off season and go to other schools and train over the summer."

As women's wrestling grows, Penaloza talks about the team in terms of the relationships.

"The girls on the team have a really nice bond, and we all get along. We all care about each other and support each other."

Following the end of the wrestling season is the Fresh-Soph state series exclusive to only the teams' freshmen and sophomore grapplers. In addition, the wrestling off-season is starting where the team will practice multiple times a week to hone and perfect their skills and moves.



Courtesy of Rick Kambic

Daughter of the Moon Goddess Delivers Pretty Prose, Denies Character Connection

by Jadyn Golz

They say to never judge a book by its cover because the cover does not reflect the contents of the actual book. This principle stands true for *Daughter of the Moon Goddess* by Sue Lynn Tann (2022). If the name sounds familiar, it probably is. Against my better judgment, this impulse-buy was a Book-Tok recommendation.

My initial draw was to the book's cover which is decorated with pink flowers and a glowing moon. I picked up the American version, but the UK version is equally as pretty.

The book is loosely based on the story of Chang'e the Chinese Moon Goddess. There are many variations on the telling, but the key points are that Chang's husband, a mortal archer, saved the kingdom so the celestial emperor granted him an elixir of immortality. However, neither Chang'e nor her husband wished to drink it for different reasons depending on who you ask. This part is where the tellings vary the most. Some say Chang'e stole the elixir for herself and disappeared into the night. Others say that she drank the elixir so that a group of bandits didn't get it. Either way, the ending doesn't change. For one reason or another, the celestial emperor doesn't let the newley-immortal Chang'e into the celestial kingdom. And since she's immortal, she can't stay on Earth with her husband. So, she flees to the moon. Now that the story's set in place, here's why you should never judge a book by its cover:

We follow Xingyin who is Chang'e's daughter. In this version, Chang'e was exiled to the moon and she's not allowed any company besides her attendant, Ping'er. The celestial empress gets wind of Xingyin's existence and chases her out of her home. Xingyin escapes in

the celestial city where most (if not all) of the immortals reside. There, she gains the favor of the crown prince, Liwei. After some training in magic, celestial arts, and combat, the two begin developing a relationship. However, Liwei is betrothed to the Phoenix Princess Fegmei and Xingyin cuts ties in anger and fury.

Xingyin decides to join the celestial army where she meets Captain Whenzi. He's smart and cunning. Through their shared experiences in battle, they begin to develop a relationship. However, she can't escape the lingering thoughts of Liwei that drift into her mind.

Xingyin drowns her sorrows in her battles. She's fighting to win the Crimson Lion Talisman, the highest award a celestial soldier can win. Only a handful have ever gotten it. Those that do are granted one favor from the celestial emperor. If Xingyin can gain his favor, she can pardon her mother from her exile. Will the strict emperor keep his word? Will Xingyin gain this elusive honor? I guess you'll have to read it.

Personally, I didn't like this book. I'm a very story-and-character centered person. To me, a good book relies on character and world building as well as character and story arcs. Others may disagree and argue that the prose is what makes a good book. Either argument is valid.

The prose in this book is very nice. Descriptions flow and excellently display the vibrant world that Tan was trying to portray. However, I felt the characters were dry and stereotypic. Xingyin is a Mary Sue in that she doesn't have any real character traits. She has adjectives like bold or stubborn, but there's nothing to her character. In terms of her interpersonal relationships (with Liwei specifically) she's just a flustered young girl. Liwei is the standard-issue "I'm a prince who

just wants to be free and I climb over the palace walls when my parents aren't looking."

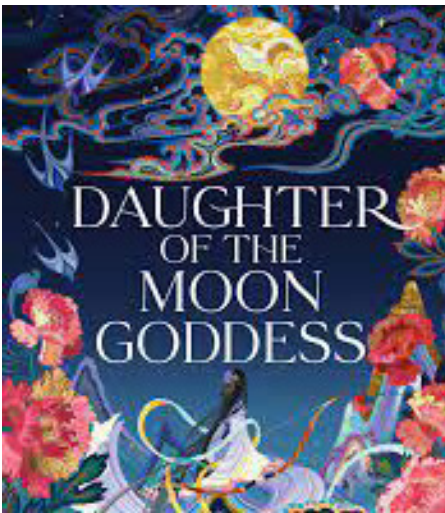
I found their relationship at the beginning of the book completely dry and ordinary. It was quaint--unextraordinary. She was boring, he was boring, they were both boring. This made their breakup seem melodramatic and over-hyped.

Funnily enough, Liwei only became interesting AFTER the breakup. He and Xingyin had an *interesting* relationship dynamic with a complicated mess of feelings keeping them apart. Whenzi was also in the picture, making this story a love triangle.

However, Tan failed to sell me on these characters at the beginning, so I wasn't as involved in the story as it progressed.

I think that with one change, this book could be majorly improved. Instead of playing out Xingyin's story chronologically, I think Tan should've done flashbacks. There are two ways this benefits the story.

The first is that the flashbacks can be slightly more vague. I felt that there was a lot of fluff at the beginning of this story--specifically the time spent at the Golden Lotus Mansion. It was stuff that needed to be acknowledged but wasn't very entertaining. With flashbacks, the author can summarize some of the fluffier points. Instead of having a chapter dedicated to something that isn't entertaining, it's only a sentence or two.



Secondly, remember when I mentioned that Liwei became interesting *after* the breakup? If the story started when Xingyin left for the army, Liwei would be introduced as a mysterious ex-lover and not a standard-issue prince. By only revealing small parts of their past at a time, the audience is wondering how they ended up so hostile to each other and, by extension, are *invested* in their relationship.

Obviously, that change isn't as simple as swapping a few chapters around. Even so, the book was still okay. It stayed faithful to its source material while also leaving room for the story to develop into something new and exciting. It's a long read at about 500 pages with some loose threads at the end. Fear not, the sequel came out November of last year titled *Heart of the Sun Warrior*.

Fenton High School Girls Flag Football is looking for girls grades 9th - 12th to help kickoff the start of girls flag football next year at Fenton High School. Please come and join the fastest sport in America. Yes, girls flag football is the fastest growing sport across the country. If interested, please contact Mr. Mike Berry or Coach Matt Lynch to express your interest.

Bowling Team Strikes Again, Ending Season with Celebration



by Edgar Martinez

Fenton's bowling team has had an amazing season but has unfortunately come to an end. The JV and the Varsity team have had great performances and even though it is a bit of a slow year, they were still adamant on giving their best performance.

The Varsity team went to regionals and were runner ups in conference but lost by 2 games to South Elgin for the conference championship, and finishing the season 65-11.

In fact, 3 girls on the team were picked for all conference out of the 11 that can be chosen: Kaitlyn Thompson, Stephanie Gutierrez, and Izabel Krajecki.

Thompson placed for sectionals who unfortunately missed state by a hair.

In the words of PE teacher and coach Lee Cassidy, "The team bowls well overall, and I enjoy seeing them being able to cooperate as a team so well. We're going to be losing 2 seniors this year and I'm sad to see them go but I think our team will still stay strong afterwards. I hope to see more girls come out and try this sport out next year since it's more fun than you might think."

If you have any interest in bowling for Fenton then please contact Coach Cassidy, whether it be just to try a new sport or to beat your friends the next time you go bowling!

Courtesy of Ron Janik

AP African American Studies, Fenton’s Response to Political Implications

by Sarah Guerrero Gorostieta

Recently, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has been the issue of media attention nationwide as he readies to run for President. In February, his administration decided to further the Governor’s war on ‘woke’ by banning The College Board’s new AP history course, AP African American Studies. Claiming the class’ “Anti-American and woke agenda lacked educational value”, DeSantis’s rejected the course, and modified its content– his decisions were upheld by Florida’s new Stop Woke Act, a statewide promise against the indoctrination of Florida’s public. Topics like Black Lives Matter, queer Black influence, and Black Power movements were made optional in the curriculum, and authors like bell hooks and Angel Davis were censored and removed from the reading list.

The College Board describes AP African American Studies (APAAS) as “an interdisciplinary course that draws from a variety of fields—history, literature, the arts, geography, science—to explore the vital contributions and experiences of African Americans.” As of now, the course is exclusively available as a pilot program.

Ms. Kate Ward, Fenton’s Director of Learning and Division Leader of English and Social Studies, stated she is simply “disappointed. I have long admired the College Board’s respect for historical value. However, the politicization of history [in Florida] concerns me. Educators should teach students how to think critically about history. Education is a right, not a privilege. Besides, the [APAAS] framework is not ‘radical’; it’s really cool.”

According to the College Board Newsroom, APAAS curriculum developers “consulted with more than 300 professors of African American Studies from more than 200 colleges nationwide, including dozens of historically Black colleges and universities, along with dedicated high school teachers across the country.”

These advisors collaborated with the developers to create the program’s four units of study– Origins of the African Diaspora; Freedom, Enslavement, and Resistance; The Practice of Freedom; and Movements and Debates.

Ward explained that how student learning is assessed on the AP exam is what she loves most about the course. The APAAS end-of-course exam comprises 60 multiple-choice questions, four free-response questions, and a course project. The course project is an evidence-based written argument requiring students to conduct independent research on any theme or issue in African American studies.

The College Board’s official APAAS framework states, “Virtually any sentence in the [APAAS] course framework could become the topic for deeper student exploration in their project. Historical figures, events, or works of art or literature are all viable subjects for a project.”

Briefly below that statement, The College Board elaborates that “Students may elect to extend their learning by selecting contemporary topics or debates that are not part of the required course framework.” DeSantis exhibited no interest in the slightest, however.

Ward commended JB Pritzker’s response to DeSantis’ war on ‘woke,’ expressing “It’s great to live in a state where students come first, just like it’s great to work with a school board that trusts teachers as professionals.”

Ms. Candice DeMauro, a Spanish teacher at Fenton, echoed Ward’s praises, conveying that she is “grateful for the support of Fenton’s school board and administration. Fenton [as a whole] is pushing to be more conscious and mindful of Culturally Responsive Education (CRE); we’re just not there... yet. It’s a journey.”

When asked to characterize CRE’s presence in her classroom, DeMauro stated, “Culturally Responsive Education gives the students a say. Implementing CRE in our classroom empowers students to decide what content they’re learning, how they’re learning that content, and why they’re on

a learning journey in the first place.”

In the second semester of this school year alone, Heritage Spanish 3 classes have learned about the Lemon Grove Incident (the United States’ first successful desegregation case), Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo protests, and the rebellion in the Dominican Republic against dictator Rafael Trujillo, while reading the Spanish translated novel *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* at the same time.

Junior Paola Aguilera expressed that DeMauro’s dedication to CRE is more important than ever before. “Our country’s modern approach to teaching history often celebrates national heroes; CRE ensures we honor the victims of tragedies as well. CRE entrusts students with the ability to make judgments on their learning journey. [CRE] provides students with a more holistic and authentic approach to history,” Aguilera concluded.

So, if Illinois politicians are staying out of our curriculum, then DeSantis’ war on ‘woke’ is just another outlandish moment in Florida politic, right? Well, no.

Mr. Lorenzo Rubio, Division Leader for Multilingual Programs at Fenton, clarified that DeSantis’ conduct isn’t just a Florida, MAGA extremist issue, “it’s a nationwide war on marginalized groups and their stories.”

Rubio cited Arizona’s 2010 ban on Latin American studies, and California’s Proposition 227, a ruling mandating that classroom teaching be led ‘overwhelmingly in English’. Rubio articulated that “recognizing the historical pattern is essential. When you listen to DeSantis’ rhetoric, you’ll realize it’s the same talking points they used in Arizona and California, both diverse, and influential states, like Illinois.”

Furthermore, as one of Fenton’s Chicano Bowl coaches, Rubio explained that “Chicano Bowl, which originated 26 years ago, was a reaction to Chicano students longing to discover more about their history. The desire to connect with one’s cultural history is a reaction to diaspora, historical trauma, and assimilation. Our nation’s marginalized students are still marginalized. Learning to empathize with the history of another group will continue to play a critical role in our struggle against injustice. If students are deprived of the ability to empathize with another marginalized group’s historical struggle, then how will our society produce meaningful change?”

That is exactly what DeSantis hopes to achieve with his rhetoric– the evermore disenfranchisement of minority groups.

However, it is important to note that, as Director of Educational Equity and Innovation and Division Leader for Math and Science Mr. Mike Berago asserted, “Fenton High School will advocate against attacks on education in a resounding manner.”

Berago continued that “One of the most significant issues in this situation is the labeling of concepts as merely ‘optional’ rather than absolutely essential. School is the institution that can right the wrong of disinformation. It is also the institution that could allow disinformation to manifest into ignorance if our CRE standards were to be left unchecked. You cannot learn about Black history in America without understanding the role of protests in our country. You cannot learn about history without understanding the role of Queer movements, the importance of intersectionality, and the influence of Black and Black Queer literature and arts. If we censor history, students will grow unaware of the systems in place still working against minority people. By adjusting educational standards to fit a ‘Pro-American’ narrative, censorship will continue to disenfranchise marginalized groups.”

As disturbed and unsettled as I am by DeSantis’ damaging insistence, I must conclude with a ‘thank you’ to my Fenton family. We are not flawless, but we are creating changemakers one class, one book, one speech, and one article at a time. There is work to be done and there are stories left unsung, but we’re making progress.

Superbowl Recap: The Chiefs’ Record-Breaking Win, Rhianna’s Pregnancy

by Reagan Dakins

Whether you watch for the commercials, half-time show, or the game, one of the most anticipated sporting events in America again took over TV screens nationwide. Super Bowl LVII, this year dubbed the Kelce Bowl due to the two brothers Travis(KC) and Jason(Eagles) being on opposite teams, kicked off with a crazy start but in the end; the Kansas City Chiefs brought home the Lombardi Cup with a close win of 38-35 over the Philadelphia Eagles.

The game began initially in the Eagles’ favor with an 18-yard touchdown, scoring an easy 6 points and the extra point making it in. Two-time Super Bowl champ

and Kansas quarterback Patrick Mahomes quickly returned the favor with an 18-yard pass to Travis Kelce for the touchdown. This tennis match of the game continued throughout the entire Super Bowl.

As the teams returned to the locker room, the much-anticipated show started with Rhinna taking the stage. Whether you like Rhianna’s music or not, one simply cannot deny the creative show she put on. With floating platforms and a diverse medley from her career, Rhianna came out with a surprise for the audience, announcing her pregnancy. According to Forbes.com, an estimated 118.7 million viewers saw the concert, creating it

one of the most-watched super bowl half-time shows ever.

This Super Bowl was also a record-breaking game. Two records were shattered. Chiefs’ wide receiver, Kadarius Toney, broke the record for the longest punt return with a 65-yard run to the 5-yard line, evading all the Eagle’s defenders. This set the Chiefs’ up for another touchdown, making the game 35-27. Another record was when Philadelphia QB, Jalen Hurts, broke a record from 1986 set by Jim McMahon for most rushing touchdowns in a game. Hurts broke the record when he set up his third rushing touchdown, breaking the previous record of two. With that third touchdown

and a two-point conversion, Phillie tied the game, 35-35, with only two minutes left in the game. Suddenly, the game was back on, and Kansas had to pick up its intensity.

It all came down to the chiefs’ kicker, Harrison Butker, who kicked the winning field goal, ending with a Chiefs win. QB Patrick Mahones earned his second MVP trophy with his outstanding performance of the night despite being plagued with an ankle injury that almost ended his season early. Overall, this was a back-and-forth game full of touchdowns, broken records, and surprises that ultimately ended with the chiefs winning 38-35.