

Junior Victor Vazquez Receives Cross Country All-State Status

By Michelle Agyemang

Junior Victor Vazquez has made it to state once again! During the November 6th IHSA 2A State Meet, Victor finished 15th in the state earning him "All-State" status. Fenton's first All-State runner since 2008 and the 6th ever junior in Fenton's history to achieve "All-State." With an incredible time of 15:14, Victor was able to stay at the top during the competitive Peoria meet. "I was really excited and happy to see that my work finally paid off. I finally beat my brother so that came with it. I was really excited with the coaches, since they were really excited too. Being top fifteen is really great," says Victor.

Victor's success was evident throughout his season. During the first meet of the season, The Fenton "Early Bird" Invitational, Victor placed 13th. Victor then placed 9th at the Warren Invitational, 18th place at the Warren High School Invitational, 1st place at the Elmwood Park Invitational, 2nd place at the Metro Suburban Conference Meet, 6th place at the IHSA Regional Meet at Kaneland High School, 18th place at the IHSA Sectional Meet at Fenton High School, and of course, 15th place at the IHSA 2A State Meet.

With school being entirely virtual and the sport taking on heavy restrictions, this year's season was very different from that of 2020. When asked what his overall opinion of this year's season was, Vazquez says, "It was much better than last season. With just having a lot more people to run with and just experience all over by itself... my favorite thing was being able to go to state, and finally having competition rather than two other schools. That was my favorite thing and it pushed me to do better."

Head Coach Patrick Fritsch speaks on Victor's dedication and commitment to the sport, saying, "Victor's successes throughout the season speak for themselves.; but they do not tell the whole story. They don't tell of the effort outside of practice. The early morning runs before school to maintain a higher weekly mileage throughout the season. Victor did an amazing job this year balancing not school and athletics but also having a part time job. He was a great example to our younger runners on how hard work and dedication can pay off."

Victor has made so many accomplishments during his time at Fenton, but we know he also wouldn't be in the position that he is in without the help and support of many. "[I want to] thank the people who joined the team. It honestly would have been really boring just running by myself. The coaches for coaching and being supportive overall and also to my brother who coached me."

"Victor was always confident in his abilities, but he never let that confidence lessen his desire to improve. Victor also held himself to a higher standard and that really benefited him at the end of the season. I look forward to the upcoming track season with Victor and can't wait to see what new levels he can reach going forward," says Fritsch.



Photo courtesy of Patrick Fritsch

End of Semester Closing Events

	Wednesday, December 1					
	NHS Fall Community Service Deadline					
Friday December 10						
	Elementary Holiday Assembly from 9:00am to					
	11:00am					
	Fenton Holiday Assembly during all lunch per					
	ods					
	Students on Stage at 7:00pm					
Sunday, December 12						
	95th Annual Band & Choir Concert at 2:00pm					
	and 4:30pm					
	Wednesday December 15 to					
	Friday December 17					
	Semester 1 Final Exams					

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- Boys Varsity Soccer Team Regional Championship
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And So Much More!

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Boys Varsity Soccer Team Wins IHSA Regional Championship

By Chrystyna Prokulevich

If there was one way to describe the Fenton Varsity Soccer Teams 2021 season, then it would be remarkable. After such a difficult and tiresome year, with hardships due to COVID and staying at home during quarantine, the boys came out with a bang, constantly exceeding their limits and working hard to make it to the top.

Coach Victor Ruiz, says "one of our main goals was staying healthy."

Many hardships come with being stuck inside and not being able to practice full out with a team, but the team pulled through and showed off their soccer skills with so much passion. The team truly showed that they did not let those problems affect them and their game. By managing their health and following the regulations, they also were able to give their seniors an incredible year.

Ruiz mentions, "It was also remarkable since our Varsity team had 12 seniors! We, as coaches, wanted to make sure they left on a good note and knew how important they are to the team." Ruiz exudes a sense of what a team is supposed to feel like: people who play together benefit from one another and do not let each other down. Always looking out for one another and seeing how they can enhance their talents. And with that

being said, these seniors got the year they deserved.

The team finished the season in 10 - 7 - 3 record, placing 4th in Competitive Conference, and finally winning at the Regional Championship against Ridgewood.

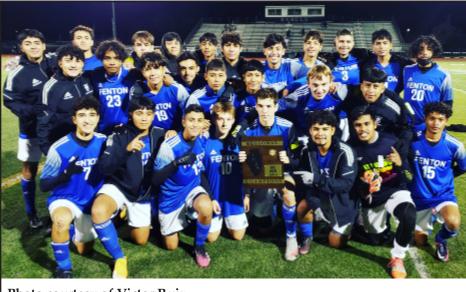


Photo courtesy of Victor Ruiz

The crowd was very enthusiastic and proud to see their team score and take home a win at their very own soccer field in Bensenville.

Ruiz says, "Winning Regionals showed the dedication and hard work our players put in during the season, and it was a great way to say goodbye to our seniors."

Hard work, and perseverance is what got the team to the top, nonstop determination and uplifting team members that always had a positive outlook and eye for the game is what got them to win.

"During practices, the atmosphere was great. We had a lot of fun, and the players put in the work every day," Ruiz adds on.

There is no doubt that no one will forget this year's soccer team, and all of the amazing games they had. From the field to the inside of the school buildings to social media, friends and team members would often post about their matches and have wondrous fans that supported their efforts. So let's all cheer one

BRAVE Memorializes Lives Lost On Transgender Day of Remembrance

By Jenny Aguilar

On November 20, 2021, people across the world observed Transgender Day of Remembrance, a day dedicated to honoring the lives of transgender people who were killed because of their identity. Members of BRAVE organized support sessions on November 19 for students and staff to discuss the day and its significance.

On November 28, 1998, transgender woman and activist Rita Hester was murdered after being stabbed 20 times and dieing from cardiac arrest shortly after being admitted to the hospital. She was 35 years old. A year after her death, Gwendolyn Ann Smith, a transgender writer and activist, organized a vigil to honor both Hester and the many other transgender lives lost due to transphobia. BRAVE sponsor Ms. Jessica Muscarello describes the day as "a time once a year where we pause and reflect on the violence that has been carried on the community and reflect on the lives that have been lost."

Senior Shyann Mumford, member of the BRAVE executive board, explains how the day is meant to "remember all the trans individuals who were lost due to being who they are."

According to a 2014 report released by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 55% of murdered LGBTQ+ individuals were transgender women and 55% were transgender women of color. In 2020, the Humane Rights Campaign reported 44 transgender and non-binary people were murdered with 47 known deaths this year. Muscarello comments on the statistics, saying, "When you look at general data of how frequently crimes are commited against people that are transgender, it's at a much higher rate. Not every crime is taken seriously. Not every crime is prosecuted."

On November 19, BRAVE hosted a community circle during fourth period to honor the lives lost and "brainstorm how we can make this community a safe place, a welcoming place," says Muscarello.

Mumford notes that BRAVE also held an open circle during their meeting Friday after school to "remember and discuss how we feel and what can be done to prevent so many [from] losing their lives."

Today, organizations all over the globe, from the Humane Rights Commission of Tel Aviv in Israel to the Group Activist Trans in France have taken to recognizing the day. Second Gentleman of the United States, Doug Emhoff, hosted a vigil at the White House with President Joe Biden releasing a statement to commemorate the day: "Each of these lives was precious. Each of them deserved freedom, justice, and joy."

However, there is still work to be done. As Mumford says, "Fenton does an okay job at acknowledging marginalized groups but has loads to improve. Not many people are aware of this day."

But as Muscarello says, "The more you know about something, the more you can be aware about something. [We need] opportunities to meet people who are different, to talk to people who are different to grow as a community."



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Photo Op (Teacher Edition): What is Your Favorite Gift From a Student?

By Jadyn Golz



Mr. Tony Oakson (English) "Nothing beats a sincere note of thanks."



Mrs. Linda Santinello (math) "The best gifts I have received are hand-written notes and emails from my students. I've saved every single one."



Mme. Kyra Behnke (French) "In French 3, students write their own children's book similar to the book "If you Give a Mouse a Cookie." One year, when I was pregnant, a student gave me the book "If you Give a Pig a Pancake" and had it dedicated to my child and signed by the author! The inside cover says "pour le bébé de Madame Behnke."



Ms. Kelly Torres (social studies) "My favorite thing is a piñata that I got from my American heritage class. They set up a surprise birthday celebration for me that was very intricate. They lined up and gave me roses, and they gave me the piñata filled with notes from each of them."

Select Band Members Perform at White Pines Veteran's Day Breakfast

By Abby Hernandez

On November 11th, 2021, select members of the band went to White Pines Golf course to honor our veterans. They played a series of songs to show their appreciation to those who served our country. These students spent their personal time rehearsing these songs in order to make this day special. They arrived early to school, dressed up and headed to White Pines for this performance.

Iza Weglarz, a senior saxophone player/drum major, stated, "It's such a great experience to be performing for people who have served for our country."

Band teacher and director, Garett George said, "It's really special to share our gift of music with the veterans of the Bensenville community. This holiday is rich with a lot of musical traditions. It's very cool for us to be a part of that musical tradition."



ARC Sponsors "The Amazing Book Race" Event, Ends January 31

By Jenny Aguilar

The student librarians club in partnership with the ARC staff are motivating students at Fenton to read through their "Amazing Book Race" program.

The idea for the program originated within the student librarians club. Sponsor and Fenton Librarian Mrs. Elizabeth Wright explains, saying, "Student librarians club started it. They did all the work. They chose the theme and title. David Peralta created the original art. They created the bulletin board. A lot of students helped choose books to purchase for it."

Sophomore Roza recounts her perspective on preparing for

the event: "I heard about the idea through Mrs. Wright. I would come in during lunch and help with setting up the bulletin board, picking colors, and decorating it."

Announced on October 28, 2021, "The Amazing Book Race" is a chance for students to earn prizes in exchange for reading books. For each finished book, students fill out a slip of paper listing the book title, author, rating on a five-star scale, and an aspect that they enjoyed in the book. For each slip filled out, students are entered into a monthly raffle for gift cards to local businesses as well as popular chain stores, like Starbucks and Barnes and Nobles. Also, the first 30 students to read four total books automatically receive one free book; however, the book has to be \$15 or less, available on Amazon, and high school appropriate. So far, 46 students have participated in the event with 12 of them having received a free book.

Throughout November, a variety of English classes have visited the ARC to both learn about "The Amazing Book Race" as well as have time to check out a book of their choice. As Wright says, "We want [the event] not to be something that makes you feel stressed. We want it to be something fun-- to encourage reading for the sake of reading. There is a book for every student. Whether it's a book of mostly pictures, their favorite hobby, or their favorite type of story,

my job is to help them find a book that they will truly enjoy."

The Amazing Book race ends on January 31, 2022, but the Student Librarian Club has future plans for the ARC, including other reading-incentivized events. Karbowski reveals, "As for the future, new events will be starting involving raising funds for clubs/ activities/charities and more. It is still under planning but students can be on the lookout for upcoming information. We also plan on implementing holiday themes to the arc and the books sometime soon!"

Clubs BEAT, Gardening Club Strive to Make Fenton More Environmentally Friendly

By Dalila Perez

Ever wonder what is causing heat waves, drought, glaciers to shrink, and sea levels to rise? The answer to all your questions is Climate change.

Climate change is a long-term effect due to changes in temperature and weather patterns. Normally, climate change would shift on its own but over time human activities became the primary reason why it continues to get worse. Human activities such as deforestation, burning fossil fuels, overpopulation, pollution harm our environment by causing soil erosion, poor air quality, undrinkable water. Continuing to do nothing harms the environment which will lead to harming you. As students, we tend to be blinded by what's in front of us which is our poorly treated environment. There are so many things that YOU can do to make a huge positive impact by completing small acts. Small acts like making sure your electronics are turned off, carpooling or public transportation, but most importantly recycling and gardening.

Right here at Fenton, you can make that small step in one of our environmental clubs here such as BEAT and the gardening club. Recycling allows for less waste, conserves natural resources, and saves energy.

Science teacher and BEAT sponsor, Ms. Kelly Lamey, says that "Matter can never be created or destroyed, but it can be rearranged. Recycling is one-way rearranging the resources we take from nature and reusing those materials instead of retrieving more new raw materials that will continue to make changes to our earth."

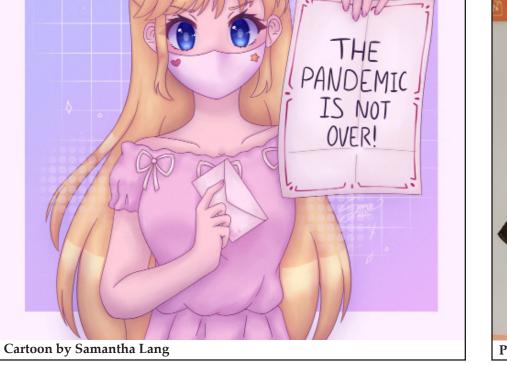
BEAT meets every Wednesday after school in room 217 from 3:30 to whenever you need. Each part of the school is divided up to where teams go around collecting recycling bins from classes and taking them out to the big recycling bin outside. It takes no time at all and will give you at most, an hour of community service. Over time those hours will add up and you will be set for your graduation requirement.

So, take time on Wednesdays and help out the environment for you and others. Although recycling is a good way to reduce the harm to our environment, so is gardening. Gardening allows plants and trees to take in the massive amount of carbon dioxide and release oxygen. If everyone planted a tree or had a garden, the pollutants in the air would significantly decrease. Not only is gardening good for the environment but it can be good for your health.

Evelyn Perez, president of the gardening club, states, " In today's society, where the environment has endured significant negative environmental impacts, it's extremely important that communities work together for the common good! Having a greener thumb doesn't even ask for a lot; it means to simply engage and take part in environmental activities, such as recycling and growing plants to overall take care of our environment so that it can take care of us."

If you're interested in joining the gardening club contact Evelyn Perez or Mr. Paul Welsh. Hopefully, the next time you go to throw away a piece of paper, you think about recycling it or find time to stop by one of the clubs here at Fenton. The next step is up to you.





Urinetown: The Musical is Announced as Fenton's 2021-2022 Spring Musical





To find more information, scan the QR code to join the Urinetown google classroom or email Director George Mussman, at mussman@ fenton100.org!

Controversy, Innovation, Success; Follow the Journey of the COVID-19 Vaccine

By Jenny Aguilar

On November 6, 2021, the lovable character Big Bird from the Sesame Street franchise announced on his twitter that he just received the COVID-19 vaccine, tweeting, "I got the COVID-19 vaccine today! My wing is feeling a little sore, but it'll give my body an extra protective boost that keeps me and others healthy." This comes on the recent milestone that children ages 5-11 are now able to receive the vaccine; Big Bird, who is canonically five years old, fits in that demographic. However, many republican politicians, most notably Texas Senator Ted Cruz, and other conservative individuals have expressed their disapproval of the tweet, calling it "evil" propaganda targeting children. This is just one of the many notable moments since the first COVID-19 vaccine started being administered to the public. Here's a look back at the most recent news pertaining to the vaccine in the United States.

On October 29, 2021, the Food and Drugs Administration released its approval for the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on children 5 to 11 years old. Only four days later, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention released a statement supporting the use of the vaccine on children, citing, "COVID-19 cases in children can result in hospitalizations, deaths, MIS-C (inflammatory syndromes) and long-term complications, such as "long COVID," in which symptoms can linger for months...Vaccination, along with other preventative measures, can protect children from COVID-19 using the safe and effective vaccines already recommended for use in adolescents and adults in the United States." Children receive the same formulation of the Pfizer vaccine just a smaller dosage. The CDC also states that the vaccine was 91% effective on children.

Coinciding with the youngest members of our society being able to get the shot, people ages 65 and older as well as those who are high-risk are now able to receive their third, or second for the Johnson & Johnson vaccines, dosage of any available COVID-19 vaccine, no matter the company they received their initial vaccine. The CDC recommends that people who received the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines wait six months for the third dosage and those who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine wait two months for their second dosage.

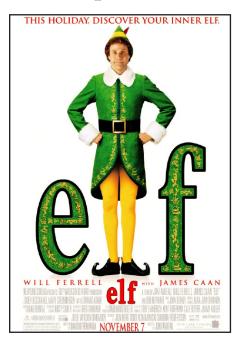
Since December 2020, 443 million doses of the vaccine have been given to the public, with 62.4% of Americans being fully vaccinated, according to Our World in Data. This is a stark improvement for the fight to end the Pandemic, however, vaccination rates have slowed down drastically since May 2020. In the past three months, the number of both fully vaccinated individuals and those with only one dose has begun to plateau.

To assist in this slow down, on November 4, 2021, President Joe Biden announced a vaccine mandate for the nation. The two-part mandate requires employers with 100 employees or more to have their workers either be fully vaccinated or receive COVID-19 testing at least once a week, under the direction of the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Secondly, the Department of Health and Human Services is requiring all healthcare workers at Medicare and Medicaid participating facilities, about 17 million workers, to be fully vaccinated. Employees have until January 4, 2022 to comply.

As with most major decisions, there has been a lot of backlash on the mandate. According to The Hill, 24 states have challenged the mandate and a federal appeals court has temporarily blocked the mandate. Prior to the mandate, there have been many individuals who have lost their jobs due to their refusal to not comply with their employers demands.

Two years ago, nobody would have guessed that we were in the midst of entering a global pandemic. One year ago, a glimmer of hope to end the pandemic emerged with the first vaccine. Today, the nation has vastly improved in combating the pandemic but the future is still unpredictable. What is foreseeable is that people will continue to make advancements that will make dealing with the virus easier and easier.

A Comprehensive Guide on Must-Watch Christmas Movies This Holiday Season





Elf **By Jenny Aguilar**

Say goodbye to the mystical North Pole and hello to the equally mystifying Big Apple in this 2003 classic about family reunions. Portrayed by the hilarious Will Ferrall, Buddy is an elf that has just discovered that he was not only adopted as a baby but that his biological father, played by James Caan, currently lives in New York City. Intent on connecting with his father, Buddy journeys to New York City where he learns what living as a human is like as well as teaching others about Christmas joy. Filled with unforgettable lines, hilarious scenes, and a heartwarming finale, Elf offers timeless joy and laughter for people of all ages.

Home Alone By Michelle Agyemang

The holiday classic, Home Alone, is a must-watch during any Christmas movie binge. The plot revolves around the life of mischievous eightyear-old Kevin McCallister. When his whole family accidentally leaves him before their holiday trip to Paris, he finds himself in trouble fighting two con men who aim to rob his house. Running around his Chicago suburb, Kevin sets traps and pulls pranks to stop the men from harming his beloved home, all while his family frantically tries to find their way back home. The comedic and adventurous Home Alone does an amazing job showing the importance of family and laughter during the holiday season.





The Polar Express By Michelle Agyemang

Based on the children's book by Chris Van Allsburg, the nostalgic film, The Polar Express, excels at capturing the magic of Christmas. The story centers around a young boy who is questioning the existence of Santa. On Christmas Eve, the boy happens to hear whistles outside his home that lead him to wander onto a magical train heading towards the North Pole. The boy gets enthralled with the thrill and adventure that come with the ride. If you're able to ignore the sometimes creepy and scary animation, The Polar Express is the perfect movie to sprinkle in some excitement on a lackluster winter night.

The Grinch (2018)

By Jenny Aguilar Based on the famous children's book by Dr. Seuss, The Grinch is the 2018 animated remake starring Benedict Cumberbatch in the titular role with Pharall Williams as the narrator. Straying from other versions of the same story, this Grinch is a much more relatable guy; he gets angry at the radio for only playing Christmas songs, annoyed at all the carolers and people wishing each other "Merry Christmas", and he cannot stand his neighbors' over-the-top Christmas decorations. Adding more depth to the original story line, as well as a side plot featuring Cindy Lou Who, this retelling of a classic tale adds its own details while still maintaining the same heartfelt message.

The Signal

Prokulevich Shares The True Meaning of the Holidays, Advice on Ways to Give Back

By Chrystyna Prokulevich

When we all think of the holidays, we picture snow falling, houses decorated in many different colorful lights, baking and cooking in the kitchen, filled with so many different smells. Traditions that connect families at the dinner table, movies, and fun in the snow. So many different holidays, from Christmas to Hanukkah, Kwanzaa to Pancha Ganapati, the list goes on and on. So much diversity, it feels like society gets a glimpse of every culture around the world during the month of December, it is like a trip around the world.

Traditions and connecting with friends and family is what makes the holidays so beautiful and memorable. After a long year of social distancing and being unable to celebrate with friends and family, it almost feels like things are becoming more normal. As if the holiday sensation that we used to feel as kids is finally making its way back to society. The spur of the holiday season is in full motion and holiday music is being played even earlier!

But we must be intentional with the way we approach the holidays this year. With isolation and restrictions came so much pain and suffering, especially during this season. Many people lost valuable people and things in their lives that they are not able to regain again. There are those who cannot afford to feed their families, or give their children holiday gifts. Those who do not have anyone to spend time with, or have family that lives far away. Those who are homeless, those who are terribly sick, those who are less fortunate than so many of us.

The holiday season can often be a burden and one the most painful times of the year for them. So, this year, I ask you to raise your eyes and open your heart to those who have it harder than you and your friends and family.

To try and make a change whether it be by just lending a helping hand or even donating to a local organization, together we can make a difference in so many lives. Some places you can help could be at a local animal shelter, donating clothes and toys to a children's facility or toy drive, help our and volunteer at your church, volunteer at a homeless shelter and serve food, create cards for medics and doctors who are spending the holidays in a hospital saving people, create cards for elders at a senior citizen home, bake cookies for your neighbors or even your school janitor, build homes for the homeless, donates coats and jackets, the list goes on and on.

There are so many other ways to help out those in need, and there is always an opportunity for more help. The holidays are a time where you should not just focus on yourself and be selfish in all ways. The beauty of the holiday season and spirit are the exact moments. Moments where we connect and put aside our differences to cherish one another and give each other what matters most in life, friendship and love. If we can break this wall of fear that so many get during the holiday season, then we can instead build a mountain of hope. This is the year to relearn how

to spend time during the holidays and what the meaning of the holiday spirit is to you. But, as much as you should help those around you, also take time to focus on yourself and your state of well-being, because you matter just as much as those who are in need. You are worth the holiday spirit and the joy of the world as well. Happy Holidays everyone!



Increased Resources Given to Fenton Students, Information on How to Access Them

Fenton High School Student Resources Support								
Tutoring Before School	Testing Center	Bison Time Resource	Writing Lab	Math Lab	Peer Tutoring	Tutoring After School		
 Who? Ms. Volodka What? Tutoring in any subject Snacks provided When? 7:15 - 7:55am Tue, Wed, Thu Where? Writing Lab How? Drop inf 	 Who? Mr. Privett & Mr. McNully What? Take test sent by your teacher When? Bison Time Lunch Periods 4,5,6 Where? Bison Time 304 Lunches 218/220 How? Teacher submits your test and you will receive a notification 	 Who? Fenton Teachers of various subjects What? Support in any subject When? Bison Time 9:40-10:15 am Tue-Fri Where? Various locations designated for each subject area. You can find them when you sign up via the link below. How? Sign up and wait for teacher approval Report directly to resource location Sign Up Here! 	 Who? Mr. Privett & Mr. McNully What? Support in English & Writing When? Lunch Periods 4,5,6 Study Hall Where? Writing Lab 218/220 How? Drop ins are welcome but encourage to Sign up 24 hours in advance to secure support Report directly to Writing Lab Sign Up Here! 	 Who? Ms. Volocka What? Support in Math When? Lunch Periods 4,5,6 Study Hall Where? Math Lab 1200 How? Drop ins are welcome but encourage to Sign up 24 hours in advance to secure support Report directly to Writing Lab Sign Up Henet 	 Who? Mrs. Whalen Trained Peer Tutors What? Support in various subjects based on student tutors' availability When? Before School Bison Time Lunch Periods 4.5.6 Study Hall After School Where? Writing and Math Lab How? Request using the linked form below. Wait for email contact from Mrs. Whalen Sion Up Here! 	 Who? Monday - Mrs. Santinello Tuesday - Ms. Lamey Wednesday - Mr. Oakson Thursday - Ms. Nomis What? Tutoring in arry subject Snacks provided When? 3:15 - 4:30pm Mon -Thu Where? Writing Lab 218/220 How? Drop int 		