

The



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Mullins Receives AFCA 'Extra Yard Teachers' Award

By Michelle Agyemang

The AFCA is a national football organization that is for college and high school coaches all over the country. This year they held a campaign called "Extra Yard for Teachers". The goal for this campaign was to nominate teachers that have greatly changed their student's lives. This month, social studies teacher.

Kelly Mullins was given the AFCA award for her honorable work in teaching her students and making a remarkable impact on their lives.

Before giving Mullins the award, Head Football Coach Matthew Lynch encouraged his players to write a letter about a teacher that has impacted their lives. He says, "All I told the kids was that we need

to nominate a teacher that you feel goes above and beyond for his or her students. And in that, you have to write a nominating letter."

Seniors Nick Benn and Eric Moreno took on that task and wrote a letter nominating Mullins for this honorable award. In a letter titled, *Great Teachers Change Lives*, they said, "Ms. Mullins asks about the students daily, and incorporates everybody in class discussions, even those who usually are reserved to themselves. She has an amazing way of teaching that gives the students the responsibility which challenges them through in-depth class discussions and personal reflection."

Benn says, "For me to praise Ms. Mullins so highly after only having her as a teacher for half a semester (due to COVID) goes to show you the impact she can have on students...It was clear to me that Ms. Mullins cares about her students, not just because it's her job, but because she has a genuine interest and caring personality. Every class day would

start off with congratulating our peers/classmates on events and activities that have gone on throughout the week, ranging from basketball games to school musicals,"

Junior McKenzie Taylor, another of Mullin's students, says, "Ms. Mullins is such an amazing teacher because she finds different ways to develop a connection between her and her students. She's such an inspiration to not only me but to everyone who has had her. The way she teaches is relatable and fun. It resonates with you."

Mullins was ecstatic saying, "It means everything when it comes from the students. They are in the classroom spending time with us, they know us the best, and that's why it's so meaningful. I was smiling so big when I found out."

Mullins is nothing but deserving of this award. By building personal connections and engaging all of her students, Mullins is a teacher that goes beyond the extra yard for her students.



Photo courtesy of Kelly Mullins

Elective Courses Effectively Adapt to Teaching Classes Remotely

By Olivia Baran

Due to COVID, this semester has been a new and challenging experience for all of us. However, Fenton has managed to provide students with various new methods of progressing through this year safely.

Kristin Bigalke, a Culinary teacher, states, "Students are missing out on those hands-on experiences right now, so myself and the other culinary teachers are doing our best to bring those experiences to them at home." Culinary classes are mainly centered around in-person instruction and feedback. This lack of instruction, due to online learning, can serve as a barrier for students to progress in their class.

"For example, food kits with ingredients for labs at home, demonstrations, cook-alongs, and videos are helpful tools during this time," Bigalke adds.

Fenton's culinary teachers are working overtime in order to provide an appropriate amount of instruction for each student. Food kits are a great way for students to advance in this course because access to various ingredients can sometimes be a hassle.

Garrett George, Fenton's Band Director, states, "While it's not always possible, I like to do something different every 15 minutes. That keeps the flow of the class and some possible engagement."

George also reveals, "I'm also a big fan of discussion rooms and sectionals in break out rooms. This has been a welcoming place for students to share their thoughts and ideas without the pressure of a large group setting."

Large group discussions can lead to a lack of participation from a vast majority of individuals. Small breakout rooms are able to accommodate the needs of the students and allow for communication.

Autos and small engines teacher Mark Drelicharz says, "Adapting to Remote Learning has been a challenge, but not something myself and the CTE department can't overcome."

He says, "Every assignment, note sheet, and lecture is fully accessible by all of my students through a special webpage. In addition, while we cannot meet in person for the labs, I spent a great deal of time filming instructional videos of the courses' traditional in-person activities for my students."

He continues, "Things have been challenging and a bit different, but I'm embracing it wholeheartedly and doing my best to provide the most authentic experience for my students."

Overall, even though COVID-19 has brought countless downfalls, students still have access to educational experiences across the board at Fenton. In true Bison form, our students and staff manage to persevere.



Photo Courtesy of Mark Drelicharz

Girls Cross Country Have Successful Season, Qualify For Sectionals

By Jenny Aguilar

Despite the challenges society is currently facing, Fenton's girls cross country team has had an impeccable season filled with victories, smiles, and of course, running.

On July 29, 2020, the Illinois High School Association announced that boys and girls cross country would both hold their 2020-2021 season with some new guidelines: practices would begin on August 10, the first meet may be held on August 24, and the season would conclude on October 24. Coach Frank Kekstadt also explains the new layout for post-season meets: "This year only five schools make it out of regionals to run at sectionals. The Sectional meet is the final meet of the year because there is no state meet in 2020." Because of the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 in the summer, the team could not hold their summer practices as usual. Nonetheless, the group continued to push through all these obstacles. Junior Ally Durkowski describes her feelings when finding out cross country would still occur this year, saying, "[Cross country] was generously given as an opportunity that many others didn't get the opportunity to receive, and knowing this encouraged me to make the most out of what was given."

Safety procedures had to be followed both during practices and meets, with face masks being required

at all times except when running, six-feet must be kept between every person, and a maximum of 50 people allowed at meets. Junior Alexa Toledo recognizes these changes but also points out some unintended positives: "Our Cross country meets have definitely been different, considering that we only race against one other school and only 14 girls on the course per race, but that allows us to be more competitive and pushes us to come out on top."

At their first meet of the season, the team took the first six spots and defeated Elgin Larkin. Junior Carolina Rosas recalls this as one of her favorite moments of the season, saying, "After a quarantined

summer with little hope for the season, we win our first race!" On October 10, the team had their final home meet and defeated last year's Upstate Eight Conference Champions, West Chicago. The following week they had "a strong victory over Streamwood with an epic finish from our top two superstar runners," according to Kekstadt. These runners, Ally Durkowski and Hailey Miller, received All-Conference honors, the first time two runners during the same season received this honor in school history.

All of these fantastic accomplishments would not have been possible without the strong team behind it. Junior Hailey Miller

describes everyone on the team as "super supportive of one another, and I'm lucky to be on a team with them. I usually play volleyball in the fall, so it's exciting for me to join a new sport with new teammates. I love working with them at practices because they push me to improve." Even with the added mental obstacles of a pandemic in the world, the team still found the motivation to do better each day. Toledo says, "I believe that our determination has allowed the team to be doing well this year. We are determined to finish this season strong. During our cross country meet, every girl pushes themselves and fights through pain to finish the race faster and better than the last."

The team placed third out of ten schools at regionals, qualifying for sectionals, the last meet of the season. Four girls achieved their season record, juniors Ally Durkowski, Hailey Miller, and seniors Lupita Honorato and Audrey Benitez. Senior Amy Czauderna achieved her lifetime personal record. Kekstadt congratulates the team, saying, "The girls ran their best race of the year and stepped up to the challenge of the IHSA regional... We stayed healthy, focused and they ran for each other."



Photo courtesy of Frank Kekstadt

Californian Wildfires Burn Over Four Million Acres

By Olivia Markowski

As California experiences warmer weather all year around, once summer time rolls around, the climate begins to get even hotter and even dryer. California has always been a hot spot for wildfires, but the numbers for these wildfires are rapidly increasing.

In August, lightning strikes alone had started around 376 fires due to California's dry climate. Starting from August 21st, 2020, these wildfires had caused more than 100,000 people to evacuate their homes, and has had fires burn more than 700,000 acres of land since August 15th. Since then, California had been only getting hotter, dryer, started hitting record temperatures, and has had dangerous bursts of wind in the beginning of September.

Through the end of August and going into September, rates of damage of land had only been rising.

Earth Observatory by NASA had recorded that, "The fires have proven devastating for people, property, and landscapes. With more than 3.1 million acres burned as of September 11, 2020, the fires have obliterated California's record for the number of acres burned in a year. Six of the top 20 largest fires in state history have occurred in 2020, according to Cal

Fire. Authorities attributed more than two dozen deaths to the fires; several towns in Oregon and California have been severely damaged; at least 4,000 homes have been destroyed; and hundreds of thousands of people faced evacuation orders."

On top of all the fires that were already burning in California, a gender reveal gone wrong had also added onto the acres of damage.

On September 5th, 2020, a young couple in Yucaipa, California had set up a "smoke-generating pyrotechnic device" on this particular labor day weekend that they would light up, and the gender of their baby could be revealed. Unfortunately, their plan had gone wrong, and it led to the pyrotechnic device going off, and sparking the ignition for a fire that had led to acres upon acres of land, starting in East Los Angeles, being burned down.

From the very beginning of this all, this fire had caused rapid damage to east Los Angeles California. Doug Specht, Senior Lecturer in Media and Communications, had shared in an article from The Conversation that as of September 14, 2020, "there are 7,718 fires raging across California, 20 people have lost their lives, and nearly 5,000 buildings have been destroyed."

By September 14th, there had already been 10,000 acres of land

burned throughout the state from this particular cause alone.

Although this very particular gender reveal party may have sparked damage in California, it is not the only cause of the wildfires. In fact, this wildfire had only burned about 10,000 acres of land out of the 2.3 acres that continue to burn today. Mistakes from people like this are the reasons as to why wildfires are recurring. It is human mistakes that cause dry conditions of land that lead natural causes starting wildfires more frequent.

The wildfires had continued to burn in California throughout the rest of the month of September, and are currently still being taken under control to this day.

The California Statewide Fire Summary by the state of California reported that as of October 20th, 2020, "Over 7,000 firefighters remain on the frontlines today of 22 wildfires across the state, 12 of which remain major incidents. Yesterday, firefighters responded to 31 new initial attack wildfires across the State... Since the beginning of the year, there have been over 8,700 wildfires that have burned well over 4.1 million acres in California. To date, the total number of fatalities statewide is 31 and more than 9,200 structures have been destroyed."



Cartoon by Jayden Golz

Remote Learning Continues, Fenton Provides Students Support

By Michelle Agyemang

This week marks the end of Fenton High School’s 3rd month in remote learning. Over this time, there have been many factors that have posed challenges to learning at home. However, there have also been opportunities put into place that can make sure that students are getting the most out of the situation that we are in.

From struggling to get the motivation to complete assignments to not having the adequate resources to attend classes from home, there has been a diverse range of problems that come with the nature of learning from home.

Junior Grace Marcussen says, “I think that remote learning has been hard with time management, with balancing all the assignments we’re given.”

Fenton has seen some of the challenges, and they have implemented resources for students that are having difficulty adjusting to remote learning. One of which being, support sessions that are held in the afternoons to help students build the skills that they need to be successful in remote learning. Another opportunity that is being added to Fenton’s list of support is supervised remote learning. This is where some students can do their remote learning from inside the Fenton building. Evening tutoring is also being offered to students. From 6-9 pm, staff members are able to provide assistance to students in all areas of study. Students can learn more about support opportunities given at Fenton

by contacting their counselor. Sharing her thoughts on Fenton’s approach to remote learning, social science teacher, Ms. Kelly Torres says, “I think that Fenton has done a really good job of balancing the needs of all students in the remote learning setting... I recognize that there are still some students who are struggling because their schedule is overwhelming or underwhelming. However, I think for the majority of students, what we are doing is working the best that it can in the remote setting. For the students who are continuing to struggle, we have many supports in place and we are constantly revising, discussing, and trying new strategies to engage those students in better ways. All in all, I am happy with the remote learning plan that Fenton has adopted. Though I miss my students terribly, I understand that this is the situation we are in for the safety of all and we are making the best of it, all things considered.”

Remote learning is something new to most public schools in the country, Fenton included. Best said by Principal Jovan Lazarevic, “This is all novel. We’re doing this for the first time, so whether it’s Downers Grove, or Elmhurst, or Lincolnshire, Stevenson, New Trier, or ourselves, we’re all doing this for the first time trying to figure [remote learning] out. We all have our own issues and concerns on how to get this done, but we are constantly trying to make it the best for students.”

Seniors Start Planning for the Future, Advice for 2020 College Applications

By Jenny Aguilar

Senior year is filled with milestone events, and even with many of those experiences being changed or excluded this year because of COVID-19 one of them still remains: preparing for life after high school. Whether it be filling out college applications, enlisting in the military, or looking into apprenticeship programs, there are a multitude of ways for seniors to feel ready for the start of their adult lives.

For those choosing to attend college, Ms. Rachel Georgakis, Fenton’s college and career counselor, recommends that a student’s first step be finding the applications. The website Common App is where students can find and apply to a variety of different colleges. Many applications can also be found on a school’s website. As Georgakis says, “While it can certainly be much more nerve-wracking, starting a college application is very similar to creating a Snapchat, Instagram, or TikTok account.”

Financial aid is also available for students who qualify. The FAFSA application opened on October 1 and is now a graduation requirement at Fenton. Undocumented and transgender students who do not qualify for FAFSA can also receive financial aid through The Alternative Application, which also became available the same day as FAFSA. Through different activities, Fenton also gives out scholarships to many seniors. Students can also look into other scholarships on websites such as Scholarships.com and FinAid.com.

During Bison Time, juniors and seniors recently learned about the website Cialfo, “a college search tool available to Fenton Students that can help you search for colleges based on major, location, campus size,

and more,” according to Georgakis. Here, students can meet with college admission representatives by signing up for a virtual college visit. Many of these virtual visits are offered directly by Fenton, usually held on Mondays before and after bison time. Cialfo also provides its own virtual visits throughout the rest of the week, although students cannot skip a class for a virtual college visit.

Deadlines for applications vary from college to college, but “some common deadlines are November 1, November 15, December 1, and January 1. We always recommend students apply early action when possible as it ensures you the best chance of acceptance and being awarded scholarships.”

One significant change to these applications because of COVID-19 is that many schools have made tests optional--students are not required to submit their SAT or ACT score to be eligible to apply.

Fenton also offers various resources to students choosing to attend trade school, enlist in the military, or join the workforce after high school. Students can contact Georgakis to further learn about military options or apprenticeship programs offered in the Chicagoland area.

While applying for colleges may be a stressful time for many seniors, Georgakis gives students some essential advice: “I think the most important thing to do is get started! It can be nerve-wracking to apply to college, but you can do it, and we are here to support you! Reach out to myself and your counselor with any and all questions. I am always happy to meet with students to help them start a college application, edit an essay, complete the FAFSA, or answer any and all questions.”

Photo Op: What is your favorite Halloween candy?

By Michelle Agyemang



Tera Pabico '23
“Kit Kats or Reeses!”



Abby Niehoff '22
“Definitely Milky Ways, followed closely by Reeses!”



Marissa Warden '22
“Candy Corn.”



Emanie Kashif '22
“My favorite Halloween candy is by far starbursts!”

The Shooting of Breonna Taylor, Aftermath of Her Death

By Jenny Aguilar

On March 13, 2020, 26-year-old Breonna Taylor, an African-American woman, was shot and killed in her apartment by three white police officers in Louisville, Kentucky. What followed in the wake of this incident and other unfortunately similar situations were a series of protests across the nation with people demanding change and accountability for those African-Americans' deaths. Recently, on September 23, a verdict on Breonna Taylor's case was achieved with the grand jury indictment of one officer on three counts of wanton endangerment. No officer was directly charged with the murder of Breonna Taylor.

On the night of March 13, Officers Brett Hankinson, Jonathan Mattingly, and Miles Cosgrove were investigating a possible drug operation involving Taylor's apartment. The officers had received a "no-knock" warrant, allowing them to enter the apartment unannounced legally. Taylor was sleeping with her boyfriend Kenneth Walker when they heard a loud banging coming from their apartment door. The officers claim they announced their presence before forcibly entering; Walker says he doesn't recall any declaration from the police. Walker ended up shooting Officer Mattingly on the leg, causing the other two officers to fire back. During the shoot-out, Officer Hankinson fired ten shots at the glass patio door covered with blinds.

No matter race, religion, or ethnicity, this situation would be frightening for anyone. Junior Izabela Weglarz shares how she would feel in this scenario, saying, "I'd be scared. I'd try to assess the situation and see if I could solve the problem myself, then if it felt needed, I'd call the police, but it would genuinely be my last resort." Social Studies teacher Kelly Torres empathizes with how Taylor and Walker handled the situation: "I know that if I was a gun person, I might react much in the same way as Breonna Taylor and her boyfriend. It is midnight, they are asleep, and someone comes into the house... I mean, who wouldn't think that was someone breaking in?"

In response to the protests primarily organized by the Black Lives Matter movement, the Louisville, Kentucky Metro council voted to ban the use of "no-knock" warrants on June 11. On September 15, Louisville announced it would pay \$12 million to Taylor's family and pass new police reforms.

Later in the month, on September 23, the grand jury indicted Officer Hankinson on three wanton endangerment accounts. When Hankinson fired the shots through the glass door, they went towards the neighbor's home, endangering a pregnant woman, her husband, and their five-year-old child. Three months prior, Louisville police fired Hankinson. Mattingly and Cosgrove were both placed on administrative

leave since the incident took place. No charges were placed for Taylor's murder.

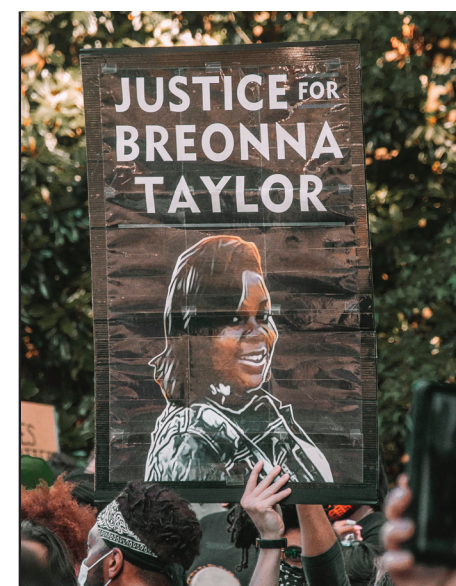
The streets flooded with protests of angry supporters from the verdict. A day before, the mayor of Louisville placed a curfew from 9 pm to 6:30 am and declared a state of emergency, anticipating anger from protesters. Weglarz describes her initial reaction to the verdict, saying, "I was genuinely so upset because I know that if it were a white person in Breonna's shoes, then the situation would've been held much differently, and they probably wouldn't even be dead."

Following the verdict, Louisville Police released an audio recording of the grand jury discussing the charges against the officers and an internal report to the public. In an NPR interview, reporter Eleanor Klibanoff explains that "this no-knock warrant is sort of the central question in this investigation and throughout this case." According to Klibanoff, the FBI is looking into how the warrant was obtained, and "there's also an internal Louisville police investigation to see if they violated internal agency policy."

Breonna Taylor's murder is one of the many examples of the systemic racism that plagues not only law enforcement but the nation as a whole. As Torres says, "Obviously, this is an extremely complicated and difficult case to examine. However, as I look at all of the details of the case, there is one glaring issue that really

seems to be at the core of this case, and others like it--and that is that there is clear and systemic racism embedded in our criminal justice system. From the start of events of the evening, the police department response, and the results of the grand jury, the racism in the system is undoubtedly clear."

Despite the disappointing outcome in Breonna Taylor's case, many citizens are hopeful for a change. As Weglarz puts it, "If they can honestly say they would treat a situation the same way regardless of the factors that the victim can't change, that is when we will know that they've done better. It must begin somewhere, and the sooner the better because this behavior will not be tolerated."



Stock photo. Unsplash.com

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

JOIN THE BISON LINK CREW IN SHOWING OFF YOUR HALLOWEEN SPIRIT!

FOLLOW @BISONLINKCREW

AND TAG US IN YOUR PICTURE AND WE'LL REPOST YOUR PHOTO.
THE PICTURE WITH THE MOST LIKES WILL

WIN A \$25 TARGET GIFT CARD

DON'T HAVE AN INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT?
EMAIL YOUR PHOTO TO BRAY@FENTON100.ORG OR MCDUGALE@FENTON100.ORG

INSTAGRAM CONTEST
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Fenton VOTES for President!

During the week of October 19 to October 23, a poll was sent out to the student body at Fenton. Out of 1441 students at Fenton, 734 participated in the poll. Below are the results.

Who would you vote for as president?

