

# The



# Signal

The Official Newspaper of Fenton High School

Friday, December 7, 2018

## Boys' Soccer Makes History in Exceptional Season

by Natalie Hernandez

It is no secret that the Fenton's Varsity boys' soccer team had an extremely successful season this year from getting 2nd in their Conference, to Regional Champions and to finally being Sectional Champions. Even though they did not qualify for State, the team's last game was one to watch. From the very beginning until the final whistle blew the team gave it their all and never wavered in their determination. Watching them play gives anyone the sense that they have a strong dynamic and dedication to each other and the game.

When asked about their strong dynamic senior Javier Cabral said, "I think everyone getting along was what contributed the most. Everyone knew their teammates' strengths and weaknesses."

From having won two Championship titles one would



think that they had a constant uphill season, but as you know life is filled with peaks and valleys.

That is exactly what the team endured since according to Assistant Coach Herrera, "What surprised me about this season was the ups and downs we had during the season. At

the beginning of the season, we did not have the best start when it came to games. We started by losing 4 games, which was not good for the morale of the players and also for us the coaches. During this time there were some players that stepped up and it really brought the team closer. As

coaches that was amazing to see and it was the turning point of the season. After that, we set a goal to win the following games to arrive at senior night with a winning record, and we did. We won our next five games and continue with the winning record all the way through being SECTIONAL CHAMPS!"

All good things have to come to an end and for several seniors this is the case, but for the underclassmen they still have a chance to perform better next year. Following a team that turned the tables and won two titles will seem intimidating and difficult, but coaches believe that this will actually fuel next year's team to do better.

"I hope the sectional title pushes the upcoming class. We made history! It lets them know that dedication and hard work pays off. Surely this will push them to go further next season" said Coach Herrera.

## Fenton Prepares to Start 'Working' on New Musical

By Amber Azim

Get ready for a new type of musical to hit the Fenton stage! This year's musical is *Working* written by Nina Faso and Stephen Schwartz. This musical is based on a series of interviews about people and their jobs. This musical is not the type of musical that everyone thinks they know.

This musical isn't just one story, this musical focuses on different people and their stories and experiences, "It's a very intimate experience for the audience and the actors," says Director Dr. George Mussman.

This musical will be performed in the "round," which means that the audience will be a part of the performance by sitting closely to the performers and being seated around the stage.

"We always look to try to give students different experiences as they go through the program, so they're not doing the same show every year," says Dr. Mussman.

Doing a show like *Working* allows students to learn the different types of theater. *Working* is about individuals telling their story, instead of being a love story like most musicals.

"Students that have been here and it's their fourth year have done three shows that are kind of that traditional audience-show relationship," says Dr. Mussman, "and so now they will have this opportunity to do one that is not traditional and it will really be a great experience."

This musical is also a great opportunity for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors because this may be the only time they will do a musical in the "round" at Fenton. Another fun aspect to this musical is the music styles. Since this

story is about different individuals, different genres of music will be performed such as hip-hop, traditional American musical style, and country. With more genres of music that will be used, more students can have an opportunity to be a part of the performance and do something that they prefer.

According to Dr. Mussman, the audience should be expecting something different. It has been a long time since Fenton did a production in the "round." It has been 20 years since the last musical in the "round" and 10 years for the last Fall play in the "round."

"They'll feel much more connected to the actors," says Dr. Mussman, "part of that is the way we're setting it up, in terms of being in the round, but part of that is the musical itself. That's what it's built to be, it's built to be about making connections, so the audience will probably be surprised by that because it's not something that is typical for a musical experience."

Auditions for *Working* will be on December 17 and December 18 after school at 3:30, students can come to either day. This musical offers lots of opportunities for all students, especially those who do not sing. There are parts for singing, dancing, and acting. There is something for everyone. Before Spring Break, rehearsals are two days a week, after break rehearsals are everyday until the performances in April. Anyone who is interested in auditioning can join the Google Classroom, the class code is fqvg36w. Information about auditions and preparation will be on Classroom.

The last time Fenton performed a musical like this was 20 years ago, so make sure to audition or come watch because it might be another 20 years until Fenton performs another musical like this!



# By Shifting Mindset, Eliminate Cheating

by Malien Tingpalpong

Education is perceived by students depending on a variety of factors such as their parents' educational background, their prospective educational opportunities, and their goals or ambitions. From a young age, school has inflicted a certain set of rules students follow such as listen to the teacher, raise your hand when you have a question, or do not cheat off of others' assignments or tests. But as time has passed, education has become more about an A on a report card rather than cultivating deep curiosity or understanding for a subject.

Because of increased college admissions competition, pressure from teachers and parents, and most frequently, self-induced pressure, it is undeniable most students will do whatever it takes to receive an A, especially with exam season around the corner. Some students resort to seeking help from a tutor, purchasing prep books for standardized testing and AP classes, or asking for extra assistance from their teacher. Though, others choose to take the path of least resistance that has the largest consequence. These students believe cheating is an acceptable alternative.

Unfortunately, cheating in high school has become commonplace. Math teacher Clint

Porter described that cheating is "...rampant in some classes. But you can ask any high school student in any school if students cheat. I'm sure the answer will be yes."

Junior Adam Kashif states, "Cheating in school seems like a norm. It can be seen all throughout the lunchroom by just having the eye look out for it. People take advantage of resources instead of doing their own work."

Cheating has become more frequent as seen in a June 2017 study published on Plagiarism.org which reports 59% of students admit to cheating.

The internet plays a huge role in how students learn. In schools across the country, students rely on technology to complete their assignments, but technology has also allowed cheating a platform to occur and become easier. One in three students admit to using the internet to plagiarize an assignment. They put effort into tricking the system, rather than learn the content in depth.

Freshman Jenny Aguilar comments on how the internet exacerbates cheating saying, "As for me, I don't really see cheating in the process while taking tests and quizzes, mostly because I'm focused on my own work. But afterward, people comment on how they used their phones or Apple Watches to cheat."

As for reasons why students cheat, multiple factors can be attributed to this problem.

Aguilar continues explaining her take on cheating stating, "As for why students cheat, I think it is either because they care too much or too little. Some students want to keep their grades up for a greater chance of getting into their dream college... They don't want to put in the extra effort of studying, so they just cheat. I've heard people say that it doesn't matter how they know the answers, as long as they can find it then they are prepared for the real world since you probably won't have tests."

To solve this problem a mindset change is required. Most colleges will suspend or expel students caught cheating or plagiarizing. In the long run, learning to depend on other means of completing tests, homework, or projects only sets students back. Students fail to recognize the long term consequences, as long as they see no punishment. Some teachers are finding ways to combat the growing cheating epidemic.

In a new grading system, homework points would be worth nothing when calculating a cumulative grade, while quizzes and test grades would make up the entire grade. It would provide an incentive complete work in order to learn the necessary information, and hopefully spark some curiosity about subjects.

## Did you vote? Why or why not?

By Agata Kukielko



Sammen Naseer (2019): "I feel like I was finally able to represent my voice. I feel like I made an impact."



Adam Gebala (2019): "I really did want to cast my vote, but unfortunately I wasn't able to make it on the day. Next time, I'll make sure to make it, and I encourage everyone to do the same."



Emily Rhodes (2019): "If you can vote, I believe you should; we are the future, and the only ones able to change it."



Monika Nevarez (2019): "I voted because I believe our generation has lacked incentive in the past to voice our opinion. I want to try and make a change, one vote at a time."

# Students Excel in Shakespeare Competition

by Milijana Vasilic

Fenton's Shakespeare Slam group consisting of Hailey Zeis, Rina Focht, Belem Oseguera, Danielle Smith, Jessica Jalowiec, Nicole Thomasy, and Jordan Blanche, have advanced to the final Bout which will take place December 10th at the Chicago Shakespeare's new theatrical venue, The Yard.

When asked, team coach Mike Mitchell says that he thought creating a team was a great idea when fellow English teacher Patrick Escobedo approached him with the idea about three years ago, since then Fenton's team has advanced to the finals twice. Mitchell says he admires the program's lack of "competitiveness" and increase in the schools supporting one another.

He says, "The finals are always a good thing to look forward to, the team gets to perform in front of a larger audience than usual, and sometimes even receive feedback from actual professional actors."

Senior Rina Focht says she thinks the team has a, "really good dynamic together, we work hard and love what we do."



Photo courtesy of Patrick Escobedo



# High Voter Turnout for Mid-term Elections Makes History

By Belem Oseguera

As November 6th approached, excitement built around the 2018 Midterm Elections and for a good reason. The Midterm Elections presented many diverse candidates with important platforms that raised questions as to what the final results would be. With the countless controversies following the 2016 election, this year's mid-term elections would determine what the final half of Trump's administration would look like. In the end, the results left just as much coverage for the media as the events leading up to it, making this election one of the few most memorable midterms in history.

While it is not news that there is a lack of representation for women and other minority groups in the government, it was surprising to, in turn, see so many of them being represented in the midterms. The news stories following the outcome of the elections included headlines covering the historic moments of the first black woman, Muslim, Native American, bisexual, homosexual, and Latino candidates who won office. The wave of "first" candidates in this election is a depiction of America's desire to be represented by people who they can actually see themselves in.

AP Government and Politics teacher, Andrea Wysopal, says that the results show "a move forward in this country and more open-mindedness. It also represents a larger amount of the population participating...I think it's great that people are getting out there to vote and elect people who they feel can truly reflect what they want and need."

Another major moment that caused these midterms to be memorable was the "wave of blue." For the first time, since 2010, the House of Representatives flipped from red to blue (from Republican to Democrat). While this was a victory celebrated by the Democratic side, the long-term effects of such results aren't

very promising. With a Republican in the President's seat and a Democratic House, policymaking is bound to face a gridlock. For there to be any new legislation passed Trump will have to win-over the Democrats. With this flip in the House of Representatives, Democrats now have subpoena power, or also known as witness summons.

While the results don't show a promising outlook for future legislation, it does show a great amount of participation from citizens. In an article from CBS, an analysis of the midterm turnout showed that "an estimated 113 million people participated in the 2018 midterm elections, making this the first midterm in history to exceed over 100 million votes, with 49 percent of eligible voters participating in the election." While there are many reasons for this great voter turnout, one major reason is due to the controversies since the 2016 Presidential Election. More and more people are taking action to see a change in the government in order to see representation of their beliefs.

Karen Balderrama, a senior, believes that "people were able to see the negative effects that come with not voting and not taking your civic responsibilities seriously."

The 2018 midterms were definitely a very exciting event. The turnout leaves the nation with hopeful expectations for voter participation in the next elections.

Ms. Wysopal hopes that all the people who turned out to vote, young and old, can continue to be a trend.

"I hope that people become more likely to vote in elections, even if there isn't as much 'controversy' or 'excitement' around it," says Ms. Wysopal.

One major thing that can be taken away from these midterms is that our voices do count and the best we can do for our nation is to continue to participate as much as we can.

## Acc. English 2 Students Create Narrative Podcasts

By Malien Tingpalpong

Recently, Accelerated English 2 classes finished the nonfiction book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, which depicts the story of how an African American woman's cells affected scientific discoveries beyond her own knowledge. It discusses the moral implications of informed consent in medical procedures, as well as the history of ethical and unethical medical practice towards marginalized groups.

To emphasize the lessons taught by the book, students are to make historical narrative projects in the form of a podcast. Their goal is to describe a historical or current event or issue in a broader scope and hopefully convey a deeper meaning behind their research and interviews.

In previous years, the historical narrative project was cultivated in the form of a speech; however through this new format, students are able to gain skills in editing, sound mixing, as well

as speaking. These students are using recording devices such as their Chromebooks, cell phones, or personal computers to put together their podcasts.

Acc. English 2 sophomore, Jason Garcia, is researching how the First Amendment would apply to forms of hate crime, such as a Neo-Nazi march in Skokie in the 1970s. His goal is to explore "whether or not the people participating in the march had their speech protected by the first amendment."

Another sophomore student, Cynthia Ibarra, expounds upon other topics students are researching for their projects saying, "Some people are doing their projects about immigration as a whole and how it's affected them and their family. Others are doing them about school and grades."

Ibarra's topic is about "what diabetes is and the different types of diabetes, along with an interview with my dad who has diabetes and how he lives with it."

## Green St. Grille: One of the Best Around?

By Erick Lopez

**The Spot:** Located at the heart of Bensenville, the Green St. Grille is a casual restaurant perfect for lunch or dinner. Recently built in 2016, the restaurant has been a great hit for locals and travelers alike. A walk across the Green St. will take you to the Bensenville Village Hall and its surrounding park and beautiful downtown area. The restaurant features a modern yet simplistic design with an outdoor patio for dining in warmer weather. On the interior, warm lighting and sleek wooden tabletops make an inviting and hipster presence that screams modernity. With the bar on the left and old-style pictures along the wall, the Green St. Grille gives off a hipster vibe. Overall, the restaurant is located in a great spot that is lively and active during the summer and it is a casual spot for dining. **Rating: 4/5 stars**

**The Food:** Green St. Grille features a two-page menu that gives a variety of alcoholic beverages and alcohol-free drinks on one side and a relatively short list of food items on the other. The restaurant features a variety of different food styles, including Greek, Hispanic, French, and Italian foods. Although the food items are a bit pricey, the abundance of food on the plate somewhat makes up for it. After trying the Loaded Nachos, I was pleasantly surprised at the large quantity of food on a small snack-sized plate. The nachos had a variety of vegetables, chili, and chicken that proved a delicious snack.

The restaurant provides just enough items on the menu to create the perfect feeling while reading through the menu: not too disorienting and not disappointing. With the use of modern plating styles, the plating was appealing to the eye. Overall, although the food is pricey, the deliciousness and abundance somewhat make up for the extra spend, though that's for customers to determine on their own. I wish there were some more dessert options on the menu rather than simply 4 choices. **Rating: 4/5 stars**

**The Experience:** Walking into Green St. Grille, I'm provided with a warm welcome and am seated quickly. Although I came at a slow time, my order was taken quickly and cooked within a relatively short amount of time. The waiter was nice and the overall service was quick, painless, and pleasant. Green St. Grille also features a number of different events around the week, including happy hour from 4-6pm Mondays through Fridays, board game nights, trivia nights, and catering. **Rating: 4/5 stars**

**Conclusion:** With an overall rating of 4 stars, Green St. Grille is a great restaurant. The place, food, and experience make a spot for a casual dinner, a night out with friends, or a quick lunch while on the run. With a little extra cash in hand, the restaurant goes a long way to provide a fun and casual experience for any age.



Photo by Erick Lopez



Cartoon by Jesus Amador



# Ruth Kirkwood Becomes First XC Girl to go to State in Years

By Ceci Flores

For the first time in a few years, the Fenton Girls' Cross Country team had a runner who qualified for state. Ruth Kirkwood, a senior on varsity, did a fantastic job at the Sectionals meet that Fenton hosted on October 27th and her excellent time scored her a place in the state race at Peoria, Illinois.

Ruth has been running cross country for three years, and this year was her last shot at making it to state in her high school career. By making it to state, her teammates were so proud of her, some whom have been with her all four years.

Amy Czauderna, a sophomore on this year's Varsity 7 lineup, says that "the state race was unlike any other meet, you could hear all of the positive energy and you could tell that Ruth definitely felt it too. She did an amazing job. I'm so proud of her and everything that she's done."

However, it's not just her teammates that are happy and proud of Ruth. Coach Kekstadt, the girls' cross country and track and field coach, is not just proud of Ruth's performance at state, but also of her performance throughout the season.

"For most races she was

our number one placer. She had her lifetime [personal record] at Conference, which is outstanding."

Coach Kekstadt also says that "what we did as a team and as a whole, Ruth's leadership was the reason for it all."

Ruth herself says that "State was such a fun experience. It felt really good to reach my goal of going to state. I didn't think I would make it because I didn't do so well at the regional meet. When sectionals came, I didn't think I would perform well enough to qualify. I know I wouldn't have done it without the support of my coaches and teammates, so I want to thank them for pushing me through my race at sectionals."

Ruth's amazing high school experience has her leaning towards continuing her running career at the college level, but she knows for a fact she will never stop running throughout her life.



Photo courtesy by Jessica Jalowiec

## Blackhawks Fire Successful Coach Q

By Karsen Idelman

In shocking move by the Chicago Blackhawks, the organization decided to fire Head Coach Joel Quenneville earlier this year, on November 6th, 2018. Quenneville led the Hawks to three Stanley Cup victories since joining the team in 2008. He has had the second most career wins during his ten years with the Hawks, 452 to be exact.

Not only did the struggling organization fire head coach Quenneville but also assistant coaches Kevin Dineen and Ulf Samuelsson. Last season the Hawks did not make the playoffs for the first time since Quenneville started and at the time of his firing, they were 6-6-3, with five straight losses.

Coach Q's successful track record over ten years made many fans and analysts alike question the organization.

At a press conference in the Hawk's Practice Arena General Manager Stan Bowman said that "A decision like this isn't made on one game, one play, or one specific thing. It's sort of a collection of things...there were some elements to our game where they weren't where they needed to be. It's not just based off the record of the team."

In contrast at the start of the 2018-2019 season, Quenneville seemed ready to better the team. Quenneville had not led the Hawks to a postseason series win since they won the Stanley Cup in 2015. At the 11th Annual Blackhawks Convention in July during a press conference, he knew that another unsuccessful season could result in his release. While reporters grilled him and players, Jonathan Toews and assistant coach Kevin Dineen, his message remained hopeful for the upcoming season.

"When asked if the championship window is still open, Quenneville said 'absolutely.'" reported *The Daily Herald*. At the end of the press conference, Quenneville finished by saying, "We are all eager to redeem ourselves."

Sadly, he did not get to continue that goal with the Blackhawks, but as other head coaches get put on the hot seat, he is sure to be many NHL teams radar for their replacement.

Sixty-year-old Quenneville's replacement is thirty-year-old Jeremy Colliton, the youngest head coach in the NHL. Colliton spent time with players during training camp for about 18 months before stepping into the head coach position.

"The challenge is to hit the ground running," Colliton said "[What's important is] communication with everyone, as early as possible, with as many as possible, so that everyone is on the same page and we know what the plan is. We plan to win."

## Did you buy a yearbook?



The deadline to buy one is January 12th, 2019. No yearbooks will be sold after this date.

Price: \$55

Yearbooks can *only* be purchased at [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com) using a credit card, debit card, or Pay Pal account.

## Boys' XC Make Their Mark at State

By Erick Lopez

With plenty of hard work and determination, there's no surprise that Fenton's Boys' Cross Country team was able to make it to the state competition this year. For the state competition on Saturday, November 3rd, junior and varsity runner Sam Elizondo entered the state-qualifying race and achieved 66th place in state with his 16-minute time. With both cross country teams, friends, and family to support him, he was able to achieve greatly, especially as the only boy on the cross country team who qualified for the state competition.

"I was super scared and nervous before the race, especially because I was all by myself behind the line and I had none of my teammates next to me so that we can support one another. I was also nervous that I was going to let everyone down. During the race, I felt a lot of pressure and was overwhelmed going into the race because I was the only guy from Fenton there to represent the school. I also felt accomplished that I was even able to make it to the state-qualifying race," said Elizondo.

Elizondo had been on the cross country team since he was a sophomore and had gained much training and experience with each coming season. "As I was running, I ran fast-paced in the beginning, so it was a lot of hard work to start off the

race and keep up. Toward the middle and end of the race, I felt relaxed while running so much so that I was in the moment the entire time and only focusing on my pacing."

Elizondo also ran alongside Ruth Kirkwood, the state-qualifying runner on the Girls' Cross Country team, as well. Teammates and coaches were proud of Elizondo's performance on the track.

"Sam's performance at state was very good. He was able to go out and compete well with the field. We expected him to finish right around where he was and he really showed that he has a lot of talent, a lot of leadership, and has demonstrated that he is willing to put in a lot of hard work," said Boys' Cross Country coach Michael Uhl.

For future seasons, coach Uhl believes that the team will be much more inspired to work harder in order to redeem themselves in the upcoming years. "Seeing Sam go to state, especially alone, makes the guys feel a sense of wanting redemption or wanting to make up for it. I believe that they will be that much more motivated in the future in the upcoming seasons. Sam showed a good example of how hard one has to work in order to get into state," also explained coach Uhl.

Within the next seasons, coaches want more runners to be able to qualify for state and will look forward to working with new and returning runners next year.

"Overall, I feel that my time was pretty good. Although I was okay with my time, I wish I had run the race faster. I'm looking forward to next year's season to try and do better then," exclaimed Elizondo.



Photo courtesy of K. Schroeder