

The



Signal

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ALICE Training Prepares Staff for Emergency

By Karsen Idelman

In the wake of Parkland, Sandy Hook and the dozens of other horrendous school shootings of recent years, students as well as teacher, administrator and staff of schools all over the nation question their safety day in and day out. According to an article published by CNN on May 25th, 2018 there had been 23 reported school shootings where someone was hurt or killed. That was 21 weeks into the year, so the United States averaged one school shooting per week.

Fenton, acting proactively rather than reactively, conducted ALICE training with teachers, administrators, and board members prior to the start of school this year. ALICE is an acronym, standing for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. It's a program to prepare and more proactively handle threats of an aggressive intruder or active shooter.

According to the ALICE Training Institute Website, alicetraining.com, the founder, Greg Crane was inspired after the tragic events of the Columbine Shooting, which conspired almost 20 years ago. Crane was motivated to create to ALICE program to keep his wife's elementary school, where she was principal safe in the event of an active shooter.

Principal Jovan Lazarevic sees it "as an opportunity for students and teachers to be more proactive in the event of an active shooter. Now rather than, get in the corner and be quiet it's I can barricade the door, or run if it's in the opposite direction. This just gives those at Fenton the tools to take control of the situation more."

Officer Matt Nelson feels it was necessary for the ALICE Training to have been done. He says, "It's necessary Fenton teachers are aware how to handle an active shooter threat if Fenton ever encounters such an incident."

Lazarevic knew that once the Class of 2018 came to him after the Parkland shooting the ALICE Training needed to be done. "We were already considering it as a team, but just really pushed us to the next phase," he said.

By conducting the training the teachers, staff, administrators and board members who received it are on the cutting edge of safety and tactics.

"This is something that is cutting edge in safety and security, giving the teacher that autonomy. So, we definitely wanted to bring that into the building as well. And, yes we are a school, but we want to remain cutting edge on anything that occurs in this area," Lazarevic added.

Teacher Patrick Escobedo, who took part in the training, included, "The ALICE Training was powerful and completely eye opening. The entire staff was moved by the experience and empowered to take action to protect our students in the event of a mass shooting."

Lazarevic and Nelson hope that moving forward the ALICE Training will better Fenton in its readiness for an active shooter.

"By all staff members completing the ALICE training, they will be better educated on interpreting threats and reacting if an active shooter event occurs at our school The goal of the training is to give teachers tools to keep Fenton students safe." Nelson said.

Lazarevic continued, "The ALICE Training gives the teachers autonomy, and the initiative and tools to be more confident, opposed to the standard, 'Oh I'm just going to hide and shut the lights off' This hopefully gives the teachers have that ability to make decisions for the kids as well. The ultimate outcome is that or building and our parents and our staff feel safer, at least with that opportunity."

Although this may seem like a somber subject, the ALICE Training teaches, motivates and puts those affected in control. Escobedo continued, "As a teacher and father, I found myself scared and saddened that this has become part of the reality for our kids at school today, but I am grateful to the officers and trainers who took time out of their schedules to enable us with the knowledge and tools to make a difference during that kind of event. It's definitely the kind of experience I am glad I went through, even as I hope I never have to use it."

Lazarevic ended on "If we were all a little nicer to each other, these things might not happen, so I would much rather do more training in the Social Emotional Learning side, but this is a necessity now."

Fenton Students Take to the Stage this Fall

By Steven Frausto

Fenton High School drama chose to present "Through the Wrong End of the Telescope" and "She Kills Monsters" for their fall theatrical shows.

"Through the Wrong End of the Telescope" or "the freshman play, was performed at the Fenton Auditorium September 13 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Mike Mitchell, theater director and English teacher, said that the play is "a compilation of different stories by Dr. Seuss, his fans, and poems about him."

The play has over 20 people involved whether it be as performer or stage crew. Each

performer had about 15-20 hours to rehearsals before the performance. The performers have basic clothing, but the clothing will be in "funky colors," which is a reference to how the colors in Dr. Seuss books are.

Mitchell's favorite part was while preparing the play is "when students try new things and they achieve them."

The performers also benefit as well, from teamwork to the satisfaction of entertaining.

While the freshman play is preparing, the fall play "She Kills Monsters" is also preparing as well. "She Kills Monsters" tells the story about Agnes Evans who is leaving her childhood house after the death of her

sister, Tilly. When Agnes finds Tilly's Dungeon and Dragons notebook, she goes through a journey of discovery and action packed adventure in an imaginary world that was once Tilly's refuge.

The play is performing at Fenton auditorium, October 25-27 from 7:00pm-9:00pm. This play is larger than the freshman play as it has over 60 people involved.

Each performer has 6 and a half weeks to rehearsal before the performance. They do work on costume and the costume will be a fantasy-like costume. Mitchell also say "There will be fighting, dancing scenes," which honestly I want to see during the play.

The genre for "She Kill Monsters" is an action and dramedy (drama & comedy). So if anyone is an action or dramedy enthusiast. I highly recommend watching this, because this will be a play, you don't want to miss.



Photo by Jessica Jalowiec

Homecoming Preview: Dancing Through the Decades

Homecoming Week begins 9/25. Here is a quick preview of the themed days and activites this year!

- Monday 9/25 -Pajama Day
Everyobe’s favorite Monday of the year!
Dress to impress in your favorite P.J.s!
- Tuesday 9/25-Vine/Meme Day
Dress up as your favorite vine, or meme.
Don’t be afraid to be a little goofy!
- Wednesday 9/26-Sports Day
Show your fan spirit by wearing your
favorite team’s jersey today!
- Thursday 9/27 -Throwack Day
Today iwe are bringing it back in time!
Dress up as a Greaser from the ‘50’s or a
Hippie from the ‘70’s.
- Friday 9/28-Spirit Day
Show your Bison Pride today!

- Things to look forward to...
- PowderPuff Game
Thursday Night at 6:00PM
- Homecoming Football Game
Come out and support your Bison as they
battle Guerin Prep High School.
Junior Varsity Game starts at 5:00PM
Varsity Game starts at 7:15PM.
- Homecoming Dance
Come dressed to the nines on Saturday
Night at 7:30PM. Fenton is hosting the
Homecoming Dance. Enjoy a night with
friends throwing it back.

Brave’s Ally Week Kicks Off September 24th-28th

By Erick Lopez

During the week of Homecoming, September 24-28, Fenton’s BRAVE club, which celebrates and promotes the LGBT community, will be celebrating Ally week in support of the LGBT community and its allies that support it. During the week, different days will be assigned different colors of the rainbow that students can wear in support of Ally Week and LGBT members. The BRAVE club will also be selling LGBT merchandise during all lunches throughout the week. The celebration is sponsored by the GLSEN organization, a well-known organization that strives to support LGBT students in the US.

“Ally Week is dedicated to LGBT members and their allies who support the community. It’s meant for allies to give their appreciation and be vocal for the community,” says one of BRAVE’s advisors and Fenton counselor, Ms. Melissa To.

GLSEN will be spreading and hosting the week celebration in schools across the country as many schools have taken the initiative to celebrate in their own ways.

During the week, BRAVE will be selling merchandise such as decorative bracelets, buttons, and pins during all lunches all week for students to buy and display in support of their fellow LGBT members.

Also in celebration, as senior and BRAVE member Dale Perry explains, “Each day we wear a certain color of the rainbow going in order as each color represents a different meaning behind it. On Fridays, we usually wear the rainbow.”

Susan Martinez, a senior and BRAVE member who finds great importance in Ally Week, describes that “being able to take part in Ally Week is a great way to show my support and love for the community. I love being able to educate the public and help clear any confusion. That’s mainly why celebrating it is so important; not only are we showing our support but we’re also helping people understand the community better.”

Showing support, especially at Fenton, for the LGBT community is important to creating a positive and accepting social atmosphere for all.

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Interested in working with us? Contact Mrs. Jackson or a staff member!



Cartoon by Jesus Amador

Kaleidoscope Offers Students Opportunity to Publish Works

By Erick Lopez

Kaleidoscope is a student-run organization advised by English teacher Mr. Patrick Escobedo, where students produce the literary magazine that is published in the spring.

The Kaleidoscope Magazine displays student-produced pieces of literature and art, including poems, stories, essays, one-act plays, and artwork. The organization collects and critiques literature and artwork and produces and edits the magazine to display them. Kaleidoscope meets Mondays after school and Wednesdays before school at 7:30 am in room 404. Beginning this year, Kaleidoscope will also be working with Students on Stage to work together to help produce plays.

“The Kaleidoscope magazine is a great venue to celebrate all the great writing that’s going on and all the great art that’s being produced,” says Mr. Escobedo. “All of the producing, critiquing, and editing is done entirely by students.”

Kaleidoscope has a variety of positions to take on in order to help produce the magazine.

“The magazine is open to what you’re interested in for positions. You can be just a contributor, you can review the literature, or edit the magazine’s layout and writing,” explains Mr. Escobedo.

As part of the collaboration with Students on Stage, the student-run theater group that writes and performs their own plays in the winter, being on Kaleidoscope is also a great way to come up with ideas to write plays that one would want to be seen performed live.

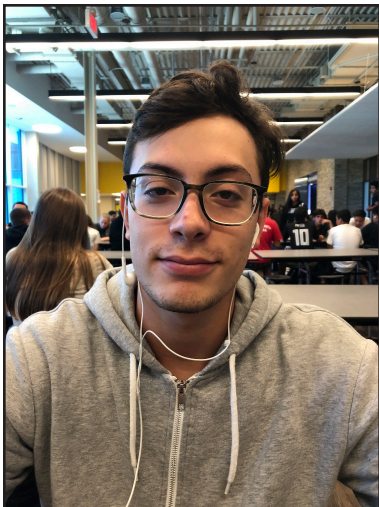
“It’s interesting to read, see, and critique different pieces of literature and artwork made by students. Being on Kaleidoscope is fun and interesting overall,” says senior Milijana Vasilic.

Mr. Escobedo highly suggests people to join Kaleidoscope as “a great chance to be in a community with great writers. If you’re interested in magazine production, it’s also a great chance to see how that works too. If you’re interested in performing or writing for Students on Stage you could also attend our meetings as well.”

For more information, please contact Mr. Escobedo or attend one of their meetings on Mondays after school or Wednesdays before school at 7:30 am in room 404.

What are you looking forward to most during homecoming week?

By Agata Kukielko



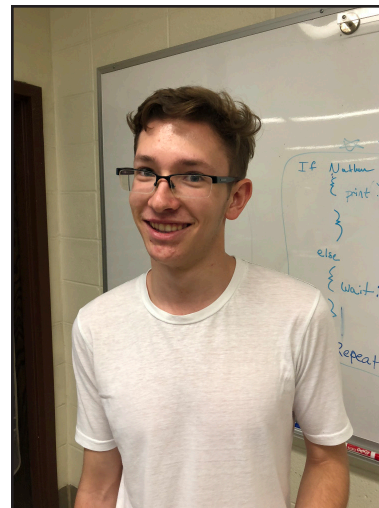
Julius Raygoza '19
“I’m finally a senior, and I can’t wait to just celebrate it all as one. The last four years have been awesome, and homecoming is always a time to look forward to”



Nazarii Mykhailenko '19
“Since it’s my first time experiencing homecoming, I can’t wait for it all! Especially the big football game, and the dance afterwards.”



Ann Sofineti '20
“I’m looking forward to picking out a funny vine/meme to dress as for meme day! It’s the little things we do, like dressing up that makes it all so fun and brings out school spirit.”



Ernest Pryszcz '20
“The spirit days are always fun, there’s nothing better than PJ day on a Monday.”



Madison Spencer (2021): “I love how the school comes together, and all of us have so much fun.”



Hailey Miller '20
“It’s my first homecoming week, so I’m excited to just see everything we do. The spirit days sound fun, and everyone loves a good dance.”

ARC Grant Grows the Fenton Print Collection

By Miliana Vasilic

Fenton’s Academic Resource Center is a major part of the school, and students are constantly using the resources available in the ARC. Librarian Steve Smidl helps students check out books, find reliable sources of research, and manages the space in general.

Recently, Fenton’s ARC received the “Back to Books” grant, a federal grant sponsored by the state of Illinois and originally by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. According to Smidl, all schools in the state, along with public libraries, can apply for the grant.

Smidl says the purpose of the grant is “to promote print resources, the idea is that any library (school or public) that receives this grant, their goal is to spend it on books that are only in print, no digital resources of anytime.”

Although the grant may be used for digital processes, the main focus is for it to be used to purchase print information. Fenton received the grant in April of this

year through Smidl’s application. He says he submitted a “whole application that asks questions from what the history of the circulation of the library is to the budget per year.”

This grant resulted in Fenton’s media center receiving near \$3,000. Smidl and the library staff have used a majority of this money already to order more print material, focusing on what students would like to read and what books are the most popular with them. Smidl uses the example of student demanded books being purchased through the infamous poetry book *Milk and Honey* (Rupi Kaur).

He ultimately says that purchasing more copies of high demand books could cause students to check out books more and be able to read the in demand book and spread the word that “they have another copy of that in the ARC!”

In all, the federal grant Fenton’s media center has received has been used to grow the collection in the library and increase students checking out print material in the ARC, all while aiming to purchase more books that students are interested in.

Senior Mentors Host First Freshman Recruitment Party

By Belem Oseguera

Summer may be over, but that doesn't mean that the fun goes with it. For the freshmen especially, Fenton High School wanted to give them a big welcome to our community. On September 30, Fenton hosted an all-freshman party during all lunches. The freshman class was able to learn about the many different clubs and activities offered while also being able to spend time in the courtyard, which had fun activities and games for them to enjoy. This is the first year Fenton hosts such an event after the principal, Mr. Jovan Lazarevic, proposed the idea at the end of the last school year. While the event itself was successful, it had to undergo lots of preparation, planning, and a few setbacks.

Originally, the plan was to have a freshman day where first-year students would spend the whole day outside of class. During this time, they would be mentored and guided through their transition from middle school to high school. However, an unforeseen change in faculty caused the planning of the freshman day to be pushed down. Eventually, senior mentors were recruited to join the committee who would help with the planning and organizing of the event,

including Karen Balderrama, Sammen Naseer, and myself, Belem Oseguera. Together, we worked with the Director of Curriculum and Instructional, Michelle Papanicolaou, and the Administrative Assistant for Curriculum & Instruction, Kathleen Rodwell. The planning committee then began brainstorming ideas on how to pull off the event when the preparation for it was very last minute.

It was clear, however, that despite all the setbacks, having this event happen was of major importance. While it was a way to "celebrate our freshmen", the event was meant to involve and introduce first-year students to Fenton. "Sometimes the freshmen will enter and feel lost," says Mr. Lazarevic. "This is their next step into pre-adulthood [and] they might need help in how to do homework, how to behave, and what activities to join." Freshman year is important and creates the infrastructure for one's next three years of high school. It is known that if freshman students are successful, then they are more prone to graduating. Fenton's goal is the academic success of all grade levels, and Mr. Lazarevic wants to make sure the transition from 8th grade to high school doesn't become an obsta-

cle for first-year students.

Change is never easy, and transitioning from middle school to high school can be difficult for a variety of reasons. However, at Fenton, we focus on creating a safe and educational environment. "What became clear to me is that it's so important that students be involved in school," says Ms. Rodwell. "It makes for a better community; kids are more committed, teachers and staff are more

committed, and it makes for better test scores." Ms. Papanicolaou and Ms. Rodwell will take part in the planning committee for next year's event; they look forward to working with the new senior mentors.

Overall, Fenton High School welcomes the class of 2022! Make sure to get involved, get good grades, and enjoy the high school experience (which can go by quickly).



Photo by Jessica Jalowiec

Hiking Club Takes On a New Year

By Karsen Idelman

Looking for a new way to get outside and connect with Nature? Join Hiking Club! Students in Hiking Club have the opportunity to hike near and far working around a flexible schedule.

Hiking Club Advisor Stephanie Downen thinks students should join Hiking Club because "it gives them opportunities to see a lot of places that they otherwise may not have the opportunity to see. The goal of Hiking Club is to engage students with nature." Downen, an avid hiker herself, just wants students to appreciate nature and get outdoors more often than they would.

Senior Jessica Jalowiec enjoys the time she gets to spend with friends outside during Hiking Club, "I do it to give me a break from my other activities, to spend time with friends, and to get outside and have fun. I've really enjoyed going to the Brookfield Zoo for the past two years. Hiking club is definitely a fun experience that anyone can enjoy. Plus, most of the time, it's free!"

While Sophomore Angel Rivera enjoys Hiking Club and the adventurous opportunities it presents him with, he says, "It also is a great club to meet new friends and get to know them better. I joined because I like going on adventures as often as I can and Hiking Club seemed like a great place to do so."

Rivera and Jalowiec discussed the trips to the Brookfield Zoo, Morton Arboretum and Starved Rock State Park; these three are just a few of the interesting places that Hiking Club visits. Whether it's just Busse Woods, a local park, or even the zoo, Hiking Club gives members the chance to create new friendships and memories.

Downen also mentioned visiting the Indiana Dunes with Hiking Club, an Urban Hike in Downtown Chicago for the winter, and restoration work with the Elmhurst Park District in one of their prairie remnants, all trips a trip that are new to Hiking Club this year.

Even if you cannot join Hiking Club now, due to a fall sport or otherwise, Downen says, "You can join after, the schedule is very flexible since we do not have regular meetings and hike instead!" To find out more, check out the announcements for the Google Classroom code, or contact Stephanie Downen.



Photo courtesy of S. Downen

Speech Team Auditions Held, Begins New Season in October

By Jenny Aguilar

Of the many activities offered at Fenton, the speech team is one that a lot of people are not too familiar with. When you first hear the title you might be wondering what exactly speech team is. Essentially, speech team is competitive speaking. Students compete in a variety of events that include both speech and acting. Speech students have one-on-one coaching sessions once or twice a week with one of the three coaches, Ms. Nicole Hendricks, Ms. Melissa Feinberg, or Mrs. Jaclyn O'Hara. Speech Team auditions were held on September 17 and 18.

In total, there are 14 events and students are allowed to compete in a maximum of two of those events. These events include radio speaking, poetry, original oratory, and more. Speech students also have the ability to compete as a duo. Throughout the season, there are nine Saturdays where students go and compete beginning in November, with regional sectionals and state competitions occurring in February.

One of the captains, sophomore Mailen Tingpalpong, says that being on the speech team has given her an outlet to talk about things of importance to her, "Speech has allowed me the opportunity to speak about things I am passionate about and share stories that deserve to be told."

Other captain, sophomore Katie Babich, describes her experience by saying "I have not only learned how to properly and confidently speak in front of large crowds, I have made so many connections with students from all grades."

It does not matter if you're a freshman or a senior willing to compete, your skill level matters the most; last year a sophomore took second place in state. "Grade doesn't matter, just your skill," says Hendricks.

Many students also join to improve their acting skills. Unlike other performing opportunities at Fenton, speech team allows students to perform every weekend. Feinberg says that speech team "is a place of regular performing" as students get to perform their speeches multiple times with the ability to change and refine things for their next performance.

Some well-known and successful people were a part of their high schools' speech teams as well, such as comedian Jaboukie Young-White, actor Steve Buscemi, and even Oprah Winfrey.

Auditions were held on September 17 and 18, but if you are still interested in joining, please contact one of the coaches.

Bison Nation Takes on Football Games, School Spirit

By Amber Azim

Say hello to Bison Nation, the new spirit club for students. Bison Nation is a club that encourages students to attend games and sport some school spirit. The club welcomes anyone and meets every two weeks on Wednesdays.

"Getting kids to games is our big push," says Mrs. Lauren Lemm. Thanks to Bison Nation, students can dress up for different themes for all home football games. Some themes for this year include Hawaiian, U.S.A, whiteout for Homecoming, and pink-out. Not only does Bison Nation have dress-up themes, but it also hosts giveaways related to the themes, such as leis for the Hawaiian football game. While you're at the games, look out for what Bison Nation has in store for students.

Bison Nation will be selling T-shirts for Homecoming and other school spirit apparel throughout the school year, as well as raffle prizes. "I think it's a great opportunity to get students involved and want to participate in school spirit. We want to make our high school experience memorable," says Bison Nation member and senior Agata Kukiello.

Since Bison Nation is a new club, it will not have themes for every sport this year but will try to provide themes and giveaways for basketball and girls' soccer. The club hopes to grow next year and in the future to have themes for all sports.

So who can join? "Anybody!" says Mrs. Lemm, "Any student is welcome to come to our meetings." Students are welcome to come and bring their ideas. Bison Nation meets about every two weeks on Wednesdays with Mrs. Lemm. If interested, email Mrs. Lemm at lemm@fenton100.org.



Photo by Payton Pugliese

'Zero explanation for the sheer popularity' of Fortnite or its 'Unoriginal Concepts'

By Bart Burzawa

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past few months, you probably have heard of the gaming craze taking consoles and computers by storm. That craze is centered around the free-to-play battle royale game called *Fortnite*. Frankly, there is zero explanation for the sheer popularity of this game. It's filled with unoriginal concepts and brings nothing new or interesting to the table.

The game takes most of its core gameplay from *H1Z1* and *PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds*, the games that made the battle royale genre popular. *PUBG* started the craze in March of last year with tons of players interested in the concept of trying to be the single survivor in a group of 99 other players. Unlike *PUBG*, *Fortnite* had more of a rocky start with its release in July of 2017 and it did not see any substantial popularity until September of the same year, because of the release of its free-to-play multiplayer known as the battle royale mode.

Even though more and more players began to pick *Fortnite* over its competitors, the game stayed relatively similar to how it began, with no real uniqueness to it. It doesn't do anything too different, rather it feels like a combination of games and concepts, in comparison to being its own product. This can be seen when looking at the *PUBG* gameplay and

core concept; the *Minecraft* creative mode and "build anything" ideology; and an artstyle seen in various games such as *Overwatch* and *Team Fortress 2*.

The other big concern is that the game seems like it is nothing more than a fad that is trying to stay relevant, rather than developing new and interesting things to keep players hooked. Their attempts to stay relevant are minimal and are done through including pop culture icons such as John Wick and Thanos and other viral trends. This is an attempt to market off other successful franchises and trends such as "dabbing" to appeal to younger audiences. These additions are nothing more than cosmetic and add no value to the gameplay itself. To be fair, to some people this may make the game more enjoyable, but this does not make the game more interesting, new or lasting. Trends don't last forever and *Fortnite* will most likely end up in the place where fidget spinner and silly bands are today.

For those that do want a game with similar gameplay but more unique and interesting elements, they can turn their attention to *the Culling*. *The Culling* is a game where 16 players are pitted against each other and encouraged to use traps and close combat in order to win the game. It is a more unique game among the battle royale genre and those looking for something challenging and fun should give this game a try.

Kiddie Camp Performance at Football Game Leaves Fans Cheering

By Cecilia Flores

The August 31st football game was a rough one as it was delayed for half an hour in the middle of the first quarter because of lightning. All fans had to stay in the fieldhouse and wait until the lightning had passed. It was getting late, and the game wouldn't end until late into the night. While some fans sat around and waited and others went home, a group of kids put some energy back into the crowd: the kids of the cheer and dance kiddie camps. The Fenton cheerleading and dance teams brought kids to perform a halftime routine for the football game, but halftime would come early

in the night as they performed in the fieldhouse while fans waited for the game to resume.

Cheerleaders and their campers took the floor and killed it! Kids of ages from 4 to 14 years old performed a routine showcasing their newly-learned skills, including jumps, stunting, and dancing. In a matter of two practices, the kids were able to pull off a routine that sparked some school spirit in the crowd.

The soon-to-be Fenton cheerleaders left the floor with big and proud smiles across their faces, knowing that this was the start of their journey to becoming Fenton

cheerleaders.

Daria Nalborczyk, a Fenton cheer coach, says "the kiddie camp performance was a great indication of the talent Fenton currently has and is a great glimpse into the talent we have coming in the new few years."

The incoming cheerleaders will certainly come in and make themselves known at Fenton. Jocelyn Ramirez, a senior captain on the varsity cheer team, says that "it was a wonderful experience for us and the kids. We had a lot of fun teaching the little ones a routine."

The Fenton dancers also taught their own campers a routine,

and dancers in large age ranges each got to showcase their new skills and show off some moves.

Lylli Rodriguez, a sophomore in the fan section, says that "The kids put a smile across my face. Their routine was awesome and it's exciting to know that they'll one day be able to make the crowd go wild again once they come to Fenton."

It is an exciting thought knowing that these kids will one day make their mark at Fenton. They will bring lots of talent to this school and will make a name for themselves.

Swing Choir to Spark up a New Year

By Erick Lopez

Shake it up! Swing Choir is back in business for the new year as old members and new come together to perform. Swing Choir is Fenton's only auditioned sing-and-dance ensemble that performs contemporary songs. Auditions that were held on August 22nd brought forth a new group consisting of 66 members. Their first concert will be held on October 14th, 2018, in the school auditorium, along with performances from other choirs as well.

"Swing Choir is a modified show choir. It's 'modified' because we don't compete and because we are much larger than most traditional show choirs, which typically have around 40 people," says Swing Choir director, Mrs. Serey Williams. "I love being a director for Swing Choir as it's an outlet for me to teach music that's more contemporary and uptempo, separate from

the more traditional music taught in class choirs."

Throughout the year, Swing Choir performs at many concerts, most notably for the Winter Assembly in December and the Spring Assembly in April.

"I think Swing Choir is fun and exciting. I've always seen their performances and was interested in auditioning for the group," says new member and senior Belem Oseguera. This year, the ensemble as one of the largest portions of seniors.

"What I love about Swing Choir is that it's very fun and energetic, and it's ensemble-oriented, so everyone is very close and upbeat!" explains senior Danielle Smith, who has been on the ensemble for all four years.

For October's concert, Swing Choir will be performing three songs, including those from movies *Zootopia* and *Sing*. Be sure to attend the concert on October 14th to catch these rocking tunes!

Fenton Football Builds Team Bonding, Ready to Bring the Heat

By Rina Focht

The Fenton football program experienced quite a few changes this year. The team is now in the Metro Suburban Red Conference and will be taking on Chicago Christian, Elmwood Park High School, Guerin Prep, Ridgewood, and St. Edwards High School. So far, the varsity team's overall record is 1-2, but their Conference record is 1-0. However, Coach Matthew Lynch believes the program is not only about playing football, but also about teaching the players to become young men.

Lynch says, "It is my philosophy as a coach to give them an experience as a team that they will

never forget for the next fifty to sixty years."

Lynch also believes that this program is something that he wants his team to "feel like they are successful and proud of what they are achieving as a group."

This is shown through the team itself. The team radiates confidence and positive vibes not only on game days but every day.

Senior quarterback Kyle Cacioppo believes the coaches have had a lot to do with that by saying that "Coach has a major impact on all of us. He gives us confidence not only in football but also in the classroom."

The bond between a coach

and a player is one of the most successful parts of the football team. From a coach's point of view, Lynch says, "There is a bond that is so indescribable, you would have to be a part of the team to know what it is truly like."

Although the team spends countless hours together during practice, a lot of the bond is created outside of games and practices. This summer, the team got to take a day trip to Wisconsin Dells as a team bonding activity. Not only did the players have fun, the coaches got to go as well! Judging by the pictures that were taken on the trip that are featured on the football team's Instagram page (@fenton.football) the coaches and the team were filled with laughter while they bonded at the water park.

Senior Fabian Calvillo described the trip as "one of the highlights of my summer."

The football team does many team bonding activities such as team dinners and hangouts after practice to keep the bond so strong. Even though Fenton changed conferences, their goals remain the same.

Sophomore Vince Eltman says, "Our goal for this season as a team is to keep working hard in practice to keep what we've got going

alive. We want the name 'Fenton football' to be in the mouths of all of the schools around us."

The name is certainly in the mouths of all of the Fenton student body, having students from all grades coming to support them at their games. One thing that has changed for the better is the bond between upper and lowerclassmen has improved greatly.

Senior captain Cesar Bermudez says, "When I was a freshman, the seniors hardly knew any of the freshmen. Now the whole program feels like one team. All four classes work together during practice, all coaches work with all of the players regardless of their grade, and we are all given equal responsibilities."

The program is hoping to continue changing for the better, not only competitively, but also as a family.

Every football game has a different theme, starting off the year with a Hawaiian Luau. Lynch says, "I wish more students would participate in the themes and activities at the games. The ones that don't are missing out on a huge part of showing Fenton spirit."

To get more information about each week's themes, follow @Bisonfhs on Twitter!



Photo by Jessica Jalowiec

The Students' Struggle to Manage Time Between Extracurriculars

By Malien Tingpalpong

Between managing the class workload, studying for various standardized tests, attending sports practices, rehearsing for school performances, having a job, taking on the responsibilities of home life, and on top of that, planning for the future beyond high school, teachers, adults, and teens themselves expect high school students to be overwhelmed with their educational and recreational activities. Still, these students maintain their lives against all odds. A problem arises when the many extracurricular activities a student is involved in conflicts with another extracurricular. It is a given that students need to learn how to communicate their own schedules with their sponsors, but how do students manage simultaneous practice times? What are the consequences of being a highly involved student? How can a student be involved in multiple activities at Fenton without missing out on another opportunity?

Fenton's specific guidelines regarding conflicting practices state that a student makes the decision of choosing between a practice and a practice. In the event of simultaneous competitions, performances, games, and practices, the competition takes precedent. The situation becomes more complicated if a competition and another competition were to occur at the same time. Fenton's activity guidelines have been put into place for 25 years, as stated by Activities

and Athletic Director, Todd Becker. Becker brings up the point that other schools in the area put guidelines into place declaring that students will have to ultimately choose between consistently conflicting activities and avoid participation in another extracurricular altogether. For example, a student choosing to be in sports that occur in the same season and have conflicting games every week may have to drop one sport in order to commit to the other.

Having the opportunity to involve themselves in a diverse assortment of clubs and sports is a privilege students at Fenton take advantage of. Fenton has just as many sports as York High School in Elmhurst, which has twice the enrollment of Fenton, as stated by Assistant Principal Eileen Roberts. Junior Ann Sofineti includes extracurriculars in her packed schedule because of her genuine interest in those events stating, "a pro of being in multiple activities is that I am always doing something. I love being busy, and my schedule is always filled with work, meetings, rehearsals, and designated practice time when I'm not at rehearsals."

Students feel passionate about the activities in which they are participating in. For the most part, when it comes to conflicting practices, meetings, or rehearsals, students manage to split their time evenly and work out conflicts with their activity sponsors. Senior Joy Bullis states,

"I usually am able to work around my practice or rehearsal times but if they both conflict, I'll usually split my time."

High school is a time for students to find what they love and learn more about themselves. Though it is a learning curve for some students to juggle several clubs and sports at once, they all do it for a reason. Whether it be to learn more about the activity, improve themselves through hard work, appease their parents, or maybe even just to put

it on a college application, students want to be involved. The answer to this overwhelming activity epidemic is unclear, and it is not necessarily a modern issue. What is absolutely certain is that time management is a skill students are expected to learn in order to function in high school and beyond. Whatever the case may be for any singular student, and however challenging it might be, managing personal priorities is a part of high school.

Volleyball To Host "Volley for a Cure" Event

By Natalie Hernandez

Come join the volleyball girls on their "Volley for a Cure" event on Tuesday, October 2nd. After two years the volleyball team will have the opportunity to host this event to raise money for breast cancer research as all proceeds will go to the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Center in Chicago. All levels will be playing against Elmwood Park.

The freshman team will be playing in the fieldhouse at 4:30 pm while JV is playing at 4:30 pm in the front gym. Varsity will play at 5:30 in the front gym and will have a split-the-pot raffle.

It is encouraged that the supporters wear pink to the games to show our unity against breast cancer. Both teams from Fenton and Elmwood Park are uniting in the cause by selling shirts for \$10. They will be available for purchase at the door if you have not previously purchased one.

Coach Kelly Torres is proud of the initiative and the excitement the girls have towards the event, "Our girls are really doing all the work, they are the ones who are selling shirts and getting donations," she says.

As a senior varsity player, Isa Lozada stated that "I love this event because we play for a great cause. So many people are fighting this disease and knowing our donations and support go out to all these strong women really makes our school come together as one. Looking into the crowd of all pink really shows how much support women all around the world are getting just from Fenton and it is truly an amazing feeling."