

The



Signal

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Bullying Issues Targeted for Change at Fenton

By Erick Lopez

According to a National Center for Education Statistics survey in 2016, more than one out of every 5 students in the United States have been bullied in their lives. Whether bullying occurs in school, online, or outside of school, it still continues to be a national problem among adolescents today. At Fenton, there have been numerous reports, particularly among lower grade levels, on the issue of "roasting," also known as "trash-talking," or the insulting of others in a ridiculing and mockingly way. As a result of the increased number of reports of students "roasting" each other, the administration has taken an extra step towards building a new campaign centralized on the idea of verbal harassment and empowering oneself to communicate more efficiently.

As reported by Mrs. Carrie Pomahac, the dean at Fenton, many of the roasting reports originate from lower-classmen, many of whom report it after feeling the roasting was taken too far.

"Our plan is to come up with a campaign to educate all

students on bullying... what to do to empower oneself to speak up and/or tell someone," said Mrs. Pomahac.

"We're trying to get back to that idea that you can communicate with your friends or with your peers without having to roast one another."

The idea of roasting may seem harmless to some, but to others who are "roasted," it may lower their self-esteem, cause sadness, or create an overall negative effect. Also among these reports, Mrs. Pomahac noticed that many of them occur on social media, particularly on Snapchat and on other platforms allowing the ability to form group chats.

"[The roasting] gets really insulting, personal, and as a result, we've had fights occur," also said Mrs. Pomahac.

With the purpose of decreasing verbal harassment and increasing effective communication among students, the administration has decided to develop a new anti-bullying campaign similar to the "Spread no Harm" campaign already in place. With the new campaign, which was developed during a meeting Thursday morning on January 18, the administration plans

that public service announcement (PSA) videos will be produced, student leaders will be formed, assemblies will take place, and a new bullying-intervention system will be developed. The PSA videos, with the help of video production class teacher Lauren Lemm, will feature students talking about their own experiences with bullying, introducing the new anti-bullying campaign, its catchphrase, and information about it. The PSAs will be shown during Bison Time for students to view.

Because many of the reports come from the Freshman class, the administration has also decided to hold a meeting sometime in February during Bison Time to discuss what students are reporting, how to deal with it, and how to improve communication with one another.

In another meeting during Bison Time on January 31st, the school will plan to form a group of student leaders from different classes, clubs, and sports to participate in enacting the new campaign. These students, according to plans made at the January 18 meeting, would wear brightly colored shirts displaying the anti-bullying campaign once a week.

"When a student wears the shirt, that's the day that all students are on alert that that student is listening, hearing, and looking for opportunities to step in and stop the bullying," said Mrs. Pomahac after the meeting.

Fenton senior Aleksandra Kulesza, a witness of some of the verbal insults that have occurred, is also advocating and helping to build the new anti-bullying campaign with the administration.

"We want student leaders who can be examples for younger students to help stop bullying, be advocates, and speak from their own experiences," said Kulesza.

"To end bullying, I hope that people learn not to treat someone lower than themselves and to respect them."

In the end, it's important that we respect others, learn from our mistakes, and be mindful of others' feelings when we decide to say something that may cause disrespect. One should do this not just to save the feelings of one, but to create a positive and safe social atmosphere here at Fenton.

Sweet Room Run by Students Teaches Business Skills

By Karsen Idelman

This year at Fenton a new program began, a mini-business for students in Mrs. Allison Skzorla and Mr. Ron Janik's social studies classes. The business was called the FHS Sweet Room. Students in that class created resumes, interviewed and then given jobs to help run the business.

This program was created to enforce career readiness at Fenton and develop life skills needed beyond high school. The students in the program feel motivated to complete their job in order to help the business run smoothly. Recently, they just completed sales for their second FHS Sweet Room

original product, banana granola bars. The students made posters, sold the product at lunches, and deliver them to those who ordered.

Advisor Janik is very proud of the students involved, "The FHS Sweet Room has given our students a sense of ownership in something they have helped create. They can learn the many steps involved in running a business and improve their teamwork skills. We are so proud of our students and all they have done already and all they will do as they find a career they love."

The students not only develop life skills, and learn how to run a business, but they gain important life and communication skills.



Photo courtesy of Allison Skzorla

Cheer, Dance Teams Reign Supreme at Conference

By Cecilia Flores

On January 15 of 2018, the bison cheerleaders and dancers have shown all other schools exactly what they are made of. Throughout the entire season, every athlete practiced and practiced until everything was perfect. Sore muscles, achy wrists, and the endless sweating did not stop these athletes from achieving their goal. All the hard work they've put in did not go unnoticed on that Monday night of conference.

Not only were stunning performances delivered from every single team, but every single team also placed at conference that night! These bison truly showed that hard work does pay off. This year's JV cheerleading team made Fenton history and are the first JV cheer team to ever place at conference. Their third place title marks only the beginning of what they'll be able to achieve. The varsity cheerleading has been making history as well. For the third year in a row, the Fenton varsity cheerleading team have been crowned MSC champions. They remain the champions of the MSC.

"If you want something really bad, you've gotta be hungry for it," said Olivia Chavez, a

freshman on varsity cheer.

These varsity cheerleaders have shown that you must not only have the desire to win, but also work as hard as you want to win. But it wasn't just the cheerleaders who were noticed that night. The entire Fenton Dance Force all made incredible achievements.

For the second year in a row, the JV Dance Force became champions at the MSC. Among one of the many JV Dance Force champions, Fabi Montoya, a freshman, says a bit about the experience.

She says, "We were nervous about the whole experience, but after performing on that floor and the crowd was cheering for us, we already knew we won just by our coach telling us how proud she was of us. We already felt like winners."

Their beautiful performance certainly deserved the cheering crowd that they received. The last team representing our Fenton Bison that performed that night was the Varsity Dance Force. They performed an incredible routine that made everyone's mouth drop. They then earned the title of MSC champions. Not only that, but this is the sixth year in a row they place first in conference.



Photo courtesy of Katherine Payton

Choir Sends Record Five Students to ILMEA State

By Kathryn Radziwonski

After a tedious audition process, Fenton choir is honored to send five talented students to ILMEA All-State. Senior Madeleine Suchach, Senior Jacob Trzeciak, Senior Uma Shivde, Junior Monica Nevarez, and Junior Danielle Smith will be heading down to Peoria, Illinois on Thursday, January 25th for two days of workshops and performance opportunities.

Additionally, Subach, Trzeciak, and Nevarez were selected for the honors choir and will perform with the top ensemble of the event.

The journey to being chosen for All-State began at the end of last school year, as any student in choir who wished to audition was given copies of the audition pieces. Each person had to prepare 3 pieces, one of which was in Latin.

Preparation began over the summer as students were able to look over the music before working with Joleen Kragt, the maternity substitute for Chorale Director Serey Williams, in the fall. Once

the school year began, the students met before and after school as well as some Saturdays in preparation for their audition, which consisted of two selections from the pieces they prepared as well as tonality and sight reading portions.

In order to be chosen for All-State, the students had to have been selected for the All-District Choral Festival which took place on November 18th. From there, the top four scorers in each voice part were selected for the All-State ensemble and the top two scorers were selected for All-State Honors ensemble.

When asked about the audition process, Subach responded, "Getting into the All-State Honors Choir has been a goal of mine since sophomore year and I am so relieved that all my hard work has paid off. The endless hours of rehearsing leads to the stressful four part audition. But once that's over, we just wait and hope our audition was enough. The relief I felt after knowing I finally did it was indescribable."



Photo courtesy of Serey Williams

No-Name Calling Week Gives BRAVE Students New Voice

By Karsen Idelman

January 15th-19th, 2018 was GLSEN's No-Name Calling Week, and Fenton's own BRAVE was proud to participate. GLSEN is a national education organization committed to creating safe environments for LGBTQ students in schools.

The week is five days to emphasize what GLSEN promotes as "kindness in action" by not just

being kind but recognizing it. BRAVE hung supportive and inspecting images all over school to spread this ideal. They also worked to collect pledges against bullying.

Junior Dale Perry reflected on what No Name Calling Week means to him,

"This is a week where we can call come together and show kindness to one another. It gives students the

opportunity to truly see how much words affect one another."

Another member of BRAVE Fatima Hernandez feels its impact is very important to the entire school community, "The impact may have been minimal when first looking at it, but I believe it pushes the issue of slur usage within the school into the light. The week has the possibility of making students aware that people

can listen to conversations in the lunchroom, in the classroom, and in the hallways; someone can always hear you speak discriminatory language within a school setting. People need to change how they talk."

BRAVE and No-Name Calling Week hopes to leave a positive impact on Fenton, its students and staff.

Speech Team Dominates a New Year and Group Interp Prepares for a New Season

By Alexa Tellez

The start of a new year, brings a rather intense atmosphere to the “speechies” of Fenton High School.

With the big Regional competition just a few weeks away, these dedicated students are putting in their all to perfect their events. While some students feel that the season gets less intense, because they are getting more and more comfortable with their pieces and competing with others, they know that there comes a time to step it up as they compete for spots on the Regional Team, as only one student is allowed to be entered per event.

The students are aware that committing extra time to their pieces is very important, since advancing to State is such a great honor, they look for any time to meet with coaches, peer coach, and receive any critiques to help perfect their performances.

While the excitement and anticipation leading up to Regionals

and State may be nerve wrecking, Senior and Captain Nicole Rybak says that, “No matter what happens during the State series, remember your accomplishments throughout the season. Whether you got over your fear of public speaking or you

consistently placed in the top 6 at tournaments, you have to see the good that came from being on this team. When you’re performing, put your entire heart into it, whether you’re giving an informational speech or making someone laugh with a

comedic duet.”
However, the excitement is not only contained to speech, but also the start of Fenton’s Group Interpretation. This year, the cast is bringing a new spin as to what they usually bring to their performance.

This year’s GI will be different for Fenton, because it will be based off of the dystopian novel, *Feed*, a story about how technology can control us and how it rises to be the center of our world. In the past, Fenton has done very “adventurous” GIs that were generally lighter and happier.

This one will definitely take a bit of a darker turn. We cannot wait to see what the season has in store for both Speech and GI, and don’t forget to wish your peers good luck as they compete at regionals on February 3rd, here at Fenton.



Photo courtesy of Nicole Hendricks

What’s Your New Years Resolution?

By Agata Kukielko



“I want to make sure to be hitting the gym 5 times a week in prep for my wedding! It’ll be here before I know it.” -Ms. Kleidorfer



“This year, I’m going to take it upon myself to be happier and make awesome memories.” -Ann Sofineti



“I think my New Year’s resolution is to not play as much videogames, even if I’m a god at fortnite” -Jacob Jarmolinski



“You know, friends are kinda important, I want to make more time for them this year” -Fabian Calvillo



“I know we both need to stop procrastinating and stay on top of the game to end junior year strong” -Mackenzie Miller, Kirby O'Donnell



“In the New Year I want to keep a postive mindset and work hard!” -Julia Kaspari

#TimesUp Movement Penetrates Hollywood Awards, Gains Local Traction with 2nd Year Organized Local Marches

By Malien Tingpalpong

A Pew Research Center study from December 28, 2017 shows that one in three women have been sexually harassed, yet 71% did not report it. A majority of cases go unseen due to a woman's fear of losing her job or dealing with disbelief of her colleagues. In response to alarming statistics like these, the #MeToo movement, founded over ten years ago by Tarana Burke in response to the growing apathy towards women, specifically women of color, was rekindled and reimagined when actress Alyssa Milano used Twitter as a catalyst for change in the face of sexual harassment and assault in Hollywood. As of late, efforts to cease the silence of assault survivors was brought to light in the form of the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund and through the power of social media. As seen on their website, the

goal of Time's Up is to, "address the systematic injustice and inequality in the workplace that have kept underrepresented groups from reaching their full potential." Along with their goal is to break the silence of systematic sexism. With that goal in mind, organizations and events such as The 2018 Golden Globes, the 2018 Women's March, and even the cover of the latest TIME Magazine have stood as a testament towards the empowerment of women. On January 7th, 2018, men and women alike dressed in black on the red carpet of the Golden Globes as a symbol of solidarity and support for the Time's Up campaign. Along with this, actresses like Emma Watson, Emma Stone, Amy Poehler, Meryl Streep, and Laura Dern brought activists from across all fields of feminism as their plus-ones to the annual award show. One guest included aforementioned Tarana Burke, who

accompanied Michelle Williams for the evening. To break the silence even further, Oprah Winfrey gave a speech addressing the significance of Time's Up. Winfrey specifically alluded to Recy Taylor, a woman who was sexually assaulted after coming home from church in the era of Jim Crow, and saying, "For too long, women have not been heard or believed if they dare speak the truth to the power of those men. But their time is up. Their time is up." In the upcoming months, the feminist movement is going to experience a surge in women running for office in local positions and Legislative seats in government, who are overwhelmingly Democrat. Some say the increase of female candidates can be accredited to President Donald Trump, who received 42% of the female votes in the 2017 Presidential Election. In total, at least 79 women are

running for governor throughout the country. Lauren Underwood, local to Illinois and advisor of Health and Human Services under the Obama administration, is going against the position of Illinois Representative Randy Hultgren. Most recently, the 2018 Women's March, a worldwide protest against administrative efforts to limit women's rights and to encourage people to get to the polls, was held a year after the first Women's March in 2017 protesting Donald Trump's presidential inauguration. This year's protest was also fueled further by the government shutdown, which was caused by disagreements in providing legal status to immigrant children who were brought illegally, or the dreamers. Overall, the march brought over 2.6 million people to stand against hatred and in support of equality.



Start Moving, Join the Move More Challenge!

By Milijana Vasilic

It's that time of the year! The Move More Challenge is returning to Fenton. The challenge is intended for both staff members and students to participate in. Mrs. Jennifer Suwanski, PE teacher and leader of the challenge, believes it is an "excellent way to achieve personal fitness goals, meet new people, and have fun!" When reflecting on her high school experience, both Suwanski and Rebecca Norris, another staff participant in the challenge, said they wished their high schools had a similar program. As for Fenton, the Move More Challenge was created four years ago as a way for the staff to reach their fitness goals for the New Year, but this is the second year allowing students to be involved as well. The challenge is beneficial to both staff and students according to Norris, because "The students and staff are working together to become more healthy and to move more. It's awesome to come together and work to achieve a final goal." Not only does the Challenge promote wellness and being fit, it also offers prizes! Participants gain points by working out in the fitness center, or attending group workouts led by Suwanski, Ms .Kelly Mullins, and even Fenton's principal, Mr. Jovan

Lazarevic. One part of the program includes a new Wellness Walking Club, which is being headed up by health teacher Jerry Vondruska. Students can meet at door 1 during all lunch periods and groups will spend approximately 20 minutes or half the period walking the hall. This added exercise during the day can really add up. Three laps around the outer halls of the school adds up to about one mile! Science teacher Stephanie Downen is "really excited to see the efforts to increase student involvement in the program this year." Previously staff have participated in a similar program over the past several years. "I hope we start seeing a lot of kids walking at lunch instead of spending time on their phones." English teacher Stephanie Jackson said, "It's amazing how much time we expect kids to sit throughout the day. As a teacher, I get to move around a bit more, and I am even shocked at how much stationary time I can have throughout the day." "When I get up and move around, I feel a lot better and feel more mentally alert." If interested join the Google Classroom by using the code: b4w5rnv, and get ready to take on the challenge!

Bison Boys' Swimming Works Toward Individual, Team Goals

By Gabby Molinaro

Michael Phelps once said, "If I didn't swim my best, I'd think about it at school, at dinner, with my friends. It would drive me crazy."

Swimming is a challenging sport. It takes work and constant practice and the skill of not breathing for long amounts of time. Many think of swimming and imagine themselves splashing around in the pool, but swimming competitively is much more than treading water in the deep end. There is constant competition between peers and other teams and the need to self improve is eminent.

Our school's team does exactly what Michael Phelps said, they are in a mindset to swim. They have it on their minds at all times, because if they didn't they wouldn't have their 4-2, dual meet, win-loss record.

When asked to describe the relationship between the team members and their coaches, sophomore Jason Gasior described that the bond the boys are developing is going along "swimmingly."

And when asked what his favorite part of the season has been so far, Gasior replied with "getting under 6 minutes in the 500!"

While talking to junior Matthew McElroy he told me that what encourages him to keep pushing himself to be the best swimmer he can be is his "family, friends, and the thought of accomplishing new things."

Even though there aren't any senior swimmers on the team, there is an important member that helps make the team whole, senior Margaret Bush.

She has been managing the swim team for the boys throughout her four years at Fenton and was happy to share her experience working with such an interesting group of young men by stating, "It's kind of like getting a dose of coaching the team, but it's fun too! A bonus is that you make a lot of friends while you're doing it!"

While interviewing sophomore Maciej Sporna, he explained why he joined the team, saying, " I joined swim because my friends encouraged me to

do so. They thought that I could bring something to the table, and I think I did a good job of supplying the talent, just kidding."

He may think he is "just kidding", but Sporna has had an amazing high school career so far, being on the varsity team since freshman year, beating times and other swimmers left and right.

When asked what he thinks about after finishing a race, Sporna replies with wisdom that all swimmers should keep with them, exclaiming, "Once I finish the race and if I do not get first, I compare myself to the other swimmers. If I do get first place, I look at my time and ask myself *can I do better?*"



Photo by Gabby Molinaro

Choir Students Visit Historic Oriental Theatre for Wicked Field Trip, Are Astonished, 'Overwhelmed with Emotion'



Photo by Carolynn Boatfield

By Carolynn Boatfield

Recently, Fenton's choir spent a day in downtown in the Windy City experiencing a plethora of theatrical action at the Oriental Theatre. The lucky FHS choir students boarded busses and rode in anticipation to see *Wicked*, a musical opportunity most thespians would be floored to have.

After a talkative bus ride, students arrived downtown with some time to spare, and did some exploring. This, of course, after grabbing a bite to eat! Students opted to investigate the myriad of different nooks in the underground system in their free time, noting the beautiful hallway displays of stained glass, and stopping by for a few pre-show selfies.

As the show-time approached, FHS students filed into the venue, instantly being astonished by the intricacies of the theatre's craftsmanship and architectural design. The theatre (aside from its gorgeous design) also had ample allowance for a multitude of audience members, and as students finished flipping through playbills, the lights began to dim.

Colors, costumes, and a full orchestra demanded the room as the first act waxed and waned emotions across the stage. Scores such as "Popular" and "One Short Day" were mouth by audience members familiar with the show, and as "Defying Gravity" brought the first act to a close, tears were seen throughout the audience evoked by a talented ensemble.

The second act brought with it just as much enjoyment and closed with an unexpected tidal wave of emotions. A show which resonated with an audience of hundreds had finished, bows had been completed, and the curtain had been drawn.

FHS students filed out into the lobby, and the growing sound of conversational buzz filled the room. The musical, as intended, had been thoroughly enjoyed by both FHS audience members and the entire theatre. Students raved to each other about which scenes tears were shed, which scenes they stifled laughter from, and which scenes evoked an overwhelming amount of emotions.

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Want to join us? Meetings Wednesdays after school in room 309.

Wrestling Team Travels to California, Competes at Prestigious Tournament, Has Invaluable Experience

By Julia Gainski

Over winter break, the wrestling team had the opportunity to travel to Clovis, California and take part in the Doc Buchanan Invitational at Clovis High School where they competed against 109 other schools.

The wrestlers on this trip were: Jeremy Piskorz, Danny Ramirez, Brandon Koskiewicz, Jose Lopez, Carlos Mercado, Danny Sotelo, Miguel Gonzalez, Ramiro Bracamontes, Kevin Guevara, Anthony Park, Dylan Butts, Jack Butts, Ricky Saucedo, Mateo Valadez, Isaiah Brock, and Alejandro Trevino.

The prestigious tournament was from January 5 to 6, 2018. The wrestlers were fortunate enough to arrive on January 3rd as they explored San Francisco for a few days and ran four miles on the Golden Gate Bridge. Additionally, they practiced at Fresno State University where they received powerful pointers from the head wrestling coach, Troy Steiner.

After the beneficial practice, they hiked at Sequoia National Park and climbed the Big Baldy Mountain. On January 4th, the team watched the exciting wrestling dual meet between Cal Poly and Fresno State. Out of the 109 teams in the Doc Buchanan Invitational, five were ranked in the top 25 best teams in the U.S. and represented 13 different states and Canada.

Alongside this, the tournament held around fifty nationally ranked wrestlers.

Head coach, Hastings recounts, "the experiences were absolutely amazing in terms of being able to visit places and seeing some of the best competition in the country."

Fenton ended up finishing 46th out of the total 110 teams. Dylan Butts won two matches and lost a close match to the the third place finisher who weighed 182 pounds. Brandon Koskiewicz also successfully won two matches. Additionally, congratulations to Jack Butts, Isaiah Brock, and Jeremy Piskorz for each winning a match.

The trip closed out with a memorable time spent at Yosemite National Park. The boys hiked over seven miles round trip to Nevada Falls, with an elevation of 2,000 feet and finished off with a two hour hike to Mirror Lake.

Senior, Brandon Koskiewicz recounts his thoughts on the trip and states, "It was a fun getaway trip from home and spending time with the team was a blast. Overall I think the team did well in one of the toughest tournaments in the country."



Photo courtesy of Brian Hastings



Photo courtesy of Brian Hastings

Varsity Boys Basketball Touts Diverse Age Range

By Belem Oseguera

The boy's varsity basketball team has been working hard and playing hard as this new year begins. Coach Timothy O'Connell describes the team as a "very hardworking and dedicated group of guys who are improving every day." This year's team is composed of one freshman, five sophomores, two juniors, and two seniors. Although the team has been known to include different grade levels on the team, this year it is more diverse.

Coach Chaz Taft says that this can be an advantage at times but also a disadvantage. He believes that what differentiates the games the team wins versus the games they lose is the experience. When the freshman and sophomores go against the senior varsity players on opposing teams it comes down to who has the most experience. Because of this, Coach Taft mentions that the team works hard to keep improving every day. "It's not how you start, it's how you finish," says Coach Taft.

Right now the varsity boys are training and working towards regionals. The regionals in which the Fenton boys compete with is one of the most competitive regionals in the state of Illinois; with two top champion teams participating in it. Captain Diamon King, sophomore, says he likes how the "team works hard and wants to get better every day." He says the team has been doing well so far but must continue to keep working.

Coach Taft encourages everyone to go watch the support the basketball team. Students can listen for dates of games in the daily announcements. An important date to watch for is February 2nd which will be Junior High Night. The sophomore team will play at 5:30 pm and the varsity team will play at 7:00 pm against Elmwood Park.



Photo courtesy of Highlights