

# The



# Signal

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## Speech Team Key to Success Coaching and Communication

**By Malien Tingpalpong**

The Speech Team is having an extremely successful season thanks to the help of coaches Nicole Hendricks, Fenton alum Melissa Feinberg, and Fenton alum Jaclyn O'Hara, and their endless determination.

On Saturday, November 11th, the Speech Team took home a third place trophy with five champions in different events at Fremd High School's varsity tournament.

When asked to comment on the subject of their successful third place at Fremd's tournament coach Hendricks stated that "Personally, a plastic trophy doesn't mean much to me as a coach. What matters to me is seeing the growth within my team members. I always ask my competitors to beat their best performance from the week before. If each member is improving in their own skill-sets, then they will ultimately succeed."

Among the tournament champions at Fremd's tourney was senior Tara Kisanan, whose events are Impromptu and Extemporaneous Speaking.

She details her thoughts about breaking finals in Impromptu and receiving first place in the event, saying, "I broke for the first time at our second tournament. Seeing

my name posted, and then hearing my name called on stage, I felt such gratification and pride in myself, because I have been working hard and trying my best..."

Not only does Speech expand communication skills, it also strengthens instinctual abilities that have been instilled in our speaking.

Freshman Kilien Tingpalpong, who competes in Special Occasion Speaking and Poetry Reading, and received 1st place at his first novice tournament in Poetry, describes his first season saying, "Speech is different because although it is a variation of theater,

it has a competitive aspect within it. I have improved in speaking skills and theater basics in Speech, such as planting your feet, using diction, and projecting your voice."

The coaches have also learned from their students. Coach Feinberg alludes to this saying, "Coaching has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my life. The major reason for this is because I am someone who loves to learn, and coaching allows me to remain in a learning mindset. Just like my students make mistakes, so do I. The best part of the process is working through those mistakes together."

At their most recent tournament on November 18th, the Speech Team attended the Hoffman Estates Turkey Tourney, where novice competitors competed at Conant High School, and varsity members competed at Hoffman Estates High School.

At the varsity competition, Junior Joy Bullis, who competes in Radio Speaking and Humorous Duet Acting with junior Matthew Santore, and received two tournament champion trophies for HDA, explains her overall thoughts for those who misunderstand the activity saying, "Once you get used to it, it actually is really fun to get up in front of people and talk about what you're passionate about."

Speech is not only about perfecting communication abilities. It is also about improving upon oneself inside and outside the classrooms.

Freshman Daniel Wiczorek, who is an Informative speaker, stated, "I've learned to work harder and not to give up as easily."

Speech is not for the faint-hearted. Most Americans are more afraid of public speaking than they are of heights, darkness, and clowns. Hendricks states, "You will learn grit and how to get back up after you've been rejected."



Photo courtesy of Nicole Hendricks

## Band and Choir ILMEA Students Shine

**By Agata Kukielko**

It seems like we never stop hearing amazing things about students in our music department! This time, an exceptional few got the chance to work and perform at ILMEA, the Illinois Music Education Association. ILMEA is a combination of choir, orchestra, and band High School students from Illinois, who audition with various challenging musical pieces that display their skills.

A lucky number of students from Fenton were chosen to take

part in this; Madeleine Subach, Jacob Trzeciak, Monika Nevarez, Ann Sofineti, Danielle Smith, Alexis Vargas, Uma Shivde, and Oscar Varela Jr. The chosen spent a whole day working with other students focused on their material, hoping to truly create amazing music.

Madeleine Subach was even chosen to perform a solo in one of the pieces.

"My favorite part was the first time all the voice part came together for the first time, it sounded magical," says Monika Nevarez.

She and Madeleine Subach were given the chance to audition for the All-State Star Spangled Banner because of their ranking in their voice section.

Jacob Trzeciak also added, "I always look forward to this event this time of the year. We all put so much work in during the summer and the school year and it's awesome to see how it pays off. I'm thankful I was able to take part in it for these past years."



Photo Courtesy of Seredy Williams



## BRAVE Sponsors Transgender Awareness Week

By Erick Lopez

Fenton's BRAVE Club celebrated Transgender Awareness Week from November 13-17 in recognition of all transgender people in the school, country, and in the world. On Thursday, November 16, counselor and Mrs. Melissa To and BRAVE hosted informational meetings during all lunch periods in the Community Room to inform students and staff about social customs on transgender culture. The events and celebrations serve the purpose to recognize the transgender culture and honor those who have been affected by verbal and physical violence because of their gender identity.

A transgender person is someone whose gender identity is different from the gender in which they were assigned when born. In recent history, anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ violence have sprung an urgency to create reform in the country through changing laws, peaceful protests, and powerful reform movements to help shape the society we live in today.

Transgender Awareness Week is not just a school-wide event, but a nationwide celebration with respect to transgender people all over the country and in the world.

"[Transgender Awareness Week] started with the Transgender Day of Remembrance in 1998. There was a transgender woman, named Rita Hester, who was killed in that year [in Boston, MA] and people had held a vigil for her—it became a tradition [of honor]," said counselor Mrs. Melissa To.

"The week itself is to bring awareness for transgender people, to educate others, and to allow people to express themselves freely."

Initially, November 20th was the date for transgender awareness; it later turned into an entire week, usually the second week of November, in reverence of transgender people. November 20th, specifically, is the day to honor those who lost their lives to anti-trans violence. Two major national organizations who sponsor and support Transgender Awareness Week is GLAAD and GLSEN, both who honor transgender people across the world.

At Thursday's informational meeting in the Community Room during lunch periods, students and staff discussed and learned about social customs such as different terminology, the origin of core identity and how it's influenced, and how to support transgender students at Fenton. Students and staff also completed an activity where they determined what places they believed transgender students are safe at.

Junior Zilten Cristales, a member of BRAVE, explains that "It's important to raise awareness because there are a lot of transgender people in the world... many who are going to face transphobia in their lives. We want to try and prevent that by raising awareness and educating others in order to reduce hate."

Indeed knowledge is power, it's important that people keep an open mind and are considerate of others' gender identity. In this modern and changing society, an open mind is key to an open and safe society.

## AP English IV Students Enjoy Day at the Theater

By Alexa Tellez

From *Romeo and Juliet* to *Macbeth*, Shakespeare's works have been renowned and read all over the globe, and when "10 Things I Hate About You" hit theaters, the world went wild. Yet what many failed to realize is that such a famed movie came from Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*.

This year, Fenton's AP English IV students, along with Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Escobedo, were able to go see the Chicago Shakespeare Theater's very own production of *Taming of the Shrew* with a little twist. Walking into this, most, if not all the students, were expecting your typical Shakespearean play: confusing dialogue, elaborate costumes, white powdered faces, etc. However, this year we were hit with something completely new: this play was done within a play, and the audience not only got the benefit of watching a play written centuries ago, but also watching it be performed by an all-female cast, who portrayed themselves as an early 1900's Women's Suffrage group.

It was a new theatrical experience for many of the students, but the show itself presented a new point of view, not just into the world of Shakespeare, but into the world of feminism and perception as both the students, teachers, and chaperones were whisked away to such a new experience.

Senior Trisha Butz said, "All the hard work put into the performance really showed. The overlapping of the women's suffragette community and *Taming of the Shrew* really showed the conflict and struggle each character experienced."

This was in fact quite the feeling that a majority of the audience shared from the gasps, to occasional laughter, to the wide-eyed stares, the stillness in the theater was enough to have anyone on the edge of their seats as they watched the performance.

One of the AP English teachers, Mr. Escobedo, was taken away by such an amazing performance, and said that "The way they used the suffragette framing was a great way to comment on the misogyny in the play, but to also connect that misogyny back in Shakespeare's day with gender issues that we still face today."

In a society where pop culture is always rapidly changing, this was the perfect play to get out a little humor, and revisit how others are being affected with today's world views, especially pertaining to feminism and stereotypical gender-roles.



Photo By Lesli Cano

## FHS Band Prepares to Spread Holiday Cheer

By Julia Gainski

The holiday band assembly is just around the corner as Fenton students can expect a diversity of music, celebrating the holidays and the 40 plus year tradition of a joint student and staff performance of the song "Sleigh Ride." One can expect great dancing from the swing choir and outstanding performances by the guitar ensemble and the concert choir.

The assembly performed by the fourth and fifth graders from Johnson Elementary School

will take place on November 30th in the Fenton auditorium. The assembly performed by Fenton students, will occur on December 15th, also in the Fenton auditorium. The event has been around for at least 20 years and started off as just a Johnson Elementary School event and was extended to Bensenville and Wood Dale schools. It has been a proud accomplishment in incorporating all of the 4th and 5th graders in Bensenville and Wood Dale.

The event is now sponsored by the Bensenville Arts Council,

and their goal is to provide arts enrichment programs throughout the community.

Band director, Garrett George, states his excitement in preparation of the event as he states, "Performing at the holiday assembly gives me the most satisfaction as a music teacher because it is sharing music education with everyone. It's probably one of the most important performances of the school year."

The concert has created a memorable tradition reigning for

30 to 40 years. Band member, Dorothy Novello, reflects her thoughts, "I think it is one of the best concerts of the year since it includes 'Sleigh Ride' and it is a very festive time, and it brings all the bands together as a yearly tradition."

The event allows for the Fenton musicians and choir to perform for all of their peers and it is a privilege for the performers and audience to come together and be a Fenton family in celebration of the school's musical talents.



# #MeToo Rapidly Spreads

By Belem Oseguera

Recently the news media has seen a surge in cases of sexual harassment against many celebrities and political figures. It all started when film producer Harvey Weinstein was accused of sexual harassment in early October. This caused a chain of events where many women came out to share their own stories.

Since the Weinstein event, figures such as Charlie Rose, Roy Moore, Al Franken, and Kevin Spacey have been added to this list. Although some may only see this as a scandal or a way to get ratings, we must address the fact that it is a very real issue which our society must deal with. But what exactly is sexual harassment?

According to Wikipedia, sexual harassment is the "bullying or coercion of a sexual nature or the unwelcome or inappropriate promise of rewards in exchange for sexual favors." And yes, this is an illegal offense.

The women who have come to light with their stories have gone through tough and scarring situations. The victims of such events are left with both mental and physical health issues. Sexual harassment can "trigger symptoms of depression and anxiety that are new to the person, or it can exacerbate a previous condition that may have been controlled or resolved.

Patients may also see a worsening of symptoms," says Dr. Cullen, a licensed psychologist from Columbia University. Dr. Cullen further states that sexual harassment can cause "long-term depressive symptoms" and even PTSD.

In the workplace, women have been found to be more prone to becoming victims of sexual harassment. This is due to the fact that men are usually in power while women have the more vulnerable and insecure positions. The victims who have accused Harvey Weinstein were most often women at the start of their acting careers trying to make a name for themselves.

One trend that was seen to start on Twitter amidst the scandal was the #MeToo movement. Using this hashtag, people of all races, religions, and gender shared their stories of being harassed. This movement allowed for victims all over to realize that it was okay to speak out, that they weren't alone.

Paul Garcia, junior, said that "those who [had] been victims of sexual harassment now know that they are not alone. People who have been previously afraid to speak up do not have to fear repercussion thanks to the news outlets and social media."

Many seem to agree with Paul and have grown to see #MeToo symbolize not just a "fad" but a revolution.

When asked about his stance on the outburst of sexual harassment stories, substitute teacher Mr. Jenkins said, "A lot of times men take advantage of the fact that they have power and so they try to harass women knowing that they won't be called on the carpet."

Having "power" over someone else should not qualify as grounds of which one can take advantage of the other person. No one should ever have to feel unsafe or insecure in their workplace, especially when they are working hard to create a successful career. Sexual harassment is a real issue, that has sadly been going on for too long.

# Naperville SATs Skyrocket

By Karsen Idelman

In October the *Chicago Tribune* reported that Naperville schools, and surrounding cities, boast some of the highest SAT scores in the state. Students at Neuqua Valley had the highest local SAT scores with an average of 1213.5, as reported by the Illinois State Board of Education in the annual Illinois Report Card.

This 1213.5 is compared to the state average of 1015.3. The Naperville School District 203 had a higher overall SAT average than the Indian Prairie School District, which Neuqua Valley is in. Naperville Central, which is a part of school district 203, had a schoolwide average of 1186.8.

Naperville Central Principal Bill Weisbrook says that Naperville Central has prepared its students by, "encouraging students to take rigorous courses with high learning expectations. Most of our students put forth a good effort to learn and succeed, which prepares them for assessments like the SAT. Also, our core academic courses have curriculum that is aligned with the SAT, so the content helps prepare them for the test."

Central's Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction Jackie Thornton hopes to continue this trend. Thornton feels that academic success and test prep is the most effective method.

"We think the most important preparation is continued success in our classes. In addition, now that all our students have all participated in either PSAT10 or NMSQT practice tests, we will ensure they have College Board accounts and know how to access free test prep materials provided through Khan Academy," Thornton answered.

# Manhattan Terror Truck Attack

By Belem Oseguera

On October 31st, a 29-year-old driving a rental truck intentionally drove into a Manhattan bike path, killing eight and injuring eleven before being shot and arrested by the police.

A calm fall day instantly transformed to panic as Sayfullo Saipov, an immigrant from Uzbek currently living in Tampa, Florida, changed the lives of those walking along the Hudson River. Witnesses say the truck was speeding down the West Side Highway before turning and striking bicyclists and pedestrians. Some even captured the horrific event on cell phone cameras while running from the scene.

Eugene Duffy, a worker leaving his shift at Pier 26 commented on his first hand view saying, "...I see two gentlemen laying there and they have tire track marked across their bodies."

Shortly after the collision, the truck veered off and hit a school bus injuring four others. The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force has taken over the investigation as law enforcement officials have reason to believe the attack was an act of terror, possibly in support of ISIS. Officials say Saipov had been planning the attack a year in advance, and was even proud of what he'd done-requesting to have the Islamic State flag hung in his hospital room. Saipov has been charged with terrorism, an account of violence, and destruction of a motor vehicle and awaits his hearing.

Later that day, Facebook put out a safety check to help those living near the area let their loved ones know of their condition. Although the attack brought chaos and many broken hearts, New Yorkers have come together and responded with love by honoring the families and friends of those who died.



by Jesus Amador



## Successful Season for XC

By Cecilia Flores

After a long season of hard work, dedication, determination, and the dreadful early morning practices, the seven varsity cross country boys ran at their state meet on Saturday, November 4th. All the conditioning, sweating, and the desire to stop but never giving up certainly paid off.

The Bison finished strong and certainly deserve a big round of applause. Despite the slight drizzle, everyone ran quicker than the wind. Jeremy Lodewyck, a senior, was the third Bison to finish at the state meet with an incredible time of 16:34! It doesn't end there though.

With another stunning time of 16:32, Randy Almarales, a junior, was the second proud Bison to finish.

Finally, with a jaw-dropping time of 16:02, Cristian Sanchez, a senior, was the first Fenton Bison to

finish at the state meet.

This season was certainly a season filled with an incredibly talented group of boys, and there's no doubt the next group of boys to run at state will run with just as much power.

"This cross country team is driven to succeed. Throughout the cross country season these guys have proven to be real athletes. They have pushed themselves to the very limit and stopped at nothing to achieve their goals. These Fenton Bison have shown other schools what we are made of" said Chris Kovich, a freshman cross country runner.

The Bison have shown the other schools what Fenton is made of, but they've also made Fenton utterly proud of their hard work and success. It'll certainly be a blast to see the boys next year bring it on, and years to follow.



Photo by Jessica Jalowiec

## Open Mic Opportunity for Poetry at Wood Dale Library

By Malien Tingpalpong

Do you write poetry? Do you need a platform to express yourself? Are you a performer who wants more experience in acting? Do you enjoy poetry and want to watch performances from your peers? Well, the Wood Dale Library is hosting a Spoken Word Poetry Open Mic called Thunderstruck for poets, writers, performers, and lovers of words on Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30 PM. Thunderstruck will be open to students 13-18 years old.

You can perform original work or pieces written by published authors. If you perform an author's work, you are asked to cite the title and the author's name. However, the performance of hate speech or discriminatory language at Thunderstruck will prohibit you from ever attending another Thunderstruck event. We will promote diversity, spread awareness, and open our minds to inclusive thinking. That being said, feel free to express yourself in creatively nuanced ways that do not directly attack others' identities.

There is no cost of admission for Thunderstruck.

For those who would not like to perform, you are still very welcome to watch the performances and support the arts! Poetry can be personal. So please, as audience members, be respectful of the performers. This means refraining from discussing or gossiping about others after the event. An encouraging audience is always welcome and appreciated.

If you cannot go to the Tuesday, November 28th open mic night, the next open mic night will be sometime in the spring.

You can sign up at the library's website, [WoodDaleLibrary.org](http://WoodDaleLibrary.org). Coming soon, there will be a Google form that you are able to sign up on with your cell phones or Chromebooks. If you choose not to perform, but change your mind the night of the performances, as long as there is time at the end, you will be invited to perform. Although, this is not guaranteed.

I came up with the idea of Thunderstruck after watching Sarah Kay, author and poet, performing her spoken word online. So, like any average teenager with wifi connection, I turned to the internet to find open mics in the Chicago area. Unfortunately, I found that most open mics in Chicago are only available for those who are 18 years old and older. Rather than being defeated, I decided that I wanted to start a program in my community that likened to that of Louder Than A Bomb, or an open mic night in downtown Chicago. Thunderstruck was born!

As a writer, I felt compelled to have my work shared through my eyes. Creatively, spoken word is a form of expression that is attainable, and it is an art form that appeals to me. Combining public speaking with acting, writing, and performance allows these aspects of art to be seen in the perfect light.

Our goal for Thunderstruck is to create a comfortable environment for poets at all levels of performance. The goal is to step out of your comfort zone in a setting where discomfort is encouraged! If you're uncomfortable, you're growing. The point of spoken word is to share your words through your voice, so be open to this new experience however foreign it may seem. Believe in yourself and your work. Most importantly, perform for yourself!

## Jaramillo Brothers Give Fenton Varsity Athletics Their All

By Alexa Tellez

With the fall season coming to an end, things are finally winding down with the busy season the Jaramillo brothers have had here at Fenton High School. Brian, a senior, has just completed his fourth and final year of football, and his younger brother Ivan, has just finished his first season on the school's soccer team. As Brian has just finished his high school career playing the game he loves, he believes that there is a lot that he has learned about himself.

Brian says that "My last year of football went really good in my opinion because I learned a lot about myself. What I took away from this year is the intensity that I have to

have on and off the field, that's being competitive in the classroom."

It is clear that Brian has a lot of love for the sport that he has come to play these last four years, and he has obviously inspired his brother to follow his passion as well. This year, both brothers had the honor to play on Fenton's Varsity teams, so while Brian "tackled" football, Ivan "kicked" off his freshman year as a member of Fenton's Varsity Soccer team.

When it came time for Ivan to look over his first year as a team member, he said it was "Fun, it was really competitive too."

Being a freshman on a varsity sport is very intense, and Ivan said he found a way to keep up with his

teammates by training at least three times a week outside of school. This year, the soccer team was able to make it as far as Regional Finals, a huge accomplishment, for the entire team, and a great experience for a first year member! In all, it was quite the season with two stellar varsity athletes in the same household.

Though Brian's career at Fenton has come to an end, he did have some wise words from his brother, and says, "No matter how tough it gets whether you're losing badly in a game or are suffering an injury, get back in the game and finish what you started. Have fun, these four years will fly by."

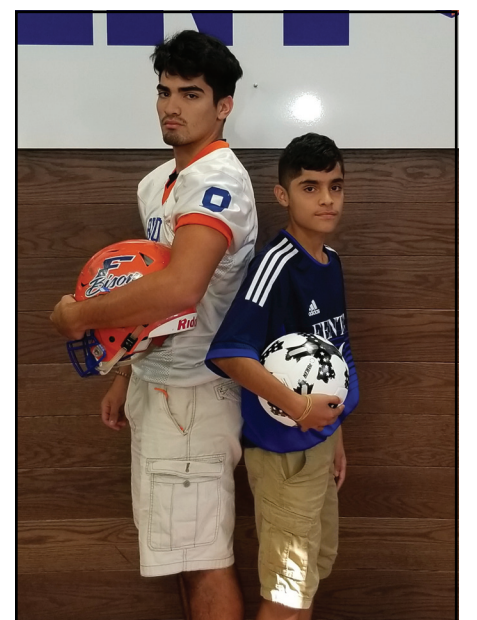


Photo courtesy of Vic Ruiz