

The



Signal

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Marching Band Competes at Night of Champions

by Gerardo Garcia

It seems everyone walked away feeling like champs during this year's Night of Champions marching band competition.

Georgio Moran describes the event as, "A bunch of bands coming together in hopes of performing at the highest level possible."

Danielle Ferbrache also said that the event, "As a band gives us a chance to show our hard work to a crowd who is solely there to watch the marching bands compete. To me, this competition is a chance to perform at our very best, and have fun."

What sets this performance apart from the others is the competitive aspect. Mr. George said, "If someone is missing, it affects the competitive level of everybody else. If I'm in the band and I forget to go or something else happens, my sound is lost, and my spot in the formation is lost. So there's not only a visual hole, but there is also a sound hole. So it really is important for the whole group to be fairly represented because that's going to give the whole group the opportunity to do it's very best."

Although it is a marching band event, the competition is not a series of halftime shows. The atmosphere is very different from a performance at a football game, and absolutely all eyes are on the band.

"This is a performance that is marching band for marching band's sake, and so the audience is dead silent. You could hear a pin drop and you can hear every sound the band makes," said Mr. George.

This might make some people nervous, but musicians like Gabe Aranki thrive off of it. "I love the atmosphere, when it's just us, let's go."

The weather this year also provided a special twist for the band. Rain and blowing winds made the event especially challenging for the color guard who had to contend with their flags. Despite that and wet turf, the FHS Marching Band still played enthusiastically and managed to place fifth out of their group.

Aranski said, "We earned a good rank that we worked hard, and put in the effort for."

Mr. George also said that, "they really bring their level of performance up a couple of notches... I think our intervals were really good, and I think our execution by and large was pretty good."

Most band members agreed that their favorite part was watching the other bands perform, but for Mr. George's favorite band was Fenton's.

"My favorite aspect is watching the kids rise up to the performance. I love seeing that level of performance from our Fenton High School kids."

The band had a lot of fun at this year's competition and is already excited to perform even better next year.



Photo courtesy of Garrett George.

Equity Interest Leads to Equal Opportunity Schools Program

by Ava-Clare Steed

Fenton High School, in partnership with Equal Opportunity Schools (also known as EOS), has commenced their participation in the AP Equity and Excellence Project. This project will be in place for 2 years, looking to create a self-sustaining environment for every year after, and is designed to serve historically underrepresented students. This specifically refers to students from a low-income background, who are ethnically diverse, or who have the capacity to achieve in AP classes- but do not have the confidence to attempt a class.

Fenton was awarded a matched grant from EOS, a non-

profit organization, which means that Fenton has agreed to invest \$14,500 in making our AP courses feel more accessible to students, and in return, the organization will invest (or match) \$14,500.

The masterminds behind this operation include Dr. Jill Kingsfield, curriculum director; Dr. Kathie Pierce, superintendent; and Mr. James Ongtengco, principal.

Dr. Kingsfield has been especially involved in working with our EOS partner, Mr. Luke Justice, to work through the application process, coordinate the data collections (in other words, the survey that was provided during Bison Time last Wednesday), and set up site visits.

The main motivation for such a program is meant to disrupt the exclusive feel of AP classes and encourage students who have the capabilities to perform well in AP classes, but are not currently participating (whether it be lack of confidence, or just not understanding how to get into AP classes), to try at least one AP class.

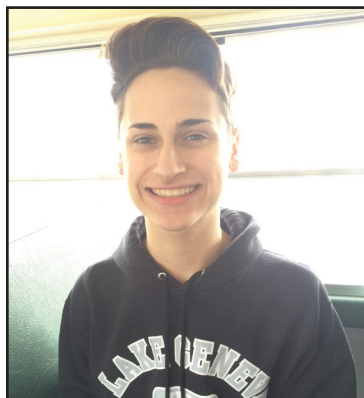
AP courses offer many advantages and benefits that smooth the transition between high school coursework and college coursework. Not only that, but depending on how well a student does on an AP test, it is possible to earn college credit for a class and potentially save thousands of dollars on that class.

When asked why students should consider taking an AP class at Fenton, Dr. Kingsfield remarked, "I would rather you all learn to tackle college level work in a nurturing environment like Fenton high school."

The only guarantee students will receive at Fenton more so than a college campus is that the teachers truly want them to succeed, and so they will do everything in their power to make sure you have a fundamental understanding of the curriculum and help to advance them in their studies. After the AP Equity and Excellence Project is in place, there is an estimate that at least 50 students will be joining the AP track.

What is your favorite part about fall?

by Allie Brzys



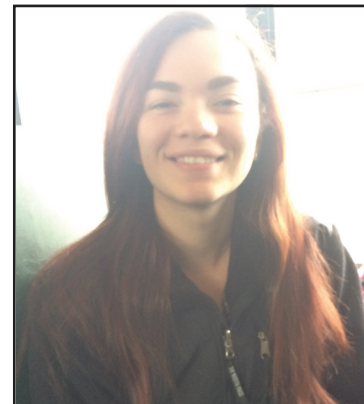
"I love the weather"
- Dominick Panicola



"I love the fall colors"
- Keila Lozada



"HALLOWEEN!"
- Enoc Hernandez



"I like the clothes"
- Alexis Ocampo

Fenton Gets a New Art Room

by Mariel Eloppe

In addition to the new library and cafeteria this year, Fenton now has a new art room in room 535 in the north hallway. Last year, the art room was in the small, cramped room 97. It was too inconvenient for 3D Art and 2D Art to share. Projects would often get messed up and the kilns for Ceramics used to be across the school which used made transporting artwork a hazard. Now, that Fenton is reconstructing, all of the classrooms got switched and remodeled room 535 to be the new art which lets 3D Art and a part of 2D work in one big room while at the same time be separated. This new classroom is amazing! The new space houses all the mediums required for art and it's all easy to access. The kiln for Ceramics is now just steps away. Plus, an outdoor studio extension will be constructed for more inspiration.

Ms. Rieger then adds, "I believe we are blessed because the Fenton high school administration and board of education truly supports arts education."



Photo by Mariel Eloppe

College and Career Center

by Mariel Eloppe

Fenton High School wants all students to prepare for their future careers. Thus, it is recommended that everyone should check out the College and Career Center. It's brand new and it's at the front of the counseling office by Door 1.

Here students can get help with resumes, how to apply for jobs or financial aid, and check out all kind of other useful information especially if it's about college. Mrs. Georgakis is the main person in charge but all other counsellors are helping out so just make an appointment for help. This place will be open all day from 7:45am to 3:30pm.

According to Mrs. Georgakis, "We have lots of opportunities for students from freshmen to senior year."

Over 50 colleges will be sending representatives to visit Fenton this fall and that it's available for students in their sophomore to senior year.

There are also career field trips for all grade levels. One upcoming event includes financial aid night on November 19. Plus the director from Elmhurst College will attend in that event. See Mrs. Georgakis for more information. There is also lunch and learns, which lets students bring their lunch and attend conferences to learn about common application, how to make a resume, and learn some job interview skills.

If anyone has any questions, please email Mrs. Georgakis at georgakis@fenton100.org. Lastly, she would like to add, "The College and Career Center is a great place to go and get help for your plans after high school." All students need to take advantage of this!

Student Centered Theater

by Emily Patterson

The time has come around for Fenton's 4th Students On Stage to start picking up!

Students on Stage is the second of Fenton's four yearly theater performances, and is a way for students to get involved in all aspects of theater. Students have the opportunity to act, direct, write, and operate the technical aspects of the performances, with only minimal guidance from directors Mr. Mitchell and Dr. Mussman. This show is a great opportunity for students, as they get to express themselves creatively in a number of ways, as well as having complete control over how to express that creativity.

Auditions for SOS were on

October 26th and 27th, and the turnout was amazing! In this year's Students on Stage, there will be 29 students acting and four students directing. As well, those who want to help with crew will be aiding the actors and directors in the visual aspects of the shows by helping to find and make scenery, furniture, and props, as well as helping with lighting and sound.

The pieces of writing that will be performed are still being determined, but Mr. Escobedo has received plenty of submissions!

Everyone is excited for this year's show, and would like to invite you to come out and see this year's Students On Stage performances on Friday, December 4th.

Latin Flavor Mix Tomorrow

by Gerardo Garcia

Despite the name, you don't have to be Hispanic to have loads of fun at the Latin Flavor Mix dance. Students can come listen to a real D.J. play a variety of great Hispanic music and even learn a few dances like Bachata, Merengue and Cumbia to name a few. The Latin Flavor Mix dance is sponsored by STUNT, a great club that likes to embrace different cultures, and discourage discrimination.

Member Ellie Gonzales said, "We do this to support diversity within the school. It's not as formal as Home Coming, and it's my favorite dance besides Prom."

STUNT uses the Latin Flavor Mix dance and the talent show to raise funds for the Students for Students scholarship fund. Through this fund STUNT awards three or so scholarships worth \$500 to graduating seniors. That leaves students with little to no reason not to attend the most unique dance of the year. So grab your friends and come mix it up at the Latin Flavor Mix Dance! Remember that while the dance is not as formal as homecoming, it's also not too casual. Nice jeans and a polo will do for guys, and that also leaves girls with a lot of flexibility. The dance will be November 6th in the field house, remember to bring your ID and tickets will be available at the door for \$10.

Activity Spotlight: Math Team

by Sonya Martinez

If you're a fan of Jeopardy! or simply are full of trivia then Academic Team is the team for you. Coached by Coach Laudermitth, Coach Aguilar and Coach Decardo, Academic Team is a really fun club. It doesn't matter which grade level you are. From freshmen to seniors, students learn new things or expand their knowledge through questions asked at matches and practices.

The way a match works is students are divided into two teams by school and grade level.

Then they are asked a series of 20-24 questions. If a team member correctly answers a question, they are rewarded ten points and then the team is given a chance to answer bonus questions. Bonus questions are a series of three questions linked by a common topic. A team has a chance to score 30 points if all parts are answered correctly. At the end of a match, the team with the highest score wins.

This year, the team's goals are for both Frosh-Soph and Varsity to end up in the top half in conference, to score at least 200 points each match, and for every member to score at least 5 tossups. And of course for everyone to learn something new. All the coaches are "very pleased with the number of new players and commitment they've shown to the new team, improving every conference." Even the returning members have improved. All three coaches are very proud to work with some of the brightest students in Fenton high school.

As put by Coach Laudermitth, Academic Team is "the best activity to prepare for college, you gain a broad knowledge and cultural literacy". Even if you're not in band or an art person, you get to learn things about those subjects such as important figures, works, different methods and mediums. You learn stuff that isn't always taught in class. Hopefully we'll see you there!

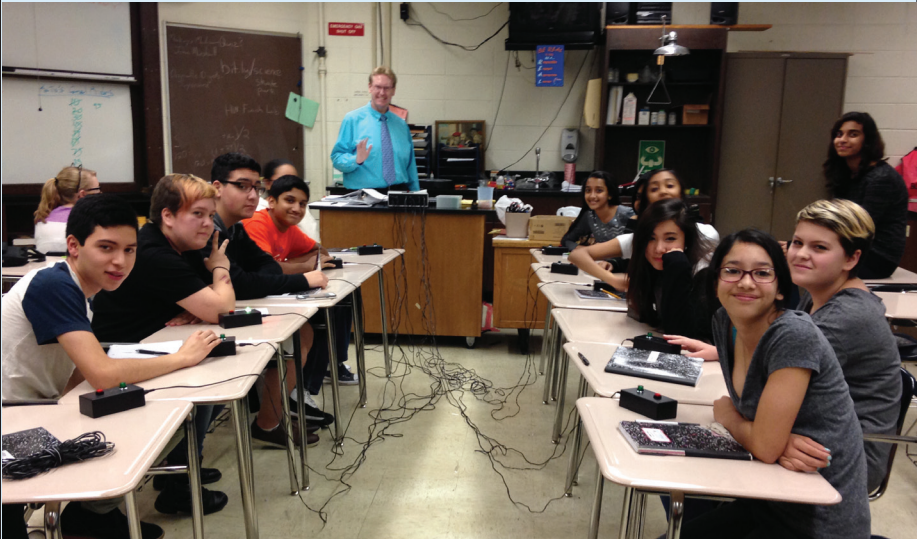
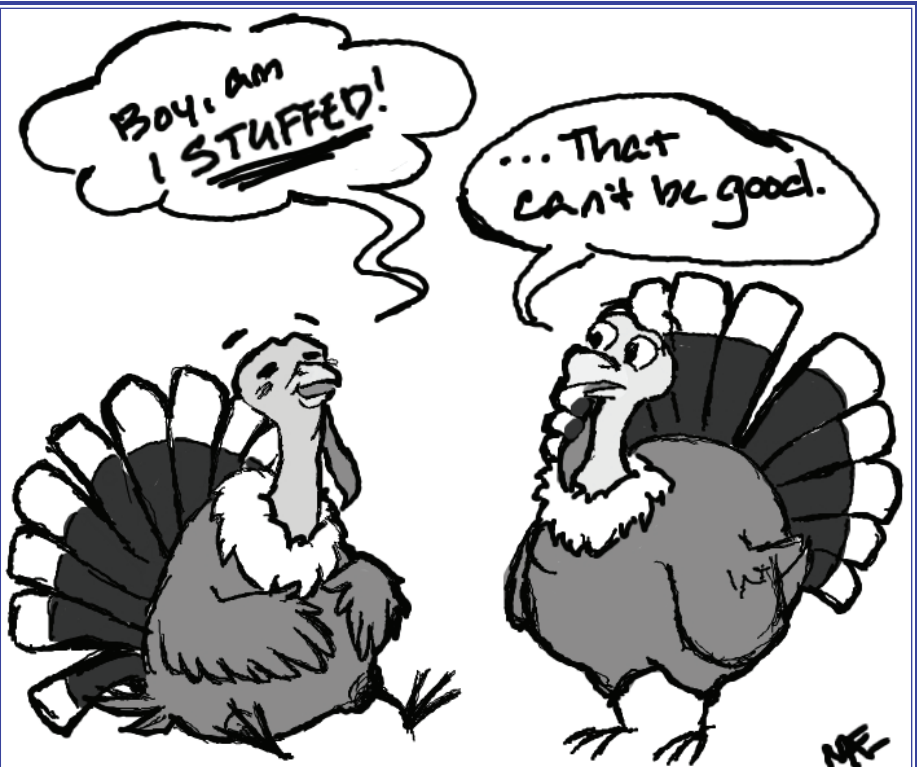


Photo by Sonya Martinez



by Mariel Eloppe

Activity Spotlight: Kaleidoscope



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by Sonya Martinez

Like writing? Do you have a desire to write literary works? Or maybe become an editor? Then you should join Kaleidoscope. Kaleidoscope is the school's literary magazine that features works created by students and is run by Mr. Escobedo. Students create and submit works that are then viewed over by members of Kaleidoscope. Members then give feedback on the works submitted such as if they liked it and why or if there's something that need to be improved. They comment on the work and then it is shared back to the owner for revision if necessary. Suggestions are always positive and even if members find something they feel could be improved, it's always done politely. Works are may also appear in Students On Stage where students direct and act out those same works.

In December, Students On Stage perform their interpretations of the works submitted. At the end of the year, a compilation of works is put together and then sold as an issue of Kaleidoscope. If you want a copy, talk to your English teacher at the end of the year. Meetings for Kaleidoscope are on Mondays every week and are held in the ARC. To submit a work just go to bit.ly/kscopesos.

Activity Spotlight: Math Team

by Karsen Idelman

Try adding this up, 3 coaches + x-amount of students and you've got an equation for Math team! Math Team is a club here at Fenton open to all top performing math students in the school. There is a Freshman-Sophomore team and a Junior-Senior team.

Mrs. Santinello, who has returned after a nine-year absence, is mainly the Freshman coach, while Mrs. Stern is the Sophomore coach. The two teachers co-coach the calculator team. While Mr. Porter coaches the upperclassmen.

When coach, Stephanie Stern was asked about why she coaches Math Team this is what she had to say, "I coach math team because I love introducing students to a higher level of mathematics and helping them find new and 'out-of-the-box' ways to solve problems."

When Mrs. Santinello was asked the same question, this was her response, "Coaching Math Team allows me to do two things that I love - work with students and do math! I enjoy helping students gain a deeper understanding of mathematics!"

Math Team competes in various competitions with sections including but not limited to, individuals, 2-person team and calculator team. Some competitions they are preparing for this year are December 5th, the MSC conference, January 27th, the Lemont High School Invite, February 27th, the Regional Competition and May 5th, the State Competition.

Mr. Porter talked about State, saying, "My favorite part of coaching the team is going to state. Every year, we go to the University of Illinois in Champaign, which happens to be my Alma Mater, for the state competition. The campus is usually very pretty by May, we have a blast playing Frisbee on the quad, and the students enjoy one last competition for the year. Afterwards, we go out to eat at a campus restaurant and enjoy hanging out together."

For the past decade Fenton has had students qualify for the State Competition every year. Math Team is not just a club that students join when the need extra credit many students stay in Math Team all four years.

Senior Andrea Ghanimah is a four-year member of Math Team and when asked what benefits she has received from Math Team this is what she had to say, "Math Team offers an opportunity to get extra practice and since it's not as fast-paced as a classroom you get more one on one with the instructor to learn."

Fenton Math Team is a great club to join if you are looking for a club that can be rewarding and educational!

Cheerleaders' 'Pink Out' for Breast Cancer A Huge Success

by Alizeh Naveed

In U.S. 1 out of every 8 women is diagnosed with breast cancer. It didn't use to be that popular until the last two decades. The color pink is the most common color used to represent breast cancer.

Fenton's cheerleading squad decided to support breast cancer in a fun way by going pink! Soon a pink out started at Fenton.

According to Coach DeVivo "There was nothing particular that inspired us to start the Pink Out, aside from the fact that Breast Cancer can touch all of our lives, and we wanted to get some awareness out there."

So they made a decision

that there would be Pink Out football game every last game of the season. In the pink out all the cheerleaders wear pink shirts supporting breast cancer, while cheering for the team.

To spread the spirit for supporting breast cancer cheerleaders also sold pink shirts and with half the money they made from these shirts were donated to breast cancer research.

DeVivo even had a special message for the students, "I want to encourage students to participate, whether it be by purchasing one of our Pink Out shirts, or wearing their own pink items. It is a great way to show school unity, and build support."



Photo courtesy of Kearsten DeVivo

Girls' Cross Country Strives for Personal Bests, Works as a Team



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Norris

by Amber Azim

The Girl's Cross Country team is having a great season. The team coaches are Coach McDougal and Coach Norris, with the help of two captains, Marisol Garcia and Katherine Dominguez. Along with the help of managers Faith Bullis, Esme Estrada, and Fenton alumni Heather Crowe, the girls get motivation to run their hearts out during the meets.

The Girl's Cross Country team consists of 30 runners, with only two seniors. Most of the team consists of freshman, which will be especially useful to have a strong team in the next years. The team runs endless hours and miles during the week.

During the post-season, the top 12 runners have been running well and setting personal records. At Conference, most of the girls had set new personal records. The coaches are extremely proud of all the runners.

"Overall, our team consists of a great group of girls who support each other and want personal bests themselves and for the team," says Coach Norris.

Boys' Basketball Tryouts Approaching

by Rina Focht

Basketball is a very intense sport. From running back and forth to get the ball to the hoop, to trying to get the ball from the other team so that your team can score. I had the chance to speak with some of the varsity basketball team this year, and they said they love playing. Although they wish they didn't have to do conditioning at practice, they wouldn't change anything about the actual game. With tryouts coming soon, Coach Payton says that open gym is a big deal, and that you should definitely be taking advantage of the weight room.

When I asked the boys why new boys should be trying out for the basketball team I was given the simple response, "The more the merrier!" by Tommy Mach, a junior who has been playing for Fenton since freshman year.

Bryan Larsen, also a junior, gave me a simple, yet ironic response, "If you want to tryout, do it. Don't be afraid, take the shot and go for it."

Basketball is a way to be healthy and become a part of a good group of friends, I would recommend boys basketball for sure. "We truly are a family. We all get along really well." Says Garrett Focht, a junior, who has also been on the team since freshman year.

If you are interested in joining the basketball team, Coach Payton says that keeping up with your academics is a major part of being on the team. Also, to make sure that you have all of your forms turned into the athletic office. When it comes to tryouts,

Coach Payton says, "I'm curious to see how some of our players have developed, to see who has done what is necessary to set themselves a part from their peers, so that they can have a role on the team that matches up with what they want to be."

Although tryouts may be scary, they can also be fun. If you are thinking about trying it, just go for it! Don't be nervous!

Young Golf Team Celebrates Success

by Julia Gainski

This year's golf season was nothing short of an exceptionally talented group.

Mr. Johnson, the Fenton's golf coach, describes the season in five words by saying, "We were very young indeed."

By that he means that the team is comprised of only one senior, two juniors, three sophomores, and six freshmen. Around eight seniors graduated last year.

The season's lineup starts off with Andrew Hill being the top golfer and following in order are: Brendan Tomczak, Jeremy Ames, Joseph Ghanimah, Nik Fisher, and Marcus Astorga.

Overall Mr. Johnson's decisions about the lineup were based off of practice scores. Going into the season, Mr. Johnson was also eager about the Junior Varsity team and the new group of freshmen that made in an excellent addition to the team. He was also excited about Andrew Hill, who was a great freshman and hit the ball far. His greatest success was when he qualified for the sectional tournament and scored an eighty-six at Regionals.

Another highlight of the season was when the Junior Varsity team came in second in the Metro Suburban conference out of twelve schools. The duration of the season goes from August twelfth to Columbus Day, which is the day of the sectional tournament.

Mr. Johnson describes the hardest decision of the season was, "keeping the freshman on Junior Varsity for conference instead of bringing them up."

Yearly, the golf season plans out next year's tournaments and all dual matches are set up before hand. Mr. Johnson's personal favorite tournament is when Fenton hosts an invite where twenty-six teams participate and takes place on Labor Day weekend.