

Lemont High School
800 Porter Street
Lemont, IL 60439

Tom Tom

September 15, 2010
Issue 3

New Year, New Start, New teachers

by Brittany Baldwin
News writer

As the new school year began, several new faculty members were welcomed to the LHS staff. Surrounded by vibrant posters displaying words of encouragement, new teachers Ashley Clark, Bill Holeman and Julie Wingerter opened up about their LHS experiences so far.

Ashley Clark

Having two years passed since her last time teaching at LHS, returning math teacher, Clark is “happy to be back.” Clark looks forward to getting in touch with previous students and seeing how they have changed over the past few years.

This self proclaimed “goof ball” kicked off her return with a long-awaited performance of her signature “fish hook” dance move in front of LHS Band members and parents on Curriculum Night. Although Clark jokingly named “sophomores” as her job’s greatest challenge, she remained confident that her patience and dedication to her students help her overcome any obstacles.

Clark, who found it difficult to decide what she liked most about LHS, stated without hesitation, “The students are awesome. I try to do as much as I can for my students.” Despite her absence, Clark’s love for LHS appeared to have remained strong when she stated, “There’s nothing like being here. I’ve worked in a lot of different schools, but



Photo by Brittany Baldwin

From “fish hook” dance to algebraic proofs, LHS math teachers know how to make learning fun.

Pictured are new math teacher Miss Julie Wingerter, and returning math teacher Miss Ashley Clark

there’s nothing like being at Lemont High.”

Bill Holeman

Upon first arriving, science teacher, Holeman found the warm welcome he received from the faculty to be very reassuring. Although “time management” stands as the greatest challenge of Holeman’s job, he works diligently to come prepared to class, just as his students are expected to be. Holeman strongly believes in

maintaining a “give and take” relationship with his students, and hopes that this relationship will inspire students to work hard towards achieving their goals. Holeman’s excitement for his job became more than evident when he stated, “I really enjoy science. I enjoy teaching it and I enjoy learning it... and I hope my students see that I have a passion for teaching.”

Please see “New,” p. 3

News, p. 2

LHS to Hold College Write Night

by Caroline Celis
News writer

On Sept. 16, LHS will be hosting College Write Night. At this event, which starts promptly at 6:30, students can receive assistance on their college admissions essays.

Those planning on attending the event should bring their unfinished essays, prompts or any questions they might have. Attendees will receive assistance on grammatical revising and improving their essays, while those who have not yet begun can learn how to structure their essays.

Writing Center director, Patty Melei, informed the Tom Tom that not only does the Writing Center help students with college admissions essays, but also provides resources that are

equally important in the college scholarship search.

Many students are busy throughout the day, including before and after school; this inspired Melei to put aside time for those who do not have many opportunities to utilize these resources.

Regarding students who are unable to attend, Melei stated, “[All students] are welcome to all information presented.” She added that students can stop by at a later date to make an appointment for assistance with their essays.

During “Write Night,” Melei will be using mind maps and one-on-one conversation techniques with students in order to find the best topic for each individual. To help students become “inspired,”

Melei said she will be referencing the *Chicago Tribune's* compilation of top college admissions essays from the past year. In addition, Melei will also share her 5 essential tips to a writing a better college essay.

The event will be held in the LHS writing center, room N114. Anyone who attends is encouraged to park in the East or North lot and to enter the building through the doors near the district 210 office.

All LHS seniors are welcome to attend this Thursday's event. Along with Melei, Christy Kramer who works with pupil personal services will also be assisting. Writing centers tutors will be available to assist their peers in this event.

COLLEGE WRITE NIGHT

THURS, SEPT 16

6:30 P.M. @ THE BRIDGE N114

Bring the essay option for your selected schools or just join us to get motivated and find information.



ADMISSION POSSIBLE

News/Editorials, p. 3

New, cont. from p. 1

Holeman greatly admires the community's close connection with the school, and finds his fellow science teachers to be very hospitable. Obviously eager to "get off to a good start [with the school year]," Holeman looks forward to beginning his Masters Program after Christmas and anticipates having a very successful first year at LHS.

Julie Wingerter

Although first time LHS math teacher, Wingerter did not share in Clark's feelings of nostalgia or Holeman's passion for science, she certainly does not lack enthusiasm for teaching.

Wingerter stated, "I absolutely love [LHS]. I love the school, the faculty, and the environment is great." Wingerter enjoys the "close knit" environment and the community involvement within the school. Even though Wingerter finds making sure every student enjoys class to be the greatest challenge of her job, she believes her "enthusiasm" for teaching and living help to ease the difficulty of this task.

Wingerter summed up her feelings towards the school by stating, "[LHS] is such a positive place. Makes it feel like home."

Club beat

by Bridget Carr
News writer

The 2010-2011 school year is in full swing as extra-curricular activities are offering plentiful opportunities for students to get involved. Some clubs for students to look into include Foreign Language Club (FLC), Community Service For Everyone (CSFE) and Science Fiction & Fantasy Club. These clubs are abundant with exciting upcoming events for students to look out for.

CSFE allows for students to make a difference in their community by lending a hand and doing volunteer work. Family and Consumer Science teacher Miss Jenna Stevenson, who is now managing the club, expects for it to be a great new year for CSFE. Stevenson plans to continue participating in the major successful activities from previous years, such as volunteering at The Lemont Center for the elderly and helping out with the food pantries of Lemont.

Additionally, Stevenson is introducing new ideas such as a 5K race to raise money and grab the interest of athletes to get involved. Stevenson said the club will also provide service for the Chicago Land area as a whole with the Chicago Food Depository and the Ronald McDonald House. Presidents of the club, Dylan Matthews and Rob Smerciak, also plan to put their heads together to provide new service opportunities as well as incorporate those from previous years.

FLC is directed toward getting students interested in cultural activities and providing events for members to partake in that are educational as well as enjoyable. FLC coordinator and French teacher Mrs. Kelly Ercoli stated that the entire year is practically all planned out with tickets already purchased. Ercoli said that she hopes to plan for a trip to see "The best musical ever – Les Misérables" as well as a trip devoted to visiting the Art Institute.

There won't be many changes to FLC given that it has already been so popular with students in the past, but Ercoli is thinking of incorporating a service event for National Foreign Language Week. An additional change will be a shift in fundraising tactics; those who sell advent calendars for the club will get top priority in signing up for field trips.

FLC is clearly very well-liked with 434 members, but Ercoli gladly stated at this point she "would love to have 1/3 of the student body involved".

Science Fiction and Fantasy Club is another activity for students to be aware of and look into. Sci-Fi and Fantasy Club members participate in things such as video games, board games, and role-playing. English teacher Mrs. Vikki Anderson, who is in charge of the club, said "it [the club] is student directed and guided – there's a variety of things they do."

Anderson stated that the club's purpose is to "provide students with an opportunity to hang out and socialize with those who have like-minded interests". The club offers a lot of flexibility as students are given the ability to come in and out of the club due to other involvements, and new members are always welcome.

Editorials, p. 4

Keep it Classy

by Annie Lillwitz
Editorials writer

I would need both hands and a foot to count the number of people I've heard asked to "please put a sweater over that" this year. Spaghetti straps and ripped jeans are out, but leggings and baggy pants are in?

Are her shorts too short or are her pockets just *really* long? Pockets showing in general are trashy, but at school, that has to be a rule violation.

With only the best intentions the school board decided against sleeveless shirts, rips above the knee (even if leggings are worn



underneath), too short shorts and other inappropriate clothing. On a daily basis I see girls with sleeveless shirts, rips above their knees, and even pockets sticking out of the bottom of their shorts.

I'm not against the dress code. In fact, I'm pro-dress code. However, I think the rules need to be a bit more straightforward and consistent.

A girl wearing ripped jeans with leggings underneath could be in trouble for wearing those jeans. However, if she takes off her pants her outfit is suddenly school appropriate. Don't get me wrong, I am a big legging-wearer myself; I just don't understand why wearing something over

them suddenly makes it inappropriate.

"I don't like how strictly they enforce [the dress code] on some girls while other girls are able to get by with way worse outfits!" said senior Natalia Okon. "Boys get away with pants below their butts, but a tear above my knee that doesn't even show skin gets me in trouble!"

But it's not just the girls that have to abide by the dress code, boys should know better than to wear hats and alcohol-supporting shirts. Even baggy pants can get a little out of hand, especially when worn around the knees.

The dress code isn't a bad thing, but a little rule consistency wouldn't hurt. So next time you're searching your closet for something to wear remember to keep it classy, LHS.

All images courtesy of Google



Editorials, p. 5

Making the Grade?

by Elizabeth Bernabe
Editorials writer

Imagine coming home from school with little or no homework. Crazy, right? Well, believe me when I say that many states, including Nebraska and Iowa, are introducing a standard-based grading system. This new system lowers the weight of homework while increasing the weight of exams.

Students are graded not on homework, but instead on their performance on tests, quizzes, and major projects. Yes, that means being able to enjoy these last precious summer days. But, before you start demanding this new system, you may want to hear the downside.

With this new system, there would be no more grade inflations in which students could use extra credit or homework. Gasp! Hearing this, some may cast a scornful eye upon the new standard-based grading system. Grades are, in theory, major indicators of a student's knowledge. Therefore, you should not go from a B+ to an A- because you brought two boxes of tissue paper. Bringing in tissue has nothing to do with how well you can find the value of x .

Not everyone agrees however. School official Martha Bruckner states, "There are [people] who think [teachers are] just dumbing down the school, saying kids don't have to do work." Some parents argue

homework teaches children responsibility as adults, but taking away homework doesn't necessarily take away from responsibility. Students still need to have the good sense and reliability to study for tests and quizzes their grades so dearly depend on, and homework can help.

Senior Melanie Bagal points out, "I think [such a grading system would be] good policy because students can look back on their homework to see if they need more practice if they fail a test."

But most importantly, this new system prepares students for college. In college, tests and final exams determine a student's grade.



Images courtesy of Google

Features, p. 6

Gleeks, Assemble!

by Andrea Earnest
Features Editor

If you haven't heard of *Glee*, you've probably been living under a rock for the past six months. The TV show has won Golden Globes, Emmy's, and various other awards. Six soundtracks have also been released with many songs reaching the *Billboard* Hot 100 and the cast of *Glee* has even performed a sold-out tour. For those of you who still have no idea what I'm talking about, you really need to turn on a TV.

The Golden Globe winning show will be returning Sept 21 on Fox at 7PM. The first episode is titled "Audition". A foreign exchange student, played by Charice Pempengco (she's a renowned Filipina singer and actress), transfers to McKinley High School, and usurps Rachel's diva and glee star status.

Other guest stars for this season includes John Stamos, Britney Spears, Susan Boyle and Chord Overstreet (he used to be on *iCarly*!).

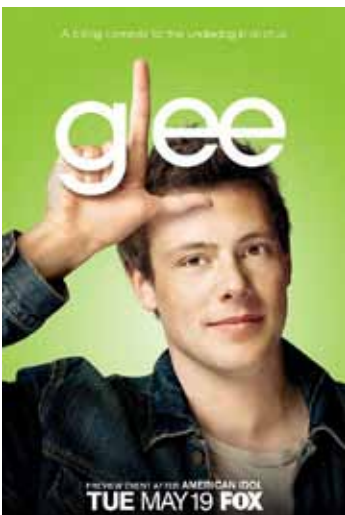
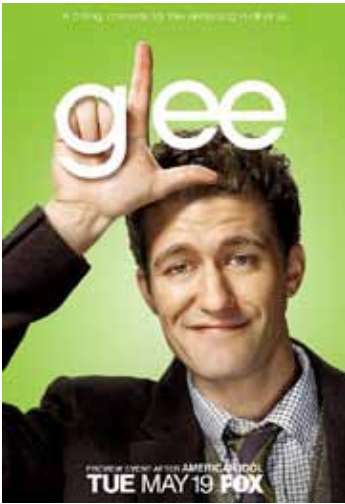
Glee member Lindsey Dolezal says, "I was late to join the *Glee* phenomena, but I'm so glad I started watching it. I can't wait until *Glee* comes back. I keep seeing rumors and pictures on Facebook and Twitter, and it just makes me more curious."

Many of those rumors circulating around deals with the second and perhaps most anticipated episode is "Britney/Brittany". The infamous Britney Spears is rumored to be featured in a dream sequence number. Glee member Brittany, played by Heather Morris, will also get her chance to shine in this episode.

Heather Morris' character Brittany is famous for delivering hilarious one-liners on the show such as, "I think my cat is reading my diary," and "Sometimes I forget my middle name." Giving into the demands of fans, she will be performing six of Spears' songs.

Some of you out there may not be Glee fans in any way, but you should give the show a chance. Ryan Murphy, who created the show, says it best, "It's a show with a lot of heart, and it's a show about underdogs, and you want it to have a certain kindness to it."

After all, who doesn't love a good *Journey* or *Queen* medley? And if that doesn't sway you, I don't know what will.



All photos courtesy of Google

Features, p. 7

A Breath of Fresh Air for Romantic Comedies

by Gabbi Polino
Features writer

The term “romantic comedy” roughly translates to “one of those movies where the cute guy meets and falls in love with the pretty girl...and a few clever one-liners are peppered in along the way.” It’s a label that sends guys running in the opposite direction and inspires girls to host girls’ nights out. I expected *The Switch* to fit comfortably into this generalization, but its wit and originality proved me wrong.

Admittedly, this quirky movie contains its fair share of rom-com clichés. It tells the story of Wally, played by Jason Bateman, a cynical New Yorker whose nervousness keeps him from acting on his feelings for his best friend Kassie, played by Jennifer Aniston. I know, I know—you don’t want to sit through another adaptation of the overdone moving-out-of-the-friends-zone plot. But don’t write *The Switch* off as a cheesy chick flick just yet. Yes, some aspects of its storyline are uninspired, but it makes up for this flaw with refreshingly funny dialogue. Its sarcastic tone sharply contrasts with the generic humor found in most romantic comedies.

In case Jason Bateman’s dorky cuteness isn’t reason enough for you to take a trip to the movies, a long list of other factors lend to this comedy’s charm. Thomas Robinson, who plays Wally’s shy son, gives an adorable performance; the “aww”-worthy father-and-son scenes are sure to leave you misty-eyed. Bateman and Aniston’s on-screen chemistry is another major plus.

Still don’t see what’s in it for you,

gentlemen? The mere mention of Jennifer Aniston’s name might have you convinced that *The Switch* is the sappiest brand of chick-flick, but your assumption is incorrect. Aniston seems to have broken her habit of starring in Hollywood’s most trite movies; this role suggests that she has decided to explore slightly edgier screenplays. A rare blend of romance, emotion and raunchy humor is found in this movie, making it a perfect fit for both male and female audiences.

Whether you’re hoping to satisfy your guilty pleasure for love stories, have a good laugh, or enjoy the performances of talented actors, you’ll find what you’re looking for in *The Switch*.



Find your college at JJC's
COLLEGE FAIR



Get ready for the next step after high school!

- See what more than 100 colleges and universities have to offer you
- Learn about paying for college in free financial aid seminars, offered in English and Spanish
- Bring your family and friends along

Annual College Fair
Tues., Oct. 12 (5:30 - 8 p.m.)

JJC Main Campus
1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, IL 60431

Call (815) 729-9020 or visit
Jjc.edu/info/college-fair for more information.

