

Lemont High School  
800 Porter Street  
Lemont, IL 60439



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Issue 9

# Beating the Spread

by Brittany Baldwin  
News writer

Sophomore year, LHS students are required to take the PLAN test. This test predicts what each student will score on the PSAT-ACT Exam taken the following school year. Those students who exceed their predicted range by one or more points are honored by LHS for “Beating the Spread.” This year’s class of 2011 has received the highest percentage of students who “Beat the Spread” to date (27%).

Paco Castro achieved the highest score increase having surpassed his predicted spread by eight points. LHS Data Analyst, Kathy Brockett attributes this success to students “taking the [ACT] more seriously.” Brockett also feels that teachers are better preparing students for the ACT by providing more “strategies to aid in success.”

District Superintendent, Sandra Doebert, believes that clear expectations set for students by parents and teachers have also

greatly contributed to this success. Doebert elaborated upon this point when she stated, “Students know about [the ACT] and understand their expectations... Parents and students also see [the ACT] is something that students should do well on.”

Despite the fact that LHS does not receive official rewards for having such high student success in “Beating the Spread,” LHS Principal, Thomas Trengove takes a great deal of pride in this achievement. Trengove affirmed this sentiment when he stated, “[Beating the Spread] is about all kids doing the best they can... Any student can win [this honor]. It’s not just about those expected to do well.”

Although Trengove, Brockett and Doebert agree ACT prep classes prepare students for the ACT through building confidence and teaching test-taking strategies, the three emphasized the ACT prep classes do not

“teach knowledge” to students. In fact, Trengove believes, “The best way to score high [on the ACT] is to do a good job academically.”

Doebert feels it is important for students feeling unhappy with their ACT performance to remember, “Any data point exam, like the ACT, is simply a point. It reflects how [students] felt that day, in addition to their skills and knowledge.” Doebert encourages dissatisfied students to “prepare more, take the test again and take the appropriate preparations to succeed in your field of choice.”

When asked to provide a few words of encouragement for the twenty-five students who were unable to surpass their lowest predicted range, Brockett responded, “You have a lot of life ahead of you. Opportunities to do better are there, and people are willing to help.”

*photo courtesy of Google*

# NEWS, P.2

# Trick or Treat

by Caroline Celis  
*News writer*

Throughout the early 1900's, Halloween differed drastically from its current perception. It was used as an excuse for extreme pranks and vandalism. The problems surrounding the way this holiday was celebrated almost caused it to be wiped from the October calendar.

During the 20's and 30's, Americans widely abused the "trick" portion of "trick or treat." Many of the perpetrators were adolescents who took their practical jokes beyond a "just for fun attitude." Vandalism complaints and property damage caused Americans to question whether the holiday should exist at all.

While some crimes were committed by teenagers, authority figures were concerned with "organized crime" groups using the holiday as an outlet for mischief. The Klu Klux Klan, a hate group that specialized in oppression, used Halloween to perform violent attacks against the people they opposed.

While some suggested the elimination of Halloween, many wanted to see it restored to its good natured spirit. The Boys Scouts of America organized safe community events in order keep the holiday alive; carnivals, parades and the door-to-door "trick or treat" concept essentially saved Halloween.

This Halloween revolution has created the holiday we are accustomed to today. The collecting of candy, while first questioned as dangerous, has become the most recognizable tradition of Halloween.

Parties, with their own traditions, are an example of celebrations stemmed off of the original community based Halloween festivities. Party customs such as bobbing for apples (originally a match-making party game) that were wildly popular during the mid 1900s are not often seen in modern day.

While some traditions come and go, there is no doubt new ones are always arising. LHS Speech teacher and Speech team coach Dan Franke enjoys the Halloween tradition of dressing up. He celebrates the holiday by creating a unique costume, and always getting into his character.

Regarding past Halloweens, Franke said, "Last year I was a Vampire who had been caught in the sun". Some of his other favorites have been "Frankenstein's monster, a Roman guard in full body armor, a witch, a woman and a car accident victim."

The originality and elaborateness of dress and celebration on Halloween have all to do with the individual. Each person creates their own perception of holidays, and this is what makes a holiday feature constantly-changing traditions.

So, please, leave the mischief up to the adults and just reap the rewards of sweet, sweet candy. It's what any sensible kid would do.

*photos courtesy of Google and Dan Franke*



# EDITORIALS, P3

## How Old is too old?

by Annie Lillwitz  
Editorials writer

Trick-or-treat! You open your door, expecting to find a gaggle of kids accompanied by their parents, but instead find a group of high school punks ready to raid your bowl of goods. So how old is too old when it comes to trick-or-treating?

Sure, we're getting older and more mature, but let's get serious. Will we ever really be *too* old for free candy? I think not. If you feel young enough to trick-or-treat, you probably are.

Although, some feel that trick-or-treating privileges should be reserved the younger kids. To them, dressing up and begging for candy seems a little immature...

"I think that a holiday intended to make little kids happy and have fun has morphed into a day for



teenagers to mooch free candy!" says senior Liz Alvey. Although Alvey admits she believes high schoolers *should* be able to trick-or-treat "to an extent."

Let's not kid ourselves; dressing up is half the fun. Kids start to plan their Halloween costumes November 1<sup>st</sup>, change it about six times throughout the year, and then end up being a pumpkin for the third year in a row when they can't find their costume at the store.

However, now that we're big high school kids we tend to do one of two things: go the promiscuous route and choose a risqué costume, or not bother to dress up at all. Both fine choices.

What I'm trying to say is you're never too old for Halloween, even if you grow out of trick-or-treating.



# EDITORIALS, P.4

## I Spy.....



by Elizabeth Bernabe  
*Editorials writer*

Teens can now put getting a friend request from their parents on number 2 of their list of “This can’t be happening moments!” Obama is proposing to submit a bill that allows federal law enforcement to wiretap many social networks such as Facebook, Blackberry and Skype. Yikes!

With more suspects communicating via internet, federal officers want communications media to accede to a wiretap order. This would enable law enforcement to monitor messages and activities over the internet. Yes, this probably means you should start deleting most of the inappropriate comments posted all over your wall. Wiretapping is the monitoring of communications media by law enforcement or a third party. In other words, your profile with all your pictures and comments can be subject to being looked at by strangers. To me, it sounds scary and just a tad too similar to a *Mission Impossible* movie. It’s

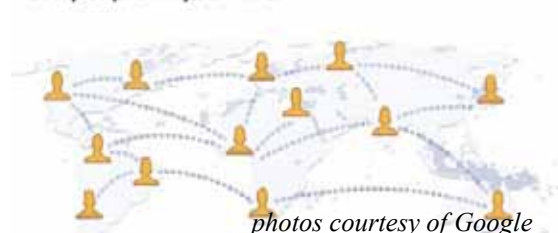
not as if the average high school lists being a spy or terrorist as an extracurricular activity.

Junior Ali Murillo adds, “I don’t think [wiretapping] should be allowed because it [involves] the private thoughts of people.” But what is private about Facebook? Your pictures and status updates are, for the most part, public. Murillo ponders this and declares, “You could choose who you want to show it to. It’s only for your friends.” Facebook does offer settings to block strangers or people who are not your friend from looking at your page.

Phone companies are under the Communications Assistance to Law Enforcement Act, which was instituted in 1994 to assure that telephone conversations can be monitored by law enforcement. If you did not know already, law enforcement can listen in on your phone conversations legally. But, the Patriot Act, signed by former President George W. Bush, drew



Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.

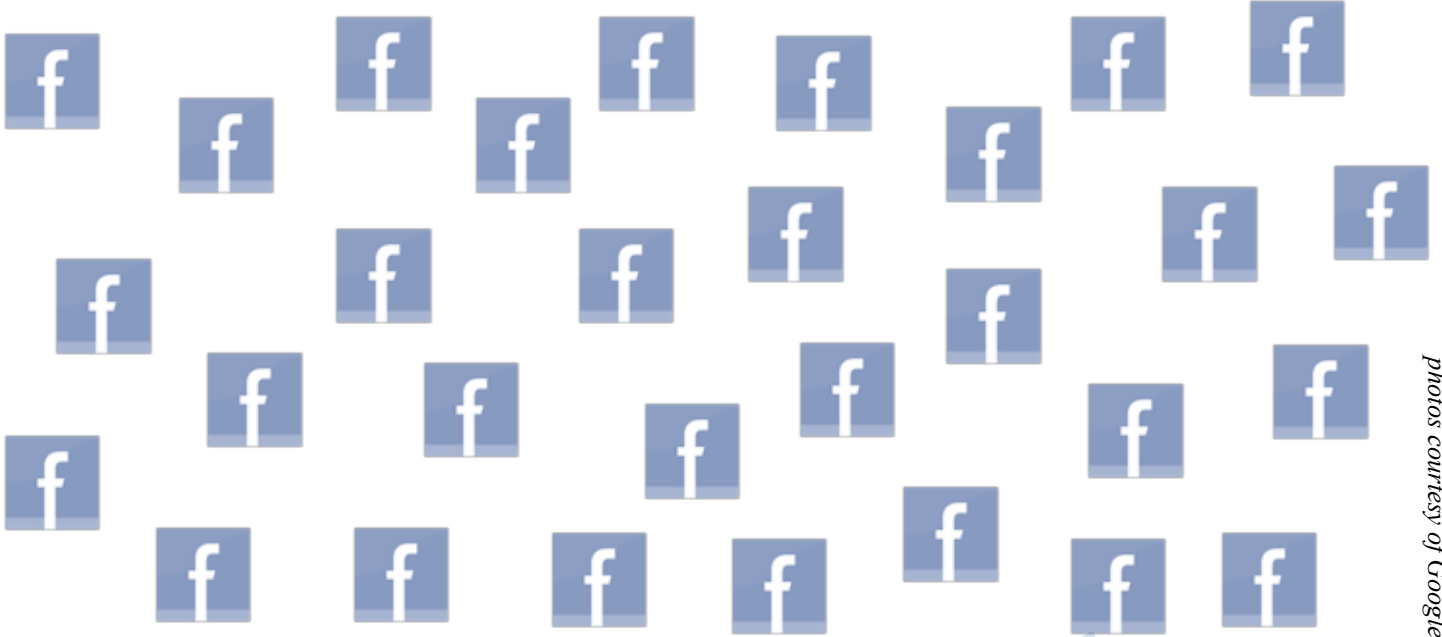


photos courtesy of Google

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# EDITORIALS, P.5



*photos courtesy of Google*

controversy by expanding law enforcement's ability to search and listen in on conversations and even look at personal emails. Scared yet?

Senior Sarah Zvolanek reveals, "Facebook is suppose to be a place that should be kept personal and you should be able to express your feelings. The government should have your permission. I mean, Facebook could be considered your own personal property." She suddenly adds, "The government should get a permit to get on your Facebook, just like [the government] needs to get a warrant to search your house."

Perhaps this would solve the controversy surrounding President Obama's new proposal. If the government needs to obtain a search warrant to look at your Facebook, most people, including high school students, probably would not be wiretapped.

But why do federal officials need to wiretap social networks and media? Since the attacks on 9/11, the government has already taken measures to ensure that possible future attacks will not happen. In theory, wiretapping is for public safety because dangerous plots by terrorists can be avoided if detected early in phone conversation and now perhaps even internet communication. But does this make wiretapping okay?

The history of wiretapping goes back hundreds of years, back to the invention of the telegraph. Wiretapping was used during both the Civil War and the Cold War.

Yet, just how far does federal intrusion go and individual privacy end? Most people value their privacy too much to let it go. It's a tug of war between the government and individuals. And right now, individuals are being pulled into the middle. Our government is based on offering individual privacy, but these freedoms may be limited in the future, one step at a time. Similar to a domino effect, as one right gets toppled over, it can create in others getting limited as well.

With more social communication media and networks, people have an increase in the sense of their freedom of speech, but that does not always include the freedom of privacy. Perhaps, people won't mind that the government may have the ability to wiretap many sites over the internet. Since Facebook is more or less a public forum for people to live at least some part of their lives publically, people should not mind the government snooping around. Who knows, perhaps you can add the government as a friend on Facebook?

# FEATURES, Pg 6

## TOP HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

by Gabbi Polino  
*Features writer*

Every Halloween, there's that one costume that *everyone* seems to be wearing. No one intends to look like a clone in an overdone ensemble, but sometimes it's easiest to go with the obvious choice. If you're struggling to come up with a costume idea, look no further: I've put together a list of this year's five most sought-after costumes.

1. **Lady GaGa.** It should come as no surprise to see this pop star's name topping the list. She practically wears a different Halloween costume every day; there are hundreds of bizarre GaGa-inspired outfits to choose from. Enjoy sifting through all of her fashion-forward attire for ideas, but try to avoid incorporating raw meat into your costume choice. Gross.



2. **The cast of *Jersey Shore*.** There's something about this group of trashy twenty-somethings that fascinates America. The costumes should be fairly simple: grab an Ed Hardy t-shirt and a few pounds of orange face paint, and voila! You're done!

3. **Woody and Buzz Lightyear.** Admit it: you cried like a baby at the end of *Toy Story 3*. Give closure to an important part of your childhood by dressing up as your favorite member of Andy's toy box.



*Photos courtesy of Google*

4. **The *Twilight* love triangle.** Even if you're not a fan of Stephenie Meyer's bestselling vampire love story, you're probably familiar with the struggle between Edward and Jacob for Bella's love. Grab a couple friends and dress up as the lovestruck trio (sorry, you probably won't find a friend with Taylor Lautner's abs).

5. **The cast of *Glee*.** Everyone's favorite glee club members are sure to be a hit with costume shoppers this year. Whether you choose to embody a certain character or reenact a memorable celebrity appearance, your costume will be appreciated by Gleeks everywhere.

October 31 will be here in a matter of days; if you still haven't decided on the perfect Halloween alter-ego, consider recreating one of the characters from this list.

# FEATURES, R.7

## OH, THE HORROR!

by Bridget Carr  
*Features writer*

As Halloween rounds the corner, people plan to take the streets in ridiculous costumes to scavenge for candy, adventure over to a frightful haunted house, or perhaps take advantage of the bone-chilling nights and watch a scary movie.

Whether people choose to go out and see a new release for Halloween or stay home and take to a classic horror film, such spooky movies are a staple of the Halloween season. A recent new mania is the *Paranormal Activity* franchise. The first film was released last October, and the craze now continues with *Paranormal Activity 2*.

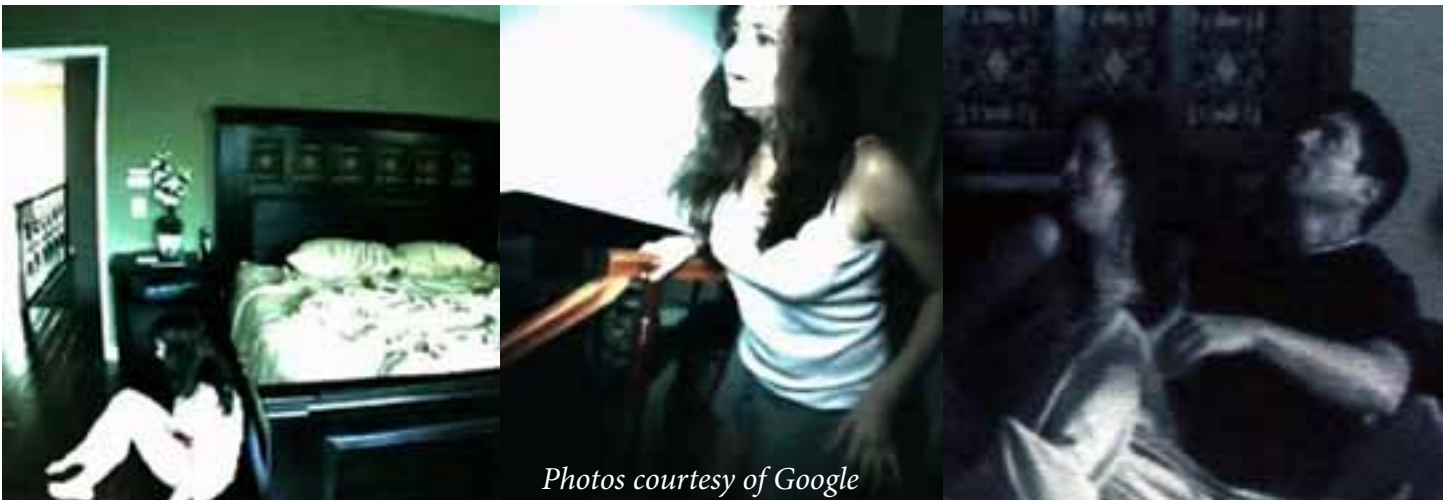
These movies are meant to represent “true stories” of demon attacks on a home that is allegedly haunted by the evil spirit. The “mockumentary” is meant to frighten viewers with seemingly realistic paranormal experiences. The film attempts to build tension continuously as we see clip after clip of the attacks caught on film by a surveillance system in the home.

If you ask me, the first movie was pretty dry. However, it was a success with its intention to keep viewers anxiously awaiting the evening attacks. Every time the lights in the house dim, the audience is left breaking into a cold sweat and preparing to jump out of their seats from the approaching terrors. The ending can surely give a person nightmares for weeks on end.

Despite the movie’s ability to keep a viewer squeezing their companion’s hand in fright, I found it to be poor attempt at a horror film with a horribly dull plot...Is *Paranormal Activity 2* likely to be any better?

The sequel is expected to follow a similar plotline, except it involves an entirely new family. They live in the same house as the previous film’s characters, where the demon supposedly continues to terrorize the residents.

Although I’m not planning to sit through another one of these movies in the theater, the *Paranormal Activity* phenomenon is incredibly well-liked and quite popular among teenagers. At the very least, it’s something to consider when you’re lost for ideas on Halloween weekend and looking for a good spook.



*Photos courtesy of Google*



# FEATURES, P.8

## HAUNTED HALLOWEEN

by Andrea Earnest  
Features Editor

Amidst finding that perfect Halloween costume, studying for the ACT and applying to colleges, why don't you take a break? It's the perfect time of year for haunted houses and luckily, Lemont is central to one of the most popular ones in the state.

Statesville. You've grown up hearing about it and you've heard various reviews about. So what's it really all about?

LHS alumnus Disrael Sanchez, who was one of the few courageous enough to enter Statesville, says, "Statesville is a very good haunted house. The area is perfect, you can see the actual prison from the haunted house. The workers work really hard to scare you, too."

Statesville, officially known as Statesville Haunted Prison, opened in 1993. It has been voted the best haunted house in Illinois for the past eight years. Statesville is located off Weber Road, in Crest Hill, so it's really not too far a drive for those wishing to get their spook on.

Most people believe that the haunted house goes through the actual prison called Statesville, but that's not the case. The haunted house is only *formatted* like a prison; you won't be touring actual prison cells. And



*Photos courtesy of Google*

no, the people working in the haunted house cannot touch you.

According to yelp.com, the haunted house received 2.5 stars out of five. Various people wrote their opinions, listing it as "creative and fun, but not worth the money."

Senior Liz Alvey agrees, "I've never been, but I know it's ridiculously expensive. I'm too scared, so it doesn't matter to me anyway." My advice would be to try it at least once, especially if you have money burning a hole in your pocket. You never know how much fun you might have.

A warning to freshmen and sophomores! If you are under the age of 15, you must be accompanied by a paid adult. A typical visit lasts somewhere around 45 minutes. Lines are usually long, so you might want to arrive a little early. I've heard lines can last anywhere from thirty minutes to two hours; so be patient!

Tickets are \$30, so they are on the expensive side...but at least parking is free. Tickets are available every day for the rest of October. Hours are 7-10 PM on weekdays, and 7-11 PM on Friday and Saturday night.

To view the promo and see hours and ticket prices, visit the website: <http://www.statesville.org/>



# FEATURES, P.9

## A HOMEWORK CAPER

by Ann Baillie  
*Creative Writing Contest Winner*

Mr. Sherlock Homes-or Mr. Collins, as they called him-and myself, Mr. Whatsun-or Mr. Hardy, as I was addressed-, were in the biology lab on the second floor, pretending to be entering grades of a recent examination our students had just taken (really, we were on a social network; but that's another story). All of a sudden we saw a terrifying thing...

"Ahh! What do you mean password incorrectly entered?!" Mr. Collins screamed.

"Relax," I responded, "you just forgot the a- ". I was interrupted by another terrifying scream.

"Help! I've been robbed! Help! Help!"

"Did you hear that, Mr. Hardy? It sounded like a cry for help! This is a job for... Sherlock Homes!" he declared.

"And Dr. Whatsun," I added.

"Yes," he responded, as he put on his Sherlock Homes outfit. "Come Whatsun, we have no time to waste!"

We soon discovered that the scream had come from room N305. We entered warily, unsure of what we might find. Once we did enter, it turned out to be Mr. Wilamowski's English I Honors class. I saw Homes survey the room. Following his lead, I did my own survey. These are the points I noted:

- There were about thirty-four children in the class.
- There was a smidge of blood on Mr. Wilomowski's brow.
- There was a girl crying.

I said these points to Homes, and he responded kindly.

"Excellent, my dear Whatsun," he said. "However, you missed some key points."

"I did?"

"Yes. For example, you noted that Mr. Wilamowski had some blood on his brow. But you did not notice that there was also a cabinet on the right side with blood on the top of the door's frame, and a small amount of oil on the ground before it. You also failed to mention he had thirty-five lines with names in his grade book

"Also, you noticed that there were about thirty-four children, all sweating from heat, but did not see that there were thirty-six desks with things on them. If you look closely, this empty desk is right behind the girl who is crying. One desk is cluttered, and filled with papers, exams, and assignments that received poor marks. The other has a toolbox with a small vial of oil in it, and a filled backpack on it."

"By Jones, you're right!" I told him.

A girl then entered the classroom. She had curly hair that was soaked, she was wearing a tiara, and the bag she was carrying was clinking. As she walked in, she noticed that her friend was crying. She rushed over to her.

"Sally! What's wrong?"

Sally pushed her blonde hair out of her eyes. "Someone's stolen all my work," she explained through her tears. "And that paper is worth fifty percent of my grade! If I don't turn it in, I will fail the course."

"Don't worry Sally, we'll find it."

"We will?"

"Of course we will. Do you really think I, Princess Mia, your best friend would let you fail?"

"You won't have to, Princess, as I know who stole her paper. It was you," Homes said calmly.

"What?" the princess asked. "That's madness! Why would I steal her paper?!"

"I must admit, Homes, I don't follow your reasoning here." I said.

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# FEATURES, P.10

"It's elementary, my dear Whatsun. But, so everyone understands, I shall go through the steps.

"First," he said as he walked up to the whiteboard in the front of the classroom, "we have three numbers. They are thirty-four, thirty-five, and thirty-six." He wrote them down as he said them. "Thirty-four is the number of students in this class after Sally screamed. Thirty-five is the number of total students in this class. Thirty-six is the number of desks being used in the room.

"We can assume that one of the empty desks is Princess Mia's. But we still have the other desk. If we open the backpack, we have empty folders. We can tell that the papers on the other desk belonged in here, because the handwriting on the folders and the papers matches. Therefore, Princess Mia was using both desks.

"When you entered, you had a purse with you that was clinking as you walked. May I please see it now?"

"I refuse."

"Princess Mia," Mr. Wilamowski stated sternly, "give him the bag." She handed it over.

"Inside here are tools that could be used to open a pipe," Homes said as he emptied the bag. "Princess, where did you go when you left the room?"

"To the bathroom next door. Mr. Wilamowski signed my pass." She showed it to him.

After thinking for a moment, he questioned Mia if Sally had screamed.

"No..." Princess Mia responded uncertainly.

"You are lying. We could hear her scream from the floor below. You would have heard her next door. Now where did you really go?"

The princess sighed. "I went to a bathroom on the first floor and put Sally's paper in a toilet there," she said guiltily.

"Why?" I asked.

"I don't do well in school, and knew I was going to fail this course. Each person, from highest grade to lowest, was assigned a day to turn in their paper. That was the only day you could turn it in. I did my best on the paper, but knew I was still going to fail. So I created a plan.

"Every day, I would steal the paper of whoever had to turn it in that day. I knew that Mr. Wilamowski would not believe them when they claimed their paper had been stolen. I also knew that since I would not steal my own paper, Mr. Wilamowski would give me a higher grade for being the only one who turned it in.

"Today was my first day of trying the plan. I needed a distraction, so I could take Sally's paper without anyone noticing it. I took the oil you found and put a small puddle of the stuff on the side of the room that Sally doesn't sit in. Mr. Wilamowski slipped on the oil and hit his head on the cabinet. When everyone was making sure he was okay, I took the paper. After fifteen minutes, I asked for the pass. I went down to a bathroom on the first floor and unscrewed a pipe connected to one of the toilets. I got splashed with some water, which is why I am so wet. I ripped up the paper, shoved it in the pipe, screwed everything back together and flushed four times so the paper could never be found. I'm sorry, Sally," she confessed.

"You planned to do this every day?" I asked.

"Yes. I know it's a complicated plan, but I was desperate." Turning towards Sally, she said "Sally, you forgive me, don't you?"

"It will take me some time to forgive you, but I eventually will," Sally agreed.

Princess Mia was then sent to the dean's office and expelled from school. Her and Sally are still friends, but they are not as close as they used to be.

As for Homes and me, we are waiting for our next case. That's what you do when you're a detective in disguise as a biology teacher.



# SPORTS, R. 11

## Water

by Mary McKeivitt  
Sports writer

VS.

## Gatorade



Turn on any professional sporting event and you are guaranteed to see at least one athlete cooling down with water, or even a commercial advertising Gatorade.

Everyone has their own preference on what works best for their body whether they are a professional or a student at Lemont. Some even swear by a routine to enhance their own performance. Varsity basketball player; Rebekah Michaelson said that her preference is, "water because Gatorade makes you feel more full, but Gatorade is better for after the game rather than during."

Even to those who are not involved in athletic activities, doctors recommend that hydration through water is the healthiest option. Most costumers are concerned about the value of sports drinks. Gatorade is known to have a high amount of



sugar in one bottle. But this could be viewed from two different perspectives, a positive and a negative.

LHS Varsity wrestler; Marty Bruckner prefers "Gatorade because it has electrolytes in it; they have the cool blue Gatorade and it's awesome." Electrolytes are found in sports drinks and work to maintain a voltage between your cells when you are working out. For this reason, others prefer the more natural hydration of water. Cross Country runner Kylie Abernathy thinks that, "water is better because it's more refreshing and doesn't have all that sugar."

Natural always seems to be the better option. Especially when water is essential to survive. Lemont soccer player; Matthew Black argues that water is better because

"it's cheaper and easily accessible." Which, as high school athletes, is something to be considered.

Although one could say water is healthier, it's hard to deny that Gatorade isn't more favorable when it comes to taste. Matt Kowalczyk prefers Gatorade because of the variety they have and that, "it's different from the regular boring taste of H2O."

Some athletes don't restrict themselves to only choosing one or the other, but have a routine that consists of both drinks. Research can justify that a balance of both of the drinks at certain times, depending on the type of athlete and the physical intensity, is the best way to go. Lemont's Varsity Cross Country runner, Molly Mazur, thinks that, "Gatorade is better for after exercise than during or before and water is more for during or before."

The only way one can find out what works best is through conducting their own trials of athletic performance with water vs. with Gatorade. So the real question isn't what works better for you, the question is: "Is it in you?" from the start.



*Photos courtesy of Google*

# SPORTS, R. 12

## They Got What it Takes



Gregg Husa  
Sports Editor

*Spike, action shot - (photo credit  
Dana Lenckus)*



With their season coming to an end, the girls volleyball team is hoping their season concludes in Normal. After locking up a fourth seed in the Ottawa Township Super-Sectional, the girls feel that this could be the year they advance to state for the first time in LHS history.

The girls have fared well in the playoffs in previous years. LHS has won their regional for the past four years. Coach Chris Zogata has high hopes for the playoffs. ““The biggest thing for us is confidence and knowing we can beat anyone at any time and to play to our strength” said Zogata.

The road to the state tournament won’t be easy though. The girls face potential games against Saint Francis, Joliet Catholic, and Rosary. But, Zogata adds, “I feel that on any given night we can beat any of those teams.”

The girls have had a terrific season thus far. They have already won the South Suburban Conference title after defeating Thornton- Fractional South on Oct. 14. With the win, the girls have won back-to-back conference titles and three of the last four conference titles.

Seniors Vicki Wrobel and Courtney Keefe have led the Indians this year. Wrobel was just nominated for Tribune athlete of the month and leads the team in assists and serving aces. Keefe, who has committed to play volleyball at Bradley University, leads the team in kills.

Whether the girls make it to the state tournament is yet to be seen, but they have lived up to their expectations this year. When it’s all said and done, hopefully they go beyond what they expected of themselves and win a state 3A championship trophy.

*Danielle Susz - (photo credit  
Dana Lenckus)*



*Group Huddle - (photo credit  
Dana Lenckus)*