

This paper is published by the Illini Bluffs Publications class. To report errors, comments, or concerns please contact Rachel Roderick at rroderick@illinibluffs.com.



A Special Thank You

It is not easy assembling an 8 page newspaper in roughly two weeks for an entire district. While this is only my fourth year at the helm, sometimes it seems like the story subjects can be a bit repetitive. This year is an exception. As you flip through the pages of the district newspaper, I hope you not only enjoy the articles but appreciate the strength in writing this year in particular. I've always had talented students in this class, and this year I've struck gold... Well, I should say the gold struck me since they (thankfully) elected to take publications. It seems like creating the yearbook is always the highlight of the class, but with so many talented writers, I can say that putting the newspaper together this year seemed to go much more smoothly. For that, I have to thank Taylor, Heather, Josie, Maddie, Ali, Adam, Kristen, Jessica, Blake, Lauren, and Kari. You've done a wonderful job with very little direction on my part. I'm extremely proud of your work!

With that said, here are a few updates on the yearbook front. Last year's staff completely renovated our product and program with the help of Jostens. Their final product far exceeded my somewhat high expectations. We ended up selling our entire stock! (Although we do have a few leftovers from Jostens available.) This year's staff is pushing even farther; with an exquisite cover created by Lauren Stevenson and brought to life by Jessica Sauder, buyers will be delighted by the look and feel of the 2013 book. Yearbooks are on sale for \$45 through December 21st. You can order online at Jostens.com by searching for our school. I know \$45 seems like a lot, but it's worth it. The staff works really hard to find sponsors, so we can actually pay for a portion of each book. So buy now while you can still save; it would make a wonderful Christmas present! This year's theme is *One Last Look*.

Finally, thank you to the community for your support of our newspaper and yearbook each year. Feel free to provide us with feedback, so we can improve our product.

Merry Christmas,

Rachel Roderick

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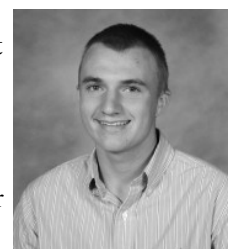
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School Updates

Student Athletes of the Semester

Congratulations to our outstanding student athletes for this semester. These students are not only phenomenal athletes, as they also shine in the classroom. Please support these students and congratulate them for their accomplishments on and off the field.

Clint David is this semester's outstanding male athlete. He is a senior who is involved in soccer, basketball, and baseball. His favorite sport is basketball because there is a lot of action. He has watched and played basketball for as long as he can remember. He describes his most memorable moment in baseball his freshman year as such: "Chris Merry and I were both playing outfield against Farmington. There was a pop fly that we both went for. It was only 10 feet in front of Chris. We both dove for it. I caught it and Chris thought he caught it and was jumping up all excited when really the ball was in my glove. I will never forget that." In his spare time he is either in a duck blind or a deer stand. If they are not in season then he is in a boat fishing. After graduation his plans are to further his education in Wildlife Management or become an electrician.



Arianna Hope Young is a senior and is our outstanding female athlete for this semester. She is involved in volleyball, basketball, softball, Snowflake, NHS, OTSD, Madrigal, and is a yearbook editor. Arianna's favorite sport is volleyball because she loves how the game is revolved around a team effort. She may not have the most recognized job being the libero, but she feels so accomplished when diving to dig a spike out of the floor to continue the volley. She also enjoys volleyball because of all the fun they had as a team before, after, during practice, and the team dance parties before game. Her most memorable moment in basketball was winning state her 7th grade year; she still gets chills when she hears the echoing claps and cheers from crowds. Arianna likes to spend her spare time with friends and family while staying active. After graduation she plans to attend a college for 2 years majoring in Pre-Nursing, while playing volleyball. After that she plans to go on to OSF School of Nursing to become a Registered Nurse with a Bachelor of Science and Nursing Degree.

Layout and Design by Adam Look

Straight News

Library Updates

Taylor Bolen

The Illini Bluffs Library is participating in their annual Rebecca Caudill and Abraham Lincoln reading programs. The Rebecca Caudill program is for sixth through eighth graders who love to read. In order to participate in this reading program, you must read the books on the required reading list, pick your favorite book, and submit your favorite book to Mrs. Green. After all participants have submitted their favorite books, we will select a school wide winner from the list. In February, we will send in our school winner to the ISLMA, and they will select a state winner. The Abraham Lincoln award program has the same concept as the Rebecca Caudill award program, except the Abraham Lincoln reading program is aimed toward high school students. For the Abraham Lincoln program, the eligible books to read are up on flyers on the wall in the library along with a summary of the book.

During the middle and high school Fall Book Fair, the IB library sold about \$2,200 worth of material. The book fair was a fundraiser for buying new books for the library, and we have \$1,200 for the new books. The next book fair will be held May 6th to May 10th. It will be a district-wide book fair instead of a middle and high school book fair; the next book fair will be a BOGO book fair meaning when a book is bought, the buyer will receive either a free book or a book that is half of the original price.

The Sixth Grade Book Club consists of twenty kids and they have read: Wild Life, The Beyonders: A World Without Heroes, and Middleworld. The Seventh and Eighth Grade Book Club has six kids and they are reading Number the Stars. Both of these book clubs try to meet once a month.

Satisfying Suggestions

By Ali Hadley

When the musical juices start bubbling, yet your typical go-to artist has ceased to satisfy your needs, indulge yourself in the toe-tingling voice of Maroon 5's Adam Levine. Maroon 5 is an American alternative pop group from Los Angeles, California that debuted in 2002 with their album *Songs About Jane*. Their upbeat tone and lead singer Adam Levine's unique, godlike voice are a combination of foot rubs and Christmas morning. If you're in a relaxed and peaceful mood lounging on the couch or cruising on back roads with the sun streaming in, consider "Sunday Morning" off of *Songs About Jane* as your go-to jam. Adam's sweet, passionate voice intermingled with the smooth tiptoeing of the piano are sure to raise a sleeve of goosebumps on your skin.

If you're searching for a less electrifying experience, check out Mumford & Sons. Their combination of folk and bluegrass instruments are a refreshment to the alternative rock realm. Their album *Sigh No More* featuring chart-topper, "Little Lion Man," accentuates true originality and soul and gives the banjo a new and satisfying role. Their lyrics are undeniably beautiful and Marcus Mumford's gravelly voice captivates and motivates his listeners into a musical circuit so soulful and brilliant that it's almost impossible to detach from their unique sound. I guarantee *Sigh No More* will not disappoint, it will only leave you craving more of this indisputable treasure.

When music isn't your preferred flavor, take a taste of The Book Thief, a novel written by stunning Australian author Markus Zusak. Between the pages of this exquisitely written novel, Death narrates the depressing life of a young German girl during the Holocaust. The sardonic diction of Death depicts the accounts in a unique and entertaining manner, rather than the conventional melancholy stories associated with the Holocaust. The book has been translated into more than thirty different languages across the world and is guaranteed to please any bookworm.



Kari Williamson

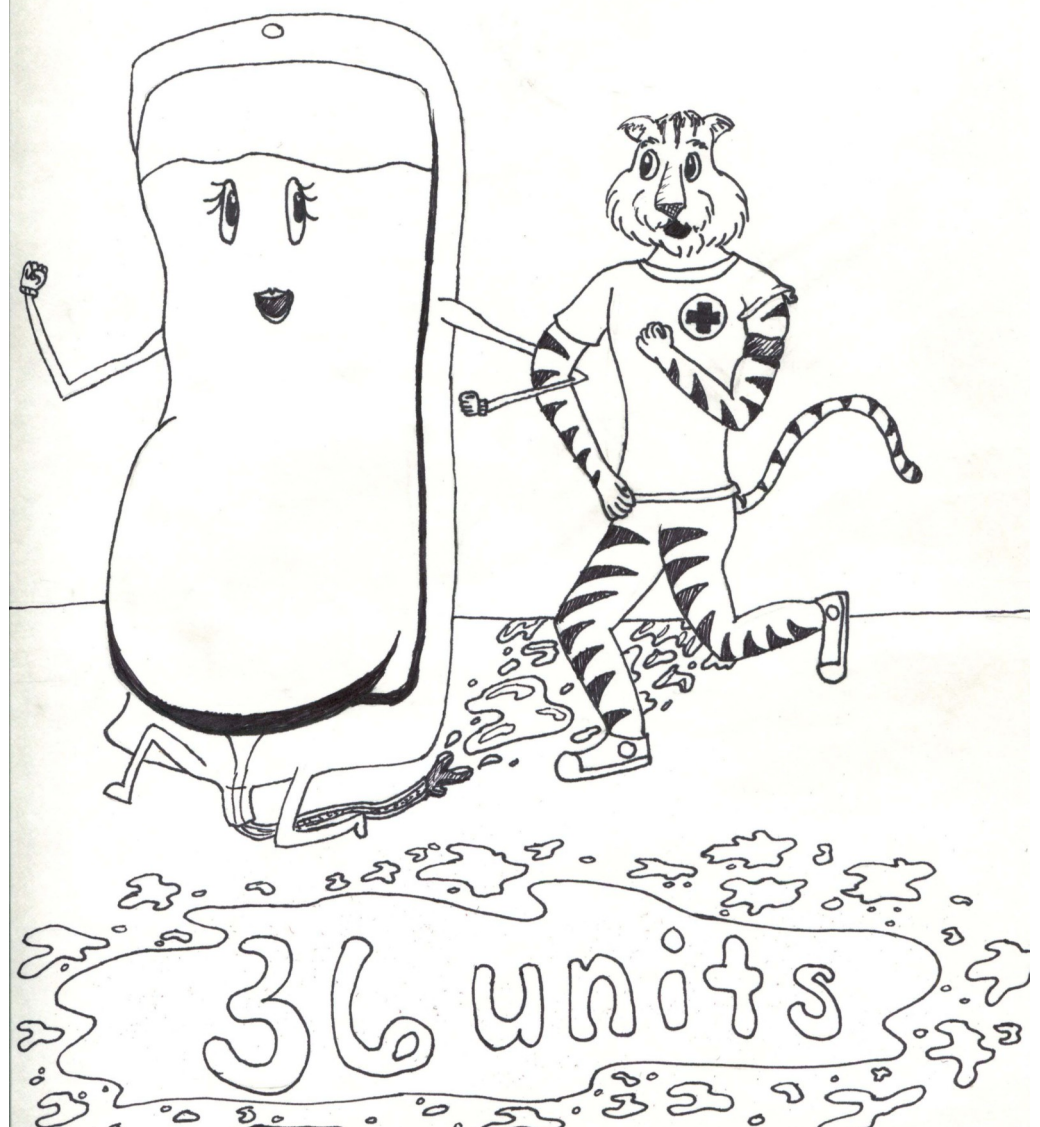
Christmas Collaboration

By Heather Broyles

This holiday season the fourth grade classes are making ornaments for their families. The high school shop students are helping the fourth grade students in making these ornaments. They are going through the process of tracing, painting, and glazing. One of the high school helpers is Phill Smith. "I think it's great we can integrate the high school shop students and fourth graders to do a wonderful project for their parents and families," he said when he was asked about his thoughts on the project. The students go over every other day to work on their ornaments. "They're doing great!" Phill says about their progress. Their ornaments are a great way for the students to learn while they have fun making gifts for their families.

IBHS Blood Drive is a Success!

By Lauren Stevenson



Humor

**Please Note: The Humor Section is for pure entertainment. Enjoy, and most importantly, don't take us too seriously.*

Q: When driving through fog, what should you use?
A: Your steering wheel.

Teacher: "Little Johnny, give me a sentence using the word, 'Geometry.'"
Little Johnny: "A little acorn grew and grew until it finally awoke one day and said, 'Gee, I'm a tree.'"

What do you get when you cross a dog with a telephone?
A golden receiver!

Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
Hatch.
Hatch who?
Bless you, and please cover your mouth next time.

Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
Juno.
Juno who?
Juno that I'm out here, right?

Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
Britney Spears.
Britney Spears who?
Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
Oops, I did it again!



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Surviving the Attack By Blake Sondgeroth

As we all know, December 21st, 2012 is approaching at a rapid pace. On this date, the Mayans predict the end of the world, but more sensible humans expect something else: a zombie apocalypse.

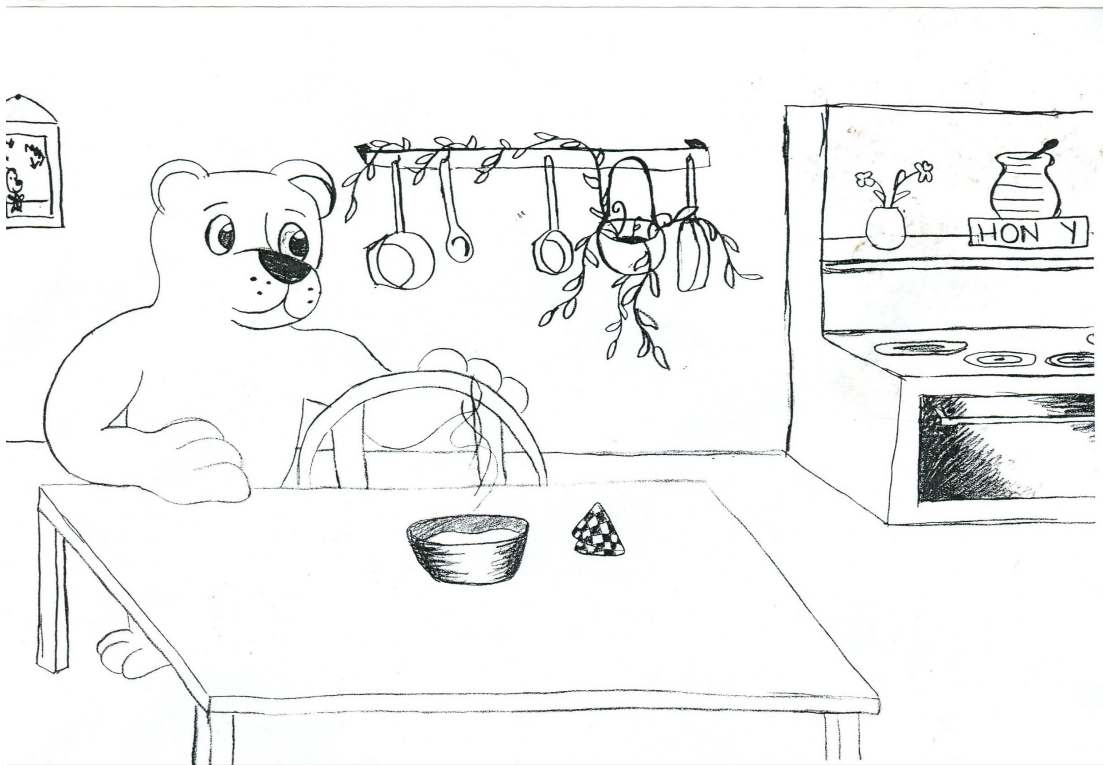
Here at Illini Bluffs, a new, student-run club intends to prepare students for the inevitable. Run out of Mrs. Gresham's classroom, ZASC (Zombie Apocalypse Survival Cult) meets to strategize against the assault of the living dead. Club Leader Cory Smith gives his insight on the group's purpose.

"Our mission is simple: make sure the more dominant males stay at the top, even when our society is at stake, like in the case of a zombie apocalypse."

Cory also says that meetings are used to assign tasks for apocalyptic duties. The only initiation is the willingness to do as he (the president) says. Once ZASC survives Z-Day, he has many plans for the new world.

"That's the best part," President Cory says. "We will get to do whatever we want, and other survivors we find will be kept as slaves." The end may be near for some of us, but for ZASC, the fun is just about to start.

Find the 10 Differences By Lauren Stevenson



Straight News Continued:



Nostalgia By Kari Williamson

Thursday, December 13th, the Illini Bluffs High School hosted the Senior Citizen Dinner for the 23rd year. Any Senior Citizen from the Illini Bluffs district was able to go to the event if they called the school to confirm their seats. It was a free event thanks to donations made by clubs, churches, and businesses. Starting at 12:30 p.m. the seniors went to the theatre to enjoy Christmas music from the high school chorus, Mrs. Brown's second grade class, and the jazz band. Around 1:30, they sat themselves in the commons as Sydney Campen played her harp. The commons was decorated with mini Christmas trees on top of tables along with tablecloths, napkins, and silverware to have a nice setting for the seniors. Then they were served dinner by 20 elves from the middle school's Student Council. Whether they have been coming for just a few years or ten years, they enjoyed talking with old friends and especially the food. The dinner included a full turkey dinner with stuffing, sides, and dessert along with tea or coffee to drink. Later, Santa Clause came with treat bags filled with apples, oranges, and candy for them to take home.

Feature Stories

A Night to Remember

By Adam Look

For many, homecoming is the start of something new. It is a time for everyone to enjoy themselves and have a good time. Many people do not realize all of the hard work and preparation that is needed for the entire week. This is an event that many people look forward to from the start of the year.

The Illini Bluffs homecoming theme this year was Backwoods Ball. The Student Council worked very hard to be more creative with the events of the week. Some of the dress-up days were similar to those in previous years, but this year the council incorporated Theme Day for all students. Themes for all classes differed, with the freshmen being secret agents, the sophomores pirates, the juniors dressing as 'The Old and the Restless,' while the senior class was dressed like characters from the movie Grease.

The Backwoods Ball was hosted in the high school commons on September 29th from 7pm-10pm. The idea for this theme came from the movie Footloose. The decorations for the dance established a country feeling for the night. The highlight of the decorations was a Mason Jar chandelier that hung over the middle of the dance floor.

A great deal of preparation goes into homecoming. Whether it's picking out your clothes, asking your date in a cute way, or setting up for the dance, everyone is put to work in some way. To ask his date, junior Adam Johnson wrote the word "Homecoming?" on a shirt and showed his potential date while holding flowers. Adam says that his favorite parts about homecoming week were the dress-up days that our Student Council thinks of for us.

A big event that Illini Bluffs has started to kick-off homecoming weekend is an event called Powder Puff. This takes place on the day before the dance, where the boys played volleyball, followed by the girls playing a game of football. This event took place this year on Friday, September 28th. The finale of the night was a new event taking place on the old baseball field, where the movie Remember the Titans was shown on a projection screen. This movie was chosen because the movie centers around football, and it goes with the theme of the night since the girls had just finished their football games.

Whether it's dressing up like a secret spy, scoring the winning touchdown for your class, or just enjoying the dance, there is an enjoyable atmosphere for everyone during homecoming week. The Illini Bluffs Student Council did a great job on their planning and preparations so that everyone enjoyed this week.

ACT Review

By Kristen Payne

Spring of 2012 was a hectic time for the juniors, now seniors, at Illini Bluffs High School. Between prom, ACT, and PSAE, there was hardly any down time. As testing time neared, students started to buckle down more to determine their futures. Teachers helped focus the students on the ACT and PSAE, but the ACT seemed to be the biggest worry for most of them.

If the junior class does well on the PSAE they are given incentives such as being exempt from select finals as seniors and getting privileges such as parking spots. These incentives are not enough to keep the juniors as focused on the PSAE as they are on the ACT according to the scores. One more incentive that could be added to make it a little more worthwhile is cash to whoever exceeds in all parts of the test.

When the class of 2013 took the PSAE in April, only about 50% met standards and 9% exceeded standards in Reading. 43.6% met and 7.7% exceeded in Math, and 47.4% met and 7.7% exceeded in Science.

"I like to do well on tests, but I was still more worried about the ACT," said Alex Hewit regarding the PSAE. The scores portrayed how little the Juniors were really concerned with the PSAE. When asked if she was happy with her PSAE score, Maddie Gresham said, "Not really." That was the same response I got from a majority of the former junior class.

"I think we could put more of an emphasis on the PSAE to raise the scores instead of just giving incentives for doing well. It needs to feel more important to us personally," says Maddie about ways to raise our scores for the school. Illini Bluffs has students that hold a lot of potential; they just need a better reason to portray it through testing.

One of Jenna's favorite Three-Tone pieces she has completed recently:
Paul McCartney

Recognition For the Talented

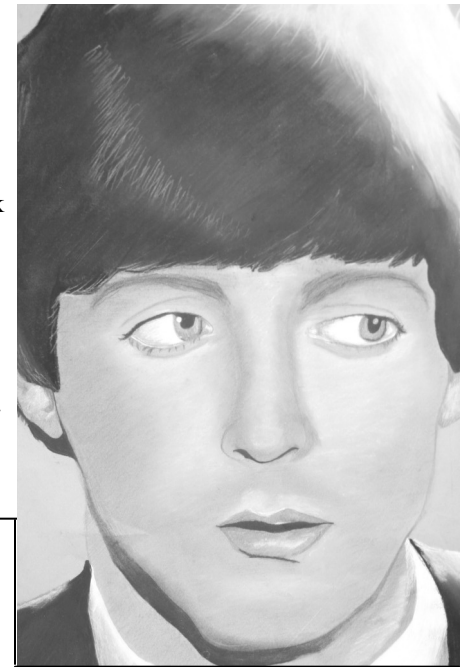
By Jessica Sauder

Creating, drawing, painting and other types of art give you a way to express yourself and think beyond the norms of society. For freshman Jenna Cordle, it does exactly that. "You have freedom in it and can do what you want because it's not a set thing like most other classes," she told me when I asked why she enjoyed constructing art so much. Her love of art also goes right along with the career that she would like to pursue, which is to be a tattoo artist. "I think it would be cool to see my art on other people's bodies," she stated.

Right now though, her favorite technique for drawing is chalk pastels "because they don't have hard edges, so if you mess up you can just add to it" and her inspiration is usually things that she has read from books. She uses the feelings from the books to create the images for many of her drawings.

Mrs. Roderick stated, "Of all the students coming in and out of my classroom, they all seem to notice her artwork among the many pieces of artwork on my bulletin board."

Jenna also said, "I feel like I'm good at it, so I can be proud of it," as she should be. All of IB definitely is proud of her skill.



Outstanding Teacher

By Heather Broyles

We all have that one teacher we can't seem to leave, but luckily for us that's a good thing. For the class of 2013 at Illini Bluffs High School that teacher is Mr. Huey. The senior class has had the privilege of getting the possibility of six years taught by this history teacher. As seventh and eighth graders we all had Mr. Huey as our Social Studies teacher, but going in to high school many of us were happy seeing that familiar teacher's name printed on our schedules. One of the differences between teaching high school and middle school is the responsibility given to the students. "I like teaching both. High school is still new, so I'm still figuring out what does and doesn't work," says Mr. Huey.

Going in his class you know there will be different teaching methods mixed with some fun. Everyone learns in different ways and he understands that. He takes different approaches in order to help everyone learn, no matter what their learning techniques are. Many of us can remember back in middle school when we had different simulations, such as coming to Ellis Island as illiterate immigrants looking for work in a new country.

Different teaching styles like that are what helps students remember the material. To choose these styles he talks to other teachers and reads books. After he uses a style he says he remembers what does and doesn't work so it's always a work in progress. Jaycee Johnson, a senior at Illini Bluffs, has been taught by him for 4 years of history. "I think he is a good teacher. I like the group projects best," she says. He is an enjoyable teacher to have because "he has a good sense of humor."

After attending ICC and ISU, Mr. Huey received his degree in Education. Later he enrolled in a program to become a master teacher. Becoming a master teacher takes a lot of work and is done through the National Board Certification. Only a handful of teachers at our school have this title. Mr. Huey became a teacher for the obvious reason of wanting to help people learn new things, but he also chose it because he feels like there is always something new happening: "There are a lot of interesting stories. It is a relatable subject because it is the story about all of us," he says.

Mr. Huey does everything he can to help students succeed. He is loved by many of his students and appreciated by many parents. Having him since seventh grade has given the students and parents the opportunity to get to know him throughout the years. His laid back attitude lets you know you can ask for help making it easier for students to communicate with him. The students, parents, and faculty in the Illini Bluffs school district are lucky to have such an outstanding teacher.



Feature Stories

A Race to the Polls

By Heather Broyles

On November 6th our country decided to reelect Barack Obama for another four year term. Before we found out the country's decision, we found out what the results would have been had it just been Illini Bluffs at the voting polls that day.

All throughout the Illini Bluffs schools, it was made possible for students of any age to vote. All three of the schools had their own mock elections. The elementary, middle and high schools all agreed on who would be elected had the fate of the country been in the students' hands. It wasn't an overwhelming decision. Just as in the real election, it was close up to the finish. The students at Illini Bluffs did decide upon Barack Obama as president.

In the middle school, however, it came down to a number of votes to decide who won. Mrs. Gresham and Mr. Huey were in charge for the high school. Their American Problems classes manned the polls at lunch. The turnout wasn't as great as expected. "I was shocked that it was so low because we made it so easy to vote. It was easy to access during lunch hours," Mrs. Gresham said about the 53% turn out of voters in the high school. For those who did vote, however, it was a great learning experience and good practice for what the students will have the right to do in our country when they turn 18.

Collection for a Cause

By Maddie Gresham

This year the Illini Bluffs High School's Canned Food Drive was a little different than previous years; the classes had to abide by a new set of rules. The new guidelines helped to insure that the classes each brought in the right amounts of all the needed foods. At the end of the three week collection the totals stood: Freshman with 5,993.5 points, Sophomores with 18,618.5 points, Juniors with 53,901.5 points, and Seniors with 35,080 points. Overall, 5,183 items were donated.

Regardless of who receives the all-important bragging rights, all the classes came together for the final push of building a tower out of their collected foods. Freshman built a tower out of their cans, Sophomores a fort, Juniors a boxing ring, and Seniors an arena representing The Hunger Games, and the Seniors received the best tower award. At the end of the day though all the food that was collected was boxed up and sent away to feed people in our community during the holiday season...Success!



A New Voice

By Taylor Bolen

Mr. Dare, the new choir teacher at Illini Bluffs, is entering his third year of teaching. He studied at the University of Illinois with a major in Music Education. He has taught at Champagne Central High School and Metamora High School in his former years as a high school Choir Director and Basic Acting teacher. When asked what he likes about IB, Mr. Dare states, "There is a work ethic that I haven't seen at other schools before." Unlike the schools where he previously taught, IB is small and has tight-knit relationships among students. When he got the call about an opening at Illini Bluffs, what pulled him in were the active Music Boosters and how much the community cared about the music program. While he worked in Champagne, he loved to do community theater in his free time; he hopes to do community theater here as well. In his remaining free time, he stays at home with his wonderful wife and two young boys. Mr. Dare says he does not have any pets because "two boys is enough." If Mr. Dare was not teaching he honestly has no idea what he would be doing because he believes that teaching is what he is supposed to be doing.



New High School Principal

By Taylor Bolen

Entering the sixth week of school, we finally acquired a principal to preside over Illini Bluffs High School, Ms. Traenkenschuh. Although this is her first time being a principal, she had been an assistant principal at Manual High School, Woodruff High School, and Peoria High School; she was also a dean at Manual High School. Having been a dean, she was used to dealing with enforcing disciplinary action, but she finds it more relaxing to be a principal; as a principal she can be more involved with students and teachers. She studied at Bradley University to get her undergrad, VanderCook for her Masters, and again at Bradley for her Masters.

Before she was a principal, Ms. Traenkenschuh was a band director for nine years. She misses being in the classroom and interacting with students all day, but it really depends on the day whether or not she prefers to be in a classroom. She says the physical structure of the building, the consolidation of the school, and the family atmosphere at IB is what she likes most.

Being a new principal can be scary, but so can getting a new principal. When Ms. Traenkenschuh first arrived at IB, rumors flew like papers in a whirlwind. Since she's from Manual, the students thought she was going to be strict; people were saying that Anything Goes was being taken away and that the vending machines were going to be taken out. The vending machines are staying as long as they are used appropriately and at the correct time. Ms. Traenkenschuh says, "I didn't even know what Anything Goes was until the morning of the senior meeting. 100% NO! Anything Goes is staying!"

Ms. Traenkenschuh wishes that if anyone has any questions they would talk to her directly; she dislikes it when people assume information without any knowledge of the situation. Just ask her anything and she will tell you what she believes in; she will have the same answer with every person that asks, and she will fully stand behind that answer the whole way.

On the Ball

By Blake Sondgeroth

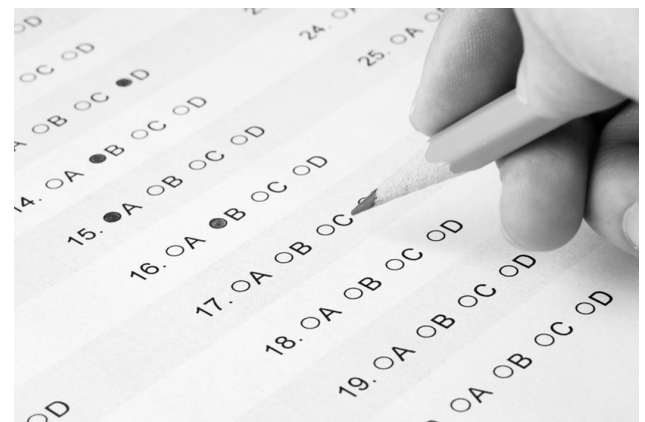
The first semester is coming to a close at Illini Bluffs, but for the seniors, it's never too early to start thinking about *next* year. College is right around the corner, so counselors and teachers are all in a mad rush to get us a head start.

At the head of the college process is the high school counselor, Mrs. Klinedinst. Her advice has been helping many students get familiar with this procedure. She stated that our class is doing a lot better than previous senior classes as far as asking questions and overall transcript requests. She also adds, "August through November is a good window to start applying, but you definitely want to start by November." College is more expensive and selective than ever, so being punctual is key.

How are seniors handling the pressure? Are they as clueless as parents and teachers think? Not at all. Many students, like Alex Hewit, are well on their way. Alex has already applied to six colleges and says his top two at the moment are Monmouth and Augustana. Since Alex knows he wants to be a doctor, he wants a school with a good medical program. College can be an overwhelming experience, but he has some ideas of how to make himself feel more at home. "I'd like to attend a small college because I'd feel more comfortable, since I came from a small high school like I.B."

Other students are looking for different qualifications in their future institutions. Senior Oren Pincock demands a college with an ABET, Accredited Bio-medical Engineering Program, so he can pursue his degree in that field and eventually obtain a doctorate. He feels this is expected of him.

College is a new and important step in our lives, and the journey there may feel like climbing a mountain. The knowledge of the staff and students at Illini Bluffs will help make that mountain no more than a speed bump on the road to our future.



Sports

Hard Work Pays Off

By Josie Flynn

The fall sports never seem to let people down. All the hard work and dedication seems to pay off for the students at Illini Bluffs. Soccer, volleyball, golf, and cross country are the four sports that go on during the fall.

The soccer team had a really good year even though they did not advance to sectionals. At times the team got a little silly, but every time they stepped on to the field, they worked as hard as they could!

The girls on the volleyball team had a competitive but fun year as well. The team became close, and it was sad to see them end an awesome season. They won quite a few games, and when they did not win they always walked off the court with an awesome attitude.

Our golf team had a successful year as well. Bailey O'Connor, Brycen Purcell, and Rachel Getz made it to the sectional meet this year! The whole team has many things to be proud of. They were supportive, and they all had a great experience this season.

Running is not an easy thing to do. The cross country team always seems to make it look like a piece of cake! The team had a good year and most of the athletes got their personal best times. The team always has a great time, especially when they treated themselves to some well-deserved ice cream!

All of the fall sports had a solid season. The seniors will be missed tremendously next year by everyone! Now there is only time to get better until next fall.

Lady Tigers start Undefeated

By Blake Sondgeroth

As fall turns to winter, it's time to hit the hardwood again at Illini Bluffs. There is more excitement than usual brewing inside Pat O'Connor Gymnasium this season. With only the loss of the Wall twins from last year's 3rd place finish at the State Tournament, and an 10-0 start this year, it looks to be another successful season for the girls' basketball team.

Leading the undefeated Tigers is senior guard Taylor McClintock, who recently signed to play for Mercer University, a NCAA Division I school in Georgia. The commitment would seemingly take a lot of pressure off of the reigning two-time Journal Star Small School Basketball Player of the Year.

"Yes and no," McClintock answers. "Yes, because now there isn't as much pressure to be perfect, but no because I still have a hard season ahead."

Obviously, expectations are higher than ever. So far, the Tigers have proven that they can handle the pressure. However, the girls have their sights set much further.

"Our goal from day 1 was to get back to Redbird Arena," Taylor adds. "Everything else we accomplish is just icing on the cake."

IB Golfers Reach Sectionals

By Adam Look

The 2012 golf season was an exciting year for all 12 members who participated. Some may have had a few rough matches, while others shined in the late summer sun. As the season came to a close, three hard-working golfers shined brighter than others. Illini Bluffs had three members of its golf team shoot well enough, during regionals to have a chance to participate in the sectional championship in mid-October. From the boys' side, Bailey O'Connor and Brycen Purcell reached this point, where Rachel Getz was our representative from the girls' side. Golf sectionals this year took place around mid-October in Petersburg. The top high school golfers from around the state were in attendance for this event. When asked about the atmosphere of being among an elite group of golfers, senior Bailey O'Connor replied, "I really enjoyed being there, but it was very intimidating. I just wanted to go out there and prove that I should be there with them." All IB golfers had a rough score at the 2012 sectional championship. Bailey O'Connor had the best score, shooting a 98 through 18 holes in Petersburg. Rachel Getz and Brycen Purcell ended their season with scores in the 100s in their 18 hole matches.



Returning Seniors for Girls' Basketball



Jaycee Johnson



Ari Young

Taylor McClintock



Nicole Russell



Activity Schedules

Boys' Basketball

12/26-12/28 @ Macomb Tournament
 1/7-1/14 ICAC Tournament @ Delevan High School
 1/18 Home vs. Elmwood High School
 1/22 Home vs. Brimfield High School
 1/26 @ Williamsfield High School
 2/1 Home vs. Hartsburg-Emden
 2/8 Home vs. Delevan High School
 2/9 @ Illini Central High School
 2/12 Home vs. Illini Central High School
 2/15 @ Mt. Pulaski High School

Girls' Basketball

12/26 @ Beardstown High School
 1/3 @ Midwest Central High School
 1/5 @ Tremont High School
 1/7 Home vs. Elmwood High School
 1/14 Home vs. Bushnell High School
 1/19 Home vs. River Valley High School
 1/21 @ Lewistown High School
 1/23 Home vs. Mt. Pulaski High School
 1/24 Home vs. Illini Central High School
 1/31 @ Brimfield High School

Wrestling

12/29 @ Argenta-Oreana Invitational
 1/3 @ El Paso High School
 1/5 Home (Illini Bluffs Invitational)
 1/12 @ Kewanee Invitational
 1/15 @ Limestone High School
 1/17 Home vs. Dee-Mack
 1/19 @ Olympia Tournament (J.V.)
 1/22 @ Havana Grade School
 1/24 @ Canton High School
 1/26 Home vs. U-High
 2/2 Regionals @ TBA

Scholastic Bowl

1/10 @ Greenview
 1/24 Home
 1/31 @ Midwest Central
 2/7 @ Hartem
 2/14 @ Delevan
 2/21 @ Illini Central

Bowling

1/3 Home vs. Kewanee High School
 1/5 @ Taylorville Invitational
 1/7 Home vs. Taylorville High School
 1/9 Home vs. Bloomington
 1/12 @ Galesburg Invitational
 1/17 Home vs. Eisenhower
 1/19 @ Decatur Tournament
 1/24 @ Abingdon High School
 1/26 @ Dixon Invitational
 2/2 IHSA Sectional Tournament

Mark Your Calendar!



Op-Ed

**Please Note: The Op-Ed Section contains the opinions of the writers and the Op-Ed board, which consists of our publications staff.*

Cafeteria Concerns Maddie Gresham

Walking away from the lunch line, glancing down at our trays, we IB students are left wanting more in terms of the quality and quantity of our school lunches. We dream of bigger and better; we hope for more, but day after day our disappointment grows.

We salivate at the thought of a lunch including chicken nuggets, country fried steak, pizza burger on roll, farmer salad, smuckers PBJ, oven potatoes with country gravy, veggies, fresh peaches, and milk. And we know that a lunch like this is obtainable; one of our neighboring schools, Farmington, offers lunches like these on a daily basis. We are tired of sub-par lunches.

One point we would like to make clear: we acknowledge with the changing food standards that making a balanced and nutritional meal is a challenge, but we would also like to acknowledge the effort our school is lacking. We would just like to know that we are cared about; Farmington students get surveys asking what foods they enjoy seeing on the line, and even little things like this would make us respect our lunches and lunch ladies that much more.

Our fellow students' opinions don't lie. Kelsie Ehlers, senior, preaches, "When we do have a lunch that we all enjoy, such as chicken patties or chicken nuggets, sometimes there isn't enough for everyone. I don't understand why they don't make enough food for everybody; some students get extras, but some students don't get any. And I hardly ever feel as if I get what I pay for."

And here is yet another point that seems to be getting overlooked: Wanting students to eat healthier and in turn become healthier is the goal of the cafeteria, but the simple fact is that if the food we are served is unappealing and not tasteful it will not be eaten, and the candy and chips in the vending machines will.

We understand that there are certain nutritional requirements for each lunch that the school has to meet, but often we question if these needs are met. Kari Williamson, senior, also brings up a good point, "Our lunches are poor quality and not as nutritious as they could be, because, for example, no fresh fruit or seasonal fruits are offered. We also have very few options on a daily basis."

At one point early in the year apples were being served that were 2-weeks past the Best If Used By date. This was brought to the attention of the lunch ladies who replied by saying the apples were "fine" and "okay to eat," even though it was clearly evident they were brown and had lost their nutritional values. After contacting the owner of the apple distributor, Sunset Orchard, and talking to Al Vignieri, I got this response: "We do not recommend the sliced apples be used passed the Best If Used By date for food safety reasons. Nutritional values will not be good up to that date."

Since this was brought to the attention of the school we have seen some improvement in our lunches. Shortly after this was brought up we were offered fresh tomatoes and lettuce with our hamburgers, and on a day-to-day basis our lunches do seem more appealing. We are very excited about these new changes, and we expect there to be many more.

We do not want to bash on our school, or the lunch ladies providing our lunches, but at the same time we feel we deserve more. If the state, our school, and our cafeteria want us to eat healthier, they are going to have to make it more appealing, and frankly taste much better. We, as the students of IB, are ready to take a step in the right direction, but we feel the lunches we are served, at this point, are holding us back from becoming the healthier and happier students we would like to be.



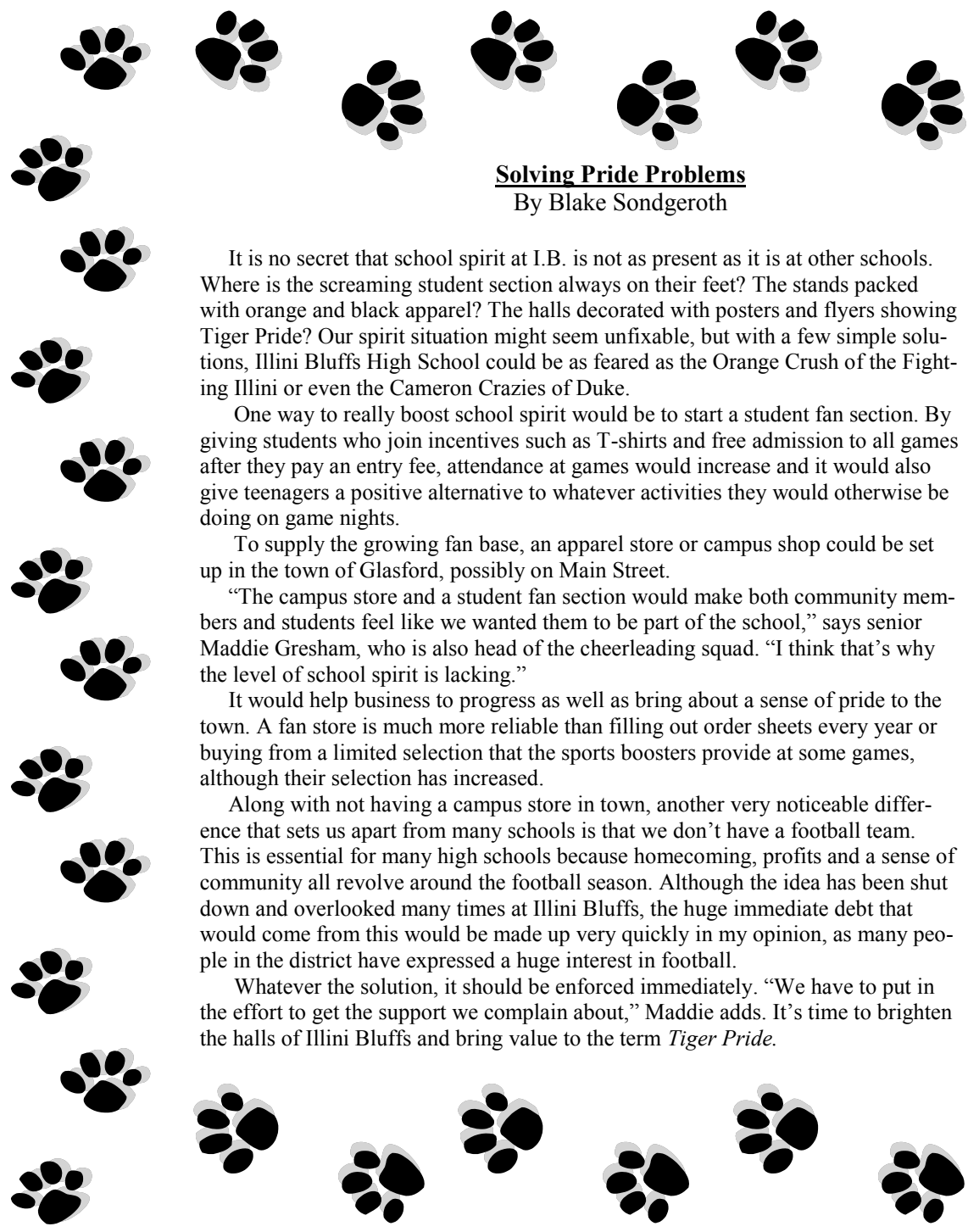
Cartoon by Jessica Sauder

90 Minutes of Suffering By Ali Hadley

Sitting, waiting, and wishing. Drool-stained book covers and anxious, tapping feet. Some days it feels like class will **never** be over. At Illini Bluffs, each of our four class periods throughout the day are an hour and a half long, much of which is spent sitting rather impatiently with nothing to do.

"We sit around a lot in class," says Dalton Han-neman, a junior, "and we don't make good use of the block schedule." Ninety minutes seems like light years in the minds of students, who are constantly daydreaming, gnawing their pencils raw, and checking the clock religiously every five minutes. We often find ourselves generating millions of different things we'd rather be doing than listening to the assassination of James Garfield or how to solve polynomial inequalities. How do teachers expect us to sit and pay attention for ALL that time? Some teachers don't even have enough material to cover the whole class period. Instead, they torture us with pointless, dull videos and dangle naptime in front of our faces. What's the point of class if we're just staring at the ceiling tiles? There are many different alternatives to solving the extra time nuisance.

"We should do five classes a day, each an hour long. We could still be on the block schedule, meaning we'd take ten classes each semester instead of eight. It'd be more variety and a sensible use of time," Dalton suggests. If class periods were only forty-five minutes each day, and we had every class every day, students would stay focused on the lessons and tasks at hand instead of miserably suffering in their uncomfortable, plastic desk chairs. We would be more lively and active, since we are working our brains and moving around more frequently. Homework would not be handed in such overwhelming amounts and the material would be fresh in our minds the next day. School would be less stressful and more entertaining. The time allotted for class would be used more efficiently and productively. Ninety minutes is just too long when most of it is wasted.



Solving Pride Problems By Blake Sondgeroth

It is no secret that school spirit at I.B. is not as present as it is at other schools. Where is the screaming student section always on their feet? The stands packed with orange and black apparel? The halls decorated with posters and flyers showing Tiger Pride? Our spirit situation might seem unfixable, but with a few simple solutions, Illini Bluffs High School could be as feared as the Orange Crush of the Fighting Illini or even the Cameron crazies of Duke.

One way to really boost school spirit would be to start a student fan section. By giving students who join incentives such as T-shirts and free admission to all games after they pay an entry fee, attendance at games would increase and it would also give teenagers a positive alternative to whatever activities they would otherwise be doing on game nights.

To supply the growing fan base, an apparel store or campus shop could be set up in the town of Glasford, possibly on Main Street.

"The campus store and a student fan section would make both community members and students feel like we wanted them to be part of the school," says senior Maddie Gresham, who is also head of the cheerleading squad. "I think that's why the level of school spirit is lacking."

It would help business to progress as well as bring about a sense of pride to the town. A fan store is much more reliable than filling out order sheets every year or buying from a limited selection that the sports boosters provide at some games, although their selection has increased.

Along with not having a campus store in town, another very noticeable difference that sets us apart from many schools is that we don't have a football team. This is essential for many high schools because homecoming, profits and a sense of community all revolve around the football season. Although the idea has been shut down and overlooked many times at Illini Bluffs, the huge immediate debt that would come from this would be made up very quickly in my opinion, as many people in the district have expressed a huge interest in football.

Whatever the solution, it should be enforced immediately. "We have to put in the effort to get the support we complain about," Maddie adds. It's time to brighten the halls of Illini Bluffs and bring value to the term *Tiger Pride*.

School Updates
By Taylor Bolen

Elementary School

IBES would like to welcome Ms. Currie, Ms. Flynn and Ms. Jarrett all to the teaching staff. Also, the school carnival was moved to the fall this year. By moving the carnival to the fall, the elementary school raised \$600 more than usual in the spring. All of the teachers are aligning their lesson plans in order to follow the Common Core lessons. Four of the students in IBES have become a Word Millionaire, which means that they have read over one million words so far this school year. There is now a laptop lab that is accessible to the teachers and the lab is mobile so the laptops can be taken to the classroom.

Middle School

IBMS has an active cheerleading team this year. The girls attended summer camp to improve their skills and cheer at the boys' basketball games. The girls have also expanded their cheerleading to include girls' basketball games and even some away games. Their presence brings life to the games. Also, their dance team this year is working very hard to learn new routines. IBMS had 16 students participate in the Middle School Fine Arts Speech Activities. Our students chose their speeches to perform in front of judges in the West Central Conferences. The students ended their season performing at the State Contest held at Dunlap Valley Middle School. During lunch our students have the opportunity to be part of the IBMS Book Club. Students choose a book to read and share thoughts concerning the book. Mrs. Green is the sponsor of the clubs. We are looking forward to including technology to engage our students with book clubs throughout the web. Also, Science Club meets twice a month and has 24 students. Students explore the world of science and are able to expand their hands-on opportunities. Chess Club has approximately 20 students and meets every two weeks. Students play two man and four man chess improving their reasoning and higher level thinking skills.

High School

The Math and English Departments are aligning their curriculum to Common Core Standards and all departments are guiding students through some new learning processes and expectations surrounding the implementation of the Common Core. The IBHS Music Department is proud to announce four students received the honor of participating in All-State Music Ensembles. Zach Crall, Sarah Mills, and Cody Mull will sing in All-State Choir; Sydney Campen will play the harp in All-State Orchestra. Mr. Dare and Mr. Seymour are looking forward to taking these students in January. Congratulations to Mr. Dare and the IBHS Choir for a wonderful and successful Madrigal Dinner. If you did not get to attend, please plan on joining the fun next December. IBHS would like to acknowledge the wrestling team for getting off to such a great start! We are excited that our Girls' Basketball team is 10-0!

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