Block scheduling selected to fill anticipated longer school day

By Joshua Housing

As many may already know, a plan to extend the school day by 46 minutes is currently in the works. A part of the plan to extend the school day includes a complete revamping of the class time structure, so if and when the school day is extended it will be properly utilized. “We have submitted a proposal [to Central Office] that will extend our school day by 46 more instructional minutes, and we have included block scheduling where students will have 6½ class periods that meet every day,” said assistant principal Remy Washington. The School Board required all schools to submit a plan for how they will implement the proposed longer day beginning next school year. There are a number of different approaches to the design of a block schedule, while administrators opted for an alternating school day. Typically, the day begins at 8 a.m. with a 16-minute advisory period. Then, over the remainder of the day, students would have three 92-minute class periods. There will also be three 46-minute class periods in a row, all three will serve as a lunch period. This was proposed to Please turn to page 3 for BLOCK SCHEDULE FOR NEXT YEAR

The table above shows a sample daily schedule for a senior, based on the block schedule plan that is expected to be implemented for the proposed extended school day in 2012-2013. Note the alternating daily classes and the typical 92-minute class length.

Renovation project to begin soon, Blackwelder Hall to close in April

By Breanna Stewart

The talk of the town, or the school, at least, is Morgan Park’s multi-million dollar renovation project that will kickoff in earnest next month. While the three-year project is common knowledge, scattered details have been released as far as what is going to happen and when. Head engineer Michael Cox and his engineering staff sat down to discuss the project, from the lighting installations, climate control work, paint work and plastering, as well as potential start and completion dates. The concern for many teachers and students is how the project interferes with instruction time? Cox assured that they are taking necessary precautions to limit the potential for distraction while classes are in session. “The date is supposed to be May 1st or April 1st to start the inside the Please turn to page 4 for CONSTRUCTION TO START

Students, guest relive Harlem Renaissance

By Karissa Johnson

Thanks to the efforts of a first-year English teacher and her students, a special celebration of Black History Month “wax museum” was held last month for students and staff. Teacher Faith Pledger came up with the idea of this special program, entitled “The Harlem Renaissance Living Wax Museum.” Please turn to page 5 for HARLEM RENAISSANCE PROGRAM

Pianist Dave Green performs at the Harlem Renaissance Wax Museum last month. He has also performed at the legendary Cotton Club during the Harlem Renaissance period. (Photo by Naomi Penny)

City needs to fix Soldier Field once and for all. P2

Turkish consulate general speaks to IB students. P3

Decathletes finish 8th in city finals. P5

Academic Center dance highlights. P7

Ram girls place second in regional competition. P12
Fixing the Soldier Field Fail should be a priority

By Chris Williams

Another Super Bowl has quietly passed, with Chicago, once again, having essentially nothing to do with it. Call Cubs Bears in it next year? They probably have a little more going for them than the Cubs. In fact, the last two Super Bowls were played in newly-renovated domes. This past year’s was played in Indianapolis, which has a roof, and the 2011 Super Bowl was played in Dallas whose billion dollar stadium is complete with a retractable dome, like a convertible car!

The NFL pretty much accepts bids from cities that have one of two things: warm weather or an air-conditioned dome. A revamped Soldier Field could do much more than host a paltry eight home games for the Bears. How about some March Madness? It’s estimated that out-of-town visitors spent more than $100 million in Houston which hosted the 2011 Final Four. The Windy City has an unusually mild winter--and that’s if the Windy City has an unusually mild weather test. In fact, the 88-year-old stadium still doesn’t have a roof despite being situated in a part of the country that has essentially two seasons: winter and a couple of months of summer.

Adding a dome and extra seats to Soldier Field, which was originally modeled after the Panathenaic stadium in ancient Greece, would boost revenue for the city tremendously. The mayor of Indianapolis has said that his city reaped $200-$250 million in revenue with February’s Super Bowl, and that after many in the city reaped $200 - $250 million in revenue with February’s Super Bowl, and this after many in the sports world have said that this was the worst Super Bowl party ever. Imagine taking the Metra out of town for the Bears. How about some March Madness? It’s estimated that out-of-town visitors spent more than $100 million in Houston which hosted the 2011 Final Four.

Morgan Park High School
1744 West Ppry Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60643
Dr. Everett L. Edwards II, Acting Principal

Remy Washington, Assistant Principal
LaTonya Robertson, Assistant Principal

EMPEHI News is a student publication of Morgan Park High School whose goal is to inform the school body on school matters, as well as local, national, and world issues. The views expressed in the editorials are not necessarily those of Morgan Park High School. Letters to the editor, editorials, and comments are those only of the writers.

NFL pretty much accepts bids from cities that have one of two things: warm weather or an air-conditioned dome.

Chicago is a great host city. This summer, Chicago will be hosting the G8 summit for the United Nations. If the world can meet for such a summit, we should be able to find a way to handle football.

Please turn to page 5 for SOLDIER FIELD FAIL FIX

Traditional concept of a prom date is over

By Naishon Yisrael

The traditional laws of high school dating call for your boyfriend or girlfriend to escort you to prom. Every year, high school corridors are flooded with young, love-struck hopefuls barreling into the main office asking whether they are to be asked or be asked by the prom. Girls, especially, start early, preparing their parents for the financial blow that their prom expenses will deliver. Tuxedo rental stores make a ton of money from their prom clients. Proactiv and SkinID cash in on teenagers that one special night. Some will also find themselves in a rather stressful situation when it comes to leaving their parents or their friend. The main question that will pop into someone’s head is “How will we make things work out?”

Most of the time in these situations, one of the partners often try to switch colleges so that they can stay together, but that doesn’t work out for the best, especially if that “other” college doesn’t have anything academically interesting to keep that relationship going. Other times couples can’t kick the natural urge to put themselves before the other and would the relationship before school starts back up.

Then there are some relationships that involve a senior dating a junior, sophomore, or even a freshman. Surprisingly, I have seen a lot of these relationships last and be quite strong when it involves a senior and an underclassman, despite having many miles between them.

Long-distance relationships are more likely to survive today than ever before, courtesy of technology. There are many couples who use communication from Twitter to Oovoo, to Facebook and Skype. There is literally instant access to anyone, anywhere today.

Once upon a time, couples wrote letters on sheets of paper and mailed them off to keep the love alive—how quaint!

An important thing to remember is that time and communication are absolutely key in keeping that relationship going.

Long-distance love can survive and thrive today

By Malcolm Townsend

The school year is rapidly coming to a close, and many senior students are preparing to take off for the bigger world that awaits them. Most are either heading to far-flung college campuses or even military service that could send them across the globe, leaving behind many friends that they will likely miss.

Some will also find themselves in a rather stressful situation when it comes to leaving their parents or their friend. The main question that will pop into someone’s head is “How will we make things work out?”

Most of the time in these situations, one of the partners often try to switch colleges so that they can stay together, but that doesn’t work out for the best, especially if that “other” college doesn’t have anything academically interesting to keep that relationship going. Other times couples can’t kick the natural urge to put themselves before the other and would the relationship before school starts back up.

Then there are some relationships that involve a senior dating a junior, sophomore, or even a freshman. Surprisingly, I have seen a lot of these relationships last and be quite strong when it involves a senior and an underclassman, despite having many miles between them.

Long-distance relationships are more likely to survive today than ever before, courtesy of technology. There are many couples who use communication from Twitter to Oovoo, to Facebook and Skype. There is literally instant access to anyone, anywhere today.

Once upon a time, couples wrote letters on sheets of paper and mailed them off to keep the love alive—how quaint!

An important thing to remember is that time and communication are absolutely key in keeping that relationship going. Spending time with your partner should be something that you can manage and not be burdened with.

Both you and your partner have to keep your grades up and you should try to talk over Twitter.

Please turn to page 5 for LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS

Letters to EMPEHI News

EMPEHI News encourages readers to express their opinions or respond to stories, editorials or columns by writing letters to the editor. All letters must have a name and identification number. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length, content, and style. Please submit responses with name and address to Mr. Majeske or any member of the newspaper staff.
Special Schedule for Next Year

Sample schedule for a junior-level student

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday (A)</th>
<th>Tuesday (B)</th>
<th>Wednesday (A/B)</th>
<th>Thursday (B)</th>
<th>Friday (A)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-8:16</td>
<td>8:00-8:16</td>
<td>8:00-8:16</td>
<td>8:00-8:16</td>
<td>8:00-8:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory</td>
<td>Advisory</td>
<td>Advisory</td>
<td>Advisory</td>
<td>Advisory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language I</td>
<td>World Language I</td>
<td>World Language I</td>
<td>World Language I</td>
<td>World Language I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra Trig</td>
<td>Social Science Elective</td>
<td>Algebra Trig</td>
<td>Social Science Elective</td>
<td>Algebra Trig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT Prep/English</td>
<td>ACT Prep/Math</td>
<td>ACT Prep/English</td>
<td>ACT Prep/English</td>
<td>ACT Prep/English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:12-1:58</td>
<td>1:12-1:58</td>
<td>1:12-1:58</td>
<td>1:12-1:58</td>
<td>1:12-1:58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:02-3:34</td>
<td>2:02-3:34</td>
<td>2:02-3:34</td>
<td>2:02-3:34</td>
<td>2:02-3:34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English III</td>
<td>English III</td>
<td>English III</td>
<td>English III</td>
<td>English III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADVANTAGES**

1. Offers the opportunity for more guided practice.
2. Releasing hundreds of students into crowded hallways has the expected effect of creating conflicts. These are often carried into the classroom and soak up potential learning time. Cutting down on class interruptions would allow more time to teach and less disruptions.
3. An additional opportunity for student interventions (i.e. credit recovery, RTD).
4. Students have an opportunity for more independent practice.
5. Completion of in-class projects and science lab work.
6. Additional time will allow for the in-depth conversation.
7. Students have less information to deal with over the course of a school day due to having fewer classes.
8. Because of the decreased number of classes, students have less homework on any given day during the week.

**DISADVANTAGES**

1. Professional development of teaching staff needed for 92-minute class periods.
2. Students would need to have better time management skills.
3. If a student misses a day under the block schedule, that student is actually missing two, or sometimes even more days due to the class period length.
4. Classes every other day might challenge student retention; teachers lose chances to reinforce lessons through daily, year-long contact.
5. Adjustment period to new scheduling.
6. Lunch period bells might distract from instruction.
7. No clear data available that shows block scheduling improves student learning better than traditional schedule; some school systems that have adopted the block plan have abandoned it in favor of 45-minute classes.
8. Longer time gaps between instruction and standardized exams, including Advanced Placement.

**OPINION**

Former MP teacher added to administration

By Anthony Teruel

There's been a new adult face seen in the halls of Morgan Park these recent weeks. That's likely what you have noticed the fresh face of our new assistant principal, LaTanya Robertson.

After a months-long search to fill the second assistant principal position, Robertson will work alongside the acting principal, Dr. Everett L. Edwards II, and assistant principal Remy Washington. Robertson is not new to the Morgan Park High School community; she previously worked here as a math teacher for seven years.

After leaving in 2007, Robertson went to Carlis High School as the student support director and then at Bowen High School as an assistant principal. However, the new administrator admitted that she is glad to be a Mustang once again.

"Morgan Park is a neighborhood school that enjoys an excellent reputation," Robertson said, "and I hope to maintain it."

She has already begun her work by setting up meetings with all of the security person...

***

Newly-appointed assistant principal LaTanya Robertson.

(Photograph by Anthony Teruel)

**FEATURES**

SCHOOL NEWS

**SPORTS**

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

EMPEHI News

**OPINION**

Former MP teacher added to administration

By Anthony Teruel

There's been a new adult face seen in the halls of Morgan Park these recent weeks. That's likely what you have noticed the fresh face of our new assistant principal, LaTanya Robertson.

After a months-long search to fill the second assistant principal position, Robertson will work alongside the acting principal, Dr. Everett L. Edwards II, and assistant principal Remy Washington. Robertson is not new to the Morgan Park High School community; she previously worked here as a math teacher for seven years.

After leaving in 2007, Robertson went to Carlis High School as the student support director and then at Bowen High School as an assistant principal. However, the new administrator admitted that she is glad to be a Mustang once again.

"Morgan Park is a neighborhood school that enjoys an excellent reputation," Robertson said, "and I hope to maintain it."

She has already begun her work by setting up meetings with all of the security person...
work, and weather permitting the outside work as well,” said Cox. “We’re gonna start with boilers and heating systems around then because it gets warm and we won’t use the heat then.”

But there will be construction work performed in certain classrooms while school is still in session. “We going to start painting a few rooms, mainly the old building on the first floor,” he said. “They’re going to get new floors, and tiling, little things like that will be first.”

But late in February the students came to school to some shocking news—well, rumor—about Blackwelder Hall, the school’s auditorium, being off-limits for the remainder of the school year. Though the gossip was unfounded, it turns out it’s not far from the truth. Contractors are expected to finalize their bids in the next few weeks, and work will begin soon after. Cox said that the tentative date for closing the auditorium for work is Friday, April 13.

This news has come as a shock to many that use the facility for various end-of-the-year activities will also be severely curtailed. “Most likely, the school will close [during the summer] because [school officials] don’t want students around all the construction,” the chief engineer said.

The renovation project means MP won’t host summer school or any practices for teams that are to be held at the Beverly Arts Center, at best, and at worst, be held in the gymnasium. The senior talent show will also need to find another location. “This is just one of over a hundred intricate architectural drawings that identify exactly the work that is to be performed in Morgan Park’s three-year renovation project.”

“End of the summer of 2014,” said engineer John Early. “This is a lot of work to be done, and it’s going to take time to get it all done right.”

CONSTRUCTION TO START

continued from page 1

BLACKWELLER HALL WILL SOON GET A LONG-AUDED FACE LIFT, LIKELY STARTING NEXT MONTH. AS PART OF THE SCHOOL-WIDE RENOVATION PLAN, WORKERS WILL REPLACE ALL THE SEATS, REPAIR THE DECAYED PLASTER WALLE AND CEILING, PAINTER A NEW FLOOR SURFACE, ADD AISLE LIGHTING, AND REPLACE THE MARBLE WAINSCOT PANELS ALONG THE STAGE FACE—AMONG MANY OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

This is just one of over a hundred intricate architectural drawings that identify exactly the work that is to be performed in Morgan Park’s three-year renovation project.

NORTHEASTERN COLLEGE PREP SUMMER 2012

EXPERIENCE COLLEGE LIFE AT NORTHEASTERN.
TAKE A REAL COLLEGE COURSE AND EARN COLLEGE CREDIT.
EXPLORE IMPORTANT TOPICS IN AN IN FOCUS SEMINAR.
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

APPLY ONLINE
www.northwestern.edu/collegeprep
847-467-6703

Youth Connection News needs Student Reporters!!!

A City-wide High School Print & Online Newspaper Coming to a City Near You!!!
Sign up 25 students from your school and receive free google apps with free music downloads. Sign up at...
http://my.mail.youthconnectionnews.com

GET READY. GET SET. GO!
Decathletes place 8th in city, look to state

By Seth McCormick

The Academic Decathlon team of Morgan Park, a Chicago high school, concluded on February 7, with eight teams—including Morgan Park—competing, all of whom will advance to the regional competition later this month.

Morgan Park has a reputation for its powerful Academic Decathlon team, coached by social sciences teacher Thomas Arrington.

Morgan Park faced a huge challenge competing against some of Chicago's biggest op-

mions, including perennial city and state champion Whitney Young Magnet High School, Lane Technical, Walter Payson College Preparatory and Northside College Preparatory.

In the 2010 campaign, the decathlon team placed fifth in the city competition, held at Whitney Young College Preparatory High School. Eighteen total medals were won, including five first place victories.

As always, the actual competition was stressful.

“It was really tense during testing,” said senior member Etha-

ria Drummer, “and Super Quiz Re-

lay was intense because everyone wants to go to state.”

Academic teams compete in 10 academic subjects that include math, science, economics, music, art, language and literature, his-

try, prepared and impromptu essays, and interview. Preparing for so many areas takes a lot of time and dedication.

“Generally, we practice for about two hours in school every-

day, reading the material over and over while testing on them as we go,” said another senior member, Ethall Thompson. “Sometimes we may quiz together or play the AD version of Jeopardy.”

The Academic team is eight members strong: Ashley McE-

thorpe, Janice Moore, Ethalle Thompson, Victor Bednarz, Carla Gibson, Alana Webb, Ethalia Drummer, and Jessica Lansdown. Each team has three students with an A average, three with a B average and three with a C average. Every year, students are tested in seven academic areas and the United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) offers three levels of competition (honors, scholastic, and varsity) as teams advance through the process of competitive elimination.

They all are on the boat fac-

ing the men known as the state competition. With Whitney Young having a bounty on their heads and Morgan Park leading the School for Agricultural Sciences being our neighbor, we feel like a local rail, there’s a lot on the table which in the Mustangs plan to collect.

“I think you need a senior member Carla Gibson. “We don’t want to disappoint ourselves nor coach,”

If the Mustangs win the March 24 state competition held at Chicago State that will proceed to the national level.

“We prepare for our state competition everyday. Olympic March 23,” said Thompson. “We hope...

Please turn to page 6 for ACADEMIC DECATHLON

be should be able to handle a game for one day. Also, a new champion in the league would help Chicago’s lust for Olympic bid.

This means it’s a choice entirely up to you, because once you have made the decision, you have a difficult job to do. If you choose the man you are dating, you will have to think carefully your choos-

ing a relationship over your life, your needs, your health and your family.

To the people who have these problems and are faced with the decision, if you are a partner, you have a tough choice. You may have to revert to the drastic measure of choosing yourself or him, or which

or Facebook and try to work out a long-distance relationship. This option may be very attractive if she is available to do the same things that you would like to do. The option may also be attractive for those couples that have trust, communication and other issues. This will add additional strain to the relationship and may, subsequently, break up.

To the people who have these problems and are faced with the decision, if you are a partner, you have a even tougher choice. You may have to revalue the relationship, or if you and partner don’t want to break up, you

should try to make things work. On the other hand, it’s only fair that you should try to go to state and once you and your partner are in the same college, the two of you end up breaking up a month or so later. What a waste!

Now you’re in some random college you didn’t even want to go to and can’t transfer until next semester, or, worse yet, can’t afford to transfer.

In all honesty, with barely three months left in the school year, you have to do a lot of

thinking of yourself, your partner, and the relationship. Do you value your partner or each other and believe that you can withstand the trial of dis-

and be able and willing to balance school, work and money to be with each other and make sacrifices for the long run of the relationship? Or should you both break up so that no one is being held back by the other.

There is still time left, though, you should enjoy it now and try to be optimistic and understanding of each other.
Senior chosen as Sprite MVP

Senior Branden Tatum (2012 Yearbook photo)

The Chicago Bulls’ annual Sprite MVP program chose senior Branden Tatum as one of this year’s recipients. According to a press release, the judges felt that Tatum “had all the elements that are required to be an MVP: hard work, dedication, commitment and willingness to help others.”

The program honors African American males in the Chicago land community that meet certain criteria for their school GPA, community service and essay writing abilities.

Applicants had to submit a 250 word essay that addressed the following contest theme: “How important is leadership and teamwork in making your community a better place to live, and in what ways have you demonstrated being a MVP – most valuable player – in your community?”

A total of 25 applications will be selected and honored as the 2012 Sprite MVPs. Honorees were rewarded with a luncheon hosted by the Bulls and Sprite, along with other fun prizes.

Winners were invited to a dinner at McCormick and Schmick in Chicago, on February 21.

Criteria for the program includes being an African American male in 10-12 grades, having a minimum of 20 hours of active community service, and a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5.

‘Ebony Amour’ features variety of musical acts

By Taylor Smith

The Music Department hosted their annual Ebony Amour Concert in February. Students sang amazing solos that accompanied beautiful choral performance. From solos to duets, choruses to choralles, and even a trio, the overall performance was amazing.

The performance was great, just a little long,” said chorale director Gabrielyn Foster.

The concert lasted approximately two and a half hours. There were five solos, three duets, and one trio performance. (“My favorite parts) were the second half, the solos, and the concert choral’s last number,” said Foster.

Please turn to page 8 for EBBONY AMOUR

Students meet with business leaders for advice

By Lawrence Cannon

A group of 23 students were taken to “Lunch with a Leader” Wednesday, February 29.

This was a special lunch with influential leaders, created to help students receive sound business advice, credit information, and the tools needed to be successful. Kenwood, Whitney Young, Simeon, and more Chicago public schools were also in attendance.

Lunch With A Leader is an annual event sponsored by senior Benjamin Henry’s father, Benjamin Henry Sr. His foundation is “The Support Group,” or TSG, which is a not-for-profit organization serving over 15,000 Chicago area at-risk youth since 1989. TSG is dedicated to providing youth with empowerment programs and services relevant to urban communities. The leaders were from companies such as, BET, O! magazine (Oprah Winfrey’s publication), Federal Express, Footlocker, Leaks Funeral Home, Chicago Public Schools, NBC, the Marines, the Chicago Cubs, the Chicago Bulls, and the National Basketball Association (NBA).

“Lunch with a Leader was interesting and fun,” said senior Naomi Penny. “The leader I had from O! magazine was influential because she was in the career field I plan on engaging in. I enjoyed the magazine and the gift bags we received. The food was mediocre, however.”

One of the more interesting aspects was when a credit advisor suggested to graduating seniors that they acquire two to three credit cards. Everyone in the audience was silent, and then she began to explain that having credit cards helps build credit, but advised that people need to use them very careful ly. The speaker added that one should use up to 10 percent of the available balance to buy stocks and invest. The information received sounded risky, but could result in a significant payoff—only if done correctly.

Aside from the business aspect, a raffle and a talent show were also held. Senior Subria Whitaker performed a spoken word piece and won first place. Gifts included Chicago Bulls star Derrick Rose shoes, Adidas bags, autographed footballs, and more gear.

New snack machines piloted

By Anthony Teruel

You probably have noticed the new vending machines located between the Main Office and the elevator staircase. The new machines were installed by Mastercraft (the vendor company) as part of a trial run to test their effectiveness.

The snack vendors are bigger than the tried and dated ones they replaced, and they feature big glowing buttons to make selections, as well as offering a few additional treats, including healthy Nutri-Grain bars and chewy Gummy Bears.

Much talk has been made about the machines. Many students expressed that too much vending machine money was spent on obtaining the equipment.

“They’re nice,” said sophomore Lenise Moss, when asked about the new machines. “[But I feel the money should have been spent on the juice machines.]”

The beverage dispensers will be switched out when Coca-Cola, the vendor for those machines, decides the time is right. Until then, the vending machines are going to be the only assured choice for getting quality service for snacks. “They look like they should be in a suburban school,” security guard and varsity basketball coach Nick Irvin said. “I really like the Mustangs logo.”

These machines are supposed to be more efficient than the previous ones, and they are also capable of giving change to students so they do not have to go to the Main Office. Students have already begun using them and they have yet to be any complaints about them.
**Academic Center dance highlights**

The Academic Center held a special dance in the new boys' gym last month, with most of the 7th and 8th graders in attendance. Counselor Adrienne Haynes, ACC teachers, parents, and several ACC alumni coordinated and chaperoned the special evening event.

AC students from left: Toni Allen, Steven Henton, Brierre Nelson, and Amber McKnight dance the night away. (Photos by Joshua Housing)

Cameron Thomas, Jalani Johnson, and Kelly Reynolds during a line dance.

Class of 2001 alumni volunteers: Renee McIntosh, Kendall Raymond, and Jennifer Hill.

**IB BUZZ**

continued from page 3

Academic culture and to speak about international affairs, as well as Turkey's relationship with America and other nations.

The three classes of students were signed out 6th-8th period to engage in conversation with the visitors in the auditorium on Monday, February 27. After the introduction, the presentation featured an in-depth PowerPoint featuring information from Turkish history, culture, and their similarities to the United States.

Ample time was provided for the students to ask questions, and they enthusiastically proceeded to do so. Seniors, Briana Cato and Shayenne Miller, and sophomore Deja Perkins were among the many students to engage in the question-and-answer portion of the presentation.

"The Q & A was awesome!" exclaimed Mudron. "Our kids asked questions regarding Turkey's 98 percent Muslim population—Do they struggle to separate church and state like the US? How did they maintain a relationship with Israel? how is that relationship evolving? They asked about the Turkish high school and college system and how IB operates in Turkey. One student even translated her question and asked it in Turkish."

The students really embraced the opportunity and peppered their guest with questions.

"I had to cut off the Q & A after an hour because the day was ending," Mudron said.

When asked what she felt about the visit, Cato stressed that the occasion was "an honor because Morgan Park's IB (program) was recommended among the others in Chicago to receive his incite and experiences."

The guests were really taken with MPh's IB students.

"Both Yildiz and Sayin told me we were the best group of students they have presented to and that they were impressed with our 'brilliant' students," Mudron said. "They invited me to bring a group of students to the Turkish Consulate downtown to share a lunch of Turkish cuisine and have the kids further explore what occurs in the consulate."

The IB senior to the IB juniors

By Dorsey Hill

**What are some good study tips?**

The first step in finding good study habits is learning about who you are as a person. When assessing yourself you should consider the following:

- How much work it takes to stress you out, whether you consider yourself a visual learner, if you do personal. When I found myself getting overloaded with things. It is hard to pinpoint what to do to keep from getting too stressed because it is something very personal. When I found myself getting stressed I exercised; I find yoga very helpful. The best thing to do is get away from the work for a little bit and do something you like and/ or are good at. Of course do not procrastinate.

- How did you all go about choosing your topics for the EE and TOK Essay?

Choosing a topic for the TOK essay is not a difficult process. There is a list of 10 questions that are prompts for the essay. Look through the questions and choose three that really jump out at you. Than take a few days and assess which one you are most interested in and will be able to talk about. Make sure you consult your TOK teacher when choosing a topic because he/she can offer good advice to you on your ability to answer a certain question. Picking your EE topic should be fun. Brainstorm things that you are interested in or passionate about. It is important that you do preliminary research when you have a hunch on what you are interested in because you can decide if this is something you really like. Also talk to your teachers and tell them your interest, they may be able to help you find a specific area to study.

- What are some good study habits?

Stress seems to be one of those inevitable things to avoid in IB. It is somehow associated with the two letters of "I" and "B," but that is not realized until you reach senior year and you have IB work and college applications. To keep the stress levels down, you should start off with a plan. Planning out all your work and sticking with it will keep you from getting overloaded with things. It is hard to pinpoint what to do to keep from getting too stressed because it is something very personal. When I found myself getting stressed I exercised; I find yoga very helpful. The best thing to do is get away from the work for a little bit and do something you like and/or are good at. Of course do not procrastinate. We all have a hunch on what we are interested in or passionate about. It is important that you do preliminary research when you have a hunch on what you are interested in because you can decide if this is something you really like. Also talk to your teachers and tell them your interest, they may be able to help you find a specific area to study.

- How do you keep your stress levels down?

**Yearbook distribution**

Yearbook distribution is tentatively planned for Friday, May 25.

- **ONLY THE FIRST 1250 STUDENTS**
  - who have paid their 2012 Student Activity Fee
  - will receive a yearbook due to a limited supply.
- **Those who have been approved for a fee waiver**
  - do not receive a yearbook.

One may be purchased for $35 in the Main Office.
Charter schools system of fines, not so fine with others

By Bobbie Woods

Don’t like having your flat or iPod taken from a teacher or falling behind after breaking the school rules? How about an alternative consequence like being charged $5 whenever you break even the smallest of rules? Noble Network of Charter Schools, founded by local public school teachers, is a relatively new school system created 11 years ago as an alternative effort in the Chicago public school system’s reform movement. This charter network of 12 different campuses expects that students reach higher levels of academic achievement and, especially, discipline.

These charter school students have longer school days, have high expectations for themselves and classmates, and seek success for their students in college and beyond, their network of 12 different campuses expects that students reach higher levels of academic achievement and, especially, discipline.

Anytime a student earns 4 demerits within a two-week period, he/she is issued a three-hour detention and charged a $5 fee to cover the cost of the teacher who monitors detention. Detention may take the form of a silent study period, behavior improvement work, cleaning or maintenance work, physical fitness work or a combination of these.

In fact there are lots of ways to get demerits. Picture walking down the hall with your headphones on and instead of the security guard yelling at you to take them out you receive another four demerits.

Breaking rules can earn a student anywhere between one and four demerits, and according to a page from the Noble Street Charter School student handbook, “Anytime a student earns 4 demerits within a two-week period, he/she is issued a three-hour detention and charged a $5 fee to cover the cost of the teacher who monitors detention. Detention may take the form of a silent study period, behavior improvement work, cleaning or maintenance work, physical fitness work or a combination of these.”

One of the ways in which the network gets students to perform is through strict discipline. If you complain about not being able to wear a hat in the hallway or check a text on your cell phone here at MP, try going to a Noble campus. Imagine you have your phone out in class. Instead of having a choice whether or not you’re going to give it up or take three suspension days, you get four demerits. Picture walking down the hall with your headphones on and instead of the security guard yelling at you to take them out you receive another four demerits.

Breaking rules can earn a student anywhere between one and four demerits, and according to a page from the Noble Street Charter School student handbook, “Anytime a student earns 4 demerits within a two-week period, he/she is issued a three-hour detention and charged a $5 fee to cover the cost of the teacher who monitors detention. Detention may take the form of a silent study period, behavior improvement work, cleaning or maintenance work, physical fitness work or a combination of these.”

EBONY AMOUR

continued from page 6

Some of the solos were performed by people in love themselves. “My solo, ‘All I Could Do Was Cry’, truly came from my heart,” said junior Ashyalle Huggins.

The trio sang a notorious Destiny’s Child song so beautifully.

You could feel the love all over the auditorium,” said student Courtney Murray.

Both of the vocalists who performed duets sang their own original pieces. R & R are two freshman that performed “Pray Hard and Change.” Kelsey and Taja Ferguson performed and original song called “This Love.”

Concert Chorale sang their “Men of Morgan Park,” “Artillery Song,” and “Jingo Laba.”

“This was the best performance concert chorale has ever done,” said Foster.

Although there as many guests in attendance as was desired, the turnout was still good. But it was the effort that the vocalists put into the show that was most important to the chorale director.

“I loved seeing the amount of work put into the solos by the children,” Foster said. “I also appreciated the efforts of the girls chorus; they always do well.”

If you were not at the Ebony Amour concert, you definitely missed out. Attending the concerts is not the only way you can support the Music Department, though. You can also purchase some of their merchandise to help fund their spring trip to New Orleans, Louisiana.

Due to the amazing sound system and great camera man, the Music Department now has DVDs of this concert. They can be purchased from Ms. Foster for $10.

I really appreciated the Martin’s father doing the sound and cameraman John filming the show,” said Foster.

Student Council, debate news

A Valentine bear brings happiness to one lucky recipient.

By Derrick Elmore

The Student Council held their annual St. Valentine’s Day sale with success last month. The council sold fluffy, white teddy bears and chocolate roses as a fund raising event. According to the group’s sponsor, Candace Morgan, the sale was reasonably successful, but she admitted “it was hard finding customers.”

The products were purchased from Oriental Trading Company. The money raised will be used to support the group’s activities and events.

Some of the upcoming events include a spring cleaning project, a spring dance, and a safe driving campaign.

The push for students and adults to drive more safely will happen at Noble. Even though 90 percent of Noble students are low-income, if they can’t pay all fines, they are made to repeat the entire school year or prevented from graduating. No waivers are offered.

Noble Street Charter Schools are being praised by the mayor and others for their academic performance in 2010, but it appears to be coming at a financial burden on misbehaving students and their parents.

In these charter schools, every disciplinary action has a cost. Instead of tardy passes and suspension slips you’ll just have to “pay the price” for breaking the discipline policy.

Please turn to page 9 for PAYING FOR MISBEHAVIOR.

The boys chorus performs. (Photos by Naomi Penny)

Crystal Webb, Celine Anderson, and Monique Ross team up as a trio for Destiny Child’s song, “Stand Up for Love.”

The ensemble wore their dashiki scarves in honor of Black History Month.

Russell and Roosevelt Martin, freshman twins, rapped an original song.

A Valentine bear brings happiness to one lucky recipient.

By Derrick Elmore

The Student Council held their annual St. Valentine’s Day sale with success last month. The council sold fluffy, white teddy bears and chocolate roses as a fund raising event. According to the group’s sponsor, Candace Morgan, the sale was reasonably successful, but she admitted “it was hard finding customers.”

The products were purchased from Oriental Trading Company. The money raised will be used to support the group’s activities and events.

Some of the upcoming events include a spring cleaning project, a spring dance, and a safe driving campaign.

The push for students and adults to drive more safely will happen at Noble. Even though 90 percent of Noble students are low-income, if they can’t pay all fines, they are made to repeat the entire school year or prevented from graduating. No waivers are offered.

Noble Street Charter Schools are being praised by the mayor and others for their academic performance in 2010, but it appears to be coming at a financial burden on misbehaving students and their parents.

In these charter schools, every disciplinary action has a cost. Instead of tardy passes and suspension slips you’ll just have to “pay the price” for breaking the discipline policy.

Please turn to page 9 for PAYING FOR MISBEHAVIOR.
March is Women's History Month

By Dennis Beard

After enjoying the pleasant month of February and 14th day that was filled with financial success for Hallmark and Hershey chocolate, March is set aside to celebrate the contributions of women in America.

Women's History Month begins back to 1911 with the celebration of the first International Working Women's Day. This day is now celebrated as interna- tional Women's Day every March 8. The day was set aside for men to show their respect and love for hard working women that make a difference in society.

Women's history was still a pretty abstract concept among the gener- ations of people growing up during the 1970’s. Women had to struggle throughout the his- tory of America just to attain proper rights for themselves.

President Ronald Rea- gan authorized a Women’s History Week back in 1982. This informed the country of this significant event and attempted to get them to study further into the history of how women have bettered society.

Over the next five years, Women’s History Week had gained enough attention that the Congress was reminded of the Women’s History Month project. After politicians passed Women’s History Month came to be. It has been a very important role in shaping America as it is today. Some of the famous, or infamous, things that women have done are still today overlooked. But that’s what makes this month so important. It is here to end how women are not properly respected for what they do.

A few notable ex- emples are Abigail Ad- ams, Harriet Tubman, and Sacagawea. These women are just three of the millions that have had a positive effect on America.

Without Sacagawea, explorers Lewis and Clark would have had a much more difficult journey for the famous, or infamous, things that women have done are still today overlooked. But that’s what makes this month so important. It is here to end how women are not properly respected for what they do.

A few notable ex- emples are Abigail Ad- ams, Harriet Tubman, and Sacagawea. These women are just three of the millions that have had a positive effect on America.

Without Sacagawea, explorers Lewis and Clark would have had a much more difficult journey for the famous, or infamous, things that women have done are still today overlooked. But that’s what makes this month so important. It is here to end how women are not properly respected for what they do.

A few notable ex- emples are Abigail Ad- ams, Harriet Tubman, and Sacagawea. These women are just three of the millions that have had a positive effect on America.

Without Sacagawea, explorers Lewis and Clark would have had a much more difficult journey for the famous, or infamous, things that women have done are still today overlooked. But that’s what makes this month so important. It is here to end how women are not properly respected for what they do.

A few notable ex- emples are Abigail Ad- ams, Harriet Tubman, and Sacagawea. These women are just three of the millions that have had a positive effect on America.

Without Sacagawea, explorers Lewis and Clark would have had a much more difficult journey for the famous, or infamous, things that women have done are still today overlooked. But that’s what makes this month so important. It is here to end how women are not properly respected for what they do.

A few notable ex- emples are Abigail Ad- ams, Harriet Tubman, and Sacagawea. These women are just three of the millions that have had a positive effect on America.

Without Sacagawea, explorers Lewis and Clark would have had a much more difficult journey for the famous, or infamous, things that women have done are still today overlooked. But that’s what makes this month so important. It is here to end how women are not properly respected for what they do.

A few notable ex- emples are Abigail Ad- ams, Harriet Tubman, and Sacagawea. These women are just three of the millions that have had a positive effect on America.
TV ONLINE

Please turn to page 11 for only watch anime online, senior Ciara Perry. “I mostly shows online more,” said ‘Jersey Shore,’ and Bulls watch TV for a few shows to get to your television to is much better than rushing internet, anytime you want show anywhere you have catch up on a tv show time online now than they people spend a lot more lar is the fact that more tv, so being able to watch ally fall asleep watching Aurelia Turner said. “I usu TV shows online is faster, believe watching online is because they don’t want er it’s faster for them, or watching shows online option however is not free; single episodes on iTunes cost $2.99 each.

“It’s so much easier just to watch shows online rather than flipping through the television channels, as there are many more options available online.”

Ciara Perry

CORRIDOR QUIPS

What do you think about lawmakers banning cell phone usage in cars? Should using them while driving be illegal?

By Tayler Smith

“I think cell phone usage while driving is definitely not acceptable. It is dangerous and can put not only the driver, but also others on the road at risk.”

Tayler Smith

Do at least one interesting thing over break

By Desteni Anderson

“I’m planning on going to a concert or festival this spring break. I think it will be a lot of fun and a great way to relax and have some fun with friends.”

Desteni Anderson

SCHOOL NEWS

REVIEWS

SPORTS

FEATURING

More reviewers turning to other media for TV programs

By Jessica Lansdown

A technology innovation that allows people to watch new shows becomes more available and easier to access to everyone, things that used to be common everyday things start to become uncommon.

People are watching less television nowadays, and instead are spending more time online where they can easily catch up on their favorite tv shows.

There are many websites through which anyone can watch television shows online for free. There are some that are run by the channels themselves, like TNT and ABC, that not only offer full episodes of the program, but also post extras and behind the scenes footage. Other sites include Hulu, FreeTube, and even YouTube.

If you want to watch the episodes and keep them for yourself to watch forever, iTunes provides full episodes, past seasons of shows and movies. This option however is not free; single episodes on iTunes cost $2.99 each.

“The reason people gravitate more toward watching shows online instead of on television is because the online cover a wide range. Whether it’s faster for them, or easier for them, or even because they don’t want to sit through commercials every few minutes, they all believe watching online is much better than sitting through commercials.”

Senior Aurelia Turner said. “I usually fall asleep watching tv, so being able to watch online whenever I can is a great thing.”

What is also helping these sites stay popular is the fact that more people spend a lot more time online now than they ever have. Being able to catch up on a tv show you missed, or watch old episodes of a cancelled show anywhere you have internet, anytime you want is much cooler than rushing to get to your television to watch a show that’s filled with commercial breaks.

“Although I do still watch TV for a few shows like ‘The Bad Girls Club,’ ‘Jersey Shore,’ and ‘Bulls Eye,’ I like watching shows online more,” said senior Ciara Perry. “I mostly only watch anime online. Please turn to page 11 for TV ONLINE.

FEATURES

Plenty of criteria for finding the right prom date

By Taylor Smith

The senior prom is finally drawing near, and there is a mad dash to find the perfect date, to say the least. There are so many reasons that people chose their dates so carefully. Nobody wants to go to prom with just anybody. Usually for girls it’s our standards for a perfect date that make it so difficult. “Mainly height, looks, and whether the person and I get along are the major qualities,” said senior Brandi Martin.

For some others, it’s about the feelings or relationship status between your date and you. “Most of the time you want to go on prom with the person you’re dating,” said senior Ciara Perry. “If you aren’t dating someone, you at least want to take someone you are cool with.”

Sometimes the situation is different for guys. “You have so many options, and you honestly don’t know if you will have fun with that person if you all haven’t hung out before,” said senior Amari Harris. Most people have been imagining their prom situation since their freshman year. Some expectations for a prom are more unrealistic than others, but some are just a bit far.”

“My ideal prom date would be a prom date that knows how to have fun and someone that will be completely gorgeous in her dress,” said Harris. “Some girls want simple things in an ideal prom date. “He has to be cute, polite, tall, and funny,” said senior Marcella Slay. Others want more than just a fun date in their hearts. “I want someone taller than me, light skin, with a fade or dreadlocks, and an overall amazing personality,” said Perry.

It’s tough to find the right prom date.

Then there are the ladies looking for top quality. “I want someone tall, hand-some, and a complete gentleman,” said senior Courtney Murray. “He has to know how to have fun, and party without being too crazy all at once.”

In the end, everyone has their own idea of a perfect prom date and its usually something or someone they’ve never seen before. The best advice a guy can give when looking for a prom date is to aim for someone you know already. Keep it calm and casual, but be sure to show interest.

If all else fails, and you’re too nervous to ask, grab a yummy cupcake and write “PROM?” on it, and give it to that special someone.

PARADE IS BACK

continued from page 9

security, as well as stations that will check bags and coolers for alcohol.

According to the Security Plan Outline found on the organizer’s website: Fines for open alcohol will be strictly enforced throughout the neighborhood; security check points surrounding parade route banning alcohol; passengers will be banned from bringing alcohol on Metra Rock Island trains on parade day; residential parking only in the area surrounding parade route; North Side bars have been contacted and discouraged from serving alcohol in the area; new buses that come into the area will be directed to specific drop-off/sleep stops designated by the Chicago Police Department and surrounding suburbs.

One person in particular felt that the enhanced enforcement is much needed. “They just need to control the crowd more,” Mother McAul- ley said. Senior Mena Acerper said Morgan Park also has a history with the parade, as the Marching Band has participated numerous times, the last being in 2008 according to band direc- tor Shemaka Nance. She added that the band will once again march in this year’s parade, say- ing that organizers have called her a number of times urging for our neighborhood school to be represented.

The St. Patrick’s Day Parade started in 1979 as a small march of families along the 10900 blocks of Westenham and Talman, ac- cording to organizers that had attended the parade, Southsidehiraraphore.org. It grew and grew, until 1981 when the parade route took to Western Avenue.
Boys swim team wrap-up season

By Dennis Beard

The boys swim team has enjoyed a comfortable end to their season. They performed well, better than some members of the team believed that they would, placing sixth out of 32 competing teams at the championships.

The team lost a few of its stronger members last year. This led some members to believe that the team would not do as well as they did in 2011. Despite this, the team was still able to accomplish just as much.

“Performing was about equivalent to the team last year,” said coach Nick Irvin.

Accompanied by their regional semifinal win against Rich Central (65-44) earlier in February, this makes their overall record 16-8, moving them up to state ranking 17th place, and 18th in their division.

“We had an okay regular season, but were going to do better in state,” said coach Nick Irvin.

Next up is the sectional semifinal game against No. 2 seed Rich South at Rich South in Richton Park, tomorrow, March 7 with a 7:30 p.m. tipoff. The IHSA 3A Super Sixteen sectional championship is this Friday at Rich East in Park Forest (7:30 p.m.).

Last year, the Mustangs went as far as the sectional final, losing to Gwendaolyne Brooks College Prep, 60-46. Rock Island eventually won the 3A state title.

If the Mustangs are victorious in the next two games, they would face opponents in the super-sectional and state semifinal, and then, of course, the coveted state title game.

The Mustangs are holding true to their promise to play every game just as serious as the last or the next as they head down-state on this three-game winning streak. They are playing with true tenacity, defeating their opponents on the road by 20 points.

You could almost forget that this team is so young, led by only two seniors. This group is truly starting to gel at the perfect time.

“I’m really proud of how the team is starting to compete right now,” said Coach Nick.

“I’m really proud of how the sophomores adjusted to playing varsity basketball.”

These tickets in advance right now; they are selling at $23 on StubHub.com. Being that the price is so reasonable, a great game could turn into a great date.

Have you ever dreamed of going to a concert? Well, you’re lucky just keeps on going. The R&B star The Dream, who sings “Kill the Lights,” will be at The House of Blues (329 N. Dearborn St.) on April 1 at 7:30 p.m. The tickets are starting at $26.

You and your friends can jam to his hits front row, but only if you hurry and buy your tickets at Ticketmaster.com today!

If you’re the romantic type and looking to kill two birds with one stone, try the Showplace ICON Theater, located in downtown Chicago (150 W. Roosevelt Rd.). The ICON Theater allows you to watch a move and order dinner at the same time. Sounds good, doesn’t it? The admission for the show is about $12.50, and the food prices range.

Students break ideas

“Goin’ to the show”

By Caleb Strode

Safe House

Rated R 

Grade: B

Swedish film director, Daniel Espinosa, orchestrates an exciting action-thriller starring Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds. Washington plays a former CIA agent and current professional criminal who has been placed in a “safe house” after removing some compromising information. Reynolds co-stars as Washington’s “housekeeper,” assigned by the agency to watch over Washington’s character’s interrogation. This film has a lot of promise, but it fails to exceed the expectations of the viewers. The plot is quite thin and basic and acceleration only occurs sparingly throughout the film. The only elements that are able to keep the film interesting are the strong performances by the lead actors. The acting in the film is enough to keep the movie bearable and moving. The car chases are skillfully done and the action that occurs on the set is well organized, however, this does not save the overall film.

The Woman in Black

Rated PG-13 

Grade: B

There’s nothing like a good, old fashioned horror film. The movie is based on the novel of the same name written by Susan Hill, which was known for her gothic style of writing. The film depicts a young lawyer named Edward Lewis who is forced to handle the estate of a woman whose house haunted by a mysteriousLCSS.

This classic horror story delivers shock to the viewer without the blood and gore of its cinematic counterparts. The film never lets the viewer down, (with the exception of the end), as it delivers on the true scare genuine scares throughout.

SPORTS

REGIONAL TITLE

continued from page 12

Freshman Kain Harris fights through a Rich Central defender. (Photo by Joshua Housing) playing every game like it’s their last—which is essentially the truth, as they move through the Class 3A boys basketball brackets of the Park Forest (Rich East) Sectional as the third seeded team.

“I got state championship on my mind,” said head coach Nick Irvin.

Accompanied by their regional semifinal win against Rich Central (65-44) earlier in February, this makes their overall record 16-8, moving them up to state ranking 17th place, and 18th in their division.

“We had an okay regular season, but were going to do better in state,” said coach Nick Irvin.

Next up is the sectional semifinal game against No. 2 seed Rich South at Rich South in Richton Park, tomorrow, March 7 with a 7:30 p.m. tipoff. The IHSA 3A Super Sixteen sectional championship is this Friday at Rich East in Park Forest (7:30 p.m.).

Last year, the Mustangs went as far as the sectional final, losing to Gwendaolyne Brooks College Prep, 60-46. Rock Island eventually won the 3A state title.

If the Mustangs are victorious in the next two games, they would face opponents in the super-sectional and state semifinal, and then, of course, the coveted state title game.

The Mustangs are holding true to their promise to play every game just as serious as the last or the next as they head down-state on this three-game winning streak. They are playing with true tenacity, defeating their opponents on the road by 20 points.

You could almost forget that this team is so young, led by only two seniors. This group is truly starting to gel at the perfect time.

“I’m really proud of how the team is starting to compete right now,” said Coach Nick.

“I’m really proud of how the sophomores adjusted to playing varsity basketball.”

The only real concern, according to another of the team’s captains, is living up to the team’s reputation.

“I have been on the team for three years; it has been harder, but the new girls are putting in hard work and it’s hard keeping up with that expectation that everybody has for us,” said Maya Stewart, another of the squad’s leaders.

One of this year’s seniors is certain that this team will continue its winning legacy.

“I have been on the team for four years, but I think we will win as long as the team shows effort and dedication,” said Asa Clark, a team captain.

“My biggest fear is that a lot of people are watching us and we don’t give them what they are use to seeing.”

Playing every game like it’s the team’s last—which is essentially the truth, as they move through the Class 3A boys basketball brackets of the Park Forest (Rich East) Sectional as the third seeded team.

“I got state championship on my mind,” said head coach Nick Irvin.

Accompanied by their regional semifinal win against Rich Central (65-44) earlier in February, this makes their overall record 16-8, moving them up to state ranking 17th place, and 18th in their division.

“We had an okay regular season, but were going to do better in state,” said coach Nick Irvin.

Next up is the sectional semifinal game against No. 2 seed Rich South at Rich South in Richton Park, tomorrow, March 7 with a 7:30 p.m. tipoff. The IHSA 3A Super Sixteen sectional championship is this Friday at Rich East in Park Forest (7:30 p.m.).

Last year, the Mustangs went as far as the sectional final, losing to Gwendaolyne Brooks College Prep, 60-46. Rock Island eventually won the 3A state title.

If the Mustangs are victorious in the next two games, they would face opponents in the super-sectional and state semifinal, and then, of course, the coveted state title game.

The Mustangs are holding true to their promise to play every game just as serious as the last or the next as they head down-state on this three-game winning streak. They are playing with true tenacity, defeating their opponents on the road by 20 points.

You could almost forget that this team is so young, led by only two seniors. This group is truly starting to gel at the perfect time.

“I’m really proud of how the team is starting to compete right now,” said Coach Nick.

“I’m really proud of how the sophomores adjusted to playing varsity basketball.”

“Boys swim team wrap-up season

By Dennis Beard

The boys swim team has enjoyed a comfortable end to their season. They performed well, better than some members of the team believed that they would, placing sixth out of 32 competing teams at the championships.

The team lost a few of its stronger members last year. This led some members to believe that the team would not do as well as they did in 2011. Despite this, the team was still able to accomplish just as much.

“Performing was about equivalent to the team last year,” said coach Nick Irvin.

Accompanied by their regional semifinal win against Rich Central (65-44) earlier in February, this makes their overall record 16-8, moving them up to state ranking 17th place, and 18th in their division.

“We had an okay regular season, but were going to do better in state,” said coach Nick Irvin.

Next up is the sectional semifinal game against No. 2 seed Rich South at Rich South in Richton Park, tomorrow, March 7 with a 7:30 p.m. tipoff. The IHSA 3A Super Sixteen sectional championship is this Friday at Rich East in Park Forest (7:30 p.m.).

Last year, the Mustangs went as far as the sectional final, losing to Gwendaolyne Brooks College Prep, 60-46. Rock Island eventually won the 3A state title.

If the Mustangs are victorious in the next two games, they would face opponents in the super-sectional and state semifinal, and then, of course, the coveted state title game.

The Mustangs are holding true to their promise to play every game just as serious as the last or the next as they head down-state on this three-game winning streak. They are playing with true tenacity, defeating their opponents on the road by 20 points.

You could almost forget that this team is so young, led by only two seniors. This group is truly starting to gel at the perfect time.

“I’m really proud of how the team is starting to compete right now,” said Coach Nick.

“I’m really proud of how the sophomores adjusted to playing varsity basketball.”

These tickets in advance right now; they are selling at $23 on StubHub.com. Being that the price is so reasonable, a great game could turn into a great date.

Have you ever dreamed of going to a concert? Well, you’re lucky just keeps on going. The R&B star The Dream, who sings “Kill the Lights,” will be at The House of Blues (329 N. Dearborn St.) on April 1 at 7:30 p.m. The tickets are starting at $26.

You and your friends can jam to his hits front row, but only if you hurry and buy your tickets at Ticketmaster.com today!

If you’re the romantic type and looking to kill two birds with one stone, try the Showplace ICON Theater, located in downtown Chicago (150 W. Roosevelt Rd.). The ICON Theater allows you to watch a movie and order dinner at the same time. Sounds good, doesn’t it? The admission for the show is about $12.50, and the food prices range.

But if you love how you can rewind all break long. Get out and do something! Please!

The ICON movie theater has big, comfy chairs, plus real food can be ordered and delivered right to your seat.

under 16 or younger, you need an adult to accompany you. Don’t be one of those losers saying, “I watch, but I slept almost all break long.” Get out and do something! Please!

SPORTS
Pom team to defend state title

By Joshua Housing

The Mustangs varsity boys basketball team continued their winning ways through the regional finals, defeating the Harlan Falcons 50-38 at Rich Central on March 2, their third victory in a row. The Mustangs are seeking state hardware.

Please turn to page 11 for REGIONAL TITLE

Lady Mustangs’ season ends in sectional championship

By Anthony Teruel

The Lady Mustangs (22-9) were knocked out of the IHSA 3A sectional championship round last week by the Hillcrest Hawks (26-3) by a score of 70-62 in their campaign for the elusive state title. The Hawks victory advanced them to yesterday’s Pontiac Super-sectional—one victory away from the state final.

At the sectional championship, things initially looked bright for the Lady Mustangs who surged ahead of Hillcrest during the first quarter. But during the second quarter their defense fell apart, allowing the Hawks to make a comeback that the Lady Mustangs were unable to close in on.

The team was “unable to hold [their] composure,” said junior guard Kierra Graves, once the Mustangs fell behind.

Hillcrest has been a formidable opponent; in fact, the Hawks have been the state title runner-up for the past two seasons.

However, stronger effort could have also been a culprit, according to one senior player.

“I felt like I played my heart out and did most everything I could to help my team,” guard Kendyl Nunn said. “Maybe we didn’t do the little things that could have gotten us the win, and my team could have played a little harder.”

Other Lady Mustangs agreed with Nunn’s statement, feeling as though the game was within their grasp. Graves said, “We should have won that game.”

The Mustangs were led by Nunn (25 points, eight rebounds) and Shami Goodman (14 points). On the way to the sectional game, the Lady Mustangs enjoyed victories over Thornridge in the regional semifinal (82-29), Rich East in the regional championship (92-43), and Rich Central in the sectional semifinal (74-50).

But the team cannot focus on this disappointing loss if they plan on turning the team around and winning a city championship next year, like head coach Thomas Johnson expects.

The team will need to find a way to score and win without their primary offensive threat, Nunn, and the two other graduating players: guard Debra Jenkins and center Gabrielle Richmond. One player will need to step up and take her place and lead the team to victory.

“I feel like [junior forward] Khalilah Morrow will be able to step up and lead us [despite her injury this season],” said Graves. “She bosses the team around, and she is more serious than many of us during practice.”

But other Lady Mustangs are up to the challenge of leading this team next year along with Morrow.

“I plan on pushing my teammates to do their best while doing the same [myself],” junior guard Maronda Evans said. “I plan on stepping up as a senior by making better decisions school and basketball-wise, and I plan on making sure that me and the team have a strong, positive, and determined attitude.”

Pom team to defend state title

By Jakkira Scott and Jaleyah Walker

The pom-pon team is seeking their fifth state title in the AA Hip Hop category this month at the IDTA (Illinois Drill Team Association) competition. For the last four years, the pom-pon team has won first place in city and state championships. The girls have also earned two third place and one fourth place wins in Pom Dance at the state championship.

In their last competition February 25 at Downers Grove High School, the team competed in the IDTA State Regional, where the girls placed second in AA Hip-Hop and AA Pom Dance. This qualifies the pom-pon team with their trophies at the IDTA State Regional championship at Downers Grove North High School last month. From front left: Shaina Thompson, Kelly Cook, Vikki Williams, Jamila Nelson, Asia Clark, and Aurora McKinney. Back row: Maya Stewart, Maryah Person, Randi Crawford, Briania Cato, Jada Long, Asyia Cato, Kiari Jenkins, and Terri Mathus. (Photo courtesy of coach Darlene Pollard)