

the dart

volume 70 ★ issue 2 ★ 16 september 2010
ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY



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The administration is forming a new cheating focus group among students, teachers
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GOING GLOBAL

St. Teresa's students, teachers adjust to the implications of netbooks in their everyday lives. Along with this new technology comes new responsibilities and policies.

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photo by **KIRSTY McGHIE**

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STA hits maximum capacity



Crammed like sardines ★ Writing teacher Dianne Hirner's senior writing class uses a projector during a presentation during class last week. This class of 26 students is one of the biggest Hirner has ever had. Photo by **SARAH WIRTZ**

STA has accepted more students than in recent years and is at the school's maximum capacity

story by **MARY O'LEARY**
staff writer

In 1942, STA's freshmen class consisted of 24 students; this year's freshmen class is up to 149 girls, the largest class in recent years.

"There has been more qualified students applying than we have had in the past years, so that makes it harder to turn down students," Roseann Hudnall, director of admissions at STA said.

STA has reached what principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick calls maximum capacity without hiring additional staff. The school currently has 556 students enrolled, which is 25 more girls than last year.

"There has been a city-wide increase from every grade school and I think St. Teresa's is just in a more blessed place than others," Hudnall said.

According to Ms. Diane Wilmot, who works with marketing and public relations at STA, a lot of hard work goes into advertising STA to hundreds of girls around the city. Within the last three years, the marketing crew at STA has launched three news pieces, which are sent to area girls in grades fourth through eighth.

"We send things like posters and calendars to introduce St. Teresa's to the girls, things that are more visual to get them to remember the school," Wilmot said.

To accommodate the larger class sizes, STA has considered hiring additional faculty and staff.

"Whatever staffing we add will all depend on what we need," McCormick said. "The math requirements have increased to four credits instead of three so maybe we should be looking for some staffing in

that field. We also are thinking about adding an additional foreign language."

With the completion of the chapel, four additional classrooms will be added. According to McCormick, the classrooms are more about adding new programs and courses to the school, not additional students.

"The classrooms are all going to be high-tech rooms with interactive video conference to allow student to video conference internationally," McCormick said. "Whether it's our sister school in Japan or NASA for something science related."

According to McCormick, the administration is content with the number of students the school has and STA will continue to accept as many students as they feel comfortable with.

"We are happy with the number [of students] in these economic times," McCormick said. "That was a big concern for us with the economy, and we are pleased with enrollment with that current situation." ★

300 WORDS: Welcome to the zoo

Modeled after Brady Dennis' original 300 words series, this series captures people and moments in 300 words; no more, no less.

story by **MORGAN SAID**
editor-in-chief

Forget lions and tigers and bears. They're nothing compared to the tarantula and snake and turtle freshman Natalie Nuessle comes home to every day. Not to mention the crickets and mice and fish that reside in her house, serving as her pets' food. Add her three cats and dog named Ernie into the equation, and you've got a zoo. Or so you



Nuessle

would think..

However, until Natalie purchases the ferret of her dreams, she won't consider it such.

When Natalie received her pet tarantula, Fluffy, last Christmas from her cousins, she was ecstatic.

Her pseudo-abdomen is the only part of

her that's got any hair – the rest of her little body is pink and hairless. Even though Fluffy is only the size of a quarter now, she'll eventually mature to the size of a small hand and grow hair all over.

Natalie and Fluffy's unique relationship is only deferred each morning when Natalie mists water into Fluffy's 30-gallon clear glass cage, because

Fluffy thinks that it's "evil rain from up above." In reality, Natalie is just trying to imitate her natural, humid environment to make her more comfortable.

Although Natalie and Fluffy clearly have a special relationship, don't think that there isn't enough love to go around.

There is.

Natalie's Ball Python, Cuddles, receives a completely different kind of attention from Natalie than any of her other pets. She lounges around with Natalie every day after school, tangling her 3 ½ foot long body through the folds of her arm, which is about the same width as Cuddles' body. The two friends watch TV together and she watches her complete her homework at night. Occasionally, Natalie and her dad even load Cuddles up into the car and take her to run errands with them.

Welcome to a new kind of zoo. ★



Southwest, Westport merge raises concern

The community shares diverse opinions about Southwest High School's growing population

story by **LANE MAGUIRE**
staff writer

As the numbers increased, so did the concerns. Southwest Early College Campus, still referred to by many as simply Southwest High School, began its 2010-2011 school year Aug. 30 with an increase of about 1050 students. The school currently has an enrollment of over 1500 students, many of whom are from the former Westport High School, which closed at the end of the previous school year due to Kansas City Missouri School District's "right sizing" plan, that, according to fox4kc.com, closed about half the district's schools. According to Ms. Fifi Weideman, a former school board member and founder of "Community Volunteers to Support Southwest," Southwest is now the biggest high school in Kansas City, Missouri.

"This year is very different," Hannah Rodgers, a sophomore at Southwest Early College Campus, said. "[The student population] went from like 400 to like 1800 kids. I personally don't feel safe at that school anymore."

According to nbcactionnews.com, the old Westport High School had one of the District's highest disciplinary incident rates, while Southwest has one of the lowest. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education records show 16 student suspensions at Southwest in 2009. That same year, Westport recorded 187 suspensions. Police records indicate that from 2008 through April 2010, 71 calls for service and eight arrests were made at Westport. During this same period at Southwest, records show 20 calls for service with one arrest.

"I didn't really like [school]," Alex Hernandez, a sophomore at Southwest, said of his first week of class. "It was way too crowded. Way too many fights."

Rodgers agreed with Hernandez and experienced similar problems.

"My first week of school was terrible," Rodgers said. "There were fights almost every day of the week. Long story short, my school has turned into a very bad school. The people that went [to Southwest] last year, including me, want the Westport kids out."

Considering the high number of incidents at Westport in the past and the fact that Westport has now been merged with Southwest, there is some public concern that there may be problems that will flow from the Southwest schoolyard onto the neighboring homes and businesses.



Rising numbers ★ Southwest High School welcomes students to the newly renovated building. The school reopened this year after merging with three different schools from the Kansas City area. Photo by **CELE FRYER**

"I worry about the rumors that I've heard about the security issues and kids at the school," Ms. Leslie Reller, neighbor of Southwest and mother of STA freshman Kennedy Reller said.

Ms. Fifi Weideman, a former school board member, recently founded an organization, known as "Community Volunteers to Support Southwest." The group, which consists of over 100 members, strives to ensure that the community is involved and supports the efforts for Southwest to succeed.

"When I learned that Southwest was going to be having this significant increase in students, I became concerned that, neighborhoods, the community around [Southwest] was not aware and might not be very happy with [the current situation at Southwest]," Weideman said. "I

wanted to do whatever I could, as a community person, to make things go well and make the school successful."

Although, there were students who felt that they were negatively affected by the student body size and numerous violent incidents at the school, others had opposing opinions. Many students at Southwest felt that they did have a successful first week of school.

"The first week was exciting, with a new school and new people and teachers," Charles Williams, a junior at Southwest, who prior to this year attended University Academy High School, said.

While experiences and opinions vary among the students, one thing is certain—the school population has greatly increased. ★

Read all about it: STA's peaceful protestors



opinion by **MEGAN SCHAFF**
managing editor of print

The word around school is that STA has protestors. Unfortunately, they're not an angry mob carrying torches and pitchforks, just two of STA's friendly neighbors-turned-activists. Regardless, they're challenging the new chapel and parking lot, protesting on campus every morning and disrupting the school's environment. I'm sure most homeowners surrounding St. Teresa's support the school in every decision it makes, but there are a select few who feel entitled to influence STA's decisions.

News flash: it's our school, not yours.

Last time I checked, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the hundreds of families paying almost \$10,000 in tuition a year pay for the school's upkeep. Therefore, you should have absolutely no say in the changes that occur. If you view STA as your property, maybe the student body should view your house as theirs. You want to change the color of your house? You're thinking about adding a fence? Hmm, maybe we should take a student-wide vote before you do that. It goes both ways: you respect our property and we respect yours.

STA's neighbors are welcome to exploit the many benefits of living next to our beautiful campus. Go ahead and walk your dog around the Quad or bring a soccer ball and kick it around in the field. When the track is built we whole-heartedly encourage you to put on your running shoes and take a jog. While you're at it, bring a red-and-white checkered blanket and a wicker basket and have a picnic on the grass. But don't protest when we decide to make a change or two that will clearly benefit the STA community.

The new chapel, including the parking lot that will accompany it, is a change that will benefit St. Teresa's students for years to come. The chapel will build upon the school's Catholic tradition, new classrooms will promote growth among both the student body and the faculty, distance learning capabilities will even further increase STA's technological advances, and additional parking spaces will diminish stress among students trying to find a parking spot at 7:39 in the morning.

I applaud you for standing up for what you believe in, but one man holding up one tiny sign at 7:30 a.m. when every student is half—if not completely—awake isn't going to make the administration change their minds about a major school renovation that's already in the works. All you're going to do is completely block 57th Street every morning while an endless stream of cars stop to read your signs, purely for entertainment value. And if you're lucky, maybe you'll make it into the school paper.

I'm sorry if you're worried about your park disappearing, but unless you have a daughter that goes here, you have no voice in our school's direction. It's at our discretion.

And don't worry, we'll work on that car-pooling thing just for you. ★

Breaking GROUND

The *Dart* covers STA chapel, Inspiring Women Capital Campaign updates this year

by **CELIA O'FLAHERTY**
staff writer

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new chapel is now scheduled for the spring instead of this fall.

"This way we can raise more money for the chapel," president Nan Bone said. "We just need more time to plan things out."

Although the groundbreaking ceremony is postponed, Gould Evans design team principal

Tony Rohr said that he and his team hope to begin working and expanding the parking lot this fall. Tony Rohr is the father of STA junior Kate Rohr.

According to Rohr, this also gives him more time to plan and evaluate different contributing factors for the chapel. His team continues to work on design issues for the chapel and learn more about technology options for the classrooms.

The school administration has begun to select artifacts from STA and the Sisters of St. Joseph archives and solicit donations from alumnae to go in the chapel. Rohr met with consultants to discuss the way the classrooms will work and the way artifacts of the school will be displayed and preserved in the new building.

As for the groundbreaking ceremony, Bone said all aspects of the chapel are still up in the air and subject to change.

"We hope to kick off the building of the chapel in the spring," Bone said. "The main word being 'hope.'" ★

Top five... Ways to keep your items safe

Principal for student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker provides five ideas for students to avoid theft at school,

1. Don't set down your personal items, like backpacks and netbooks, down and walk away.
2. Lock your lockers, especially if you have valuables in them.
3. If you have a lot of money with you, ask Judy Merrimam in the business office to lock it in the safe for you until the end of the day.
4. Lock your car.
5. Don't leave valuables showing in your car.

source: Ms. Mary Anne Hoecker
compiled by: **MARY O'LEARY**

DARTBOARD STA to reduce paper, save money

STA alumna wins national award

STA alumna Taylor Brown is a finalist for a National Scholastic Press Award for her front cover on the March 2010 issue of "Sketching Our Future".

According to Brown, she was at home sleeping when her younger sister Jordan texted her to ask if she had heard she had won an award. Last week, newspaper advisor Eric Thomas called Brown to tell her she was a finalist.

"I was kind of confused and surprised because at the end of the school year we get presented with awards, and I didn't think this one was any different or more important," Brown said. "Mr. Thomas seemed really excited about it so I was excited too."

Brown won the award for "Sketching Our Future", which featured a story about the new chapel on the cover. Brown said she had a hard time presenting the main story about the chapel, but managed to finish it with 30 minutes left until the paper went to print.

"We kind of expected more news to come out of the story, and we were running short on time," Brown said. "I had to do the front page really quickly while having a story that was hard to visually present." ★

Mosque controversy in NY

Muslim leader Feisal Abdul Rauf proposed building a Muslim community center and mosque two blocks away from Ground Zero in New York City, provoking arguments across the country. The mosque's opponents feel its proximity to the site of the World Trade Center insults the many who died there because of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and US Representative Charles Rangel defend the Muslim space as upholding the constitutional right religious tolerance.

"We cannot allow this intolerance to continue," Rangel told *The New York Times*.

Rauf told "Larry King Live" that he did not expect the controversy his proposal caused.

"If I knew that this would happen, that this would cause this kind of pain, I wouldn't have done it," Rauf said. "My life has been devoted to peacemaking."

But Rauf will not withdraw his plans because he fears it will anger radicals of and risk security.

"The headlines in the Muslim world will be that Islam is under attack," Rauf said. "And I'm less concerned about the radicals in America than I am about the radicals in the Muslim world." ★

Teacher's DVD player missing

STA French teacher Alice Amick arrived at her classroom one morning over the summer to find her DVD player missing. This report is one of several reports of stealing last school year, including STA's campus ministry's iPod and student's wallets and coats.

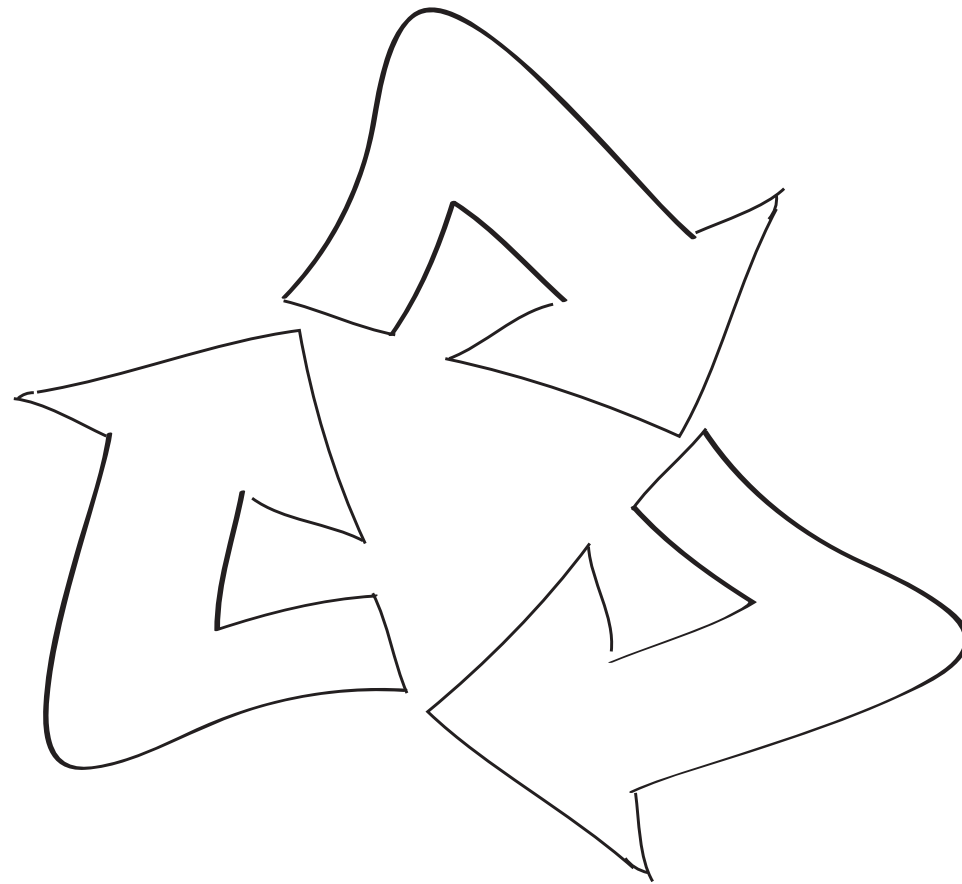
Principal for student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker said that although students do steal at STA, the problem is not as bad as it seems.

"Often when a student is missing something they say 'Somebody stole my jacket,'" Hoecker said. "It's hard to presume that it is a stolen item and not missing. I would say 50 percent of items students said were stolen last year were found."

Hoecker said that although many reportedly stolen items are later found, she is surprised that students would steal at STA.

"We create an environment of treating each other as our sisters, so it doesn't make sense to me that people could steal each other's things," Hoecker said. ★

compiled by **EMMA ROBERTSON, KATIE HYDE, KATE ROHR**



Graphic by **EMILY BRESSETTE**

Administrators hope to make students eco-friendly, reduce paper use with netbooks

story by **HANNAH WOLF**
features editor

By adding new, 3 pound, black machines scattered across the classroom, teachers have begun to subtract the previous, 8.5 by 11 inch, white paper scattered inside students' backpacks. With the idea of saving money on supplies and paper on printing, STA is on it's way to becoming environmentally friendly. Students are left not with handouts, but rather links to webpages and PDFs. Because of some student's natural tendencies to want an actual book to look at or paper to write on, many STA students

"It defeats the purpose, because it ends up costing everyone more money, not just the school."

are left to print their own materials at home.

For junior Katie Evans, this situation happens most school nights.

"I wish teachers would still print off [papers] because I end up printing everything off at home anyways," Evans said.

According to Evans, she prefers tangible things. Marking up, highlighting, writing on, and flipping through pages attracts her to a printed copy of class notes and assignments.

In addition, Evans is worried she will exceed her 1,000 prints at school. Because of this, she ends up printing nearly twice as much paper at home than she does at school, causing her to doubt how much paper and money the school is actually saving.

"It defeats the purpose, because it ends up costing everyone more money, not just the school,"

Katie Evans, junior

Comprehensive fee causes confusion

Parents, students question STA's new annual netbook, technology, textbook fees

story by **EMILY BRESSETTE**
staff writer

In late July, every STA parent opened the same letter from the administration informing parents that the \$625 technology fee, a \$225 jump from previous years, was due to the school within a week.

According to Ms. Denise Burton, mother of junior Kennedy Burton, the school did not give parents enough notice about the fee.

"I assumed [the fee] would be due at orientation, like it normally is," Denise said. "I was not expecting to have to pay [that money] within two days. [Parents] should have known the due date a month in advance, like monthly bills."

Denise still believes the \$225 jump in price fee is too much. While she is upset, Ms. Caroline Torres, mother of freshman Libby Torres, was not. Caroline said she had known about the fee since registration.

"[The fee] was not shocking or surprising," Caroline said. "I knew about the netbooks [being implemented]. I wasn't upset at all. I would have liked a little more notice [about when the fee was due], though."

Principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick said the main reason the letter was sent later than usual was because of the new student managing system, PowerSchool. Once PowerSchool was set up, invoices had to be filled and sent out to parents. The invoices will be sent earlier in future years. McCormick also said this \$625 fee will be reoccur every year.

Neither Burton or Torres knew where the extra money was going. According to McCormick, the netbooks cost a one-time fee of \$550 each,

Evans said.

On the other hand, principal of academic affairs Barbara McCormick believes in the school's effort to save paper and money. According to McCormick, by saving dollars through paper, printing, ink cartridges, and maintenance, STA is advancing its efforts to become ecofriendly.

"This is a huge environmental problem were trying to address as we move towards becoming green," McCormick said.

Freshman Paige Lankford agrees with the idea of STA saving paper. She believes that the 1,000 prints per student every year is even too much.

"Students should have the responsibility to print [materials] at home," Lankford said.

Living up to this standard, Lankford has not printed any papers at school yet. Instead, she prints anywhere from 15 to 20 pages at home every week. Similar to Evans, Lankford sees the school's savings on printing become an extra cost for her family at home.

"When I take notes in class on the netbooks, I still print them out [at home] and put them in a notebook," Lankford says.

Science teacher Terry Conner recognizes how some students still opt to print most materials.

"The student that likes [paper] will print it all," Conner said. "But this way, at least I'm not printing extra papers, [because] the people who don't like [paper] would waste it."

Believing in giving each student options, Conner addresses every student's personal preference while still working toward going green. By scanning handouts and labs onto moodle, the student can access and print them ahead of time. Otherwise, they can use their netbooks during labs or to turn in assignments.

McCormick recognizes these preferences as well. "Our preferences as humans are around what we like and dislike," McCormick said. "Those change over time, with new technology."

Although the amount of savings through these netbooks cannot be determined until the budget expenditure is examined later in the year, McCormick believes STA must keep trying.

"As long as you help one another along, everyone [will] move forward toward this environmental movement," McCormick said. ★

By the Numbers

How much paper does the average American use?

The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood and other products made from trees.

source: www.recycling-revolution.com
compiled by **CHELSEA BIRCHMIER**

leaving an extra \$75 left over. This extra money goes towards various things including the netbook bag, student software, security software, network software and wireless internet access. The money also goes to rebinding textbooks, paperback novels, curriculum resources and testing materials and services, which include the ACT, PSAT and PLAN. The freshman also have to account for their gym uniform in this fee.

"No parents have called in angry," McCormick said. "They have all been curious about [the extra money]. Parents are welcome to call anytime to ask about [the fee]."

As McCormick said, this \$625 payment will be repaid every year. Although the school will not be purchasing a new set of netbooks each year, things like software updates and licensing still need to be paid for.

"We have to continually update everything," McCormick said. "There are reoccurring costs we have to pay. That's just the way it is." ★

Netbooks provide distractions to students

As the school year begins to pick up speed, the newest addition to the classroom tools used at St. Teresa's Academy is starting to slow down. The netbooks issued to each student at the beginning of the school year are slowing down the learning process by providing numerous distractions and access issues in and out of the classroom. Created to assist and advance students in their education, the netbooks are beginning to hinder and disrupt instead.

The main usage of the netbooks is to connect to the internet for online textbooks and resources. However, some online textbooks are slowing the education of students due to the loading time each page takes, which adds time to the homework load. Homework also cannot be completed at places that do not have wireless connection, like sporting events or competitions. In addition, many students find it harder to read and study out of an online textbook rather than one that is in print.

Gadgets and games have been discovered by students and added to desktops of many netbooks. Tetris, a game usually found on cell phones, can be seen on the desktops of numerous students. During class, the screens of netbooks, assumed to be used for note-taking, display games such as Tetris and Pac Man or applications like the netbook fetus, flower pot and horoscopes being used by students. Almost any game or gadget that you could imagine can be downloaded by students onto their netbooks. Netbook screens also provide excellent hiding places for cell

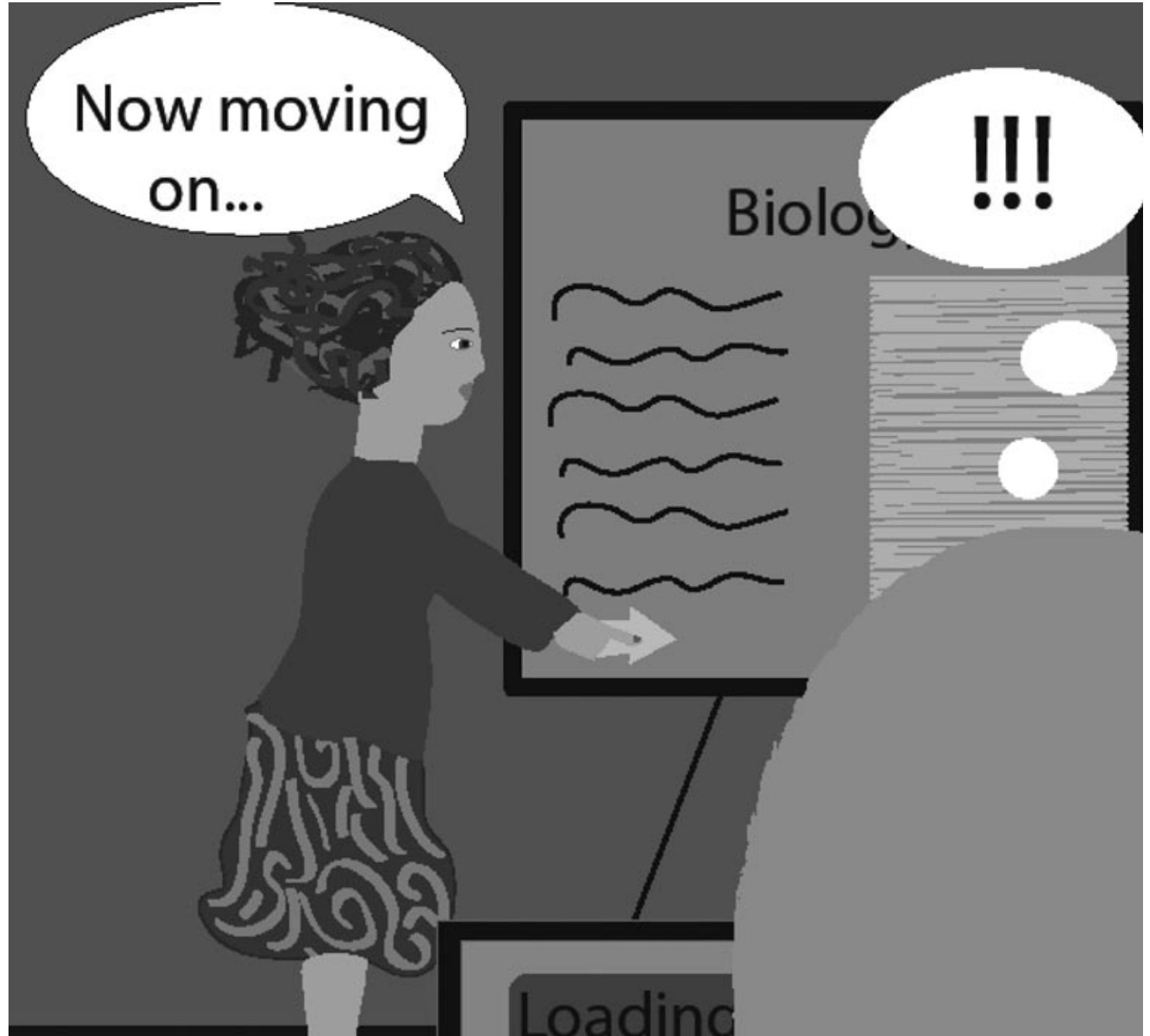
The staff editorial represents the views of the *Dart* Editorial Board

6 out of 7 editors voted in support of this editorial

phone usage during class and the option to work on almost any other class's homework rather than the class your actually in. Distractions from the netbooks such as these are slowing the learning process at STA, and not improving student's productivity in class like they are intended to.

The privilege of the usage of netbooks in the classroom is being taken advantage of by students when games and applications on the desktops are in use during class. As the STA website states on the netbooks: "...laptops will serve as a tool for students to access information and technologies necessary for advanced instruction and learning." Without enforcement of the purpose of netbooks, the tool that is meant to advance and assist learning will be wasted by students who choose to play games during class instead of taking notes.

In order to decrease distractions, administration must enforce the Acceptable Use Policy that students signed before receiving the netbooks, ensuring students will not use the tool in a non-scholarly manner. Teachers must take responsibility in making sure students are paying attention in class and concentrating on the lesson, not using applications on the desktop. Administration must monitor applications used during school hours in order for the classroom



tool to be effective because many students have been able to get past the Lightspeed internet block.

On the other hand, Lightspeed has blocked some sites helpful for homework. This makes students homework load longer. Teachers have had to print out papers for class because of the Lightspeed blocks, which is not complying with the new eco-friendly STA. The bottom line is STA needs to enforce the Acceptable Use Policy and loosen up on the Lightspeed blocks for academic purposes. Administration must monitor applications used during school hours in order for the classroom tool to be effective. ★

Pros and Cons of Netbooks

Pros:

- Greater amount of resources available
- More experience with technology
- Increase in communication between students and teachers
- More responsibility placed on students

Cons:

- Slow loading of online textbook
- Distracting gadgets and applications
- Disrupt learning process
- Areas with no internet connection do not allow students to complete homework

Right on Target?

compiled by MURPHY MARX

What do you think about the netbooks?

"They are slow and they sometimes don't open during class, but they are kind of useful on some occasions."
-Paige Drummond, Freshman



Drummond

"I love taking notes on them! I take better notes and they are neater."

-Annie Palmer, Sophomore



Palmer

"I don't like them because I don't use them enough. I take notes in my spiral like normal. I don't use the online books so I still have to carry the books around. They are just extra weight."
-Maddie Doyle, Junior



Doyle

Our new blessing: embracing how we are not embracing during Mass



opinion by **ABBY UCHE**
staff writer

The start of a new school year has brought many new changes to STA—new scheduling, netbooks, and a larger student population—but one change I never expected was the loss of the “huggers” at school liturgies. While the embrace frightened me as a freshman, I have now grown accustomed to receiving a warm hug after taking Eucharist. At the Aug. 30 mass, I was surprised to find that the hug had been replaced by a gesture I affectionately refer to as the “grab-and-go blessing.”

For those who might have missed STA's newest change, the blessing involves three basic steps. First, the student administering the interaction outstretches her arms and grabs the shoulder of the student on the receiving end. Next comes the eye contact. There is a brief and wordless exchange between the grabber and the grabbee. During this moment of eye contact, both parties soundlessly acknowledge the awkwardness of the situation. Then comes the next step, the

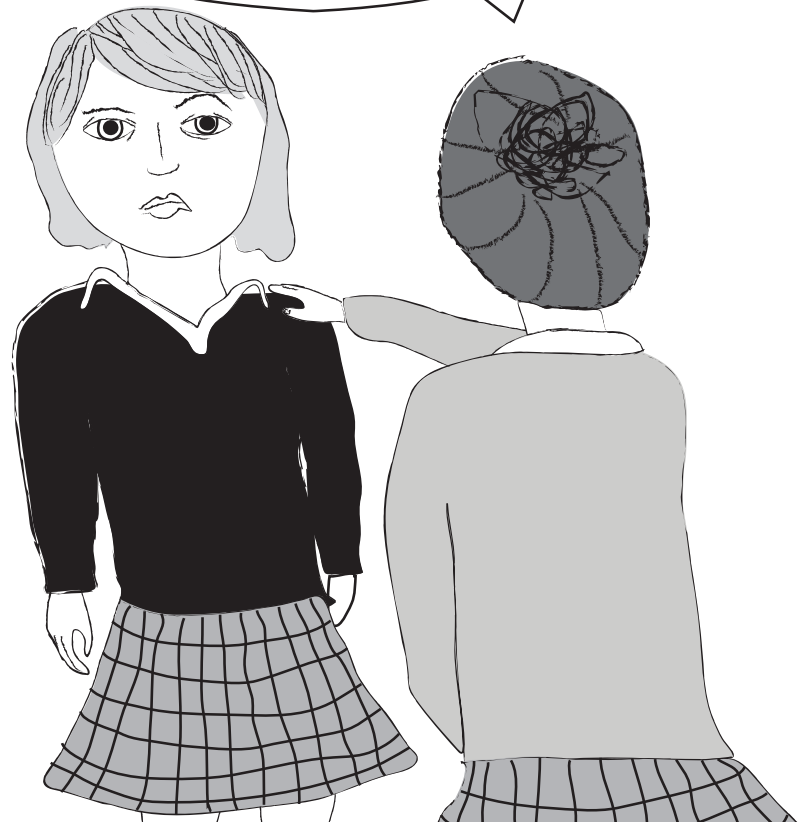
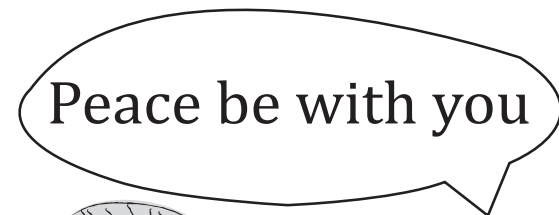
blessing. The blessing is quick, but the feet of the student escaping the situation are much quicker.

Those students who were traumatized by the unpleasant discomfort of the new post-communion gesture will surely kick themselves upon discovering that not everyone subscribed to the new non-hug. Some girls opted to immerse themselves in tradition and simply hug their fellow student. Whether this was a force of habit or an act of rebellion, I do not know. Regardless of motive, the fact remains that there are still some students who choose to embrace the old embrace.

This new addition to mass at STA provides a level of discomfort that far bypasses that of a student's first encounter with the huggers, which can be awkward, especially when the embrace is unexpected. However, while the hugs have taken a permanent vacation due to issues of lack of reverence, is it possible that this new gesture could be replaced? Perhaps a warm, friendly handshake could fill the void left by the absence of a warm, friendly hug. There is a world of possibilities to choose from when selecting a hug replacement. However, in the likely case that STA does not replace the grab-and-go blessing, I offer this advice: prepare for some shoulder-squeezing eye contact because things are about to get awkward. ★

The Final Say

The post-Eucharist “huggers” at STA liturgies have been replaced by blessing ministers to eliminate non-reverence, but leaves students feeling awkward. ★



Roll in the Welcome Wagon



opinion by **EMMA ROBERTSON**
staff writer

Every day people are buying, selling, and moving into new houses. It used to be that an organization called the Welcome Wagon would welcome new homeowners into the neighborhood all across the nation. They would even sit down over a cup of hot coffee and talk about who is who on their street, bring over a basket of scrumptious goodies and introduce them to the neighborhood. What happened to this tradition?

When my family moved into our new house about four years ago, we were welcomed by a letter and a little gift basket. We had to figure out a lot of things on our own, such as how to get into the pool, and what activities our neighborhood holds. It used to be in our old neighborhood that we would bake brownies or cookies and go over to our new neighbors house to introduce ourselves. In a way we were the Welcome Wagon for our street.

This changed once we moved into our new house in Overland Park. One family decided to say hello and introduce themselves, but they didn't take time to really get to know us. I feel as though I have more respect for that family that introduced themselves. By introducing yourself to your neighbors it could lead to respect among the people on your street

For example, my family and I do not mind Mr. Cooke protesting at the front of the STA parking lot, because we respect his ideas as an

individual. We understand how difficult it is for him to see a new building arise on STA property. This respect could leak over into the parking problems along the neighborhood streets, as well. We understand his concern for what the neighbors surrounding STA calls their “park,” and their concern for every change we make to our beautiful and old campus.

If STA students respect the neighbor's problems with the parking, and the administrative decision to pass the parking law it can lead to mutual respect among the STA community and our neighbors who border our school. We could better understand why the rule was passed, and perhaps what the neighbors think about the new parking rule.

This can only happen though, if we take the time to get to know our neighbors. The STA community has also welcomed and respected their neighbors. STA has gone out of its way to try and respect their neighbors problems relating to the school, such as parking, and fix it. When the administration started thinking of adding the track around the soccer field, one of the first things they did was consult the community surrounding STA. They thought of our neighbors and made sure their opinions were taken into consideration. STA does not necessarily have to use all of these neighbors' opinions, but it is always a nice gesture. Taking care of our neighbors can only benefit us in the end.

Try to go out of your way and become the Welcome Wagon on your street or cul-de-sac, and set an example for other neighbors. You never know what they could do for you one day. This could improve the relationships among those on your street, and lead to a better understanding of each person's point view. ★

The Final Say

Set a good example in your neighborhood by welcoming those around you, and it could lead to respect and potential friendships.

Look out: SAAC members fight for athletic funds



opinion by **CASSIE REDLINGSHAFER**
sports editor

STA's athletics have completely changed over the last year—for the better. Coach Hough has instituted so many great improvements such as the gym renovations, the new tennis courts, the sports barbecues and the creation of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

The SAAC is my favorite improvement. This is a committee that is used in many schools nation-wide and gives student athletes a chance to tell the school what we want in our athletics. There are about forty student athletes on the committee and we help inform the athletic department on what is most important to us, in order to help guide the department on how to spend money. Topics discussed and voted on during meetings include if we want to travel, renovate facilities (such as the gym and tennis courts), or buy parkas for winter sports' teams.

Coach Hough created the group by selecting about 20 student athletes to be on the committee. The group snow-balled from there because coach Hough encouraged us to invite other athletes to the meetings in order to have an even better rep-

resentation of STA's student athlete population.

Some other responsibilities we, as members, have are helping enforce rules (such as no parking in reserved spots behind the gym) and keeping people off the floors at basketball and volleyball games. As SAAC members, we are supposed to set examples for both student athletes and students who support STA athletics.

I think this is a great program because the athletic department is finally considering what we think is important, which only makes sense because we're the people on the fields and courts. ★

The Final Say

SAAC puts the athletes involved in planning seasons activities, allowing the athletes to shape their sports seasons.

SAAC members by sport

- Madalyne Bird, golf, senior
- Kathleen Hough, cross country, senior
- Karson Kuhlman, basketball, senior
- Lauren Laudan, dance team, senior
- Cassie Redlingshafer, tennis, senior
- Addie Thompson, swimming, senior
- Jennifer Blake, basketball, junior
- Alexis Buford, golf, junior
- Taylor Migliazzo, volleyball, junior
- Maggie Rellihan, soccer, sophomore
- Ally Franken, softball, senior

Sisterhood reunites on campus after summer break



an opinion by **CHRISTINA BARTON**
opinion editor

In six days, fall will officially begin, pushing summer completely behind us. No more flip flops, tanning by the pool, sun until 9 p.m. and free time. Pull out the sweaters, begin searching for homecoming dresses, hit the tanning beds, and start your homework. Forget about free time because with homework, jobs, and sports, you will not have any extra time.

Although summer break is four weeks gone, I can't help but hold on to summer just a little longer. Flip flops are still my shoe of choice no matter the weather. Facebook and magazines still remain my main source of news to keep me posted on what is happening in the world and the latest gossip.

Yet as much as I love summer, especially the

free time and vacations that come with it, I still look forward to returning to STA. As my second home, I relish my days here and realize how lucky I am to attend such an incredible institution. I love seeing my family of "sisters" all together sporting their tartan plaid with pride as the climb the stairs and walk the halls at STA. I know I do not exactly look forward to all the work, especially the homework and countless tests and the lack of free time, but I still try to appreciate all the school year has to bring.

Part of the sisterhood of STA are the traditions I look forward to every year. I love dressing up for Sion games and cheering alongside my fellow sisters cheering for our Stars. I love dancing wildly with my fellow sisters at Teresian and the Christmas dance. I love filling my belly with delicious food from advisory parties, free Waldo pizza, and food I smooch off of my friends.

-Summer gives you the freedom to do what you want, but sometimes, you have other commitments. In the summer, you want to see your friends, but you can't see every STA girl or all of your friends due to vacations, jobs, and other conflicts. Being back at school allows you to see everyone five days a week and spend more time with your friends. You can interact with girls of other grades who you do not necessarily interact with out of school.

In the world of Facebook, keeping track of people is easier and gaining gossip is faster, but

it takes away from face to face contact. I'm not talking about Skype when I say face to face contact; I'm talking about literally sitting next to some one and talking to them. At STA, a day does not go by without seeing friends chatting in frees, in the halls, through the quad, and in classes.

Summer may be completely behind us in six days, but in its place, the sisterhood of STA reconnects together again. In the excitement of a new school year, we embrace our sisters and catch up on all we have missed, but we don't even realize how much we love it. As a school of all girls, constant chatter and giant hugs are just a part of everyday life. When we have not seen each other for almost three months, screams and hugs are a given.

Fall becomes the beginning of one family, one sisterhood reunited after summer, after parting for a short break. So don't fret about your tan (I know a lot of you will go to tanning beds anyway), put away those flip flops, and hit the books because the school year will fly by. Live with your sisters whom you love and care for because the sisterhood will part for another summer before you know it. ★

The Final Say

Although summer is an important break, fall brings the STA sisterhood together again.

Forever 21: New Plaza Favorite?



opinion by **SARA MEURER**
staff writer

As many STA students know, the long awaited Forever 21 store has had its grand opening on the plaza. The project that was advertised to be finished in spring of 2010 was finally opened Aug. 28.

Being the Forever 21 fan that I am, I had to stop by on opening day. Not only was I overwhelmed by the enormous two-story building, but I was pleasantly surprised by how many people I recognized while I was shopping. There are many pluses to the new store, it's much bigger than the other at Oak Park Mall and the location is much more convenient for many STA students. My friend and I decided to count how many acquaintances we saw while we were there, and by then end of the two hour shopping trip we had counted 22 people, most of whom were STA students.

However, some people I know argue that if most of the student body shops there, many people will have some of the same clothes. I have to disagree, because most people who have been to the store will agree that it is absolutely huge, and the Forever 21 at Oak Park Mall simply does not compare. It is only one level and is crammed into a small, unorganized area. Clothes seem to be scattered in random locations, which makes your favorite clothes and ideal outfits a nuisance to locate. The service is not as friendly and the lines are always backed up, assuring at least a 30 minute wait.

Regardless, Forever 21, especially in the Plaza location, is in a league of its own. There are different rooms full of merchandise that are organized and easily accessible to costumers. With a larger store and more clothes, girls are less likely to pick out the same things. Though I do know some people who have a few of the same items, I'm sure this isn't something that is going to turn into a big problem.

It is very unlikely that I would ever let something as small as the matching issue stop me from shopping at my favorite store. I've been a Forever 21 fan for a while and I can guarantee this is going to have no effect on that and I'm positive that my shopping outings will increase. I have already spent a large majority of my hard earned babysitting money there, and it has quickly become my new favorite store on the plaza (sorry, Urban Outfitters). Between the adorable clothes and the ridiculously low prices, I can't help but be hopelessly obsessed. ★

The Final Say

The new Forever 21 store is the best new place for STA girls to find cute, inexpensive clothes on the Plaza.

Lost in Gaga land: behind the wild wardrobe



opinion by **LUCIA MASCHLER**
staff writer

The VMAs never fail. First Kanye, now Lady Gaga. These awards are always worth watching.

For those who don't live on trashy TV (like me), let me explain. Lady Gaga changed costumes multiple times on Sunday at MTV's annual Video Music Award, each varying in degree of Gaga weirdness. But by far the most peculiar was the meat dress, modeled off the meat bikini she sported for the cover of *Vogue*.

I cannot even begin to imagine how bad she smelled. The meat had been exposed to the heat of fading summer days for a few hours before she finally took it off. Gross. Think of all those maggots. I feel bad for the people who had the seats next to her. PETA wasn't too happy with that one.

But the meat dress isn't her only talked about attire: remember the frog dress? Or the caution tape? How about the red-laced angel? Honestly, I don't think I've ever seen her in normal clothes.

But despite the controversy that constantly surrounds her, I have always been amazed by this woman's creative, eccentric style. When she first came on the scene a couple years ago, I thought her outfits were random and crazy. I thought she was trying too hard to get attention and that her celebrity status was going to her head.

But then I watched her interviews and developed an entirely new respect for her.

Almost everything she does is symbolic. From her videos to her outfits to her lyrics, this girl is deep. She isn't just one of those dumb celebrities who can't tell the difference between

illegal substances and gum (cough, Paris Hilton, cough). Lady Gaga has a good head on her shoulders. It might of been the all-girls Catholic high school she attended. Who knows?

We could all afford to take a leaf out of Lady Gaga's book. It's more than she isn't afraid to be herself; she bends all the rules and thinks outside the box, which is refreshing in the all work, no play the world is coming to.

I am not saying I understand everything she does--quite the opposite actually. What I'm saying is she is a smart, confident, independent woman who should be occasionally applauded for her creativity, instead of simply dismissed as as that crazy dresser. ★

The Final Say

Before dismissing Lady Gaga as just another airhead celebrity, consider the symbolism behind her crazy outfits, random videos and catchy lyrics.

A time to work, a time to think, a time to shave



opinion by **MORGAN SAID**
editor-in-chief

Dear freshmen,

You don't know what you're getting yourselves into. I see you guys triple check your schedules before walking into a classroom, just to make sure you're going to the right place - I see your confusion and laugh out loud to myself, because it hasn't been long since I was in your position.

The loads of homework every night, the endless studying, the fact that midway through the semester you'll realize that there are day, week, sometimes month-long gaps between each time you get the chance to shave your scrawny little legs.

Once you finally find the time to shave, you'll realize that your short, adolescent legs are now much more muscular, due to the hundreds of stairs you climb each day. You'll begin to realize how much you've matured overall while smearing your Skintimate shave gel over your inch-long leg hair that you forgot to shave until tonight because you were too busy.

In doing this, you'll finally get the chance to sit down and think about school so far. You'll probably go back to the day that you broke down and cried in the bathroom to the poor girl washing her hands next to you because of the test you just failed or the homework you forgot to turn in. You'll think back to the day where you forgot your lunch and therefore had to crouch down on your hands and knees and beg for some mercy (and a little bit of everyone's

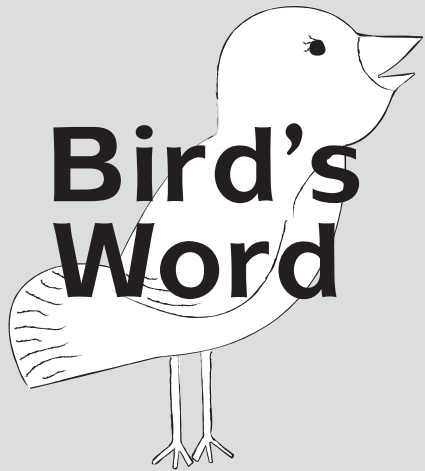
leftover food). You'll think back to the day where everyone mocked you for falling up the stairs. Back to the first day you were late to school and back to your first SBR. You'll finally get the chance to think back to all of that.

You'll think back to it and you'll laugh. You'll laugh at all of the horrible things and you'll feel blessed. Because in remembering all of the bad and all of the stressful, you'll also remember how you aced the test that you forgot to study for; how random bathroom girl is now your best friend, that as a result of forgetting your lunch, you ended up with more food in front of you than ever before - that you've made some great friends along the way.

So, freshmen, go home tonight and take some time to shave. Take some time to think.

Because you really don't know what you've gotten yourselves into. But someday soon, I hope you will. Someday soon, you'll understand it all. Sometime soon you'll look back on all of this, and you'll laugh. And someday soon, you'll love every single second of it.

I promise. ★



Bird's Word

Each issue of the *Dart*, students submit letters to senior staffer Madalynne Bird, asking for advice on everyday issues for STA girls

I have been asked by three different boys to homecoming dance, one who attends Bishop Miege High School and the other two, you guessed it, Rockhurst! Both schools are hosting it on the same day and I haven't answered to any of them. This is such a problem I encounter, being so popular and all, I can never pick between boys feuding over me. So, bird, help me out here:

Boy #1: Miege- Co-ed school, has plenty of girls there, yet still HAS to ask me. A TDH (tall, dark, and handsome), muscular, has b-e-a-utiful blue eyes that will make your heart drop. And hey, if I go with him, I can sit back and watch all the Miege girls glare in jealousy.

Boy #2: RHS- A Senior and lead varsity basketball player, need I say more? He's super popular (like me) and I will for sure have a great time. Can you say "slam dunk"?

Boy #3: RHS- I mean I'd rate him only an 8, but he's loaded and already offered to pay for my dress, shoes, and jewelry for both dances, as well as my Teresian ticket (even though I def won't take him back).

Love ya bay,
Fabulous Felicia

Dear Fabulous Felicia,

Don't stress! When the time comes you will know who's invitation to accept. Two Rockhurst boys? How do you pass that invite up? But don't go with a boy to a dance just because he's loaded. Go with the one that you can see yourself having the best time with. If I were you, I wouldn't want girls glaring at me all night. Even if his eyes would make your "hear drop". So, go to the dance where most of your friends are going (probably Rockhurst), where you can relax and have a great night, hitting the dance floor with your buds.

Don't let all these invites get you in tizzy Fabulous. Stay cool like a cucumber and bask in the glory of knowing that you're heading to a dance that night! But don't wait too long because if you do, those guys might just head on over to the next girl that comes their way and you do not want to be stuck without a date when you had so many invites in the first place, do you? Now hop to it Felicia and accept one of those invites. But when you do, don't let him know that its a big deal that he asked you and you are really excited to go with him. Stay calm, stay cool and like it's no big deal.

Be sure to write back,
Bird

To submit letters to Bird's Word, send submissions to dartpaper@gmail.com

compiled by **MADALYNE BIRD**

New schedule, new friends

New scheduling system changes the ways freshmen are meeting each other and bonding as grade

story by **ALLISON FITTS**
staff writer

The new scheduling system implemented this year at STA places students in classes with the same girls each day. Some returning students who are familiar with the old, modular scheduling, believe that the new schedules limit how many students they see in their classes each week. Multiple freshmen said that they did not know how the old scheduling system worked, where students had different people in their classes each day. They said they could only base their experiences on what they do know: the new way of scheduling.

This year's scheduling is not the only transition for freshman Angelica Duckworth. This is her first year attending a private school and she is the only girl from Summit Lake Middle School in the freshman class. Duckworth said initially she did not want to attend STA and her parents forced her to come. However, she now has a different outlook.

"I love [STA]," Duckworth said. "I enjoy [having classes with the same girls everyday] a lot because you get to create a bond with the people you see all the time. But I wish I could spend time with my friends that I don't have classes with."

Duckworth is not the only freshman who is the lone student from her grade school at STA. According to Roseann Hudnall, admissions director at STA, the freshman class has 11 girls who are the only students from their grade school. Hudnall believes that the new scheduling system has not been affecting the freshmen as much as people think.

"Our freshmen don't know the difference [between the modular scheduling and the new scheduling]," Hudnall said. "I can see the positives of how [scheduling] used to be, but I see more positives now."

Students complaining about less variety in classes have issues with the new scheduling beyond that. Junior Megan Hodes said that being able to meet more people was one of the benefits

Advice from senior Riley Ueker

- "Don't try to be someone you're not because you'll be unhappy the rest of your high school career. Be yourself because STA allows you to do that."
- "Try to get to know [the girls' in your classes] grade school friends."
- "If you don't have a set friend group, it's not something to worry about."
- "I really appreciate it when transfers and freshmen are not shy. I really want them to not hold back."

compiled by **ALLISON FITTS**



Lunch table laughter ★ Freshmen Shelby Hawkins and Anna Leach laugh together while munching on their lunch. This year, freshmen have less opportunities to mix with their whole class due to the change in scheduling. Photo by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**

of having different girls in your class each day under the modular scheduling. She also said that diverse class discussions were an important aspect of the modular scheduling.

"You [could] have different class discussions," Hodes said. "It's not just the same person talking all the time."

One positive of the new scheduling is its similarity to some grade school schedules. According to freshman Grace Wells, the scheduling at STA resembles her scheduling at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School, where she attended grade school.

"I like [the new scheduling system] because I'm used to it," Wells said.

Wells, one of four girls from her grade school in the freshman class, said the new scheduling system has helped in forming closer bonds with

the girls she sees every day in her classes. However, she also notes that classes are not the only way to meet girls. Wells has met girls through the varsity tennis team and a summer lacrosse camp.

"Everyone's really open to making new friends," Wells said. "Most girls really branch out. I hang out with a lot of girls from a lot of different schools."

Branching out to make friends is something STA's principal of academic affairs, Barbara McCormick, wants to stress upon students.

"It's hard to [branch out] because we don't have the courage to go outside our safe box," McCormick said.

McCormick said one of the important things that this year's freshman class should remember when making new friends is to take advantage of any of STA's social opportunities, like sporting events. She also said that it is important to the administration for girls to have classes with a variety of girls.

The schedule changes may have upset some returning students, but for the freshmen who do not know any differently, many just see it as another aspect of their transition into high school.

"I really like the change from grade school to high school," Wells said. "I'm really looking forward to my freshman year." ★

STA acquires new uniforms for school year

Over summer, STA administration decided to make new shirts plus polos for 2010 school year

story by **EMMA ROBERTSON**
staff writer

Over the summer, Parker Uniform representatives met with STA administration to discuss new looks for the uniform skirt. There was a discussion at that time to sell the new uniforms in the Star Shop as well. The change happened because of students rolling the skirts and complaints about the old uniforms shrinking into a square, according to Principal of Student Affairs Mary Anne Hoecker.

According to Ms. Cathy Cusumano, mother of senior Sam Cusumano, who works at the Star

Shop, the administration also met to discuss how to order and sell the uniforms, and what support STA would get from the uniform sales to go towards the Booster Club.

"We hope to not only make it easier for the parents and students, to obtain uniforms throughout the year, but it is also a fundraiser for the Booster Club," Cusumano said.

Not only is there a different place to buy the uniforms, but a change in design of skirt and brand of polo shirt as well. The administration looked at three different versions of the skirt, a straight skirt, a wrap-around skirt and a drop-waist skirt.

The administration decided on the drop waist skirt since the wider waistband prevents students from rolling their skirt, according to Hoecker. Majority of freshmen are the first to wear the new drop waist skirt.

"I don't like [the uniforms] because they are

uncomfortable and the waistband moves around and doesn't feel like it fits well," freshman Natalie Rall said. "The skirts are stiff but that could possibly be because of the newness."

The polos have also changed so that the shirts do not shrink in the wash or dry into a square, according to Hoecker.

"The polos are longer because students were saying that the polos were shortening in the wash," Hoecker said.

The new uniforms hold up about the same as the old uniform skirts do, according to Cusumano. The polos are longer, and are made of a lighter material this year. Both the skirt and the polo seem to hold up as well as the uniform last year, according to Cusumano.

"We hope that they will at least last through your four years of high school, if not forever, so that when you're 50 years old you can go back and look at your skirt," Cusumano said. ★

Travel Treasures

Katie McCalla, senior

Destination: Scotland for Fringe Festival
Treasure: grey and pink sneakers
Estimated Value: 8 euros or about \$10
Fun Fact: "The man who sold me the shoes asked me if I was American and told me that no one else in America would have shoes like these. They're very unique."
Place of Purchase: "I passed the store everyday and saw the shoes in the window. I had to have them."



STA students travel the world during the summer purchasing souvenirs from each of their unique destinations and providing memories of the different cultures. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, each traveler shares their treasure and story with the *Dart*, bringing a piece of the world back to STA.

compiled by LAURA NEENAN

Abbie McNaghten, sophomore

Destination: Cabarete, Dominican Republic for family vacation
Treasure: Dominican pesos
Fun Fact: The bills each have the national flower of the Dominican Republic and are very colorful. The coins used for currency have the faces of the past presidents.
Favorite Memory: "[Going to the Dominican Republic] was not just like a regular vacation. It was a really unique experience because they spoke a completely different language. It was hard to speak with the natives because the only one in my family who knew Spanish was my sister [senior Alyson McNaghten]."



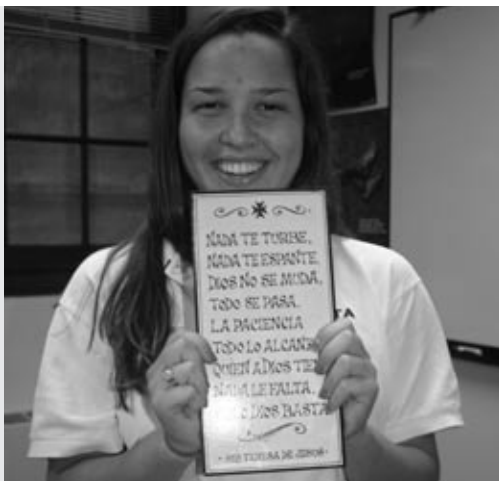
Logan Kembel, junior

Destination: Rome, Italy with Latin trip
Treasure: zip up Italia jacket
Value: 20 euros or \$26
Fun Fact: "It was raining one day and really cold so we all decided to buy these jackets. The majority of people on the trip bought them because we didn't have anything else to wear!"
Place of Purchase: vendor on the side of the road



Mary Franke, senior

Destination: Seville, Spain
Treasure: St. Teresa of Avila's tile
Value: 10 euros or \$13
Place of Purchase: a small gift shop
Fun Fact: "The tile says the St. Teresa of Avila prayer about God never changing. St. Teresa of Avila is from Spain and [this tile] was the closest thing I got to my St. Teresa's roots. When I first bought it, I liked it because I always hear the prayer at school and seeing the prayer in Spain in Spanish was really cool."



Riley Ueker, senior

Destination: San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala for medical mission trip
Treasure: Huipil of the Toliman village weave
Value: 100 quetzales or \$13
Fun Fact: The huipil is a Mayan shirt that is to be worn tucked into a wrapped skirt. There are symbols on the shirt and each Mayan village has their own pattern and distinct way of weaving. Women spend hours hand weaving a variety of items for family or profit. These items are very valuable to them but cheap to Americans.
Place of Purchase: woman selling hand-woven items in Guatemalan market

STA welcomes netbooks onto campus

Lightspeed passes, but students bypass

story by **NIKKI RODRIGUEZ**
web staff

After some uncertainty among students about the Acceptable Use Policy, STA administration clarified its intent to monitor and punish students for improper internet use both on campus and at home. Lightspeed, the internet filtering system implemented this year, is designed to block social networking, email and other sites unrelated to schoolwork.

Just days into the school year, students attempted to get to past the filter to websites like Facebook and YouTube.

"I believe the Acceptable Use Policy is clear that [trying to go to blocked sites] isn't acceptable," principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick said. "If you signed it, you have agreed not to initiate those behaviors."

However, Lightspeed blocks too many sites that

are needed for schoolwork, according to junior Miranda Johnson.

"I know there are certain websites I use for homework that are blocked," Johnson said. "You would have to get on a different computer and going between computers is a hassle."

Sophomore Elaine Schmidt argues that students should also be able to access sites unrelated to schoolwork.

"We paid \$600 for it," Schmidt said. "We should be able to get on Facebook and email at home."

Despite times when sites are not blocked because Lightspeed was under maintenance, overall, McCormick and technology coordinator Matt Stewart are positive about the results.

"There have been a few instances where students are able to get past Lightspeed," Stewart said in an email interview. "Lightspeed works 95 percent of the time though." ★

What's your gadget?

The *Dart* searched through netbooks and discovered some of the most useful, entertaining gadgets for STA students to help them through the school day

story by **NIKKI RODRIGUEZ**
web staff



Application: Snipping tool

Features: "Snip" a section of the screen to save or email
Use at STA: Save a copy of an article that you have to read again for a class



Application: Logger Pro 3.8

Features: Data collection, data analysis, graphing
Use at STA: Input data for a science lab and instantly have a graph



Application: Sticky Notes

Features: Write notes in different colors and sizes
Use at STA: Leave a reminder for yourself on your desktop

Sticky Notes



Application: Audacity

Features: recording, editing, special effects and sound quality
Use at STA: record a lecture or interview



Application: Photo Story 3

Features: Slideshow presentations with pictures, narration
Use at STA: Create a class project with narration and motion like a movie



Application: Math Input Panel

Features: Translates math equation written with a cursor and transfers to Open Office
Use at STA: Create clear study guides for any math class, without having to use symbols



Working Buddies ★ Juniors Sarah Turgeon, left, and Caitlin Nelson work together during a group activity in Ms. Julia Gargallo's Spanish III class. Students in Spanish III did not receive a textbook this year, but instead use an online textbook. Photo by **TAYLOR WOODRUFF**

Spanish III goes completely online

STA Spanish teacher Julia Gargallo works with students to improve their online activities, add new resources

story by **CHELSEA BIRCHMIER**
news editor

This year, STA Spanish teacher Julia Gargallo had the option of buying either traditional paper textbooks or electronic books for her Spanish III class and decided to try something new. Now, with the netbooks, the class can read and complete activities from the online book in or outside of class.

"We couldn't have done [the online class] without the netbooks," Gargallo said. "They give us access in class to the book. And I'm not a technologic kind of person, but I want to try."

Some of the online resources available to the class include the online textbook, the homework practice book and tutorials, as well as CDs with soap operas and cultural movies. One new feature is the pronunciation guide, which allows students to listen to words as they learn them.

"At home, [students] can play the words and hear how to pronounce them correct[ly]," Gargallo said. "In the paper book, they only read them. But here they can read it and at the same time, be listening."

In addition to the pronunciation guide, junior Alex Mediavilla also likes the convenience of the online dictionary because it allows her to quickly find the definitions of any words she doesn't know. However, slow loading time also makes activities more difficult.

"It's difficult sometimes because the pages take a while to load," Mediavilla said. "If you want to look at a vocabulary list that's on a separate page while you're doing an activity, it only shows one page at a time. Then it's difficult to look at two pages at a time because you just have to keep going back and forth."

Unlike Mediavilla, junior Hannah Hitt finds it easier to complete activities online than in the paper book.

"[The online activities] instantly tell you whether or not you got them right," Hitt said. "They give you more time to find out what the right answers are and correct your mistakes. It makes [Gargallo's] job easier and my job easier too because we can learn more and waste less class time."

As for problems with the internet, Gargallo is working to ensure that students can still study without the online book. Students must now make summaries of each chapter and take notes on grammar points. Not only does this add extra points to their grades, but it gives students a way to study in case of failed internet connection.

"Even though we have some problems, [online] is the way to go. I think with practice, we will be able to solve everything. We just need practice and to have a positive attitude."

Julia Gargallo, Spanish teacher

"One thing that I worry is that the students don't take as many notes as they used to," Gargallo said. "The only access they have to the textbooks is the internet. If the internet is not working, they cannot study for the test [without] good notes."

Although some Spanish III students have complained to Gargallo about transitioning from print sources to the web, Gargallo believes they are improving everyday. Currently, she is looking at a resource that would allow students to chat in Spanish.

"Even though we have some problems, [online] is the way to go," Gargallo said. "I think with practice, we will be able to solve everything. We just need practice and to have a positive attitude." ★

STA students adjust to netbooks in their daily lives, teachers adjust teaching methods to use new technology, further education for students

Teachers bring technology into classroom

The faculty of STA learns new styles of teaching, works to integrate new netbooks into classrooms setting

story by **RACHEL TOVAR**
staff writer

This year, while the students are getting used to the netbooks, many teachers are figuring out how to work their own technological changes. With programs like Moodle and PowerSchool, some teachers are grasping concepts quickly and even exceeding expectations, while others are taking more time to master the programs. The STA administration provided

technology workshops in early August tutoring the teachers on how to use the newly introduced learning methods like PowerSchool, Moodle and TurnItIn.com. According to STA theology teacher Mary Jo Coughlin, the administration is patient with those who are struggling.

"I am not a technology person," Coughlin said. "And I never will be. So I find [using the new methods] to be challenging. But what I'm finding so far, I find helpful. [The administration] is very reason-

able." Principal of academic affairs Barbara McCormick has made the expectations that come with the implementing of technology clear. The teachers now are to have a grasp of concepts and apply it to their teaching styles. The expectations McCormick has set is to have the teachers be able to put on their Moodle pages, a link to their syllabus on the upper, right-hand corner, have a contact information box, post their daily assignments, be able to have the students take online tests, and take attendance online. McCormick believes that this is a good level on which to start educating the teachers.

"I see us able to move beyond the walls of the classroom environment... Even beyond the green space of our campus."

Barbara McCormick, principal for Academic Affairs

"[The teachers] are still grappling with it, and some get the hang of it more quickly than others," McCormick said. "But we have a group of teachers who help their colleagues with [the advancements]."

With seven members of faculty attending a workshop in Denver, Colorado, each learned specific skills in technology. When they came back, McCormick, Ms. Mary Montag, Ms. Renee Blake, Ms. Terry Gonner, Ms. Cathy McCarthy, Ms. Nan Bone and Ms. Jeanella Clark all have shown their fellow members how to use their own technology. Clark agrees that the process is

slow, but is a strong advocate for the changes, even if some members of the faculty need more help than others.

"It's going to take time," Clark said. "And I tend to use technology more than most people anyways... So I can help teachers. I don't know all the answers, but I can definitely find some way of getting them."

In her classroom, Clark is implementing techniques of teaching that STA has never seen before. Creating a ClassWiki Page, students are able to teach other students concepts, and learn them more thoroughly. Using a Live Scribe Pen, Clark is able to record entire lessons and have students study lectures whenever they need help. Posting the notes on her Moodle page that she shows on her SMARTboard, Clark's students can follow along with the lesson.

"I love having students looking at [the lesson] while I'm talking about it," Clark said. "It's a lot more accessible and user-friendly for students."

According to McCormick, the administration is looking to the future with the technological advancements like the ones that Clark is making with a goal that STA explore the boundaries of the classroom learning environment. Someday, McCormick sees STA learning outside of the boundaries even of Main and 57 Street.

"My goal is more learning and teaching," McCormick said. "I see us able to move beyond the walls of the classroom environment... Even beyond the green space of the campus." ★



Pen to paper ★ Senior Samantha Scheuler works on homework during Ms. Jo Weller's calculus class. Weller told students that they would not use the netbooks at all this year. Photo by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**

Athletes hope for renovations

STA continues to weigh options of new track, field, with possibility of hosting district tournaments

story by **KATE ROHR**
staff writer

The possibility of a new track and renovated soccer field at STA will be discussed at a school board meeting next Wednesday.

According to STA president Nan Bone, the school board gave approval in the spring to determine whether a new track around an improved soccer field would fit. The property has been surveyed, and the proposed facilities would fit.

"In reality, it would be exactly what you see now, just a better facility," Bone said.

Athletic director Mark Hough believes the new track and soccer field would benefit the entire athletic department.

"We have really good athletes and really good coaches, but no facilities for them," Hough said.

With a full sized soccer field, STA could host soccer tournaments or even districts, according to Hough. The soccer field would be made full sized, allowing STA to host soccer tournaments or even districts. The lacrosse and dance teams could also use the field for practices. Hough said the improved soccer field would allow the dance team to practice their routines on a similar surface as they perform on at Rockhurst High School football games.

Bone has not yet decided whether the soccer field will have natural grass or synthetic turf, as both offer different benefits.

"Most of us are educators," Bone said. "We need professionals or experts to tell us all the advantages or disadvantages of different turfs."

According to Hough, the track also offers many possibilities to STA sports teams, summer conditioning programs and the school's new walking club. Junior Lane Schulte, who runs track and cross-country, believes the new track would significantly improve both programs significantly.

"It would make our track team better because we'd be able to practice on an actual field," Schulte said. "It would improve the program a lot, especially the sprinters."

Schulte says the track team usually practices behind an abandoned school at 75th Street and Troost Avenue.



Hough



Fixing the fields ★ Currently, the STA athletics fields include a practice soccer field, softball field and two tennis courts. The proposed plan may result in the addition of a track and renovated soccer field. Photo by **CELE FRYER**

"It's barely a track—it's basically just a concrete doughnut," Schulte said. "It will make a big difference to practice on a rubber track."

Hough also believes the track would be valuable to the track team in a variety of ways.

"I've watched girls doing hurdles in the parking lot between cars," Hough said. "And the track is much healthier than running on the street because of its smooth terrain."

According to Bone, the track would most likely have six lanes in order to fit comfortably, and the hill surrounding the current soccer field would have to be leveled slightly to accommodate it. No additional bleachers would be added, Bone says, because parents usually like to spread out blankets and set up folding chairs.

The improvements to the facilities would not significantly affect the surrounding neighbors, according to Bone. There would not be a loudspeaker system or lights, since the games and practices

take place in early evening. No additional parking is necessary, and Bone has told neighbors that there wouldn't be an influx in traffic.

"We always ask visiting teams to make sure they park in the student parking lot and arrive in a bus," Bone said. "We're still being cognizant of the issues."

According to Bone, the opportunity for the new track and soccer field will be discussed at the upcoming school board meeting, even if it is not the main concern.

"It takes money to make things happen," Bone said. "Our priority is to first finish our chapel campaign."

Bone is still hopeful that the athletic renovations will happen relatively soon.

"The question I always ask myself is 'Is it right for our girls?'" Bone said. "If the answer is yes, then it will eventually get done. I think the answer for this is yes." ★

State golf officials add sectionals

Addition of sectionals to golf tournament creates obstacles, less time for team's State preparation

story by **ROWAN O'BRIEN WILLIAMS**
academics editor

The Missouri State High School Activities Association added Sectionals to the golf process this year, creating further competition between Districts and State. Now, only about 96 golfers will continue to State as opposed to the previous 125 golfers.

STA varsity golf player Madalyne Bird considers this addition a positive change.

"The six hour rounds at State were just excruciating and it was hard to focus for that long," Bird said. "[Adding Sectionals] is a good thing; it definitely makes for more competition and better players."



Buford

STA varsity golf player Alexis Buford thinks the change will present more challenges.

"[The addition of Sectionals] is just one more hoop to go through," Buford said.

The girls' instructor, STA head golf coach Teresa Borchert is currently unable to comment. STA's temporary head golf coach Jack Garvin will fill in for Borchert until she returns.

In his new position, Garvin feels more relaxed about the addition of Sectionals.

"This is normal stuff and just another round of golf," Garvin said.

However, some drawbacks come along with the change.

Garvin explains a shortened season and a lack of time to accommodate a regular practice schedule for State.

The players also express obstacles of their own. Bird conveys a stressful attitude toward her playing abilities.

"I can only hope that I'll just do the best I can

"Sectionals

will increase pressure mentally because it's one more step to go through."

Alexis Buford, junior

because if I don't make it, it'll be one of the biggest disappointments because it's my senior year," Bird said.

Mentally, stress levels rise for Buford.

"[The Sectionals tournament] will increase pressure mentally because it's one more step to go through, as if Districts wasn't enough," Buford said.

Despite these challenges, the players and coach set their goals high.

This year, Buford hopes to play her best in order to beat Notre Dame De Sion High School, whom she lost to at State last year.

"We played in a match [three weeks ago against Sion] and everyone did well," Buford said. "I'm not nervous [about winning]."

Bird looks forward to her collegiate future, recognizing the many scholarships available to female golfers.

"Girls' golf is a growing sport lately," Bird said. "Colleges are really looking for girl golfers."

Garvin sets his goals closer to home.

"Our goal is to get another banner for the gym; one is not enough," Garvin said. ★

STA SPORTS SCOREBOARD

varsity golf

8/23 Liberty Hills Golf Course Tournament
STA - 3rd place

9/8 Richmond Tournament
STA - 2nd place

9/7 Pembroke Hill High School
STA - Won

9/13 Truman Tournament
STA - 4th

9/14 Notre Dame de Sion High School

varsity softball

8/24 Lee's Summit North High School 4
STA 2

8/24 St. Joseph's Academy 5
STA 4

8/30 St. Joseph Lafayette High School 0
STA 5

9/9 Notre Dame de Sion High School 3
STA 18

9/14 Archbishop O'Hara High School 9
STA 4

9/14 Notre Dame de Sion High School
STA Lost

9/15 St. Pius X High School

9/17 Rock Bridge High School

varsity volleyball

8/31 Topeka Hayden High School - 1
STA - 2

8/31 St. Thomas Aquinas High School - 2
STA - 0

9/8 Notre Dame de Sion High school - 0
STA - 2

9/14 Archbishop O'Hara High School - 1
STA - 2

9/23 Blue Valley West Tri (St. James)

9/25 Blue Springs South Tournament

varsity tennis

9/7 Pembroke Hill High School - 5
STA - 4

9/11 St. Joseph's Academy - 6
STA - 3

9/11 Visitation Academy - 6
STA - 3

9/13 Notre Dame de Sion - 6
STA - 3

9/14 Barstow High School - 4
STA - 5

9/16 Blue Valley West High School

9/17 Miego Guifol Invitational

9/18 Pembroke Invitational

cross country

9/4 Liberty High School Invitational
STA - 1st place

9/11 Ray-Pec High School Invitational
STA - 2nd place

9/18 Hazelwood Central High School Invitational

EASY TONES: Exercise made EASY

STUDENTS *spill* on EasyTones

Name: Laura Martin
Grade: 12
Are they worth it? "[EasyTones] not all that effective but I still like them because they're bouncy and light."



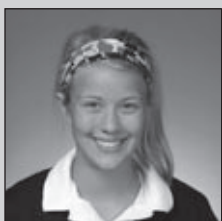
Martin

Name: Anna Meyers
Grade: 11
Are they worth it? "I really feel [EasyTones] working when I go up the stairs. I like them better than Shape-Ups, better style."



Meyers

Name: Peepers Gray
Grade: 10
Are they worth it? "[EasyTones] work my butt, but they're probably not worth \$100."



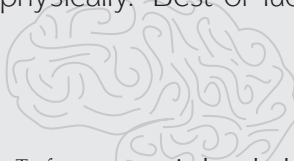
Gray

Name: Katie Crow
Grade: 9
Are they worth it? "I've noticed my calves are stronger. They're a good product to buy. I think that are worth \$100."



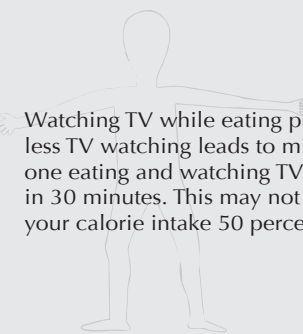
Crow

Each issue, the *Dart* provides suggestions for small changes in daily habits to increase the well-being of the mind, body and soul. We challenge you to participate in improving your health mentally and physically. Best of luck!



MIND

To focus your mind on the brink of breaking down, use the 'five more' rule. When you are tempted to give up, this will help you mentally push through frustration. Read five more pages. Run for five more minutes. Try five more math problems. Study five more vocabulary words. Wash five more dishes. By getting through this frustration, you will increase your mental stamina.



BODY

Watching TV while eating prohibits our body from stopping when we are full. Thus, mindless TV watching leads to mindless eating. A recent University of Toronto study proved that one eating and watching TV simultaneously can consume an average of 228 more calories in 30 minutes. This may not seem like a lot, but doing this four times a day could increase your calorie intake 50 percent. Turn off the TV, eat less, and feel better!

SOUL

Find an inspirational quote or picture of something happy, your dream job or your hero. Putting it in a spot you see everyday (above your bed, next to your mirror or in your locker) will cause you to think about it more often. By having a visual idea of your goals, whether they are five days away or five years away, you will be motivated to work towards them. You will constantly remind yourself of what you want in life and will think of new ways to get there.



Kickin' back ★ An STA student displays Reebok EasyTones while sitting in class. Just by walking around, these shoes help tone legs and build muscle in the lower body. Photo by TAYLOR WOODRUFF

The miracle shoe?

Reebok claims new EasyTone shoes improve muscle tone, fitness, strengthens legs

story by **EMILY McCANN**
 staff writer

It is 11:45 a.m. and you're making the daily trudge up the stairs to your third floor advisory. As you reach the second flight you start to feel the burn. Your legs feel like Jell-O and you could use a water break. Imagine if these painful walks could improve the muscle tone in your legs. According to Reebok, their EasyTone shoe can do just that.

According to a study released by the University of Delaware, the shoes increase muscle activity in the glutes by 28 percent, the hamstrings by 11 percent and the calves by 11 percent.

The big question being asked about the EasyTone is, do they work? Reebok claims that the small balance balls on the heel and ball of the shoes creates a microinstability that tones and strengthens legs with every step. The theory seems logical according to Ms. Sandra Beesly, a writer for Moneyblog, but Beesly says the shoes can't be relied upon as a quick fix. According to Beesly, the shoes will not make weight loss easier because the wearer must build muscle before they can burn more calories.

Many reviewers are skeptical, but sophomore Amanda

Koch said she utilizes her pair of EasyTones. "[EasyTones] make my workout harder," Koch says. "Especially climbing the stairs, but the shoes are really comfortable."

According to Koch, one of the downfalls of the shoe is the price. EasyTones retail at \$99.98 on the Reebok website.

According to junior Megan Schilling the shoes are expensive and she would not buy a pair for \$100.

"[I wouldn't buy them] because I'm not sure if they actually work," Schilling says. "I've also heard that they aren't good for running."

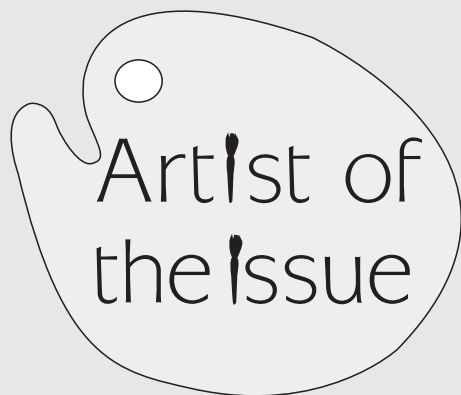
Reebok has released a statement on their website cautioning buyers against running or playing sports in the shoes. Reebok recommends them only for walking because of the instability caused by the balance balls.

Ms. Paige Wahrer, an exercise reviewer for About.com, says the shoes will not change your legs like claimed in the advertisements, but if you're looking for a good walking shoe the EasyTone is comfortable.

Sophomore Natalie Winterman wears her EasyTone shoes to school four times a week.

"I don't really see a difference [in my lower body]," says Winterman. "But I can feel a difference. The shoes really work you out."

So the bottom line, according to most sources the EasyTone shoes are comfortable and creates a more difficult workout but don't rely on them to drastically improve muscle tone as claimed in the advertisements. ★



Hannah Haywood junior

Q: What art classes have you taken at STA?

A: I took drawing I freshman year, advanced drawing sophomore year, and now I'm in art practicum. Next semester I hope to be in painting, but it might not fit into my schedule.

Q: What are your favorite types of art to create? Why?

A: I really enjoy all different kinds [of art] because each kind of art has its own unique wonderful-ness. My favorite is probably drawing because you can pretty much do it anywhere, just pick a pencil and go.

Q: How long have you been interested in art?

A: I have been interested my whole life. My mom is an art teacher, so that's what we did as kids. We have my grandma's art hanging all around our house, and my aunt's very talented, too. It's a family thing.

Q: What do you love most about art?

A: "I really like the chance to recreate a line in nature. It makes me feel good about myself that I can see something so intensely and fully that I can put it on paper. I really appreciate the opportunity to create something. It's really good stress relief."

Q: What inspires your art?

A: I'm in love with Edgar Degas's ballerinas. He makes these really beautiful ballerina paintings. I adore them. I'd love to recreate one of them or do my own version. I also really love nature; it's so healing and so conducive to being drawn.

Q: Do you think it is important for people to create art throughout their life?

A: Yes, I absolutely do. Drawing is all encompassing, everyone can do it, even if they think it's bad. Who cares as long as it makes you happy? Whether it's a doodle in your notebook or an intricate recreation, I think everybody should keep making art.

compiled by **KATE ROHR**



So sketch ★ Junior Hannah Haywood draws irises Sept. 9 in Ms. Teresa Wallersted's classroom for art practicum. Photo by **KATE ROHR**

Local art fair draws a crowd

STA students to attend, volunteer at annual Plaza Art Fair Sept 24-26 featuring various artists, restaurants

story by **SARA MEURER**
last look editor

The Plaza Art Fair will begin on the Country Club Plaza Sept. 24. Two hundred and forty artists will be showcasing their work and thirty plaza restaurants will be vending food. Three music stages will feature thirty-four bands through the course of the weekend.

STA students will be helping volunteer throughout the fair, including seniors Elise Pavicic and Amy Wendland. Volunteers at the fair do many things that help make the event a success. Throughout the weekend, volunteers will help with different activities including assisting artists in their booths, handing out programs, selling t-shirts, and helping with activities in the kids' art workshop.

Sophomore Keara Miller is one STA student attending the fair.

"[My favorite part of the fair] is the large of variety of art, the music and the food," Miller said.

Miller anticipates this year to have a lot of great food and modern art.

Artists from all over the country will be displaying artwork such as pastels, fiber, glass, jewelry, metalwork and sculptures.

Sophomore Meaghan Coble also plans to attend the event. According to Coble, the fair is a fun, different atmosphere for the plaza.

"I look forward to just hanging out with my friends, looking around at art and eating the good food," Coble said.

Restaurants including California Pizza Kitchen, Ingredient, 810 Zone, Blanc Burgers and Bottles will be lining the streets around the fair.

"[This year the fair will be] as great as any year, if not better," Miller said. ★



Prancin' around the plaza ★ Sept.13 cars travel down Nicolas Road on the Country Club Plaza. Many artists and restaurants will set up booths with a variety of art on Nicolas Road during the Plaza Art Fair beginning Sept 24. Photo by **SARA MEURER**

Concerts strike a chord with STA students

STA students consider venue, price, performer before attending concerts in Kansas City

story by **LUCIA MASCHLER**
staff writer

Junior Logan Kembel cheers alongside hundreds of fans as one band after another walks onto the stage at the Bamboozle concert June 9 at the Uptown Theater. The music pulses loudly through the crowded theater and the crowd continually sparkles with camera flashes. Kembel sings every word at the top of her lungs and dances in the aisles without a care in the world.

Many STA girls had similar experiences this summer as Kansas City hosted hundreds of concerts, each varying in genre, venue, price and popularity.

According to Kembel, summer is most appealing for concerts, especially to teenagers.

"During the summer you have more time to just chill instead of worrying about your homework and getting up in the morning," Kembel said.

Varieties of Venues

The venue is one of the most important considerations when attending a concert, according to Kembel. Kansas City offers a wide variety of

venues that should cater to almost anyone's needs.

"I like the Uptown Theater because it allows you to be closer to the performer," Kembel said. "At Sprint Center, there might be a bigger, more popular star but I don't feel like I'm in the same room as them."

Junior Erin Sellers attended the Ben Folds concert, which was held outdoors at the City Market. Although she didn't have to worry about homework, studying or alarm clocks, the muggy weather subtracted from the overall appeal of the show.

"It was cool at first [to be outdoors]," Sellers said. "The concert was really great, but it was so hot that by the end of the show it was hard to enjoy the songs because my feet hurt so bad and I was so thirsty."

Show Me the Money

According to junior Mary LeRoy, the bigger the star, the more money you should be willing to pay, no matter the venue.

"I think paying 100 dollars for someone like [Lady Gaga] is reasonable because she is becoming such an icon," LeRoy said. "Some people just paid to say they went."

However, Sellers disagrees. She feels the performer should not be the only consideration when deciding how much money you are willing to spend.

"I'm not going to spend an arm and a leg just to

see the Sprint Center," Sellers said. "I just don't think it's worth it."

For sophomore Gabi Lukens, who attended the Justin Bieber concert this summer, the performer is the only reason she goes to concerts.

"If I pay that much money, I want to like who I'm listening to," Lukens said.

Picking Performers

Sellers believes that almost every live show is better than a recorded track, even if the performer makes a few mistakes.

"[Live performances] are just like a big sing along," Sellers said. "Even if they do make a mistake, it shows they are only human and makes it more personable."

However, LeRoy simply likes going to concerts because of the fun she has.

"You can have fun at [concerts] even if you don't know who the performer is," LeRoy said. "You can just relax with your friends for a few hours and listen to good music."

But despite venues, prices, or performances, Kembel says she always has a good time at concerts.

"Even if you paid too much for [bad] seats and the singer has a cold, you can almost make it better with your outlook," Kembel said. "No matter what the concert, if you want to have fun, you can." ★

Top five...

Concerts to look forward to this fall. All prices are general admission

compiled by
LUCIA MASCHLER

source:

www.ticketmaster.com

1 Avett Brothers



Date: Sept. 25
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Crossroads
Ticket Price: \$3150

2 Vampire Weekend



Date: Oct. 2
Time: 8 p.m.
Location: Starlight
Ticket Price: \$32

3 Carrie Underwood



Date: Oct. 15
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Sprint Center
Ticket Price: \$35.50-55.50

4 Lady Antebellum



Date: Nov. 20
Time: 8 p.m.
Location: Midland
Ticket Price: \$27.50

5 Usher



Date: Nov. 27
Time: 8 p.m.
Location: Sprint Center
Ticket Price: TBA

STA back from fortnight in Scotland

STA theater department travels to Scotland for two weeks to perform "Greater Tuna"

story by **ABBY UCHE**
staff writer

Normally, the dress code for STA students consists of polos and plaid skirts, but during the Cavalcade Parade in Edinburgh, Scotland's Fringe Festival, the STA uniform consisted of flyers and fake mustaches. STA students clad in cast t-shirts and costumed in "Greater Tuna" facial hair passed out flyers, promoted their upcoming performances and offered verbal advertisements such as, "Come see girls in mustaches!" The girls walked for two miles publicizing the show and kicking off what cast member Rosemary McGraw described as the trip of a lifetime.

STA came to Scotland through the American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF), who prepared all the travel arrangements for STA. The AHSTF participants all stayed in the Pollack Halls dorm at the University of Edinburgh and were each required to see four other AHSTF performances throughout the festival.

"The average audience is about seven people," Prentiss said. "We would have had two or three [audience members] some days without that rule."

During their two-week trip, the cast members were exposed to plays as well as other forms of art and culture. The group was also able to walk the Royal Mile, one of the oldest roads in Edinburgh. This road stretches a mile long and connects Edinburgh Castle to Holyrood Palace.

"During the festival, [the Royal Mile] is just packed with street performers," Prentiss said. "You just never know what you're going to see."

According to McGraw, the street performers are diverse in talent. When walking the Royal Mile, the cast could come across anything from people doing headstands on ladders to people eating fire.

"Every time it's something different; you never know [what to expect]," Prentiss said. "It's utter chaos, but it's so unbelievable."

For McGraw, seeing shows was just as much fun as performing them. However, McGraw felt that "Greater Tuna" received a better reaction in Edinburgh than it did when performed at STA.

"Over there, they laughed at every single thing," McGraw said. "I'm going to be honest, that's the best thing when you know that everyone's enjoying the show."

Although McGraw said that hearing the laughter of the audience was her favorite memory from the Scotland trip, cast member Elizabeth Schorgl felt that one of the best parts of the trip was watching other AHSTF performers and in return getting to share "Greater Tuna" with them.

After sharing four performances and spending two weeks together as a cast, it was time to trade in "Greater Tuna" mustaches for STA's tartan plaid. The cast returned to Kansas City Aug. 16 at 11:10 p.m., one day before orientation. After McGraw's "trip of a lifetime" came to an end, the cast retired their mustaches and exchanged the plaid kilts of Scotland for the skirts and accompanying polos of STA. ★

meet the band

Campus ministry forms "praise band" to present modern Christian music, encourage participation

story by **KATHLEEN HOUGH**
in the mix editor

Inspired by this school year's theme, "the art of possibility," STA's campus ministry department recently created a praise band to explore the possibilities of presenting music at

Mass and help the STA community pray through song. According to campus ministry director Joe LaScala, the praise band opens a new door to worship at STA. The band, started by LaScala and music teacher Michelle McIntire, is comprised of a small group of students from all grade levels that meet twice a week during activity periods to prepare for upcoming campus ministry events.

"Our goal is to create a different atmosphere through the music played at Mass," LaScala said. "We're trying to turn traditional music into more

youthful, energy filled stuff."

As a result, the band hopes to increase participation from the rest of the student body during times of worship, according to LaScala.

"We are hoping that the variation in the music will encourage [students] to sing and grow closer to God through song," LaScala said.

The praise band first performed at the all school liturgy Sept 3. Now, get to know the girls behind the instruments. STA, meet the praise band. ★



Katie Wiedeman
freshman

Role: singer
Favorite church song: "On Eagles Wings"
Goals: help STA students become more involved in the music at Mass; become a better singer; find a permanent place in the STA community
Why she joined: "I could see that everyone [at STA] had so much fun and I felt like [joining praise band] would be a great way to become a part of that great STA spirit."

The best part: "Getting to meet new girls and enjoying what you are doing, or seeing that everyone looks to you for leadership during Mass and compliments you afterward."



Mackenzie Jones
junior

Instrument: violin
Favorite church song: "My God is an Awesome God"
Goals: to encourage more participation in Mass, make singing at Mass cool again
Advice to non-members: "[The praise band] encourages everyone to join in on the singing, but we are not going to run up and down the aisles making people dance and sing. It's up to [you] whether or not [you] want to participate, but we hope that [you] do because it will make Mass a more enjoyable experience."



Brianna Valine
freshman

Instrument: electric guitar
Favorite church song: "Trading my Sorrows (Yes, Lord)"
Goals: make Mass at STA more interesting; add a new dynamic to traditional music
Why she joined: "[Praise band] is a fun way to play music and meet other girls who enjoy [playing] too."
Challenges: "Because we practice two to three times a week during both lunch and activity periods, I miss out on time with my friends. But through praise band I am making new ones."
The best part: "I get to play music for God."



Colleen McInerney
junior

Instrument: rhythmic acoustic guitar
Favorite church song: anything with hand gestures
Goals: expand the variety of music sung at Mass, mix modern music with traditional styles
The Pros: "To be able to play at Mass and worship God and Jesus at the same time is pretty awesome."
The Cons: fast chord changes on the guitar, no drummer, not enough practice time
The best part: "[We] have this great opportunity to offer [our] musical gifts and talents up to God, and encourage others to do so, too."



Kate Sanders
sophomore

Role: singer
Favorite church song: "Only the World"
Goals: to send God's word to the STA community through music and song
Why she joined: "I love to sing and I love God. I've done worship singing before and it fills me with joy knowing that I'm singing to a God who cares about me."
Advice to non-members: "The songs have such a powerful message and the students are great. If you aren't sure whether or not you should join, give [praise band] a chance and just try out."



Ms. Michelle McIntire
music teacher

Instrument: keyboard, tambourine, triangle, etc.
Why she started the band: "I had this feeling that it was always me and the choir [participating], and never the student body as a congregation."
Goals: stress music as an act of worship, help congregants come closer to God, offer talents to God
Challenges: "[Remembering that] we aren't performing; we're offering. [The idea of praise band] is to act as communication for the community and not a performance."
The best part: "Empowering girls to play their instruments and take charge of themselves."

STA reacts to recent

Photo illustration by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**

caught in the act

Student deals with consequences of cheating on semester exam, disappointing herself, others too

story by **MADALYNE BIRD**
centerspread editor

As she checked her e-mail, she opened a new document that one of her friends had just sent her. Tapping her fingers while she waited for it to open she couldn't help but feel relieved knowing that she would have some help studying for her final. She had heard around school lately that some juniors had a "special" study guide for the test that was supposed to really help.

Bing. The document had finished downloading. She printed it off and slipped the page into her periodic table that she would be allowed to have during her exam. There was no room left on the outside of the folder to just write it down.

As the week of the test approached, she still studied and prepared for her final, but she was

less worried about her chemistry final because she had the periodic table containing her cheat sheet to use if she couldn't remember something.

At the final, however, she realized that the study guide was not just a study guide. It was the exact answers to the test in sentence form.

"I put it away because I felt guilty," the student, who wished to remain anonymous said.

She slipped the sheet of paper under her periodic table so that only part of the sheet was sticking out.

"Ms. Rietbrock was walking around watching people while they took the test," she said.

She went on taking her test, until she saw out of the corner of her eye flutters of movement around her. Chemistry teacher Mary Rietbrock was walking up to her

table and everyone else who was sitting at her table using the same sheet quickly hid theirs. But she didn't move as fast and her paper was still out.

"What is that and why do you have that?" Rietbrock asked.

A sinking feeling hit the pit of her stomach as she realized what had just happened. She had been caught.

"[Ms. Rietbrock] told me I could turn my test in and leave," she explained.

Feeling horrible leaving the building, she got into her car and started driving.

"I didn't want to go home right away and face my parents...I was scared and felt really dumb," she said. "If I had just studied I would not have needed to cheat.

It was also really frustrating

because I knew so many more people had that sheet and I was the only one that was caught." ★

Editor's Note: When asked to comment on the issue of cheating in her class during last spring's semester exam, Rietbrock felt that it is "an inappropriate place for me to comment in the *Dart*." The *Dart* acknowledges that only one side of the story is shown here.

outbreak in cheating



Photo illustration by KIRSTY MCGHIE

STA administration forms student, teacher committee to eliminate dishonesty on homework, tests

story by **MADALYNE BIRD**
centerspread editor

This year the STA administration is creating two new groups on campus that will focus their attention on the issue of cheating amongst students at STA.

Principal of student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker is organizing the student focus group that will gather and discuss the issue and the student's perspective on the topic.

"[Administration] was aware of a percentage of cheating happening on tests and sometimes finals and quizzes, even homework," Hoecker said. "We wanted to find out more about it, what we might do to discourage it. I really want to hear from more students and what they have to say about it."

Hoecker has high expectations for the group and what they will discuss.

"[I hope] that we have a broader understanding of why students cheat and come up with some solutions to lower cheating," Hoecker said. "There are things that teachers need to do, if they're not already doing them. For example, it is a teacher's responsibility to watch a class during a test or quiz."

But Hoecker said that students also have to be accountable for their actions when it comes to cheating.

"It is a student's responsibility to take a look at why they [cheat] and tailor that behavior," Hoecker said.

Principal of academic affairs Barbara McCormick is in charge of the teacher committee to counter-act cheating in the STA community.

"Right now we are just talking and brainstorming ideas from all of the faculty and staff about possible solutions to cheating here at STA," McCormick

said. "We have yet to actually form the teacher sub-committee because this project is still in the infancy stages."

According to McCormick, the teachers were asked questions regarding why students cheat and what they can do to eliminate cheating on homework and tests.

"We need to understand the elements that breed cheating," McCormick said. "Is it peer pressure? Is it parent pressure? Personal pressure?"

McCormick also stated that because STA is a Catholic school that deals with morals and ethics, teachers need to know what to do when students do not make the correct choices and decide to cheat on their work.

"We are obviously not getting it across to do the right thing and we need address it," McCormick said.

The next brainstorming session with teachers about cheating will take place in October. The student meeting has yet to be announced. ★

Q & A

What can we do to eliminate cheating on tests? Homework?

"When students open the quiz [online], the test opens into a window. The software (VNC) watches what every student is working on- like live streaming."

-Ms. Renee Blake

"On tests, teachers need to be more attentive during multiple choice. I think homework is about process, so the homework we should give should be about finding out how to do something. In the end, the answer is not really as important as how we got there. Do the work. It will end up hurting you in the long run."

-Mr. Stephen Himes

"Teachers have to be creative in the way they do tests. Students and teachers must be responsible. [By giving] tests at the beginning of the day, everyone knows by [the end]. It's about knowledge, not jumping a hoop."

-Ms. Betsy Hansbrough

Why do you think students cheat?

"Panic- they did not have enough time to prepare. Fault that they have to do well for the future. Stress."

-Ms. Renee Blake

"Pressure to succeed."

-Mr. Stephen Himes

"Lack of confidence. Feeling they won't be caught. Our difficult culture makes it difficult to succeed. We need to look at things as character at the end of things."

-Ms. Betsy Hansbrough

compiled
by **MURPHY MARX**

Cheating: students responsible for ending the cycle



opinion by **BETSY TAMPKE**
managing editor of visuals

Cheating has become a staple at STA. There is no denying, avoiding, or ignoring it. Last year, the Dart published what was supposed to be a controversial center spread, "Cheater, Cheater," and although it was disconcerting to parents, no one was shocked.

Or at least I wasn't.

My first thought should have been, "Wow, I can't believe cheating has become such an issue at STA that we felt it was center spread worthy." But it was actually, "Wow, I can't believe we are publishing this, this is going to make our school look so bad."

Students say they cheat because their classes are impossible, because their teachers are bad, because our grading scale is so difficult, because everyone else cheats so it's not fair if they don't too. The list goes on and on.

But most students don't need an excuse to cheat. They just do.

It's not because they are lazy, incapable, or corrupt.

It's because cheating is something that has become embedded into the culture at the academy.

Younger students see the "successful" upperclassmen (honors students, club presidents, class officers) cheating, and think, "That is how I get ahead, that is the only way I can succeed academically at STA."

Can we really be that surprised that a culture of cheaters has developed?

Do we have any right to be appalled when some of them become thieves as well?

When things go missing around campus everyone becomes shocked and furious.

But really, what can we expect?

We welcome students into our doors and inadvertently tell them that cheating is "okay," that "everyone does it," and that "no one cares as long as you don't get caught." I can only imagine their confusion at the outrage expressed when students simply steal items instead of answers.

It's a slippery slope, my friends, and since cheating has become acceptable behavior, I can only imagine what crimes are awaiting us in our future.

Poor sportsmanship? Vandalism? Is someone going to kill Critter?!

We can only hope not.

Cheating isn't just a serious issue simply because cheating is wrong. It's a serious issue because it is the first coil in a downward spiral of unacceptable behavior. In my opinion, it can't be stopped by any measures taken by the faculty or staff. The change has to come from within.

Our student body needs to decide that we want girls to succeed based on their merits, not their resources. I know how frustrating it is to discover that someone else had the answers to a test that you killed yourself for. But if we all set an example (especially us older girls) of honesty and integrity, the cycle can stop, or at least be slowed down.

We just got a fresh new crop of freshmen students with sharp minds and strong consciences. Let's try not to corrupt them.

Deal? ★

Top 10

From copying off a friend to stealing the teacher's copy, here's how students at the academy have gotten away with cheating

1. Looking at someone's test nearby for answers.
2. Asking someone who had the class before for answers.
3. Hiding a cheat sheet in an unzipped backpack.
4. Borrowing tests from the year before to study off of or memorize answers from.
5. Texting or moodle messaging answers for tests.
6. Looking up answers online, for tests or homework.
7. Writing answers on hands, arms or legs.
8. Writing answers on the back of a calculator or saving formulas and answers in the memory.
9. Writing down answers during the test for a friend to use later.
10. Putting answers on a netbook desktop sticky note.

compiled
by **HANNAH WOLF**

Summer: work or play?

All work and no play ★ According to principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick, this year's overwhelming amount of summer homework consumes students' time and distracts them from extracurricular activities. Photo by **CELE FRYER**



Summer homework sparks debate, administration re-evaluates benefit to students

story by **CELIA O'FLAHERTY**
staff writer

Last spring, STA junior Maggie Cussen registered for AP American literature, AP US history, AP biology, honors pre-calculus, college Latin III and social concerns. Although she was aware of the difficulty of her classes, she said her summer homework caught her by surprise: 2 novels, 15 textbook chapters, 5 sections of Latin grammar and 5 tests within the first week of school.

"I expected [extra homework] for the AP classes I was taking," Cussen said. "But I still thought it was a lot."

When principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick examined a schedule like Cussen's, she was amazed.

"I don't even have words for that," McCormick said. "Did you even have a summer?"

According to McCormick, teachers at STA assign summer homework because it engages students over the three-month break. Most teachers require students to read or review material and come prepared for a test within the first week of school.

"Students work hard while they are [at STA], so

when they get to summer, they should be in their leisure state," McCormick said. "I see [students] working on some of this and if it's a review, it's a review, but if it's all new material, I really feel there is a missing element, which is the educator."

According to AP biology teacher Renee Blake, the administration strongly encourages teachers to assign summer homework. Blake said that while it may be unfair, it is often essential to keep students from falling behind.

"With the AP level, the college board requires that we cover 50 chapters in a year," Blake said. "The only way we can get through all the material is to do some of it over the summer."

McCormick acknowledged that STA is a college preparatory school and if students choose upper-level courses, teachers should expect more from them over the summer.

"[When] students fall into the category where they are hitting three or four of those [upper-level] courses, they really have to dedicate much of their summer in order to do it right," McCormick said.

However, McCormick said that students can only handle so much homework in one summer. She hopes to eventually introduce interdisciplinary summer assignments to teachers so material may be used for multiple classes.

"If we could do more interdisciplinary thinking about the assignment, we could really find something that applied to all courses," McCormick said. "I

Hoard of homework

Junior Maggie Cussen's summer homework for this school year included reviewing and preparing for exams.

AP American Literature: Read "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne and prepare for a test over the material. Study a list of literary terms and prepare for an exam.

AP American History: Read the first 10 chapters in the online textbook and prepare for a test.

Social Concerns: Read "Black Like Me" by John Howard Griffin.

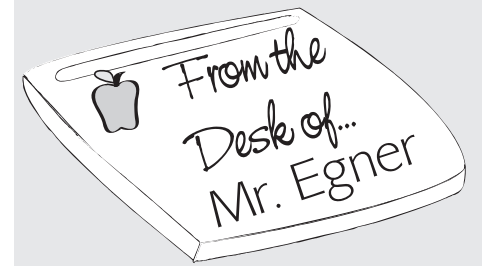
AP Biology: Complete activities and worksheets for chapters one through five in the textbook.

Honors Pre-Calculus: Know the trigonometry chart values and prepare for a quiz.

College Latin III: Complete five sections of grammar review and prepare for vocab test.

compiled by **CELIA O'FLAHERTY**

understand we are college prep, we gotta push, gotta have high performance, but I think we have to do it realistically." ★



History teacher Mike Egner collects, displays bobbleheads

Most teachers have shelves filled with books in their classrooms; history teacher Mike Egner, however, has bobbleheads. About eight years ago, Egner bought his first bobblehead, a president, at the TNT garage sale. His collection has since grown to 58. At first, Egner collected president bobbleheads for the classroom to fill his shelves with something interesting. The collection soon expanded to other famous figures, including the Statue of Liberty, Uncle Sam, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sarah Palin.

Egner's large bobblehead collection has gained recognition by the students, some even taking bobblehead Sigmund Freud on a trip to Kairos, a senior retreat. Freud returned to Egner's room with a Kairos necklace, becoming a member of STA faith community. While discussing the bobblehead collection Egner said if he could be a bobblehead, he would be Benjamin Franklin because he is a jack-of-all-trades. However, Franklin is not his favorite; Egner has no favorite bobblehead because he likes them all and wants to entertain the students. The next time you are in Egner's classroom, be sure to check out the shelves of bobbleheads and appreciate the change of scenery.

compiled by
CHRISTINA BARTON



Nodding off ★ Bobbleheads Sarah Palin, from left, Statue of Liberty, Uncle Sam, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Benjamin Franklin sit on history teacher Mike Egner's desk. Over an eight year period, Egner collected various bobbleheads that now fill the shelves of his classroom. Photo by **CELE FRYER**

Test preparation helps STA students

Teachers provide extra ACT, PSAT standardized testing review to students this year to improve school's average

story by **CHRISTINA BARTON**
opinion editor

This fall, college will be on the minds of many juniors and seniors as they begin taking standardized tests. Students across the nation will be preparing for their futures on Oct. 9, Oct. 13, or Oct. 23 while taking the ACT or the PSAT. Ninety nine percent of STA students take the ACT, a standardized test scored out of 36, recognized by many colleges across the country.

According to STA college counselor Debi Hudson, STA's scores are consistent with other area college preparatory schools.

"I think our ACT average is terrific," Hudson said. "The class of 2010 ended with a 26.3, far greater than the national, Kansas or Missouri average."

According to Hudson, STA has increased preparation for students this year with a practice ACT Nov. 3 for all juniors, but it is still up to the students to prepare for the test on their own time.

"I'm disappointed though by the lack of initiative students take to prepare on their own time," Hudson said. "Each year I recycle a ton of Preparing for the ACT guides."

In addition to free ACT preparation guides, STA purchased Method Test Prep two years ago



Hudson

online with two practice tests and 1,500 questions accessible at any time. According to Hudson, only 45 percent of students looked at the site once last year. However, some students, like junior Hannah Haywood, would rather have extra help incorporated in class or extra class periods.

"Last year, Mrs. Weller did a really good job of telling us what to know," Haywood said. "It would help a lot if we did that in the rest of the classes, but that is kind of difficult to do."

Although Hudson believes STA is at a strong level with their standardized test scores, the college process includes much more than scores.

"I'm happy with our performance though there is always room for improvement and growth," Hudson said. "So many factors are involved in admission decisions there is no way to predict [college admission decisions]." ★

The 1-2-3s of the ACT

Out of a possible 36 points, area schools earned the following scores on the ACT, a test used to evaluate potential college students and award scholarships.

US: 21.0
Missouri: 21.6
Kansas: 22.0
STA: 26.3
Rockhurst High School: 27
Pembroke Hill High School: 29
Barstow High School: 27
Shawnee Mission East High School: 25.3

compiled by
CHRISTINA BARTON

top five...

ways to personalize your netbook

5 Ribbons
A simple and thrifty way to identify your netbook from everyone else's is to tie a ribbon through one of the slots of your case. There are plenty of unique patterns and colors of ribbons that can be changed from time to time.



Wallpaper



4 Most people have already jumped on this band wagon. If you haven't yet, consider it. Just right click, select "personalize" and choose from any picture of your choice to set as your desktop background.

3 Luggage Tag
While this suggestion will not make your netbook prettier, it will help keep your netbook close to you at all time. Use it; don't lose it! If you really want to distinguish your netbook from the other 556 at STA, then watch your tag.



Carrying Case

2 If ribbons don't make your Targus stand out, then replace it. Make sure your case has a zipper, a shoulder strap and proper padded protection. Vera Bradley mini laptop cases are a popular brand on campus. These cases range from \$29 to \$48, depending on the design (source: www.verabradley.com).



1 Add Gadgets
Gadgets also can help you personalize your netbook's home screen. Free gadgets include clocks, calendars, translators, search engine toolbars, games and horoscopes. ★



compiled by **ABBY UCHE**

days of our lives

The Dart created a countdown to some of the most anticipated days of the school year.

There are **10** days until the next late start.

Just **32** days until the Teresian dance.

Exactly **90** days left to study for first semester finals.

Approximately **179** days until Spring Break.

And only **255** days until summer. ★

compiled by **MURPHY MARX**
Source: www.countdown.com



Critter's Corner

compiled by **KATHLEEN HOUGH**

Spotted: Critter, the campus kitty, lounging between the bushes outside Donnelly Hall Aug. 21, basking in all his celebrity glory, when the new cat on campus, "Lil Bit," disrupts the peace. She runs across the quad and captivates the attention of the STA cross country team. But not for long. Eye contact is made from across the lawn, and the black cat stops dead in her tracks. An intense stare-down begins between the two feline friemies--Critter sitting calmly in the bushes, and Lil Bit standing, frozen in the middle of the quad. Critter's green eyes burn through the fur of that "little bit" of a kitty. Soon enough, the impostor cat finally blinks, turns away and scurries out of sight. Good kitty. Don't worry--you'll never be replaced. ★

Goin' to the chapel

STA English teacher Katie Dolan and social studies teacher Pat SIRRIDGE were each recently engaged to be married.

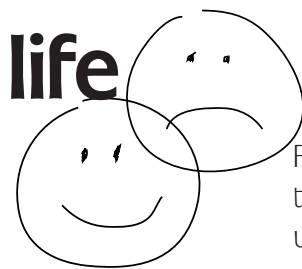
According to Dolan, although marriage had been discussed, the engagement still came as a surprise. She has not yet found a venue or date, but she is planning on a wedding sometime next June or July.

"Please feel free to ask me," Dolan said. "I love talking about it. I'm very excited."

SIRRIDGE got engaged in early August. He said the wedding is set for late December, after finals week, but before Christmas. ★

It's a wonderful life My life sucks

Whether a stroke of luck, strange coincidence or small miracle, students recall experiences that help to make their lives simply wonderful.



From tripping down stairs to walking into the men's bathroom, STA students recall unfortunate moments in their lives.

This Saturday I was at Orlando's First Saturday teen night with a few friends and some East guys. The boy, David, who I met this summer came over to me and we were hanging out. All of a sudden, on the microphone, in between songs, I hear: "Haley Winslow, will you go to Homecoming with David Sosna?" I looked at David and he said, "How's that for creative? I couldn't just put some sign in your yard." I said yes. It's a Wonderful Life.
-Haley Winslow, junior

compiled by **EMILY BRESSETTE**
staff writer



Winslow



Vianello

About 3 years ago I was at a pool party and I was drinking some orange soda. Then I went inside to change. I put the soda can to my mouth to drink and I felt this stinging inside my mouth. I spit out the drink on the floor and there was a bee. The bee was in my soda can and stung me inside my mouth. It hurt so bad! Then, the bee's stinger was stuck in my mouth and I had to pull it out with tweezers. MLS.
-Marina Vianello, freshman

Nightmare on Tweet Street



an opinion by **KATIE MCCOMBS**
PR & circulation

There I was, lying sluggishly on my couch, in the midst of my second day into a sinus infection. I was too sick for school, but apparently well enough to tweet. Since I was not in the mood to catch up on loads of homework, I thought I could at least perform my Dart duties on Twitter, which I can easily access through my cell phone.

Managing the DartNewsOnline Twitter account brings great responsibility, but also brings a great chance for error, which I definitely proved possible that day. The fact that I was holding the Dart's messaging lifeline to all of the STA community in the palm of my hand made me realize that anything could be changed at the touch of a button. On Aug. 31, that "touch of a button" mishap unfortunately happened to me.

So, I was thinking I was being all productive in my job on the Dart by rapidly sending out tweets, when my mom decided to plop down

on the couch next to me to watch "Glee." Why I started playing with her hair, I don't know. But I do know that the result of this entertainment was a short, stubby ponytail on the very top of her head. This Alfalfa-like look my mom portrayed

"Hahaha omg i just put my moms bangs up like alfalfa it was the funniest thing everrrr."
Katie McCombs, junior

was so hilarious that I decided to send my friend junior Brie Sandridge a text about it, just for kicks.

After about 10 minutes of gut-wrenching laughter watching my mom look at herself in the

mirror, I received a text message from junior Alison Fitts, followed by either a call or a text from about six other members of the Dart, all telling me that I blasted the late-breaking, critical news about my Mom's new hairdo on Dart Twitter.

I was completely speechless, as my jaw dropped and my heart raced. I look over at my mom, who was sitting happily with her new little up-do. Faster than I could say "tweet," I hauled to the basement and deleted the tweet from Twitter and Facebook. However, these haunting words definitely had their time in the limelight and they still remain on the world-wide web, under the DartNewsOnline alias, forever: "Hahhahaha omg i just put my moms bangs up like alfalfa it was the funniest thing everrrr." Despite the embarrassment these words caused me, at least they were among the most innocent tweets I could have tweeted. ★

Fresh start with frosh fest

STA freshmen bonded with fellow advisees during STA's annual Frosh Fest Aug. 30-Sept. 2. The freshmen in each advisory got to know their Big Sisters through activities such as Theme Day, advisory lunch in the Quad and sidewalk chalk. The school gathered in Goppert Center to watch Theme Day Sept. 2 and the winners were awarded with a free pizza lunch for their advisory.



1. ★ Freshman Rose Patterson, left, participates in the Theme Day during Frosh Fest with her fellow advisory sisters. **2.** ★ Freshman Katherine Viviano of the McIntire/Hudson Advisory dresses as the stereotypical Rockhurst jock. **3.** ★ Senior Tessa Janas sketches out her advisory's chalk drawing during Frosh Fest in the Quad. Surrounding her were her other advisory sisters helping with the chalk. **4.** ★ Freshman Kelly Gardella, left, enjoys lunch the Quad during Frosh Fest with her advisory sister, junior Stephanie Hampel. **5.** ★ Mr. Richard Shrock's freshmen advisees from left, Kathleen Connor, Lizzie Luallin, Molly Waris, Fiona Madden and Mary Grace Ruhlman rock out as the "School of Shrock". Photos by **SARAH WIRTZ and TAYLOR WOODRUFF**