

the dart

volume 70 ★ issue 3 ★ 7 october 2010
ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY

it's on.




Since Notre Dame de Sion High School's founding in 1912, the Stars and Storm have competed in cut-throat academics and state athletic championships. Here is a look at the good, the bad and the competitive



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

On the outside, the three brick buildings remain completely undisturbed. No one walks on the green grass or over the copper seal. The doors to the M&A Building and Donnelly Hall stay locked. Nobody hears Critter crunch fallen leaves with his paws as he walks across the Quad. Yet, on the inside, the Goppert Center is exploding with enthusiasm, energy and school spirit.



On one side: girls covered in gold and silver armor, adjusting their helmets and blood red capes, swinging plastic swords haphazardly around them and showcasing their drawn-on muscles.

On the other: more girls, wearing patterns of hunter green, brown and black, sporting bandannas worn as headbands, showing their faces smeared with black paint under their eyes and walking in heavy hunting boots.

A chorus of "R-E-D with an H-O-T. We are red, red, red, red hot; red, red, red, red hot. Our team is red hot," can be heard from classrooms away. During the game, the teams on the floor play their hearts out: jumping for spikes, diving for balls, running across the court and sweating throughout it all. During halftime, dance team twirls and pirouettes in their elaborate gold costumes as opposing cheerleaders wave their silver pom-poms. And through it all, the fans go wild.

"Bzzzz" can be heard vibrating in the ears of hundreds of fans, young and old, students and faculty, decked in yellow and purple, cheering and booing, signaling the end of the game. A flood of Spartans swarm the gym floor as yet another historic STA/Sion volleyball game comes to a close. The game may be over, but the rivalry will always live on.

All-girls, Catholic, private, independent—we are so similar yet so different. We are friends. We are enemies. We are rivals. We have been competing for 98 years. We are St. Teresa's and Sion. ★

the **Dart** staff

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The *Dart* encourages letters to the editor about topics covered by the paper or other issues. Letters can be sent in the following ways; in person to Mr. Eric Thomas in Donnelly 204; by mail to St. Teresa's Academy, Attn: Eric Thomas, 5600 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64113; or by email to ethomas@stteresasacademy.org or to dartstories@gmail.com. Letters should be limited to 250 words. The *Dart* staff reserves the right to edit or shorten letters for publication.

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STA neighbor protests parking



keep it green ★ STA neighbor Tom Cooke protests the building of the additional parking spaces Wednesday, Sept. 8 outside the entrance to STA. Cooke protested the construction in order to preserve STA's historical atmosphere and natural beauty. Photo by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**

Protester Tom Cooke discusses his reasons for wanting to save STA's campus from construction

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

Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 8, STA neighbor Tom Cooke and his wife Deborah Cooke stood at the front entrance of STA, protesting the construction of the new parking lot. Among the signs they held were: "Protect, restore earth's healthy living," and "Save STA's STAtely trees." Tom said his passion to preserve STA's historical buildings and beautiful landscape drove him to protest the construction.

"I'm a real conservationist," Tom said. "I would hate to see [STA] lose the southeast part of their campus because it's the last pristine, unused, purely aesthetic part."

Deborah was unavailable for comment.

According to STA president Nan Bone, she and the team of architects in charge of construc-

tion decided to add extra parking spaces in order to make room for the new chapel and to keep students from parking along STA's surrounding side streets. Bone said that they worked hard to be environmentally friendly and tear down as few trees as possible. They plan to remove two or three dead trees from the campus and plant at least 10 more.

"I wish [Cooke] knew how much we are trying to meet [his needs]," Bone said. "However, we encourage Mr. Cooke to use Loose Park if he is looking for a park-like atmosphere."

Bone and Tom met at a neighborhood meeting where Bone and her team of architects introduced the plans for the construction of the chapel. After this meeting, Tom sent a letter to the editor of the *Kansas City Star*, published Sept. 7, where he wrote that STA would soon be "gouged out, limbs torn from [it's] body, defaced, sterilized, tarred,

blackened and forever forced to carry heavy, uncalled-for burdens—as a parking lot."

"We are a school that's growing strong," Bone said. "We have been here for almost 150 years, and we are at capacity. Because of that, we always have to consider what is best for the girls."

After seven days of picketing, Tom decided to stop his protest.

"I thought I had made my statement and said what I wanted to say," Tom said. "It seemed pointless to

keep standing there when everyone knew what I was going say."

Although Tom does not plan on protesting at STA anymore, he is still eager to voice his opinion.

"I do not hate St. Teresa's," Tom said. "I hoped I would [gain more supporters, but] this is something I believe in, it's something that's good and I want to do it. I'm protesting peacefully, I'm arguing rationally and I am completely exhilarated." ★

"We encourage Mr. Cooke to use Loose Park if he is looking for a park-like atmosphere."

Nan Bone, STA president

300 WORDS: Creeping in Club Blood

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

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

As she throws on her short, black halter dress over her ripped up tights, she contemplates the night of work she has in front of her. The screams.

The laughs.
The fright.
The fun.

Yanking on her thigh-high 4-inch boots, she grabs the red corset to wrap around her dress and drapes the big black cape around her shoulders.

Now all that's left is to apply the makeup: dark black eyeliner, bite marks, fangs, maybe even a pair of colored contacts. Once her body is airbrushed white, she's finally ready to head into the club.

To an outsider, Club Blood looks like any regular club—it's got a few couches and some chairs, a bartender and even a jumper—yet to her, it's anything but.

There, she doesn't have to be Rosemary. There, she gets to be whoever she wants, she gets to act however she wants.

As guests weave in and out of the club, she jumps out at them and laughs in their horrified faces.



McGraw

Holding up two pouches of fake blood, she growls in their faces: "0 negative, 0 positive? Make a donation today!"

The men keep their cool, calling her names and pretending like they aren't afraid, although realistically, they're terrified.

The young kids squeeze their eyes shut; the older ones yelp in delight.

But it's the teenage girls that are the best prey, venturing through the club in large groups with hands clasped together.

She relishes in their terror and proceeds to scream "Blood!" at the top of her lungs and chases them out.

In the end, everyone leaves the club alright and may even contemplate coming back again.

Because, after all, Club Blood is just a haunted house at Worlds of Fun and junior Rosemary McGraw is just a vampire. Only at night, anyway. ★



Students attend career meetings

STA holds a Career Explorations session for students to discuss possible occupations to pursue

story by **EMMA ROBERTSON**
staff writer

STA college counselor Debi Hudson recently implemented Career Explorations, a career presentation occurring once a quarter that will replace the semi-annual Career Day.

During the first meeting, which took place Sept. 17 during activity period, STA hosted University of Missouri Kansas City speakers to talk about pharmacy and nursing.

According to Hudson, these career talks will help students learn about different jobs earlier in their high school careers.

Speakers come from different educational backgrounds and careers, especially STA alumnae willing to share their time with students.

"A long term goal is to get a number of alums who would be willing to host an STA student for a shadow experience or perhaps even an e-mentoring experience," Hudson said. "This way, alums who live outside of Kansas City could communicate with current students and answer questions about their career field."

The featured careers are chosen when students list their interest in different careers on the previous year's PSAT, according to Hudson. This tells the administration which careers are the most popular and should be discussed.

Ms. Jolene Lynn, one of the UMKC speakers that appeared to talk about pharmacy and nursing, said that this could help students decide on what career they wish to pursue in college.

"If students see a person that is in the field, they can get an actual idea of what nursing is all about and what nursing school here at UMKC would be like," Lynn said.

According to senior Colleen Corcoran, she at-



facing the future★ By dedicating their frees to studying and doing homework, students prepare for their future careers. At the Career Explorations meeting Sept. 17, speakers helped students decide what career to pursue in college. Photo by **CELE FRYER**

tended the first Career Exploration because she wanted something to spice up her activity periods, and because she is considering majoring in nursing.

"Nursing is what I am interested in, and I thought it would teach me more about the major and career, but also give me a chance to ask questions," Corcoran said.

The November Career Exploration will focus on architecture, interior design and graphic design,

according to Hudson. The February and April career schedules are still in the planning stages.

"I just hope [the career session] opens [students'] eyes to new areas and gives them further information for exploration," Hudson said. "One hour is not going to give them all the information they need, but I hope it will spark their interest to do further research online and shadow a professional in their interest area." ★

Read all about it: a message from the mayor



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

A few weeks ago my advisor handed me a bright red folder. It's engraved with silver lettering, has Mayor Mark Funkhouser's name written in huge type on the front and includes a certificate inside, inscribed with the official seal of the "city of fountains" and personally signed by the mayor.

Apparently I, along with dozens of seemingly random STA girls, am "one of many Shining Stars that have set an example of why the City of Kansas City, Missouri is a great place to live." Yes, I am a Shining Star and Kansas City is a great place to live, but why did you feel the need to give me an award and tell me that?

Firstly, not even Nancy Drew could solve this mystery. No one has remotely any idea what the reasoning behind these awards was, who received them, why they were given or what their purpose was. Unfortunately, no formal letter, handwritten note, email, postcard, wall post, tweet or YouTube video was included. Thanks for the explanation.

Maybe they were given to honors students. Maybe they were sent to STA girls who play fall sports. Maybe the mayor himself flipped through the school directory and picked every ninth name. Who knows? Maybe the city decided awards should go to Catholic school girls with long brown hair.

Really the only problem with my new award is that it's so awkwardly shaped—I'm going to have a hard time finding a frame that it'll fit in so I can hang it on my bedroom wall. What a shame.

Secondly, the city has better things to worry about than handing out useless awards. KCMO is completely broke, the unemployment rate is higher than ever, public schools are in a state of utter disarray—in desperate need of educated teachers, new facilities, better programs and more funds—and issues like crime prevention and public works have seemed to take a back seat in the city's eyes. According to the the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of July, Jackson County's unemployment rate is 10.8%, which is 1.1% higher than the national average. Last spring the Kansas City school board decided to close 28 area public schools due to a lack of funds, creating overcrowding, violence and plummeting student to teacher ratios. Kansas City doesn't have the time, monetary funds or need to send meaningless certificates to high school students. Thanks for the recognition, but stop avoiding the real issues and start trying to make this city better. ★

to make sure to save that open green space."

Q: How many people will the chapel seat?

A: "150-175 people. Our original plan included individual chairs, but we are considering replacing them with pews."

Q: What will happen to STA's existing chapel in the M&A building?

A: "We will possibly turn it into two separate classrooms, maybe with one side being the music program and the other side being the drama program."

Differences in adult, teen brains affect decisions

Studies find that part of brain controlling impulse in teens has not completely developed

story by **LANE MAGUIRE**
staff writer

She had been warned about the dangers of texting and driving. She knew how fatal the consequences could be. Yet, just one moment of what some might consider irrational judgment, a split second glance at the incoming text on her phone, had caused the accident.

For senior Sara Gassman, Sept. 25, 2009 started like most weekdays. Gassman had been driving to school, after stopping for coffee on the way. Just as she was turning onto the highway, she heard the unmistakable buzz of an incoming text. Gassman picked up the phone resting in her lap and read the text from her friend. This decision caused her to veer off the road. After unsuccessfully trying to correct herself, Gassman drove straight toward a ditch off the side of the road. In an attempt to brake the car and avoid the ditch, Gassman accidentally pressed the gas and ended up hitting a tree at a speed of 60 miles an hour.

Common teenage stereotypes, such as lack of judgement and recklessness, often originate from

incidents such as this. They may also be the result of ongoing studies of the numerous differences in the teenage brain versus the adult brain.

"A lot of people think that a teenage brain is kind of a mini adult brain," doctor Maria Korth, a pediatric neuropsychologist at Children's Mercy Hospital said. "The teenage brain is still very much in the developmental stages."

Like most teenagers, Gassman had been warned many times about the dangers of texting and driving. "My parents told me that if I get in a wreck while texting and driving, they won't buy me another car," Gassman said.

Despite these warnings, Gassman, before her accident, had regularly read incoming texts while driving.

"Obviously I wasn't really thinking about [the consequences]," Gassman said.

According to npr.org, it is not about what teens think, but how. A recent study shows that, contrary to prior knowledge, the brain is not fully matured until their late 20s. Studies have shown that a part of the brain called the frontal lobes, located near the forehead, are not fully connected in adolescents. This part of the brain is responsible for controlling, among numerous other functions, judgment, problem solving and impulse control. According to psychologist Aileen Utley, it is this impulsive control that primarily

distinguishes the teen brain from that of an adult.

"Overall, impulsiveness decreases as people mature," Utley said. "Teens in general do not think through decisions and actions as carefully as adults and consider various outcomes."

Despite being less apt to adequate judgment and decision making, the teenage brain, according to npr.org, is more responsive to learning. Yet, it is this "excitability" of the brain combined with poor judgment that can leave teens more vulnerable to addiction.

"I think you see the increase in substance abuse because of the impulsivity," Korth said. "Your frontal lobes assist you in controlling impulses and often times for teenagers the drinking or the substance use is an impulsive sort of activity."

These factors of teen brain development may, according to Utley, correlate with drinking and even driving laws. Males, whose brains fully develop at a later age than females, often have higher car insurance rates as a result.

Luckily, Gassman, aside from a possible increase in car insurance, suffered only a broken nose, a minor headache and few dents in her car.

"I don't text anymore," Gassman said. "I don't even answer [my phone while driving] because I am too scared that what happened last time might happen again." ★

Wednesday Sept. 29, Gould Evans design team principal Tony Rohr and STA president Nan Bone presented plans for the chapel and parking lot construction to students during their activity period. Below are seven questions STA students asked Bone.

Q: When will the construction start?

A: "We hope to start construction on the parking lot in the next two to three weeks. For the building, we need to raise more money but hope to start construction in the spring."

Q: When will the chapel be finished if con-

struction begins in the spring?

A: "It should be ready for the 2011-2012 school year."

Q: Will the addition of the new chapel increase the size of the STA student body?

A: "We like the size of STA, and we don't want it to be much bigger. By building this chapel, we want to increase the curriculum, which we can do with the high-tech classrooms."

Q: Will the size of the quad change?

A: "The size of the quad with the new chapel will be almost identical to the existing one. We wanted



Breaking
Ground

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

compiled by **CELIA O'FLAHERTY**

DARTBOARD

Students named AP scholars

Each year, the Advanced Placement Program recognizes and awards high-school students who have demonstrated college-level accomplishments through AP courses or exams. These students are honored with an award certificate and, in addition, this award will be acknowledged on any AP score report that is sent to colleges. There are various award levels that may be granted to students. The highest honor, National AP Scholar, is granted to students who scored a 4 or higher on 8 or more exams and received an average score of at least a 4 on all AP exams. This honor was awarded to STA alumna Celeste Bremen this year. Bremen averaged a score of 4.89 on 9 AP exams.

Another award, AP Scholar with Distinction, honors students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on 5 or more of these exams. STA alumnae Jessica Ann, Celeste Bremen, Sydney Deatherage, and Allison Perich were granted this award.

STA students honored with the award AP Scholar with Honor this year include Taylor Brown, Eva Copeland, Rosie Hodes and Kelsey Wendland. This award is granted to students who scored a 3 or higher on 4 or more exams and received an average score of 3.25 on all AP exams.

Eighteen STA students were granted the AP Scholar award, which honors students who scored a 3 or higher on 3 or more AP exams.

Teresian tickets for sale Oct. 11

The annual fundraiser for the *Teresian* yearbook, the Teresian dance, will take place Oct. 16. in the Goppert Center. The doors will be held from 8 to 11 p.m. The doors will close at 8:30 p.m. and open up again at 10:30 p.m. Following last year's theme of *Vogue*, the theme for this year's dance is "Alice in Wonderland."

Tickets are \$25 for a single and \$40 for a couple. Tickets will go on sale Monday Oct. 11 during both activity periods in the Commons. Tickets will continue to be sold in the Commons Tuesday, Wednesday after PSAT testing and Thursday after school. Tickets will not be for sale the day of the dance.

The DJ for Teresian will not be taking song requests that night, but the *Dart* is taking song requests on dartnewsonline.com.

STA holds seventh grade game

Today STA is hosting the first Pembroke Hill High School volleyball game of the year. STA is also hosting a seventh grade pizza night for all prospective STA students to experience the game and the STA community.

The theme for the volleyball game is Zenon, girl of the 21st century. According to senior Kathleen Hough, Spirit Club president, this theme requires metallic space clothes and the first 35 STA girls to walk through the doors of the Goppert Center will receive a prize.

"It is really important for our whole student body to be at this game because this is our first chance to make a good first impression on potential students," Hough said. "We want to show [the seventh graders] how spirited and supportive the atmosphere is at STA."

compiled by **LANE MAGUIRE, EMILY BRESSETTE, MARY O'LEARY**

DWI checkpoints increase in KC area

Various states offer police departments grants to perform checkpoints throughout the fall

story by **MURPHY MARX**
lifestyles editor

The number of driving while intoxicated (DWI) sobriety checkpoints recently increased in the Kansas City metropolitan area to help reduce the numbers of alcohol-related car accidents. According to Officer Mike Moore of the Kansas City Police Department, states have offered police departments grants to perform checkpoints throughout last summer and this fall.

Sobriety checkpoints are part of an enforcement strategy to decrease the number of alcohol-impaired drivers and resulting collisions. According to the blog of Chief James Corwin of the Kansas City Police Department, deterrence, education and arrest are the three goals officers focus on at checkpoints.

In Missouri, statistics of alcohol-related collisions and deaths determine when to increase the number of checkpoints. Summer holidays, according to Moore, pose a greater risk of collisions; thus, more checkpoints are conducted.

"Holidays in the winter such as New Year's also require many checkpoints," Moore said.

Sobriety checkpoints catch both teenagers and adults. Currently, according to Moore, adults have the highest number of DWIs, but the number of DWIs for teenagers is increasing.

If a teenager is caught with alcohol in the system, he or she is automatically charged as minor in possession of alcohol. In addition, every driver, teenage or adult receives a DWI and a 30 day suspension of his or her license.

"If you drink and drive and are caught, you have jail time, \$5,000 to \$8,000 for an attorney [and] insurance sky rockets," Moore said.

According to Moore, parents can educate their teens about the risks that come with drinking and driving to help prevent DWI arrests or fatal accidents. However, peer pressure sometimes changes the minds of teenagers, putting themselves as well as others at risk.

"Just because you are teens doesn't mean bad things don't happen," Moore said.

Officer Chris Petree of the Kansas City Police Department reminds teenagers that driving is a privilege which they can lose if they use it irresponsibly.

"Whether you are drinking and driving or just driving irresponsibly, those actions can send you to jail and affect your opportunity to attend college and your ability to have a career, or just inconvenience the person who always has to drive you around," Petree said.

Board members discuss Capital Campaign at meeting

At Sept. 22 meeting, STA board members discuss addition of track, approve chapel provisions

story by **CASSIE REDLINGSHAFFER**
sports editor

STA's first board meeting took place Sept. 22, where major topics discussed included chapel renovations and the possible addition of a track. According to STA president Nan Bone, the 19 board members unanimously approved the new provisions for the chapel.

"[The board] revisited the tweaks and changes the architects made to the building," Bone said. "Everyone voted to accept those changes."

According to Bone, the board holds many responsibilities including voting on policy, setting policy and discussing and hopefully finding a solution for issues.

"It's a governing board, not an advisory board," Bone said.

The board is made up of alumnae, parents, a professor from Avila University and a construc-



Caught red-handed ★ Police forces around the area have been cracking down on driving while intoxicated offenders. By increasing checkpoints they hope to decrease the number of alcohol-related accidents. Photo illustration by **KARA FRUITT**

According to Petree, Missouri has a "no tolerance approach" for teenagers who drive while intoxicated. If a teenager is stopped at a sobriety checkpoint and caught, arrest is most often the outcome.

Drinking and driving can lead to more than a DWI charge. According to Corwin, involuntary manslaughter is an additional charge which may

result in seven years of jail time and a \$5,000 fine.

"Besides legal trouble you have to remember that your irresponsible decisions caused the death or injury of your friend, family member, a mother, brother, sister [or] classmate," Petree said. "When you're on the road, your decisions affect all the others on the road around you." ★

tion company owner whose sister attended STA.

The board is also composed of multiple committees, which board members chair. These committees include a finance committee, diversity committee, academics committee, mission effectiveness committee, institutional advancement committee, extracurriculars committee and facilities committee. Committees are made up of students, faculty and former board members.

According to Bone, each meeting begins with a president's report. Then, "new business" is brought in front of the board. And finally, the chair of each committee reports any updates to the board.

"The committees meet in the months that the board does not meet and then the committee chairs report on issues or positive changes they see," Bone said. "The chairs also propose changes and the board discusses those propositions."

According to Bone, the board is the first step to all major changes involving STA.

"If the board doesn't approve something, the project won't advance," Bone said.

The board was involved in the recent changes at STA including the addition of PowerSchool and netbooks.

"One of the goals [of the board] is to make STA a top technological school," Bone said.

At the first meeting, the addition of a track was also a major discussion.

"The board discussed the civil engineers drawing of a future track," Bone said. "But it's just discussion at this point."

According to principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick, the board is still focusing on the Inspiring Women Capital Campaign.

"To be on the board you have to think longevity," McCormick said. "We have to think about not only the young women at St. Teresa's now, but the young women who will be here in 5 or 10 years. The board has to consider the strategic long range plan."

The next board meeting is scheduled for Nov. 17. According to McCormick, in the next meeting the Capital Campaign will continue to be discussed.

"We need to continue moving progressively with [the Capital Campaign]," McCormick said. ★

Neighbor to neighbor with distinction



The STA and Sion rivalry has gone too far. The fighting between the schools has leaked beyond our sports arenas and academic fields and has taken a whole new life. It is malicious, it is wrong, and frankly, it is a little hypocritical.

STA prides itself on loving "neighbor to neighbor without distinction," but did we ever consider that our neighbors might extend beyond our own campus? It is hypocritical of us to take such pride in our motto when we stop treating our own sister school with decency. And yes, they are our sister school.

We are both all-girl, college preparatory, Catholic institutions. We are founded on the same beliefs of education, service and respect. Honestly, we are almost the same school. There are more things that unite us than break us apart.

So why do many STA students maintain that we are completely different schools? What are the main criticisms of Sion at STA? According to comments made on Facebook after STA played Sion earlier this year, the main criticisms of Sion were:

- the school has a cheerleading team,
- two, the students are promiscuous.

To address this first criticism, we can't judge Sion

for having cheerleaders when STA itself is considering creating a squad and previously had a squad. We should not judge Sion for being proactive about having a group of people to cheer at every game, not just the ones the spirit club decides to promote. It is incredibly unfair to judge an entire school based on one group of girls.

And as for the second criticism, the verbal and written attacks on Sion for being promiscuous are completely malicious.

To any girls from Sion reading this, please do not make the same mistake that girls at STA did. Please do not judge STA based on the ill-informed and prejudiced remarks of a small group of students. We promise to try to do the same. You are not a school of promiscuous cheerleaders, just as we are not a school of ignorant brats.

To any STA students reading this, stop. Clean your Facebook of the rude remarks. Clean your mouths with a bar of soap before you go to a Sion game. And to both schools, remember what this rivalry is really about.

STA and Sion used to push each other to succeed both athletically and academically. We cheered

our hearts out to support our teams. We united as a school to better our communities. Sion was the reason we pushed ourselves to the limit studying or practicing or helping others.

Sion is not hindering us, they are helping us to be our best.

So while we post defamatory and ignorant remarks on Facebook or shout choice words at Sion fans after a volleyball game, we need to look at what this rivalry has actually done for STA over the years.

So, although we may scream that we like to eat "Sion meat" raw, raw, raw, during volleyball games, what we really want to say is thanks. And we're sorry. ★

The staff editorial represents the views of the *Dart* editorial board

6 out of 7 editors voted in support of this editorial

Pros and Cons of the STA-Sion Rivalry

The staff editorial board evaluates the pros and cons between the almost 100 year rivalry with Notre Dame de Sion

Pros

- we push ourselves harder academically and athletically
- Sion/STA sporting events
- Game-day themes
- Powder puff football games
- Friendships between STA and Sion students

Cons

- We get too competitive
- The rivalry continues outside of the gym
- It impacts friendships between students from the schools
- We stop seeing them as students like us

compiled by **KATIE HYDE**

Right on Target?



Each issue, the *Dart* asks three students on their opinion of the issue discussed in the main ed. Here's what they said:

compiled by **KATIE HYDE**

What do you think about the rivalry?

"I really like playing Sion. It's fun for everyone to come to the game and get all dressed up. [The volleyball team] really gets into it."

Emily Wemhoff, freshman



Wemhoff

"I strongly dislike Sion. I went there and the girls aren't very nice. Healthy competition is a good thing, though."

Sammy Patterson, sophomore



Patterson

"The game itself is really fun. Being a player, you get really into it. I know a lot of girls from Sion so its really fun. During the game you're going against them but after the game you hug them."

Katelyn Ehrnman, junior



Ehrnman

BABYSITTING BLUNDERS: girls share horror stories

Don't tell the parents the kids almost died



photo illustration by SARAH WIRTZ

Confessions of a teenage baby killer



opinion by **KATIE MCCOMBS**
PR & Circulation

It all began with a child and a staircase...but let me back up.

There I was in the eighth grade, a mere wisp of a child, just graduated from the lowliest of lows "mother's helper" into a full-fledged babysitter.

Fast-forward to the stage in my babysitting career where I thought I had this whole job in the bag. It was an average weekend night in my crazy 13-year-old life and I was babysitting for a family with two cute, red-headed, freckled children. But you can totally disassociate these children from the crisis that took place this particular evening. Their parents were going out to dinner and a movie with another couple. Unfortunately, unbeknownst to me, I would be watching two extra kids.

That night is still vivid in my mind. It started off with such

success. We played basketball, rode scooters and created chalk masterpieces with the couple hours of daylight we had left outside. We enjoyed a nice game of Candy Land and Apples to Apples. Later, the boys' time was occupied with their hands glued to PlayStation controllers and their brains robotically absorbed in "Harry Potter" Legos. The girls and I were upstairs playing house and dolls and anything else a pair of first graders could muster up with a room full of Polly Pockets, nail polish and "High School Musical" soundtracks, the latter in preparation for the premier of "High School Musical 2" we were to watch that night.

I decided to check on the boys. As I was walking down the stairs to enter the TV room, I latched onto, and casually dangled from, the ledge above the staircase to stretch my arms. My ears awakened as I heard the screech of a little girl, "Watch out beloooooow!" I turned my head to see her plummeting down the stairs at full speed. She lunged onto my legs, as I was still hanging onto the ledge above. In an instant, we were both swinging from the ledge, while I was holding the weight of a 50 pound child attached to

my calves and trying to keep my clammy hands from slipping. What do you know? Into the middle of my third swing, my sweaty hands slid from their grip and the kid and I went flying. Picture this: my 100-pound physique, the kid squashed underneath my body and both of us tumbling down the stairs. I was completely out of control, trying to find anything I could grab onto, but instead I knocked off wedding pictures and baptismal certificates and kept repeating the Our Father and Hail Mary until we reached the bottom of the staircase.

Immediately, I jumped up, terrified, and gave the poor girl some air. She was groaning and ran to a nearby chair while holding her stomach like she got the wind knocked out of her. As I went over to comfort her fragile body, the moaning stopped and she literally quit breathing. For a minute or so I thought she had flat-lined. I thought I had just killed someone. I freaked out.

Shaking.
Sweating.

Almost in tears. What does a 13-year-old do at a time like this? I was poking her, screaming in her ear, shaking her. Do I try CPR? Mouth-to-mouth? The Heimlich Maneuver? I had 911 dialed. All of a sudden, she 'came back to life.' Hallelujah! Holding her

limp, dead body in my arms was not the way I planned to spend this night. Oh, and then she urinated all over me. I did a little research, post-incident, and I guess you pee your pants after you go unconscious.

After the girl was fully conscious, I called my mom, crying, scared and helpless. She told

me to call the parents ASAP. Of course, this was the most horrifying part for me. After about 500 calls to each of the four parents' cells with no answer, I had to call Avenues Bistro where the parents were dining. I got through to the victim's mother, told her the story in tears, and she laughed. Laughed? Did she not hear that I almost killed her daughter? It must have been a nervous, you're-the-worst-babysitter-I've-ever-met laugh. The mom asked to talk to her fatigued child and made her recite her ABC's backwards and spell her name. All was well, according to the mom.

When the parents arrived home a speedy three hours later, I could tell that they were really concerned with the kid's condition. Then, I was faced with the most awkward time of my life: the car ride home. I did not utter one word. Thankfully, my house was only two blocks away. I was a nervous wreck, mumbled my "thank yous" and "goodbyes", took the money and ran.

Guess what? I was never asked to babysit again. For either family. ★



opinion by **CELE FRYER**
staff photographer

To Whom It May Concern:

In December I will turn the big one-eight, marking my official adulthood. It is crazy to think that just about six years ago you were looking after my three horrendous siblings and me. In short, all I can say is I am terribly sorry for all of the trouble which I caused you in your teenage years because as a babysitter myself now, my actions are coming back to haunt me. The karma is biting me and I often ask myself the question, "What am I going to tell the parents?" as I'm sure you asked yourself every five minutes with me.

I remember the time at the ripe age of six when we locked you (Krissy) outside in the pouring rain and managed to dial your boyfriend's number on your cell phone and really strengthen your relationship. Deanne, I apologize for pushing Lee off the top of the swingset while you were supposed to be watching us and getting you into trouble. Really though, Lee should be sorry, because after all, she made me do it. She wanted to break her arm.

Then there was you, Danielle... I can't even count on one hand all the things we put you through.

Tiptoeing on the edge of fear



guest column by **SAM CUSUMANO**
senior

I received a call one afternoon about a babysitting job. This call came from a family that I was unfamiliar with. The little boy was in my school family at St. Peter's, composed of kids from every grade. He was an average second grader, and I didn't think he would be too difficult to watch. I gladly accepted, as his mom told me she would pick me up around 6 p.m.

On Friday night, I was ready by 5:30 waiting patiently for his mom. We arrived at her house, which was approximately 15 blocks from my own house. Their living room was directly to the right, two couches perpendicular to each other facing the television which was tucked into the corner. The staircase was directly across from the door and curved upward towards the three-bedroom upstairs and bathroom.

They gave me a few directions and left for the evening. He and I ate pizza and got along fairly well. Then, I put him to bed. He would not go to sleep. As I sat directly below his room, watching a scary show about murders in haunted places, I kept hearing him walk back and forth. I yelled from the bottom of the stairs, "Hey, it's time to go to sleep buddy!" He responded by saying, "I am, goodnight." I heard his little feet as he quickly sprinted to his room.

I went back to watching my scary show. Then,

Maybe your favorite time was when we brought you crab-apples from the neighbors' tree and told you they described you because you were always just so crabby. Or when our teeter-tottering on the plastic alligator outside got a little out of hand and cousin Claire's head smashed through the glass window and surprised you while you "relaxed" indoors. By the way, I'm sorry about your phone too—it just made the perfect target for my amateur water-gun—shooting self.

Kathleen, thanks for lasting as long as you did and really helping out my mom. It saved her from having to ask another random waitress at Jalapeño's the dreaded question, "Do you babysit?" Thanks for keeping us company in the swimming pool when we needed a good laugh and you "let us" untie your swimsuit.

Now though, I wish I could take it all back. The karma's beating me pretty badly... Sleep walking kids lead me to believe there are intruders in the house and bring me to desperate measures of running up the stairs with a butcher's knife.

Little girls shove me and tell me they hate me and that I am ugly. My phone has been dropped in a pool, I've been pooped on, and my personal favorite, tied to a chair and smashed into a closet. If only I could go back now and re-do our time together—maybe that would help me.

So here's to you, my 8,000,000 babysitters, and especially the ones who managed to last more than a week: I'm terribly sorry for all the trouble I may have caused you and become sorrier each babysitting job I receive.

I hope your wounds, scars, phones and self-esteem have all healed.

Sincerely, your favorite little kid,
Cele Fryer ★

I heard his foot steps slowing walking down the hallway to his parents' room. But they sounded different this time. I muted the television, slowly and quietly picking up and putting down the remote. I strained my ears so I could hear even the smallest of sounds. I tiptoed off the couch and to the doorway where I could see the upstairs bedroom. What do I do? Do I shout and ask who is there? Do I walk upstairs and get myself killed? I tiptoed into the living room where I found a fireplace poker. I grabbed it and walked to the stairs. "You awake?" No response. "Hey, bud, are you up?" Nothing. "Hey buddy, time to sleep!" Silence.

Then, I heard it again. Someone was in the house, walking down the hallway, less than 15 feet away from me, trying to kill me. I ran to the living room, picked up my phone, and called my dad. "Dad. Someone is in this house, walking around. I think he broke in through the balcony doors. Please come over here fast. I'm really scared." I sat there in the living room. Hearing footsteps. Seeing death knocking on my door. Should I leave a note explaining to my parents what they should do with my belongings? I was a goner. My time had come. My 12 short years had been good.

A knock at the door ended my thoughts, and I began to cry. Was a scary man who had come to kidnap me, courteous enough to knock first? But then I remembered it was my dad. I ran to the door, tears streaming down my face, and handed him the fireplace tools. He slowly walked up the stairs. I followed. I thought to myself, if he was going to be a goner, I'd be too.

I stayed behind as he went into the parents' bedroom to look. The doors to the balcony were unlocked, but the little boy laid fast asleep in his bedroom, with his legos built into a house on the floor next to his bed. A black cat was slowly creeping around the parent's bedroom. My dad walked down the stairs to let me know it had only been their harmless cat. He left to go home, leaving me still frightened, and very skeptical...

Man, did that cat have some loud footsteps. ★

Oops!... they did it again



opinion by **HANNAH WOLF**
features editor

Remember being five years old, wanting to be just like Lindsay Lohan? Eating oreos and peanut butter in the Isolation Cabin with your unknown twin sister before piercing each other's ears, covering girls in honey and feathers and lying your way halfway across the world? I would have gone to Camp Walden for Girls any day just to be as cool as Lindsay.

Or maybe when I was seven, secretly playing Britney Spears' "Oops!... I Did It Again" CD on my Hello Kitty boombox while my mom was doing laundry because she deemed the CD inappropriate the second she saw the album cover. Who cares if I knew what

the lyrics meant or not, Britney Spears was my idol, goddess and so much more.

Fast forward to my teens, I occasionally even wished I was Miley Cyrus, (or Hannah Montana, for that matter) the ultimate Disney Channel star whom I would die to be "True Friends" with.

What ever happened to my best friend Brit, in her jean skirt and modest red button-up shirt? Or that lovable little Lindsay, a face full of freckles and her natural red hair? Even Miley, dancing around her beach house with BFF Lily or doubling as a superstar with her famous wig?

I'll admit it. I have all of their Gameboy games, CDS, DVDs and posters. They were my idols. But why should I be ashamed of it?

Because the same girls I looked up to are now dancing on stripper poles in their music videos, sporting alcohol monitors as anklets and shaving their heads.

Come on, Miley. Why would any reasonable parent let their six year old buy your Barbie when you can't even dress appropriately as a real human? It's a blessing that you're still allowed on Disney Channel. I'm ashamed that the kids I babysit are obsessed with you. What are they looking up to?

And Brit, my parents almost didn't let me attend your concert after they heard you went to rehab for drugs. You're school girl-turned-stripper with a snake

performance isn't doing anything for the ticket-paying parents.

I've lost all hope for you, Lindsay. I've already said goodbye to the glory days of "Freaky Friday" and "Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen." I can't keep track of what color your hair is. You've been to court one too many times, and your recent 14 days in jail and three weeks in rehab have pushed me over the edge.

I should have known from the moment Britney sang "I'm Not That Innocent" that she really wasn't the good girl I thought she was. Or when Miley sang "I Can't Be Tamed" that there was no hope in fixing her corrupted lifestyle.

I'm not only ashamed, but I'm embarrassed that the girls I once idolized are now alcoholics, wild girls and irresponsible parents. They give fans false hope along with a twisted sense of reality. Wake up, these are not the one's we should be looking up to anymore.

And to you, Selena Gomez, Emma Roberts, and even you, Justin Bieber: don't screw up. ★

The Final Say

The famous teenage idols I once looked up to as a child are now acting inappropriately and setting bad examples.

BP oil crisis exemplifies a new problem for US



opinion by **MADALYNE BIRD**
centerspread editor

As I drive home from golf practice I check my gas level meter in my car and it's precariously tipping towards empty. I look ahead for the nearest gas station and all I see are BP stations.

I turn my blinker on to pull into the lot, when I stop myself. What am I doing? I can't get gas there! I cannot consciously allow myself to support a company that is responsible for one of the worst man-made environmental disasters in history.

I turn my blinker off and keep driving. I pass BP after BP after BP. I hear a ding go off in my car and see a light switch on on the dashboard. Time to feed my car again. Relief hits me as I spot a QT just in my line of sight.

April 20, 2010 will remain a horrible day in American history. On this particular day, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded, killing 11 people. Two days later, after countless efforts to extinguish the fire, the rig sank to the ocean floor, causing the largest offshore oil spill in American history.

Since then, that rig has emptied over 49 million barrels of crude oil into the Gulf Coast. According to National Geographic, "The spill covers more than 4,000 square miles of ocean surface, over ten times the area of New York City." The well was finally capped Sept. 19, but the long term affects of this disaster will remain for generations.

We as humans spend too much time thinking that there is nothing that we can do. Thinking, it happened in the Gulf, we don't live there so it's not our problem. But that's where we are wrong; what happened in the Gulf affects all of America. This disaster is destroying wildlife, fisheries, the economy and the health of the people in the Gulf shores. This is not a time for us to sit back and watch as other people do the work and our wetlands are being completely destroyed by crude oil and toxic chemicals.

Now is a time for action, to step up and say, "This is our country and we as it's citizens will not stand by and watch as millions of toxic chemicals are poured into our oceans to try and break up the oil that was put there." I don't know about you guys, but I do not want to be known as the generation that destroyed America's wetlands. ★

Ways to help with the oil spill:

Make donations to one of many organizations for coastal relief:
National Wildlife Federation
Alabama Coastal Foundation
Save Our Seabirds.

Letter to the Editor: Mr. Tom Cooke, STA neighbor

STA parking lot protestor Tom Cooke responded to Megan Schaff's opinion column in issue two of the *Dart*

Dear Megan Schaff, the St. Teresa's community and alumnae:

Last Friday morning, Megan, I received, anonymously, a hard copy of your Sept. 16 article in *dartnewsonline.com*. I'm pleased to have the chance to respond.

No one I know is opposed to a chapel, and I never protested against it. My protests were only against the parking lot, for reasons I have outlined to president Bone and the Board of Directors several times.

You are, Megan, absolutely right that I cannot tell St. Teresa's what to do. At the same time, although I have no affiliation with school, I can protest its plans, just as others protest(ed) the following:

- a mosque being built near "Ground Zero" in New York;
- the Nelson -Atkins closing Rockhill Tennis club;
- a law firm tearing down part of the Plaza, and so on.

The two most important reasons for my protest are, first: if half of the Rockhurst and Barbost students can car pool, why can't St. Teresa's do similarly? Secondly, how does a parking lot built on the pristine, purely aesthetic part of its campus live up to the following opening creed on Eco-Justice on the *csjls.org* website:

"The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet recognize the urgency of working to protect and restore Earth's healthy living systems?"

I trust this letter will receive an adequate rendering in *dartnewsonline*. I welcome all responses.

Tom Cooke

Send any thoughts, opinions or comments about previous stories and school news to lettertoeditor@dartnewsonline.com. You could be featured in the next issue of the *Dart*.

Fishing for conversation



opinion by **CHELSEA BIRCHMIER**
news editor

Walking into English teacher Kelly Fast's classroom, I quickly grab a desk and pull it into the small circle that has already begun to form. A few students are already frantically reading over their notes. Almost everyone wears a facial expression of nervous apprehension, myself included. No one says a word, but we are all

silently praying that a few minutes from now, the gods of literature will fill our minds with enough insightful comments (and possibly a few meaningful quotes) to last the hour— or at least to satisfy

Fast's criteria for a perfect score. And as much as we love our classmates, we secretly hope the students who always dominate the discussion will refrain from stealing the ideas we spent hours preparing the night before. The bell rings, and I feel the nerves kick in. It is time for our first fishbowl.

For those who do not know, fishbowl grades rely on the number of comments each person makes and the level of depth of these comments. On Fast's scale, an average comment receives a score of one point. An especially astute or perceptive comment receives two points. If one person makes three remarks worth two points each, then that becomes the class standard. If another student does not speak at least three times, she will not receive full points.

Before I started AP American Literature, I dreaded fishbowls after hearing horror stories from seniors about failing a discussion because they never had an opportunity to speak. Also, I hate interrupting people, which I heard would be necessary to succeed. To my surprise, however,

not only did I have the chance to speak multiple times, I never once felt like I interrupted someone. The worst part of the experience turned out to be the anxiety I felt beforehand.

While the fishbowl process may seem incredibly nerve-racking at first, most students are giving it more hype than it deserves. A fishbowl discussion is meant to be just that—a discussion—or, even more informally, a conversation. It is designed to give everyone, especially people who do not usually speak up in class, a chance to say something. It creates a fast-paced, insightful discussion that encourages students to venture beyond typical observations and step slightly outside of their comfort zones.

Fishbowl also ensures that students are completing their reading assignments. Students argue that this is an unfair assessment because, while they complete their homework, they often do not understand certain parts of the story or cannot draw anything insightful from the text. However, if fishbowls check that we have

done our homework, they essentially act as tests. If fishbowls act as tests, passing tests does not depend on reading the material alone. Passing a test involves understanding the material and making

conclusions based on the reading.

As AP students, we should expect an intense, high level discussion that tests whether or not we read the material and how well we comprehend literature. Discussions like these are preparing us for both college and, eventually, for our jobs. The skill of concisely and clearly presenting an idea is necessary in almost any profession and helpful in everyday life.

I understand how nervous fishbowl discussions make students. Believe me, I have experienced it firsthand. In the end, though, the positive aspects of the discussion outweigh the negative feelings of anxiety.

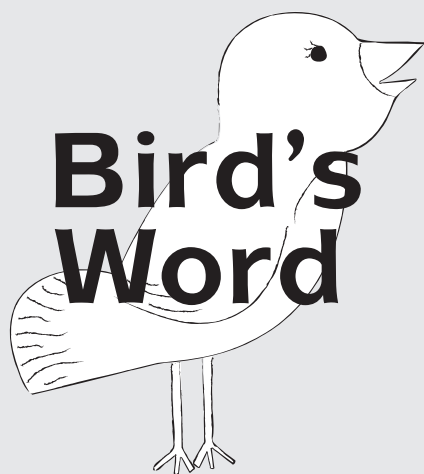
When the bell signaling the end of class rings, I breathe a sigh of relief. I experienced my first fishbowl. And guess what? I'm still alive. ★

The Final Say

Fishbowl discussions develop skills necessary for succeeding in both college and in our careers.

"A fishbowl discussion is meant to be just that—a discussion—or, even more informally, a conversation."

Chelsea Birchmier, junior



Bird's Word

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

Hi. I'm having a little trouble sleeping recently. I've tried counting sheep and playing calming ocean noises, but nothing works. I'm way too scared to try any sleeping pill because I heard that they can seriously mess you up. So what to do now? Try a pill that could potentially harm me in some way? Or continue walking around like a zombie and falling asleep in every class?

Your friend,
Sleepy Sue

Dear Sleepy Sue,

Having trouble sleeping? Well here's a couple of tips to help you sleep better at night, according to the Mayo Clinic:

1. Go to sleep at the same time every night: I know this seems hard because you're an STA student who has SO much homework, but you have to try and do it. This is your mental and physical health we are talking about here!

2. Don't eat or drink a lot before bed-time: Listen, I know STA girls love their snacks, but you have to settle down before bed time; it leaves you restless, and if you've been drinking a lot, you'll be up at all hours of the night going to the bathroom.

3. Avoid caffeine in the evening: Don't drink any soda or energy drinks at night. Try to avoid sugar, too.

4. Exercise regularly: get rid of that excess energy so that you're tired before you go to bed.

5. Make your bedroom quiet, cool, and comfortable: You want your bedroom to be your sanctuary at night

6. Have a relaxing bedtime routine: Make sure you have a routine so that your body knows when it is time to go to bed.

Sleep only at night: Try not to take naps during the day, it makes you less tired at night.

7. Go to bed when you are tired: Don't lie in bed restless. If you're not tired, get up and do something. If you just lie there thinking about all the stuff you need to do that week, you'll never get any sleep.

8. Don't use sleeping pills, you are too young to have to rely on that type of relaxation!

Hope this helps, Sleepy Sue, and that you sleep better now!

Be sure to write back,
Bird

To submit letters to Bird's Word, send submissions to mbird@dartnewsonline.com

compiled by **MADALYNE BIRD**

The Road to Homecoming

Ever wonder what your date does before the big homecoming dance? What he does while you're getting ready? How long he spends getting ready? The *Dart* staff followed senior Maddie Lueke and her date, Rockhurst senior Christian Cea to compare their days.

story by **Nikki Rodriguez & Emily McCann**
web staffer & staff writer



5:45 a.m.

Woke up to manage the STA cross country team at the Kansas City Metro meet



1:30 p.m.

Arrived at B Street Design for her hair appointment, ended up waiting 45 minutes to have her hair done and having her hair redone multiple times

3:52 p.m.

Began getting ready with her sister, sophomore Becca Lueke, doing her make-up and getting dressed



4:36 p.m.

Took pictures with her family while waiting for Christian to pick her up

12:17 p.m.

Left Ray-Pec after breaking a personal record by running three miles in 19 minutes, 39 seconds

"The 19:39 [personal record] was definitely the best part of my day. But [Maddie] going to the dance with me was good, too."

1:30 p.m.

Set up decorations for the Homecoming dance at Rockhurst High School



3:30 p.m.

Began getting ready, but couldn't find his pants or figure out how to tie his bow tie and ended up at Brook's Brothers to tie his bow tie

5:44 p.m.

Group pictures and dinner at Rockhurst senior Jimmy Shay's house



"I wouldn't expect a lot [of preparation] from Maddie. She's simple, but she looks good. She is not the girl who spends a lot of time onnails and make-up. I wouldn't expect anything else from her,"

definitely say his day was easier, I always think guys days are easier when it comes to getting ready for dance. I thought the best part of his day was that he had to go to Brooks Brothers to get his bow tie tied. It was really funny that he couldn't just do it himself. He also had to get up really early for cross country, we both had to suffer through that together. we didn't get much sleep,"

Maddie Lueke, senior

"I wouldn't expect a lot [of preparation] from Maddie. She's simple, but she looks good. She is not the girl who spends a lot of time onnails and make-up. I wouldn't expect anything else from her,"

Christian Cea, Rockhurst senior

Doubletake: in it to twin it

Julia Hammond, freshman

Birthday: January 16
Favorite color: blue
I like to: play soccer
Pet peeve: boring texters
I'm scared of: spiders
Call or text: call
Soda or pop: pop
Cherry or grape: cherry



Alex Stucky, senior

Birthday: November 2
Favorite color: pink
I like to: hang out with friends
Pet peeve: When I don't text someone back but they continue to send me messages about absolutely nothing.
I'm scared of: spiders
Call or text: call
Soda or pop: soda
Cherry or grape: cherry

The *Dart* patrolled the halls of STA, searching for the most accurate look-a-likes of the Academy. Although these "sisters from other misters" might have peculiarly similar appearances, the *Dart* explored further to discover whether or not these "twins" had more in common than just their looks.

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

Meagan Stoops, senior

Birthday: December 17
Favorite color: purple
I like to: read
Favorite place: the beach
I'm scared of: bees
Soda or pop: soda
Cherry or grape: cherry



Kelly Fletcher, freshman

Birthday: May 29
Favorite color: purple
I like to: read
Favorite place: Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina
I'm scared of: bees
Soda or pop: soda
Cherry or grape: cherry

"I'm truly honored to have [freshman] Kelly Fletcher as my 'twin,' especially after seeing pictures of her and realizing how we freakily resemble each other: brown hair, a few freckles here and there, big smile, hazel looking eyes, yada yada. I don't think the *Dart* staff could have picked out a better "twin" for me. I really want to meet my "twin" to see if our personalities resemble our looks and in hopes of her finding another look alike when she becomes a senior at the Academy. I'll be keeping my eye out in the hallways for the 'mini Meagan Stoops' walking around."

Meagan Stoops, senior

Margaret Weiler, freshman

Birthday: May 3
Favorite color: navy blue
I like to: hang out with friends
Favorite place: the lake
Favorite holiday: Christmas
Call or text: call
Cherry or grape: cherry



Jenny Schorgl, senior

Birthday: September 19
Favorite color: pink
I like to: do trig homework
Favorite place: Cefalu, Sicily
Favorite holiday: Halloween
Call or text: call
Cherry or grape: cherry

"People think we are twins and ask if we are sisters. But I think we are different because she's a senior and I'm a freshman, and her 'seniority' makes her cooler than me"

Margaret Weiler, freshman

"We wear our hair the same color and length, [we have the same] face shape and we act a lot alike. But she's taller than me, and I'm older. Plus, she's nicer."

Jenny Schorgl, senior

Kirsty McGhie, senior

Birthday: June 12
Favorite color: light coral
Favorite food: ice cream
I like to: travel
I'm scared of: not getting into college
Call or text: call
Favorite song: "Yellow" by Coldplay



Michelle Dierks, freshman

Birthday: March 2
Favorite color: blue
Favorite food: ice cream
I like to: hang out with friends
I'm scared of: spiders
Call or text: call
Favorite song: "Drake and Diane" by the White Panda

Sadie Duffy, sophomore

Birthday: April 6
Favorite color: blue
Favorite food: pizza
I like to: watch movies
Favorite place: Iowa
Favorite holiday: Christmas
Pet peeve: loud gum chewers
I'm scared of: sharks



Mimi Hart, freshman

Birthday: July 7
Favorite color: yellow
Favorite food: Chipotle burrito
I like to: eat
Favorite place: New Orleans
Favorite holiday: Christmas
Pet peeve: veins
I'm scared of: crickets

By the Numbers: Twins

4.5 million twins (**2%** of population) live in the United States

90,000 sets of twins born each year

30% born six weeks prematurely

A woman's chance of twins is **1 in 90**

1/3 of twins are identical, **1/3** same-sex fraternal, and **1/3** opposite-sex fraternal

945 A.D. is the year the first recorded pair of conjoined twins is born in Armenia

The chance for conjoined twins is **1 in 400,000** twin births

22% of twins are left-handed

There are **7** different types of twins

source: www.twinsfoundation.com

compiled by **CHELSEA BIRCHMIR**

ALL-GIRL FA



Rivarly expands on to facebook

story by **CHRISTINA BARTON**
opinion editor

After STA beat Notre Dame De Sion High School in volleyball Sept. 8, tensions rose between seniors from both schools on Facebook. According to STA Spirit Club vice president Betsy Tampke, good spirited competition escalated into defensive remarks against both schools. As soon as STA Spirit Club found out about the incident, club president Kathleen Hough sent a message to the senior class in response to the comments made about the game.

"As leaders of the school, we should not be participating in any of it," Hough said in the message to the senior class. "We are so much better than that, and we are setting an example for everyone else at our school."

Sion Pep Club president Caroline Brain emailed Hough apologizing for Sion's behavior and asking to end all tensions between the students. Hough accepted the apology, also apologizing for STA's behavior.

An STA student who was involved in the remarks on Facebook refused to comment on the incident. However, Tampke believes the whole situation was blown out of proportion.

"I had no idea what people were talking about," Tampke said. "I had to hunt for [the comments]. There was a reputation that it was all over [Facebook]."

Despite the Facebook episode, Tampke wants students to keep the rivalry friendly and respectful, but thinks this incident will not change the good sportsmanship.

"As STA students, we need to set an example of being respectful to other teams," Tampke said. "We don't do cheers that are mean, we respect calls, and we don't make noise during free throws. This incident won't change anything." ★

By the numbers

STA, Sion girls share more similarities than students would like to believe or see

compiled by **MEGAN SCHAFF**

Sponsorship

- STA: Sisters of St. Joseph of Corondelet
- Sion: Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion

Enrollment

- STA: 562
- Sion: 430

Capital Campaign

- STA: Inspiring Women (additional building on campus, containing a chapel and high-tech classrooms, one-to-one laptop program, smart boards in all classrooms, wireless campus, increasing endowment, renovation of the auditorium)
- Sion: Building on Excellence—A Blueprint for the Future (new gym, athletic complex, additional and renovated classrooms, additional parking, air conditioning, new chapel, performing arts center)

Location

- STA: 5600 Main Street Kansas City, MO 64113
- Sion: 10631 Wornall Road Kansas City, MO 64114

Faculty and staff

- STA: around 75
- Sion: around 50

Tuition

- STA: \$9,500
- Sion: \$10,375

Motto

- STA: deo adjuvante non timendum (with God we need not fear)
- Sion: educating minds, expanding hearts, empowering lives

Accreditation

- STA: North Central Association/AdvancED
- Sion: North Central Association/AdvancED and the Independent Schools Association of the Central States

School start time

- STA: 7:50 a.m.
- Sion: 8:00 a.m.

Service hours required

- STA: 90
- Sion service hours required for graduation: 100

Teams

- STA: STA stars
- Sion: Sion storm

Sports

- STA: (11) cross country, golf, softball, tennis, volleyball, basketball, swim and dive, soccer, track and field, lacrosse and dance
- Sion: (10) cross country, field hockey, golf, softball, tennis, volleyball, basketball, swim and dive, soccer and track and field

Clubs

- STA: 24
- Sion: 17

Newspaper

- STA: the *Dart*
- Sion: *Le Journal* ★

get it, tiger ★ An STA student cheers in the crowd during a volleyball game at Sion. The theme for the game was Blue Man group. Photo courtesy of **TERESIAN ARCHIVES**



RACE-OFF

Since Notre Dame de Sion's founding in 1912, the STA Stars and Sion Storm have competed in cut-throat academics and state athletic championships. Here is a look at the good, the bad and the competitive

photos courtesy of **TERESIAN & DART ARCHIVES**



Sharing the love

guest column by **ANNE-MARIE ALBRACHT**
co-editor-in-chief Notre Dame de Sion's *Le Journal*

Plaid or gray? Brookside or "out south?" Modular or traditional seven hour? Campus or...construction site? Choosing your school was a big choice. It will be one that faces thousands of KC girls to come.

Obviously, as the October issue of the *Dart* you are currently holding proves, you, yes you in the tartan skirt, forever scarred your soul and ventured to the dark side by choosing STA. Treason. Complete insanity. How can I even sit and address you newspaper to face?

Answer: easily. The reality is, as amusing as it is to steal the much beloved naked baby doll at volleyball games or harass each other via very classy Facebook statuses, that part is only school deep. Behind the title of STA or Sion, behind the different uniforms, behind the Stars and the Storm, there are actual girls who, despite all odds, become friends. Since I'm on the subject, I might as well just go out and say what neither side will admit. The truth that we all love to ignore, deny and reject with all our hearts and sometimes bodily force.

It just doesn't matter. The ambitious, overachieving girls would take on 10 too many AP classes and push themselves to the point of insanity regardless of where they went to school. The swimmers would be just as chlorine infested and dead tired, the basketball players would sweat just as profusely, the golfers would swing their clubs in the exact same way. The procrastinators would continue to do...nothing. And the STUCO reps would advocate for the black and gold the same way they would the purple and white. Think about this question. Does your school define you or do you, as a collective student body, define your school?

I am not just Suzy Sion, generic NDS girl. I am Anne-Marie Albracht. I have spent many (too many) a weekend night at Arno Park alongside many (equally miserable) STA girls. I have built snowmen, gone on three hour long ice cream jaunts, tagged cars, binged on bagels, watched the Super Bowl, scavenger hunted, eaten some really sketch Chinese food, and attended the much anticipated "Sex and the City 2" premiere (shout out to Laura Neenan) with some of my most beloved Stars by my side. And while I must admit that I can't completely say that 100 percent of my student body will back all this up (just as your's probably won't either), anyone who claims our relationship is all hate and no love doesn't belong at either school. ★

TOP 5 STA/SION THEMES

STA, Sion games generate creative ideas for themes. Here are the top 5 game themes of the past 5 years.

1. Spartan - September 2007



2. AvaSTAR - January 2010



3. Goth - February 2008



4. Where's Waldo - January 2008



5. Minions - September 2010



compiled by **MEGAN SCHAFF**

Stars are born

Five STA athletic coaches welcomed new family members in the last year

compiled by **KATE ROHR**
staff writer

STA SPORTS SCOREBOARD

varsity golf

9/14 Notre Dame de Sion High School
STA - Lost
9/20 Sion Tournament
STA - 4th place
9/30 Districts
STA - 2nd Place

varsity softball

9/17 Rock Bridge High School 11
STA - 2
9/23 Smithville High School 4
STA - 5
9/25 Winnetonka High School Tournament
STA - 2nd place
9/29 Notre Dame de Sion High School 1
STA - 13

varsity volleyball

9/23 Blue Valley West Tri (St. James) 1
STA - 2
9/25 Blue Springs South Tournament 1
STA - 2
10/1 St. Joseph's Academy 2
STA - 1
9/14 Archbishop O'Hara High School - 1
STA - 2

varsity tennis

9/16 Blue Valley West High School 1
STA - 8
9/17 Miego Guifol Invitational
STA - 2nd place
9/18 Pembroke Invitational
STA - 6th place

varsity cross country

9/18 Hazelwood Central High School Invitational
STA - 2nd place
10/21 Richmond Invitational
10/30 Sectionals

Ava Lane

Ava, above, is volleyball coach Abbie Lane's daughter

Weight: 6 pounds 8 ounces

Length: 19 inches

Birthday: June 4, 12: 04 p.m.

Joshua Borchert

Joshua is golf coach Teresa Borchert's son

Weight: 6 pounds 8 ounces

Length: 19 inches

Birthday: June 4, 12: 04 p.m.



Joshua

Julia Moran

Julia, below with senior Addie Thompson, is cross country coach Karen Moran's daughter

Weight: 7 pounds 5 ounces

Length: 19.5 inches

Birthday: Feb. 26, 8:30 a.m.



Kipton Vose

Kipton is dance team coach Savannah Vose's son

Weight: 7 pounds 9 ounces

Length: 20.5 inches

Birthday: June 21, 4:01 p.m.



Kipton

Braden Hanna

Braden is lacross coach Jessica Hanna's son

Weight: 7 pounds 11 ounces

Length: 21.5 inches

Birthday: Sept. 8, 3:22 a.m.



Braden

Absent athletes

Fall sports schedules cause repeated absences among athletes, student athletes struggle to keep up in class

story by **HANNAH WOLF**
features editor

As the time of daylight continues to grow shorter, STA fall sports are feeling the repercussions. Golf, tennis, and softball often cannot play outdoors past dark because many courses, courts and fields lack electrical lights. Without enough hours in a day, these sports struggle to find an appropriate time to play. When do they find the extra time for tournaments and games?

School. In order to play before dark, STA students are often required to leave classes early. So far, varsity golf has missed 6 days; cross country, 1; Tennis, 5; volleyball, 0; and softball, 6.

"Golf courses are very picky on when they let students [play] because of members," chemistry teacher Mary Rietbrock said. "I understand that. A lot of softball fields don't have lights. I understand that too. Schools can't totally schedule so [students] don't miss."

However, with the new scheduling system, this has become a bigger problem than in past years.

"We miss the same class every day," senior varsity softball player Emma Steck said. "On Wednesdays, I miss a double mod of [honors] physics. It's a pain because then I have to make up that lab."

Rietbrock believes science labs are one of the hardest things for students to miss.

"When you have to make up a lab you don't have the benefit of others to help you," Rietbrock said.

Steck, who has missed 6 days of school so far, believes it is harder to miss certain classes than others.

"Missing math is really hard because you need to be in class to understand it," Steck said. "But for other classes, like Spanish, I can just get the notes and still understand it."

Sophomore varsity tennis player Mickey Redlingshafer has also struggled to stay caught up in classes after missing 5 days of school due to tennis. Redlingshafer believes that missing test reviews and class discussions is the hardest part.

"Some people don't take good notes during discussions, so I can never make up for that," Redlingshafer said.

Theology teacher Matthew Bertalott also sees this downfall of absences due to school sponsored sports.

"Students can get their notes and their assignments, and they can read their textbook," Bertalott said. "But I think they don't have the benefit of hearing me directly or being a part of the dynamic of the classroom."

Although Redlingshafer believes it is tough to stay caught up, she believes STA teachers and coaches are supporting the idea of the student athlete.

"If you are gone for a sport, [teachers] give you enough time to make things up," Redlingshafer said. "My coach tries to not take us out of school to much."

Bertalott believes STA is upholding the idea of a student athlete as well.

"I think all the policies that are in place go to support school, recognizing that sports are part of the high school experience," Bertalott said. "But it cannot dominate or replace the school to begin with."

Although sports may be part of the experience, Rietbrock sees them as the student's own decision.

"It's a choice you make when you chose to participate," Rietbrock said. "I believe that you have to make that commitment understanding that [these absences] are going to happen." ★

Districts to be held at STA

Local varsity volleyball teams to compete at St. Teresa's Academy for the District 13, Sectionals tournaments

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

The varsity volleyball team will compete in the District 13 tournament at STA the week of Oct. 25. If the stars win Districts, STA will go on to host Sectionals as well. According to former athletic director Mike Egner, STA has not hosted a volleyball Districts tournament for at least eight years.

Athletic director Mark Hough helped STA in securing the rotational-based event this year by chairing the Districts committee. This allowed him to nominate STA as the site for Districts. The other chairs on the committee voted and STA was elected as the Districts location.

According to Hough, the location makes sense because of STA's single sex education and facilities.

"[Volleyball is] an all girls sport and it's an all girls school," Hough said. "As far as here on campus, it's the only thing we would host."

Varsity volleyball head coach Amy Carlson thinks the location fits as well.

"Right when I heard [that STA was hosting Districts] I was completely excited," Carlson said. "It's something we've never had since I've been [at STA] and it'll be really fun for other schools to come in and see how STA supports their athletes."

However, according to Carlson, the girls must keep their excitement in check as they prepare for the tournament. Carlson trained the girls, bringing

in former college volleyball players to scrimmage the team.

"Playing competition that's better than you and getting used to how hard someone can hit at you really improves your play," Carlson said.

These practice techniques have taken a positive effect on varsity volleyball player, junior McLaren O'Rear.

"My stress level has stayed about the same," O'Rear said. "Even though there is more pressure to win at home, we have more advantages by playing on our own court."

According to O'Rear, the best people to help maintain this sense of stability are the coaches and senior volleyball players.

"The coaches help us play well by having us work on things we need to do better and the seniors help us stay motivated and energized when it comes to game time," O'Rear said. "Volleyball is a team effort and we must all focus in order to play well."

Freshman varsity volleyball player Anna Kropf, on the other hand, is nervous about the upcoming games.

"It's the first year and I had no idea coming in and playing [varsity volleyball at STA] what it would be like," Kropf said. "I had no idea what to expect."

Kropf also takes the competition into consideration as she prepares for Districts and possibly Sectionals.

"[Our opponents] are not going to be bad teams, so we still have to be prepared," Kropf said. "They earned their way [to the competition] too."

Ultimately, the team maintains a positive attitude as they prepare for the competition.

"If we play smart and stay focused, we can do well," O'Rear said. ★

STA students walk the walk



walk it out ★ Seniors, from left, Laura Neenan, Mary Franke and Betsy Tampke enjoy a walk around the STA neighborhood with the "Let's Get Walking" Club Sept. 28 in the quad. Walkers can participate in a variety of walking routes. Photo by **SARAH WARTZ**

STA's new Walking Club encourages students, faculty members to exercise, socialize during activity periods

story by **RACHEL TOVAR**
staff writer

While students mill across the quad on their way to lunch, chat or study during activity, physical education teacher Stacie O'Rear is preparing for a mile long walk with STA's new Walking Club.

Although it is not an official STA club, anyone who wants to get off campus and walk is welcome to join the trip. O'Rear has created individual routes to show walkers as the club begins every Activity. About a mile round trip, the route takes 15- 20 minutes off campus around Wyandotte Street neighborhood for easy exercise.

"We have a problem in this society with teen and childhood obesity," O'Rear said. "So I did research on schools [who have] already done this



O'Rear

kind of thing, and I thought, 'Why not give it a try?'"

According to the American Medical Association, most Americans sit 39.9% of their day, and less than 50% of Americans gets the proper amount of exercise needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Inactivity ranks number two as the leading cause of preventable death in America, second only to tobacco use.

Students and teachers alike have met daily to walk and talk with peers and co-workers; the club has met Monday through Thursday during activities 1 and 2 since school started. Beginning the club this year was a way to encourage exercise at STA and allow students to enjoy the weather before winter arrives. O'Rear acknowledges the infancy of the club, but has high goals for the future.

"My hopes would be to have a girl total 75 to 100 miles at the end of the year," O'Rear said.

Occasional Walking Club participant, social studies teacher Craig Whitney, states that while walking is a good way to get moving, it is also a good way to relax, enjoy the outdoors and pick up some lifestyle changes.

"I think it's O'Rear's hope to create a routine habit," Whitney said. "It's an enjoyable experience to go off campus with friends. [And with a routine] students will be more likely to do [exer-

cise] on their own to improve their health."

Dr. Oz of the Oprah Winfrey Show and WebMD both agree that walking helps prevent type 2 diabetes, reduces symptoms of depression, reduces the risk of breast and colon cancer and improves cognitive function in the brain.

Math teacher Barbara Harris is a daily participant of the Walking Club and agrees that walking is the key to a better day.

"It energizes me for the afternoon," Harris said. "Literally, I do have more energy. It feels like a brand new day after I get out from behind my desk and into the fresh air. I like it a lot."

72,488 female nurses volunteered to help for the Nurse's Health Study Association in 2007 by walking 3 hours a week or more to test the health results. The study concluded that every woman had reduced their individual risk of heart attack or other coronary event by more than 35 percent.

According to Whitney, the Walking Club is a good way to get out of campus limits, relax and have a good time while helping yourself. He also encourages others to try out the new activity past time.

"If [the students] need to think about it as 20 minutes off campus and away from school, that's fine," Whitney said. "[But] it's an enjoyable experience and you're really benefiting yourself." ★

Exercise proves beneficial in school setting

Studies show that higher-fit, more active children perform better on tests and have enlarged brains

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

According to the online health site "Health in Motion," exercise is extremely beneficial to the body by providing a higher energy level, a healthy heart and bones and a longer life expectancy. But what most people do not know is that according to multiple studies conducted by the University of Illinois, exercise can improve a person's academics as well.

Personal trainer and assistant STA cross country coach Kerry Jones says running has countless benefits, some that even carry over into the classroom. Last year, the cross country team at STA had the highest overall GPA out of all the fall sports, with varsity averaging a 3.9 and JV a 3.7.

"There are so many [benefits to running and exercising]; you will be in great physical shape, you sleep better and you tend to eat healthier," STA cross country coach Karen Moran said. "Running creates a sense of well-being and it helps to relieve stress; sometimes going for a run is the best thing you can do after a hard day at school."

The purpose of the study conducted at the University of Illinois was to see how fitness affects the immature human brain, and according to Dr. Jay Giedd, the brain is not fully mature until a person reaches their 20's.

The researchers began by recruiting children and asking them to run on a treadmill. Based on their runs, the children were divided into highest and lowest-fit categories, and asked to complete a series of challenges dealing with memory, judgment and reasoning.

Higher-fit children scored higher on these tests and an MRI was done to determine why that happened.

The MRI scans revealed that the higher-fit children had larger brains. Specifically, larger basal ganglia, hippocampi and dorsal striatum.

Basal ganglia are the part of the brain that helps in maintaining attention and the ability to coordinate actions and thoughts crisply. Hippocamp is the part of the brain that forms, sorts and stores memories. Dorsal striatum is the part of the brain that prevents negative behavioral interferences.

These studies prove that, exercise, in addition to all of its other benefits, plays an important role in the brain development of youth. ★

Tips for mind, body, soul

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!

compiled by **HANNAH WOLF**



To improve your memory while studying, use mnemonic devices. A mnemonic device is a simple way to remember information. For example, you may associate a vocabulary term with a place or person you are familiar with. Or you may remember the order of operations for math by the acronym "Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally." The best mnemonic devices are ones that contain imagery, humor or novelty. Come up with a song, a rhyme or a joke to remember difficult parts of information. Not only will you make studying fun, but you will remember it too!



Whether you are snacking after dinner or having dessert before going to bed, eating after hours can be damaging to both your health and your waistline. Generally, try not to eat hours before going to bed. Eating too late not only causes your food to digest improperly, causing an increased calorie intake, but also requires your body to use excessive energy to digest food. Because the primary function of sleep is to regain energy, eating before you sleep is defeating this purpose. Put the ice cream back in the freezer and go to bed already!

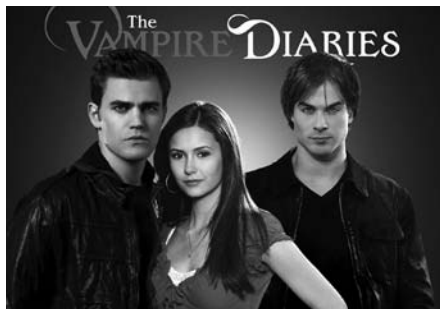


Forgiving yourself, along with others, can be liberating. Let go of the past and get the weight off your shoulders. Who cares if you failed your literature test? Forgive yourself! Only you know how hard you studied, and there are plenty more tests to bring up your grade. So what if your sister borrowed your clothes without asking? Establish new rules. Visually imagine forgiveness, whether it is mentally throwing that test in the trash or psychologically leaving your closet door open. Be the bigger person. You will feel happier yourself, and inspire others to do the same!

Falling for new TV shows

From comedies to dramatic thrillers, check out the spoilers to these TV shows returning this fall

compiled by **EMILY BRESSETTE**



"Vampire Diaries" Season 2

- **Premiere:** Sept. 9 at 8 p.m. on the CW
- In a dramatic episode, Katherine will come back for Stefan. Rose and Lucy are not planning to kill Elena, but someone else is.
- **Guest stars:** Natasha Williams, Tony Hale, Lana Parrilla, Michael Trevino and Taylor Kinney
- **Spoiler:** While Bonnie and Elena will always be friends, they will not be as close as they were in season one. Their friendship will never be the same. Bonnie will finally accept Caroline as a vampire, even though it will be hard for her to come to terms with.
- "[Vampire Diaries has] something for everyone," junior Danielle Comford said. "There's a little action, dramatic twists, romance."
- 3.4 million viewers on premiere night

"Castle" Season 3

- **Premiere:** Sept. 20 at 10 p.m. on ABC
- Check out episode four when a love interest will be introduced to Beckett. Producers say Beckett's new boyfriend will be played by someone new and exciting.
- **Guest stars:** Victoria Webster, Ken Baumann and Eden Reigel will guest star. There may

also be an appearance by Jennifer Love Hewitt.

- **Spoiler:** Castle and his ex-wife are back together and will date throughout the season. This comes after Beckett planned to reveal her true feelings for Castle. We will also learn more about the murder of Beckett's mother. Castle may be a suspect in the investigation
- "I love ['Castle'] because it mixes drama and mystery with comedy," sophomore Carrie Hudson said. "It's a great blend of it all. It will satisfy your craving for a drama and for a comedy at the same time. It's just plain addictive."
- 12.4 million viewers on premiere night



"Glee" Season 2

- **Premiere:** Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. on Fox
- Episode to watch for: The Rocky Horror Show episode will premiere after Halloween. Even though there has already been a Britney Spears episode, another one is planned to premiere following the Superbowl.
- **Guest stars:** Chord Overstreet, Charice, Britney Spears, John Stamos, Dot-Marie Jones, Meatloaf, Barry Bostwick, Gwyneth Paltrow, Javier Bardem and Carol Burnett
- **Spoiler:** This season will focus more on the characters. Viewers will enjoy the resident character as well as meeting many new ones. Cheerio's coach Sue Sylvester's ex-boyfriend and mother, the always funny and ditzy

Brittney S. Pierce's smart older sister, resident Glee Club diva Mercedes Jones' family and wheelchair bound Artie Abram's mother will all be introduced into the 'Glee' family.

- "I love 'Glee' because it is a show for the underdog," junior Maddie Dang said. "I feel that I can kind of relate to some of the characters. I also love all the people's voices and the plot line. Most of all, I love the Finn-Rachel couple."
- 12.3 million viewers on premiere night

"NCIS" Season 8

- **Premiere:** Sept. 21 at 8 p.m. on CBS
- In an emotional two-part episode in November, viewers will learn more about Eli David and another member of the team.
- **Guest stars:** Peter Cambor
- **Spoiler:** Ziva will come close to her father in a dramatic facedown for the first time since her return from Israel.
- "I love 'NCIS' because it's got a great cast and a fast plot line," freshman Katie Holt said. "They don't have the throw-away stories where you just keep waiting for something to happen."
- 400,392 viewers on premiere night



"Modern Family" Season 2

- **Premiere:** Sept. 22 at 9:30 p.m. on ABC
- Make sure to watch the upcoming episode where Mitch and Cam will dance an elaborate routine, that producers say will be impressive.
- **Guest stars:** Celia Weston, Nathon Lane
- **Spoiler:** Manny will finally be getting a girlfriend. His mother, Gloria, tries to compete with this new woman in his life for Manny's attention. Since Manny only has one year left of being a teenager, he will try and pack many childhood activities in this one year.
- "I like Modern Family because it is hilarious," senior Lilly Kraus said. "It is perfect on a Wednesday night when I am stressed about school. It is literally the funniest show I have ever seen."
- 12.6 million viewers on premiere night

Check out dartnewsonline.com for more fall television previews.



Emma Stanfield, sophomore

Every issue, the *Dart* interviews one of STA's rising artists

Q: What art classes have you taken at STA?

A: "Right now I'm taking graphic design, and last year I took drawing I."

Q: How long have you been interested in art? What initially interested you?

A: "When I shadowed, my shadow hostess was really good at drawing, and it kind of made me want to try it and made me interested. Apparently I'm not that bad at it!"

Q: What is your favorite kind of art to create?

A: "My favorite is definitely what you make up in your head. I don't like to just sit and draw what's in front of me. Graphic design is more about drawing whatever you want, and I really like that."

Q: What is something that has consistently inspired your artwork?

A: "I love to draw animals, flowers and the beach. Whenever I draw or even just doodle in my notebook, it's normally flowers or something from nature."

compiled by **KATE ROHR**

Three STA students sketch futures in art

STA artists attend camps to gain experience, earn college credit, explore possibilities of career

story by **LAURA NEENAN**
arts & entertainment editor

Three STA art students attended art institutions this summer from around the country in order to gain experience as artists, earn college credit and explore the possibility of an art career according to senior Anna Rayburn.

Michaela Knittel

Senior Michaela Knittel attended the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York for the Pre-College Summer Program for one month last July. According to pratt.edu, the program is an intense immersion experience with over 400 high school students seizing the opportunity to experience college level study.



Knittel

Knittel chose to travel for the camp because of her interest in attending the institute

next year.

"[New York] is just so much more fun," Knittel said. "There is a lot of stuff to do and you are surrounded by all of interesting people."

Knittel attended class each day but also had free time to spend exploring the city. According to Knittel, her schedule was very busy, always working on projects outside of class sometimes staying up all night.

"[The most beneficial thing I learned was how to] stay focused because you always wanted to go out with friends, but you really just needed to buckle down and get your money's worth," Knittel said.

According to Knittel, after college she has had the dream to write and illustrate children's books, hoping her background in art will be beneficial.

Clare Odegard

Senior Clare Odegard lived on the Kansas City Art Institute campus last summer for three weeks for the Pre-College Art Lab. According to Odegard, the residency program was the most convenient choice because of affordability, the three hours of college credit and automatic one semester living center grant if she ends up attending the institute.

The schedule was very demanding, according to Odegard. She chose to focus on painting but also attended a daily required life drawing class.

"I am definitely not as afraid to just do something and not really care what it looks like," Odegard said.



Odegard

"I have gotten better at just looking something and drawing it as oppose to just looking at a picture."

As for the future, Odegard has an interest in both art and woman's studies and is looking to find a career combining the two.

"Right now a lot of young artists and are afraid to just do something," Odegard said. "I really learned to just stat making stuff and out of that I will be able to find my style and my voice."

Anna Rayburn

Along with Odegard, senior Anna Rayburn attended the Pre-College Art Lab at the Kansas City Art Institute. Rayburn also lived in the dorms, never returning home despite its location less than eight miles away from the institute.

Although Rayburn is undecided between studying fibers and costuming or photography and film after high school, she chose to focus on photography at her time at the art institute. Rayburn also took the required life drawing class and a writing class twice a week.

"You have to be able to talk about and write about your ideas and your work and express it in word form as well as visual form," Rayburn said. "There is a lot of [brainstorming] that goes into it that I didn't know about [before attending art camp]."



Rayburn

Fortune found in StoryCorps air-stream trailer



story by **CARA MCCLAIN**
managing editor of web

"They're not going to throw you out with a stick," Kayla, my consoling coworker, said to calm my pre-interview nerves Sept. 18.

As I prepare for a quick interview with a StoryCorps employee, I nervously anticipate that slight awkwardness of meeting a stranger. Breathing deeply, I leave work on break and walk down 63 St. I glance toward the bold, red letters spelling StoryCorps along the side of a silver air-stream trailer sitting in the parking lot adjacent to the Brookside tennis courts.

As I stand there underneath the volunteer's tent outside in my denim Dime Store apron and name tag, a woman emerges from the trailer and greets me.

I introduce myself and ask for just 10 minutes of her time for an interview. Then, fortune strikes me. She, Ms. Lizz Straight, StoryCorp's mobile facilitator,

tells me their 10:30 a.m. appointment did not show up. She asked me if I would want to fill in for the now empty session. Eagerly, I agree.

I step into the trailer and am surprised to discover its cozy, dark environment. Other trailers I have been in have not been like this, I think to myself.

We sit facing each other in the back, with black microphones hovering above our faces. As I proceed with my interview, I realize how lucky I am to grab this forgotten session.

"As soon as we opened up our calendar, [all the appointments] filled up in 18 minutes for the first round," Straight told me. "The second round filled up in eight minutes, so we've had a really high demand for appointment slots in Kansas City."

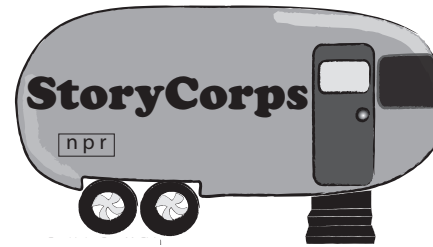
The day after I had my StoryCorps experience, junior Erin Hutchison participated in it for her second time.

In her first session with StoryCorps, she traveled to their New York permanent booth with her mom when she was 13. Her mom asked her about her impression of New York and her life at the time. When they began talking about her sister, Sienna, Erin admits she cried a little.

Now three years later, Erin said she felt "nervous that [she] was going to cry again."

This time around, she and Sienna, 12, planned to do StoryCorps together.

"We thought it would be a good bonding experience and a way to preserve our memories," Erin explained.



graphic by **CARA MCCLAIN**

They spoke about their relationship as sisters, and this time, Erin asked the questions.

"It was a good way for my sister and I to talk about everything we don't normally get a chance to talk about," Erin mentioned.

The idea behind StoryCorps involves exactly that they provide the place for relatives or friends to share with each other and the rest of the world a glimmer of their personal lives.

Quite fittingly, the glimmer I shared in my interview with StoryCorps reflects a personal passion: journalism.

Because of StoryCorps, I know now what I want to do with my life. If StoryCorps is still around in twelve years, I want to work for them, listening to people's lives told in one hour and giving certain 16-year-old aspiring journalists an experience to remember. ★

StoryCorps Come to Brookside

StoryCorps, an independent nonprofit organization that travels around the nation in a silver trailer, stopped in Brookside from Sept. 7 through Oct. 3.

Who: StoryCorps' goal is to involve a diverse group of people sharing a piece of their life in one, hour-long session.

What: "The premise of StoryCorps is to put the [interview] process in the participant's hands, and let them ask the questions," StoryCorps' mobile facilitator Lizz Straight said.

When: Every Friday morning, NPR airs a StoryCorps narrative on their "Morning Edition" program.

Where: Afterward, they archive every story in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, making it "one of the largest oral history projects of its kind," according to storycorps.org.

Why: In the past six years, they have collected stories from 60,000 participants and eventually hope to touch every American family.

source: Ms. Lizz Straight and storycorps.org

compiled by **CARA MCCLAIN**

Teachers rehearse, rally for raffle tickets

Art teacher Theresa Wallerstedt writes eleventh auction pep rally to promote raffle ticket sales

story by **ABBY UCHE**
staff writer

Teachers, comedy, makeup, music, dancing and the unveiling of the secret sweatpant design have been a tradition at STA's annual auction raffle ticket pep rally since drawing teacher Theresa Wallerstedt began writing the script for the first auction pep rally 11 years ago. Wallerstedt wrote her first pep rally skit during her second year at STA, where the tradition of STA's auction pep rally began on a napkin.

"My second year [at STA] at in-service, the other art teacher wrote down on a napkin 'Austin Powers' and we cast it right there," Wallerstedt said. "We put Austin Powers—Craig Whitney, Mini Me—Garvin."

Before writing the skit, Wallerstedt did her research. She saw "Austin Powers" and took notes. Then, she began writing.

Every year, when Wallerstedt and drama teacher Shana Prentiss come up with the concept for the pep rally skit, they try to consider what theme would peak students' interest.

"We decide the skit on what's popular with the students now," Wallerstedt said. "So [we consider] what is the hot thing in the summer, what is the hot movie, whatever is really trending that we know the girls will know is how we decide what the skit will be."

Wallerstedt had previous experience writing scripts from the time she spent writing plays for her sixth grade students when she taught at Visitation School. However, being used to writing scripts was not Wallerstedt's only inspiration to write STA's auction pep rallies.

"My first year here, the skit was really lame," Wallerstedt said.

According to world geography teacher Denise Rueschhoff, who participated in her tenth auction pep rally this year, the pep rally has become an enjoyable experience for both students and teachers.

"[I] just get to be a complete and total bone-head goofball up there [on stage], and I always find [performing] really fun because I know how much the girls are enjoying it," Rueschhoff said.



stop sassini ★ Journalism teacher Eric Thomas acting as football player Finn Hudson, left, poses with drama teacher Shana Prentiss playing cheerleader Quinn Fabray from the television show "Glee". The faculty and staff rehearsed two weeks in advance in order to perfect their performance in the auction pep rally. Photo by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**

Wallerstedt and Prentiss are in charge of casting the skit. Typically, they host an open call for participants rather than having a formal audition process. According to Rueschhoff, it can be a challenge to find volunteers which means that the cast is usually made up of the same group of teachers.

"It's typically not an audition," Rueschhoff said. "Whoever we can get to be in the thing is in it. Sometimes we have to beg."

Another challenge cast members face is rehearsal attendance. Both Rueschhoff and Wallerstedt agree that one of the most difficult obstacles in performing the pep rally is trying to get a cast of teachers with conflicting schedules together for rehearsal. According to Wallerstedt, she has yet to have a rehearsal with a full cast.

"We try to rehearse every day for two weeks, but we never have a full cast due to other commitments such as cafeteria duty or advisory parties,"

Wallerstedt said. "It's pretty difficult."

At rehearsals, it is not uncommon to find the cast members improvising lines or choreography that are not originally in the script. Wallerstedt is open to such additions because she feels that the script is not set in stone. According to Rueschhoff, these lunch activity rehearsals in Prentiss' room have produced some funny additions.

While teachers face obstacles such as not rehearsing with a full cast and only having one stage rehearsal, Rueschhoff feels that the 12 to 15 hours she dedicates to the pep rally skit are worthwhile.

"Anything we can do to get you girls to sell tickets, we'll do," Rueschhoff said. "Well, pretty much." ★

Want to see more? Check out page 20 for more auction pep rally photos.

Cast of Television Show "Glee"

STA faculty, staff chosen to play roles in auction pep rally for popular show

- **Will Shuester** — Mr. Patrick Serridge
- **Rachel Berry** — Ms. Katie Dolan
- **Finn Hudson** — Mr. Eric Thomas
- **Kurt Hummel** — Ms. Denise Rueschhoff
- **Sue Sylvester** — Ms. Theresa Wallerstedt
- **Quinn Fabray** — Ms. Shana Prentiss
- **"Puck" Puckerman** — Mr. Craig Whitney
- **Artie Abrams** — Mr. Richard Shrock
- **Principal Figgins** — Mr. Rafael Ramirez
- **Mercedes Jones** — Ms. Michelle McIntire
- **Santanna Lopez** — Ms. Carrie Jacquin
- **Brittany Pierce** — Ms. Melissa Axton

compiled by **EMILY BRESSETTE**

REUNITING

compiled by
MORGAN SAID & LUCIA MASCHLER

OLD FRIENDS

It's a cool Saturday afternoon and flocks of women make their way through the quad. Today, there is no urgency in the air: no one has just rolled out of bed and sped to school to claim a spot in the crammed parking lot. No one is finishing their breakfast, beginning their day with floods of text messages, double-checking that the chemistry homework isn't going to be collected or planning where to meet for a period 2 free. And no one is sporting a wrinkled tartan plaid STA skirt.

Today, the girls venture through the Quad, remembering back to their days at STA. They remember smoking during frees and debating whether a ghost lived on the fourth floor.

Today, they aren't worried about finishing their homework or charging their netbooks. The women's only concern today is catching up with their estranged advisory sisters, reconnecting with old friends and celebrating their lives with their classmates.

Whether it's been 10 or 50 years since they've last walked these campus grounds, they realize that times have changed. And then they remember there is one thing that will always remain the same: the feeling of Sisterhood that comes along with being an STA girl. ★

What senior pranks did you pull while you were attending STA?

From skipping class to making a mess, alumnae share their dirty little secrets.



Harrington

"We always smoked behind the St. Joseph statue and [blamed] it on St. Joseph."

Ms. Mary Frances Harrington, 1955



Dumphy

"We went to the third floor to smoke during music class. One time we took Dixie cups, filled them with water and lined the whole first floor."

Sister Pat Dumphy, 1960

During Frosh Fest my freshman year, a bunch of seniors walked up to my friends and I during a yard day and told us to get on the ground, "sizzle like bacon" and sing the chant, "We Love you Seniors." As I was laying on the concrete "sizzling," I couldn't wait to be a senior and force the freshmen to "sizzle" for me. After they started squirting us with water guns, a fellow freshman had enough. She stood up, punched a senior in the face and bit her. She then proceeded to sprint away from the Quad, off campus and we never saw her again. ★

Jessica Bradford, 2005

1940

Donnelly Hall was built, allowing the student body to increase from 300 to 500.

1866

St. Teresa's Academy opens at Quality Hill, located in downtown Kansas City.



free hugs ★ Alumnae share hugs as they reunite at the STA Homecoming Sept. 25. Women from classes as far back as 1940 attended the event. Photo by **MORGAN SAID**

It was my freshman year and occasionally we would hide out in the bathrooms on the third floor when it was cold out because there were big heaters that we'd huddle around. In the bathroom, there was a big, white, antique, untouched looking bathtub.

One morning, I heard a weird noise coming from the bathroom and I assumed that there must be a janitor cleaning it before school started. As I entered to investigate, I saw a girl sitting in the bathtub, wearing nothing but boxer shorts. I stared at her, she stared at me. I remember wishing there was someone around so that I could yell, "Hey, look!", but instead, I slowly backed out of the bathroom.

Although our awkward encounter lasted only a few minutes, other girls must have seen her too, because there were rumors around about her for a week following the incident.

I still wonder how she got clear water to come out of that faucet. Every time my friends and I tried to turn it on, the pipe made a loud creaking noise and sputtered out murky water.

The girl must have had quite a bit of courage to follow through on taking a dip in what looked to be a haunted dorm bath! ★

Sherri So Dodd, 1995

STA HOMECOMING

Alumnae director Kathleen Barry organized the annual Homecoming to bring past students back together

Who: STA alumnae from classes 1940-2005

When: Saturday, Sept. 25

Where: mass in the auditorium and dinner in the Commons

Why: to reunite with STA classmates and honor CSJ and alumna of STA Patrice (Jo Ann) Coolick, with STA's second annual Distinguished Alumnae Award

compiled by **CELIA O'FLAHERTY**

uniforms evolve compleatly

From jumpers to sweater vests, STA has witnessed several changes to the school uniforms

compiled by **LUCIA MASCHLER**
photos by **SARAH WIRTZ**



jumper

TIME: STA girls wore these jumpers until the early 60s.

DESIGN: Green, blue, yellow and maroon solid colors

FEATURES: Side zipper, coordinating belt, centered emblem, front pleats

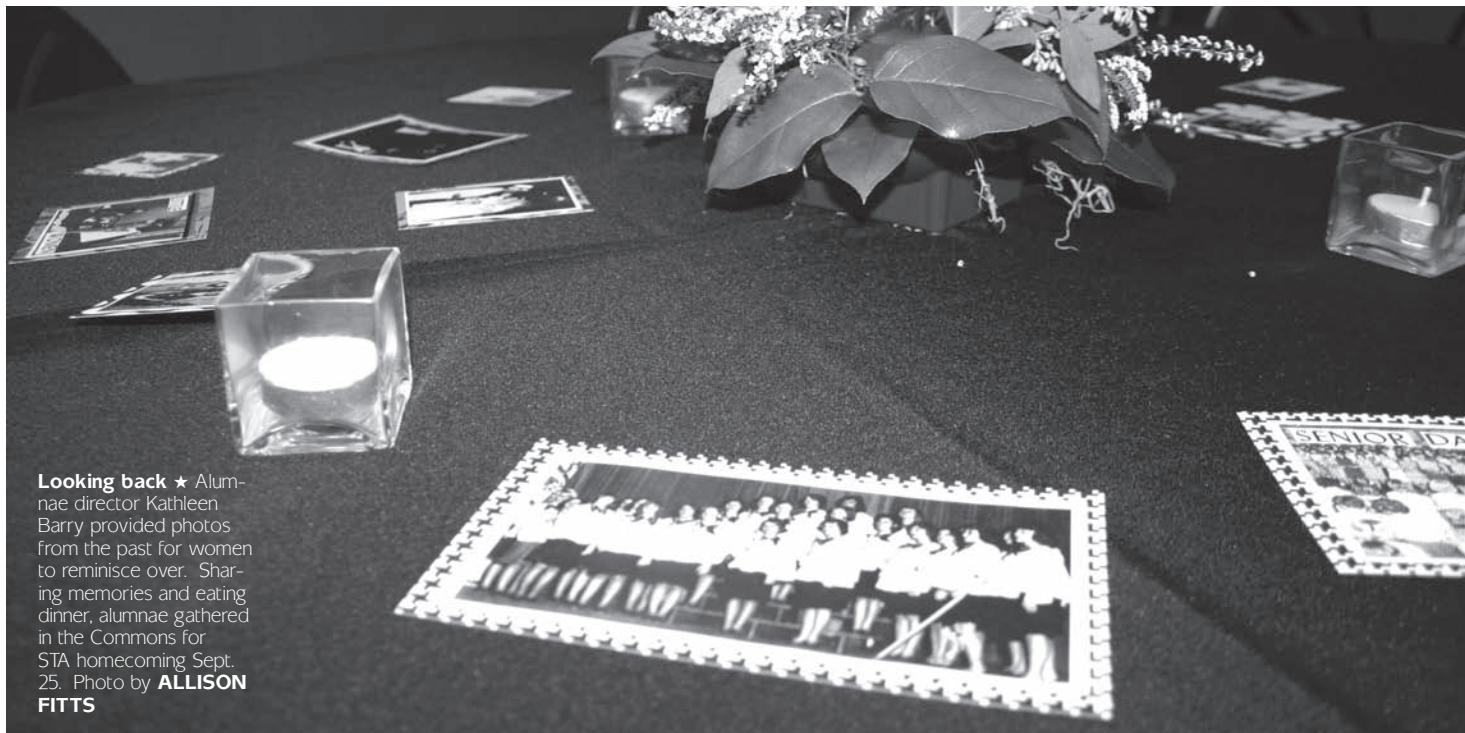


blazer

TIME: By the mid-60s, most students had graduated to colored blazers.

DESIGN: The plaid's dominant colors matched the color of the blazer which came in green, blue, yellow and red

FEATURES: Two gold buttons, front pockets



Looking back ★ Alumnae director Kathleen Barry provided photos from the past for women to reminisce over. Sharing memories and eating dinner, alumnae gathered in the Commons for STA homecoming Sept. 25. Photo by **ALLISON FITTS**

Generations of students sharing the sisterhood



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

"Morgan, wave your hand in the air," alumnae director Kathleen Barry belted into the microphone at the STA homecoming Sept. 25. "She's the editor of the *Dart*, if you worked on it during your time here, you should go talk to her!"

And with that, about 15 women from all walks of life ran, strolled, even limped over to all of us *Dart* girls huddled together. As I explained that DartNewsOnline won Pacemaker last year in its first year, everyone was genuinely interested and pelted us with questions.

How is the *Dart*? How many pages is it? Who's your advisor? What's your website called? At .com or .net? How often do you publish? Is the *Dart* the same as *Windmoor*?

On and on they went, and we relished in it.

As the crowd died down, I realized that never had I been so proud to be a part of something this amazing. This school, this paper, this community. Most of the volunteers there that night mingled with alumnae and we heard some crazy stories—of hazing during Frosh Fest, sneaking up onto the roof during frees to smoke and messing around in the bowling alley during school, just to name a few. We absorbed every word that rolled off their tongues. I can't even fathom half of the crazy things that they did in their day.

The fact that 60 year old women were asking to take photos with us shocked me. That they wanted to know all about our lives, our school. That when we tried to ask them questions about their time at STA, all of their responses were the same: "Oh no honey, we want to hear about you and things now."

I didn't understand what made us so significant in their eyes—we're just 17 year olds volunteering to help serve drinks and point to the bathrooms on a Saturday night. We're not that interesting.

Then, someone told me that their official title on the *Dart* was 'typist' and asked if we still had that position. I told her the closest thing we've got is a 'story poster' who uploads all of our content to our website. We both laughed at how much times have changed, yet how little things have changed.

And then it hit me:

These women still love St. Teresa's. Graduation doesn't pull people further away from STA, it draws them closer in. These women love the *Dart*. They invested much of their time and energy into the *Dart* and we're carrying on their legend.

So to all women of STA past: STA girls are still bold, outgoing, vigorous and intelligent. The fourth floor is still considered haunted and we still think it's kind of weird that nuns used to live in our College Resource Center.

To all women of STA present: Remember that we're a part of something greater than ourselves. There are people counting on us to carry out their tradition, and what we do today at STA could very well affect girls who aren't even born yet. Let's not take that for advantage.

And to all women of STA future: Please take care of the school and definitely take care of the *Dart*, because it's something I really care about. If not, I'll come back at my 50 year anniversary and hit you with my cane. ★

1943

The first issue of the *Dart* was published, named after the love St. Teresa of Avila experienced when she had her vision of God.

2010

STA begins planning and designing more classrooms, new chapel and additional parking lot.

A few weeks ago in writing, a few girls were working on our papers in the hallway when we spotted leftover pizza boxes and a huge salad sitting in front of Mr. Himes's door, ready to be thrown out for trash. We decided to rummage through it and realized there was some salad left, so we sat on the floor and finger-ate the rest of it. Even better—when Ms. Dolan came out into the hallway, instead of scolding us, she asked for a carrot. Sorry, Mr. Himes. ★

Margaret Haake, 2011

1982

Goppert Center added to promote and accommodate the expanding athletic program.



we are sisters ★ Previous *Dart* women pose with current staffers. The group shared stories and memories at STA Homecoming Sept. 25. Photo by **LILLY KRAUS**

What superstitions did you have about the buildings at STA?

Alumnae reflect on the fears surrounding the school during their high school years.



Warren

"Ghost on the fourth floor. Pretty sure I saw just a little flash."

Ms. Kim Warren, 1955



Bone

"The third and fourth-floors were supposed to be haunted. We weren't allowed on the circle part so of course it was mysterious."

Ms. Nan Bone, 1969

skirt



TIME: Introduced in the early 1980s, STA girls still wear these today

DESIGN: Navy, green, yellow, red and white tartan plaid

FEATURES: Side zipper and button, some include pockets

vest



TIME: In 2009, the administration added sweater vests and zip-up vests to the STA dress code.

DESIGN: Black fleece

FEATURES: Front zipper, pockets with zippers, adjustable waist band

Moodle fixed, works regularly

Technology team fixes STA's homework website, prevents common netbook problems

story by **LUCIA MASCHLER**
staff writer

Last year, the technology department implemented Moodle (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) as STA's website for homework, teacher pages and announcements.

Over the summer, the technology team had no way to estimate how much activity Moodle would receive during the school year. They thought the server they had used in previous years would be big enough to handle all of the activity, however, according to STA's technology support Jeff Zimmerman, Moodle was often down at the beginning of the year because the school's original server was not prepared for the amount of activity it received.

"The hardware just couldn't handle [all the activity] so it crashed," Zimmerman said. "Computers and servers get to a point where if they run out of resources, they eventually give up. It's like when a human tries to run a marathon, eventually they just run out of energy."

According to Moodle administrator Renee Blake, the server simply became overloaded.

"The server [Moodle] was sitting on...couldn't process all of it," Blake said. "It's like if 10 people were

talking to you at once, you wouldn't be able to process everything being said, and you would eventually just shut down."

Since the beginning of the year, the technology team has moved Moodle to a larger server.

"We've been doing a lot of computer updates and server updates to make sure things run smoothly, which they have been lately," Zimmerman said.

According to Zimmerman, updates sometimes change settings on Moodle, causing it to crash. The technology team disabled automatic Windows updates on each student's netbook to keep things consistent. Every student now conducts their manual updates on netbook "reboot Wednesdays."

"With much luck, automatic updates won't be happening at all," Zimmerman said. "The updates were disabled on the netbooks at the beginning of the year but then somehow they were enabled again. We have fixed it, and hopefully it shouldn't be a problem anymore."

According to Zimmerman, all necessary updates are done manually.

"When [manual updates] are needed, I stay up until 3 a.m. doing them so students don't feel that Moodle is down [after school]," Zimmerman said.

Despite the technology difficulties at the beginning of the year, things have been going pretty well so far, according to Blake.

"This is just the first year of these netbooks, so we are still learning," Blake said. "As time passes, things will get even better." ★

Top 5 tech terms

STA web technician Jeff Zimmerman explains common technological terms, for netbook users in plain English

1. Server: Serves information to computers that connect to it. When users connect to a server, they can access programs, files and other information.

2. Automatic Windows update: When Microsoft downloads available data updates and applies them automatically, it requires an immediate reboot, no matter what applications are running.

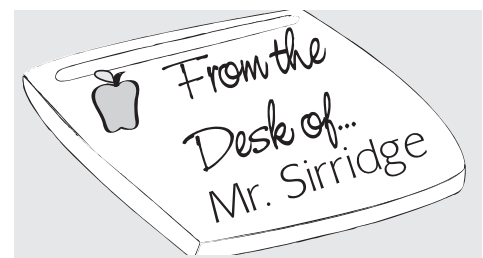
3. Manual update: Sends notifications when updates are available for download, but waits for approval before rebooting. Students perform manual updates of netbooks on Wednesdays.

4. Hardware: The actual, physical structure and devices that make up a computer.

5. Host: A computer that acts as a server for other computers on a network. For example, a web host is what provides the content of web pages to the computers that access it.

source: Mr. Jeff Zimmerman, STA's technology support

compiled by **LUCIA MASCHLER**



STA teacher Pat Sirridge, senior Lauren Laudan cross paths once in California, again at STA

Walking through the basement of Donnelly Hall, senior Lauren Laudan hardly glances at social studies teacher Pat Sirridge as they pass each other. Suddenly, something hits Laudan as she turns around to look at Sirridge again; she only remembers how her mom liked the color of some house in her old neighborhood in San Mateo, Ca. Sirridge passes by, also failing to realizing the connection he has with Laudan. Now a teacher at STA, Sirridge lived in San Mateo in the San Francisco Bay peninsula for two years before returning to Kansas City. However, Laudan was a toddler when she lived in San Mateo with her parents before moving to Kansas City, so no connection was obvious.

According to Sirridge, the Laudan family lived about two blocks away from him in San Mateo. He did run into them several times, becoming familiar with the family, though they were not close friends. Laudan has yet to have Sirridge as a teacher, so she did not easily recognize the relationship. Sirridge does not know exactly how he discovered the connection; it was probably through other students. For Laudan, class with him next semester may be really weird due to their connection. Moral of the story: be nice to your neighbors because it is one small world.

compiled by **CHRISTINA BARTON**

Group work encouraged in math

Math teacher Jeanella Clark's teaching philosophy promotes group work in classroom

story by **KATIE HYDE**
managing editor of copy

Where there used to be 23 desks in STA math teacher Jeanella Clark's classroom, there now sits 11 tables.

When Clark moved from Donnelly Hall to the Music & Arts Building at the beginning of the school year, she recognized an opportunity to incorporate her teaching philosophy into her classroom.

"Having rows of desks in the classroom makes it hard for students to collaborate," Clark said. "My philosophy is that you learn from me, but you also learn from your peers. I wanted the environment in my room to support my philosophy."

When Clark moved from her old room to what used to be the language lab that is filled with tables, she said she could easily incorporate her beliefs into the classroom.

"When I moved classrooms, the tables were already here," Clark said. "It was kind of my philosophy, but it also kind of just happened."

Clark's transition to group work mirrors a trend; math classrooms are increasingly using group work, according to an article published in "The British Educational Research Journal" in 2003. The article states that the isolated nature of math classes limits students' opportunities for collaboration. When groups were introduced to more collaborative approaches, students' negativity toward math decreased dramatically.

Now that Clark's room facilitates group learning, she realizes an improvement in students' participation.

"With the tables, the girls are less intimidated to talk with a group because it's not in front of the whole class," Clark said. "When they realize the entire group has the same answer as they do, they are less inhibited about telling the answer to the whole class."

Freshman Laura Dobens, who is in Clark's geometry class, also felt comfortable with the tables.

"Having table groups increases participation because I get to know people and we check our



math minds ★ Math teacher Jeanella Clark, from left, sophomore Maggie Rellihan and freshman Elena Flores work together in Clark's classroom to solve a geometry proof. Clark assigned the proof to the individual groups, later visiting her student to see if they needed help. Photo by **LANE MAGUIRE**

answers as a group so I feel more confident about giving answers," Dobens said.

This year, Dobens expected desks in her math class like she has had in all of her previous math classes, but was surprised to find tables in Clark's classroom.

"Math classes are typically in desks because teachers want to see what we can do individually," Dobens said. "But with the tables, we can work more as a team and work in groups. We can also talk better between ourselves about answers." ★

Two students qualify as National Merit Scholar semi-finalists

STA seniors plan their futures, apply to several colleges, hope for merit scholarships

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

Seniors Libby O'Neil and Sarah Moran qualified as National Merit Scholar semi-finalists last month. A student's score on the PSAT determines whether or not he or she is a commended National Merit Scholar, National Merit Scholar semi-finalist or National Merit Scholar. In order to apply for the National Merit Scholar position, the girls had to send an essay, application packet and their SAT scores to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

O'Neil was not surprised that she received the semi-finalist position.

"I knew I did well on the [PSAT] and Ms. [Debi] Hudson told me my scores would most likely qualify," O'Neil said.

Moran instead contemplated the simplicity of the award.

"All I did to be in the running for [a National Merit Scholar] was take a test," Moran said.

Both girls looked to others for inspiration during the process. O'Neil considered science teacher Mary Montag her mentor.

"I was in [Montag's] biology class freshman year and I did Science Quiz Bowl with her," O'Neil said.

Moran looked to her mother, a National Merit Scholar, for encouragement.

"I think my mom would have been secretly disappointed if I hadn't made it to [the National Merit semi-finalist standing]," Moran said.

Both girls plan on applying to several colleges, including Stanford University, with an overall acceptance rate of nine percent, and the University of Chicago, with an acceptance rate of 18 percent. ★

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 the unfortunate moments in their lives.

compiled by **EMILY BRESSETTE**

Once, when I was volunteering at PetSmart, a lot of [the puppies] were barking and really hyper, except one. It was sitting all alone and just watching me play with the other ones. He started inching towards me and then very shyly put his head in my lap and looked up at me. Right then I was sold. We adopted him that day. It's a Wonderful Life.

Molly Kaniger, junior



Kaniger



Gassman

Today I was teaching a friend to drive a stick [shift] in the Rockhurst parking lot because I thought everyone would be gone by 3:45 p.m. My friend killed it like four times. All the guys were staring at us. To add to the embarrassment, we got honked at by an angry Rockhurst kid and an angry Rockhurst parent. MLS.

Sara Gassman, senior

top five...

signs of fall at STA

5 Bundling Up
Students are beginning to trade in their sweater vests and Sperry shoes for sweatshirts, North Face jackets, leggings and of course, Uggs.



Lighting up the season



4 STA teachers prepare for fall and its accompanying holidays by decorating their classrooms. Chemistry teacher Mary Ribbrock hangs festive lights around her room.

3 Trading Cold for Hot

At the start of the school year, many students begin their day with a drink stop at Quik Trip. However as the weather gets colder, the STA population is beginning to opt for warm cups of coffee.



The Leaf Look

During the fall season, leaves begin to change into the characteristic orange and



2 yellow pigments of the season. The STA population is no exception; as fall progresses, students will watch the bold leaves decorate the quad and the trees around it.

1 The Pant

A true sign of fall at STA is the increasing number of black sweats with pink lettering seen around campus. As the weather begins to change, so does our uniform, with the magnificent incentive for selling auction raffle tickets to keep our legs a little warmer. ★



compiled by **ABBY UCHE**

days of our lives

compiled by **MURPHY MARX**

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

There are only **11** days until the Teresian dance.

Just **24** days until the SCO pumpkin carving contest.

Approximately **48** days until the next pep rally.

A mere **66** days until the end of first semester.

And only **233** days until summer. ★



Critter's Corner

compiled by **KATHLEEN HOUGH**

A Humble Abode

Spotted: A new dwelling outside Donnelly Hall, and it's not a tree house for the girls of the fine Academy to peruse around during frees. Instead, the shady corner usually gone unnoticed has become a new habitat for our campus felines. But the real question is: Which one? Due to recent sightings of Ms. Hoecker sharing her PB&J on the Donnelly steps with the impostor cat "Little Bits" (Latin name: Tituba) almost every day, many believe the Quad-side home is intended for that evil, black ball of fur.

No worries, STA. Our beloved campus kitty has marked his territory. He stands firm and tall next to his humble abode, keeping all other furry annoyances far, far away. Some

say "sharing is caring," but sassy kittens don't share. And who would? That brown, wooden box with attachable awning serves as the perfect getaway for a shady, afternoon nap. Add an outdoor kitty bed, catnip and a bowl full of MeowMix into the equation, and you have a homemade palace fit for a king, or should I say Critter? Ah, home sweet home.

But wait, what is that plastic igloo that has also made its way to the east side of Donnelly? This isn't Antarctica, this is Kansas City. Take your tacky residence and leave, misfit kitty. And beware, your time is short. AP Biology is on the hunt for test subjects for their anatomy unit. Look out, Tituba, Ms. Blake is coming for you. ★



Critter's new corner ★ Photo by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**

canoodle me

Welcome, dear friends, to the canoodleship

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

Canoodle me. No, I'm not asking you to wrap your arms around me and hug me affectionately. I'm asking you to immerse yourself in an unforgettable dining experience—a bowl of noodles at Noodles and Company on the Plaza with junior Brie Sandridge and myself. Maybe you've heard the phrase shouted across the Quad or seen it scrawled across our Facebook walls and have thought that Brie and I were just

overly obsessed with Noodles and Company (Noodles for short). Well, you obviously haven't canoodled. Because it isn't an obsession. It's a lifestyle.

It all started on a cold, cloudy day in the midst of January when I received a phone call from my good pal, Brie. There was excessive screaming and hyperventilating on the other end of the line, followed by the announcement that Noodles and Company would be opening on the Country Club Plaza. You could say that was the day our lives changed forever. No longer were we reminiscing on our past experiences at out-of-town volleyball tournaments, dreaming that we could go back to Omaha, Neb. for our annual Noodles visit. Instead, we began looking forward to the coming of our savior, Noodles and Co. The countdown started immediately, and within 2 months, our beloved Noodles had arrived. On March 5, 2010, Brie and I proudly strolled into what is now our second home. Although we didn't receive any prize or recognition (sore subject) for being the first customers, we were nevertheless welcomed and immediately loved. It became more than a bowl of noodles for us; it was

an unforgettable experience. And as we signed up for our first Noodlegrams (Noodles and Company's mailing list), we knew that from that moment onward, we would share a passion, a lifestyle, an infatuation. We could no longer just say "We're going to Noodles," but instead: "We're going canoodling."

Day after day, Brie and I walk into Noodles, receive the occasional greeting from the bus girl, and decide what to order. We stare at the menu for 10 minutes, as if we don't already have it memorized, and ponder what we may be craving that day. On a rainy day—chicken noodle soup. On a hot day—Penne Rosa. On the Chinese New Year—Pad Thai. And sometimes, Brie lets her stomach decide. She gives it a little pat and asks, "Well, what do you want?"

After the orders are in, it's all fun and games from there. We pay the cashier \$5.76 in exact change (unless for some reason we are feeling extra generous and get meatballs in our Wis Mac (Wisconsin mac and cheese)), and receive our witty number sign. Next, we fill our water glasses with ice, water, lemons and Sweet-N-Low and sit down for the most anti-

pating part of canoodling. Luckily for us, the wait is never long, and our noodles always come out just the way we ordered them (unless of course I forget to request no mushrooms in my Pesto Cavatappi...but they know me so well that they take them off anyway). After a few bites of our own dish, we take a bite of the other person's noodles to add a little variety. Brie and I call this our "bite for a bite policy." From there, canoodling usually ends with some laughs, stories from previous Noodle dates, and quality people watching. It's a cycle—repeated monthly, weekly and sometimes daily. Sure, we've probably spent our life savings at Noodles in the last 6 months, and our cholesterol has probably surpassed 900, but we don't care. Canoodling is our passion, and we're ready to share it with the rest of the world.

So enough about us—we want to know about you now. That's right, we're inviting you to become part of the canoodleship. Our main task: get to know each and every one of you through the art of canoodling. So be ready, STA: you could be our first victim. ★

Gleeking Out

STA faculty members performed in the "Glee" themed annual auction pep rally last week. Participants spent two weeks preparing for the skit written by drawing teacher Theresa Wallerstedt.



1.



2.



3.



4.

1. sing it ★ English teacher Katie Dolan belts it out as "Glee's" Rachel Berry during the teachers' auction pep rally skit Friday. Dolan sang to "Don't Rain on My Parade."

2. hug it out ★ Social studies teacher Patrick Sirridge, left, and drawing teacher Theresa Wallerstedt embrace, acting as Mr. Will Schuester and Ms. Sue Sylvester from "Glee" at the auction pep rally skit.

3. don't stop believing ★ Social studies teacher Richard Shrock performs as the disabled Artie in the auction pep rally skit last Friday during the final song, "Don't Stop Believing."

4. the pant ★ Auction chairs Ms. Maggie Garozzo, left, and Ms. Carol Fryer sing a parody of "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend"—substituting the word "diamonds" for "sweatpants"—during the auction pep rally last Friday.

Photos by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**