

# the **dart**

volume 70 ★ issue 5 ★ 9 december 2010  
ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY

## It's beginning to look a lot like...



The Christmas edition of the *Dart* celebrates holidays at the Academy. Featured in this issue is senior Claire McDonald and her foreign exchange student Kaho Sugano. See pages 6-7.

photo illustration by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**



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# Students foster dogs from puppy mills

STA students assist shelters flooded with puppy mill dogs after enactment of Proposition B

story by **LANE MAGUIRE**  
staff writer

Proposition B strictly enforces the operation of puppy mills. Many puppy mills will be forced to cease operations and surrender their dogs if they cannot meet these requirements. STA students are currently fostering puppy mill dogs taken in by a local shelter.

**The Proposition**

Dog breeding is a major business in Missouri. With over 1,400 licensed breeders and a history of inadequate facilities and treatment of the animals, Missouri is considered "the puppy-mill capital of the country," according to the *Kansas City Star*. Proposition B, or The Missouri Dog Breeding Regulation Initiative, appeared on the Nov. 2 ballot. This proposition was sponsored by a group of various animal rights groups, collaboratively known as Missourians for the Protection of Dogs. The Puppy Mill Initiative prohibits any breeder from having more than 50 breeding dogs. Furthermore, the proposition requires that large-scale breeding operations provide each dog with adequate necessities including food, clean water, housing and space, veterinary care, regular exercise and rest between breeding cycles.

**Getting it Passed**

Proposition B passed receiving 51.6 percent of the total votes. The law, with strict enforcement provisions, took affect in November. According to humansociety.org, more than 200 Missouri rescue organizations have committed to taking in and finding homes for surrendered breeding dogs.

**Helping the Cause**

One such organization, Happy Dogs Rescue (HDR), has recently taken in over 50 dogs from a Northwest Missouri puppy mill. This puppy mill

## Volleyball coach shares reasons for resignation

Former head volleyball coach Amy Carlson picks replacement, plans to assist next season at STA

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

Last spring, STA volleyball head coach Amy Carlson decided to resign. Until recently, Carlson kept this news a secret, sharing the information only with athletic director Mark Hough.

At the end-of-season volleyball banquet this November, Carlson announced her decision to resign after seven seasons of coaching. With a 73 percent winning percentage, Carlson led the team to four District championships and six seasons with at least 20 wins.

"[I resigned] just because of all the energy and commitment and sacrifice it took to get [the] program at a top level for the last eight years," Carlson said. "It was time to do something else; the position had turned into a year-round job with [volleyball] conditioning in spring, [volleyball] camp in summer and the [volleyball] season in fall."

After learning that Carlson resigned, the players reflected fondly upon their relationships with her. Varsity volleyball player junior McLaren O'Rear looks back on the lessons Carlson taught her.

"I have learned so much from coach Carlson and I respect all of the input she put into the team," O'Rear said.

Another team member, varsity volleyball player junior Taylor Migliazzo felt a strong attachment to Carlson.

"She'd been my coach all through high school, so I'll miss her my senior year," Migliazzo said.

However, Carlson's coaching skills will not completely disappear: Carlson will still continue assistant coaching. In fact, Migliazzo looks forward to a future with her.



**all smiles** ★ Sophomore Kate Witt plays with a black lab rescued from Happy Dogs Rescue animal shelter. Witt volunteers with the agency, which took in over 50 dogs after the Northwest Missouri puppy mill could not meet the demands of Proposition B, by asking STA students to donate money and pet supplies. Photo by **CELE FRYER**

shut down when it could not meet the demands of Proposition B. Sophomore Kate Witt, who volunteers and fosters for HDR, supports the proposition.

"It just makes me mad when people are breeding hundreds of dogs and not treating them right," Witt said.

When Witt heard about the number of puppy mill dogs that HDR was taking in, she decided to begin a donation drive. Witt spread the word and with the help from a friend received permission to post lime green fliers throughout STA to promote the drive. In total, this drive raised over 170 dollars, over 100 pounds of dog food, 4 trash bags full of towels and blankets, 40 treat bags and various leashes, collars and other supplies. When senior Morgan Said first saw these fliers, she was unaware that she and her family would soon be fostering two female chihuahuas.

"I originally just saw the posters and thought that that would be a really cool newspaper story to write," Said said. "I got thinking about it more, and my family had fostered animals before, so I just thought it would be a good chance to get back into [fostering]."

After contacting Witt about the story and a possible fostering opportunity, Said and her family received the mother-daughter Chihuahua pair from HDR Nov. 24.

Another STA student, senior Cele Fryer, recently fostered two yellow lab puppies, after being contacted by Witt about HDR's need for foster homes with the recent influx of dogs. Fryer, in the past year, has fostered over 30 dogs from a separate shelter, Halfway Home pet adoption.

"[Fostering] is a lot of work for [my parents] and for me but in the end it's worth it," Fryer said. ★ contact Lane Maguire at [lmaguire@dartnewsonline.com](mailto:lmaguire@dartnewsonline.com)



**bump, set, spike** ★ Former head coach Amy Carlson watches the varsity volleyball team with new head coach Abbie Lane during the 2010 season. Photo by **SARAH WIRTZ**

"It is sad that Carlson is not going to be our head coach next year, but I'm still glad she'll be around during practices and be able to help out," Migliazzo said.

Carlson's decision to step down as head coach was not taken lightly. Both Carlson and Hough spent hours picking a coach well-suited to the STA environment. They eventually settled upon new STA volleyball head coach Abbie Lane.

According to Hough, Lane's great recommendations and athletic background made her perfect for the job. Lane played volleyball in high school and college, coached an elite club volleyball team and was part of the coaching staff at St. James' Academy. Lane also coached a conditioning program for STA students last year called "Boot Camp."

"I asked other [coaches] who could give an honest opinion [about Lane]," Hough said. "They were all top-notch reviews and said 'Don't pass this one up.'"

Carlson thought Lane fit well with the volleyball team at STA. Carlson's history with Lane stretches back to Lane's high school days when Carlson coached her club volleyball team.

"[Lane] was one of my all-time favorite players," Carlson said. "She was extremely competitive, very knowledgeable and could get her teammates to play under her leadership."

According to Migliazzo, Lane and the current varsity volleyball team plan to incorporate some of Carlson's coaching practices into their routine, one of these being a gift-giving activity called "Secret Sister." Each varsity volleyball player is teamed with a JV player and before every match, the girls drop off gifts in each other's advisories.

"These little gifts before every match reminded all of the girls of the support they have from one another," Migliazzo said.

Carlson's co-workers support her decision.

"I'd lie if I said I wasn't disappointed [to see Carlson leave], but she [left] in such a classy and professional way," Hough said.

Carlson maintains this same positive outlook.

"I think it's only going to be a positive thing to have a new voice," Carlson said. ★ contact Rowan O'Brien-Williams at [robrienwilliams@dartnewsonline.com](mailto:robrienwilliams@dartnewsonline.com)

# Administration re-organizes finals

Departments, not mods, dictate new finals scheduling while teachers worry about cheating

story by **EMILY BRESSETTE**  
staff writer

At the beginning of the year, principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick organized a committee made up of teachers to create the new finals schedule. Previously, students had taken their exams in teachers' classrooms and their finals schedule was determined by each individual's Friday mods. This year, students will be testing in different locations and will be grouped together by subject.

English teacher Katie Dolan is a member of McCormick's committee. According to Dolan, this change results directly from the new scheduling system. When STA decided to implement PowerSchool, an online scheduling system, it could

not accommodate the daily changing class times of every student; STA had to replace its modular scheduling system. Because not all classes meet on Friday, the final exam schedule had to be changed.

Junior Emily Holt feels the new finals schedule is confusing and will not help STA students.

"[Last year,] you got to take [the exam] in the classroom," Holt said. "There was no confusion about anything. You knew everything a few weeks in advance. I'm still confused on what the schedule is this year."

Students are not the only ones being affected by the new finals schedule. Social studies teacher Craig Whitney and Latin teacher Sue Marquis are using alternatives to students being grouped together.

"I'm not too wild about [the new finals schedule]," Whitney said. "That's one reason why I created a take home final for [my American history class]."

Marquis is creating place markers for each individual and each girl must sit in her assigned spot. This is also a way to help eliminate cheating during the exam.

"I am concerned about cheating," Marquis said. "[And] about the number of proctors, I'm not sure they can watch that many students. [Cheating] is a possibility."

Holt also sees a problem with cheating during finals. She believes that with multiple classes in one location, students will find ways to cheat.

"With so many people in one place, it will be confusing," Holt said. "No matter how many proctors they have, the students will outnumber [the proctors]. There will be some cheating going on."

Dolan, however, does not believe cheating will be as big an issue as it has been in the past.

"One thing we did this year to instill test integrity is, for the most part, have all the exams on the same day," Dolan said.

"Last year, I had one freshman class take the [final exam] one day. Then four days later, another group of freshmen would come in. They all knew what was going to be on the exam. I had to make another exam."

According to Dolan, the number of proctors in each location will help eliminate cheating as well. Each teacher will moderate their own sections as well as others, therefore, there will be multiple proctors at each exam.

"I don't think [the new finals schedule] is easier or more challenging," Dolan said. "I don't think [one schedule] benefits over the other." ★ contact Emily Bresette at [ebresette@dartnewsonline.com](mailto:ebresette@dartnewsonline.com)

## STA reorganizes students' final exams schedule

Next week's finals will be organized by department, while previous finals have been organized by each students' individual schedule.

### Day 1

Mods 1/2 8:15 - 9:15/9:25	Mods 3/4 9:30 - 10:30/10:40	Algebra II Honors algebra II 10:50 - 11:50/12:00	College calculus 10:50 - 12:50
English classes 7:45 - 9:15	Theology classes 9:30 - 10:55	Alternate exam time Computer graphics 11:10 - 12:25	2009 - 2010 2010 - 2011

### Day 2

Mods 5/6 8:15 - 9:15/9:25	Mods 7/8 9:30 - 10:30/10:40	Chemistry Honors chemistry World faiths Computer graphics 10:45 - 11:45/12:00
Math classes 7:45 - 9:15	Social studies classes 9:30 - 10:55	Ecology Alternate exam time 11:10 - 12:25

### Day 3

Mods 9/10 8:15 - 9:15/9:25	Mods 11/12 9:30 - 10:30/10:40	Art portfolio group critique 9:30 - 10:30/10:40
World language classes 7:50 - 9:15	Science classes 9:30 - 10:55	Art portfolio Accelerated biology Alternate exam time 11:10 - 12:25

### Day 4

Mods 13/14 8:15 - 9:15/9:25	Mods 15/16 9:30 - 10:30/10:40
Journalism Speech 8:00 - 9:15	Drawing I Advanced drawing Painting Graphic design 9:30 - 10:45

Source: STA administration

graphic compiled by **ABBY UCHE**

"I am concerned about cheating...I'm not sure they can watch that many students. [Cheating] is a possibility."

Sue Marquis, Latin teacher

# Faculty puts re-accreditation goals in motion

STA hopes to improve students' reading skills, data evaluation through cyclical five-year process

story by **CASSIE REDLINGSHAFFER**  
sports editor

STA is in the middle of a five year re-accreditation process in which it hopes to improve students' non-fiction reading skills and ability to evaluate data. According to principal for academic affairs, Barbara McCormick, in order to meet these goals, STA is trying to incorporate non-fiction reading and data evaluation into all classes and subject matter.

AdvancED describes itself as a company that helps over 27,000 schools navigate the process of school improvement, along with accrediting STA. AdvancED guides the school through seven standards in order to complete accreditation or re-accreditation. The process takes five years and follows a set cycle.

"We're always in a circular process," McCormick said. "We begin with a review of our mission statement by seeing if it speaks to the community we serve. Then, we survey the teachers, faculty and

staff and they come together to look at the achievement data information, which is what we base our goals off of."

According to McCormick, STA has two major academic goals: to improve the students' performance in non-fiction reading and to improve students' ability to analyze data.

"It's absolutely important [to improve STA's non-fiction reading and data evaluation]," science teacher Mary Montag said. "If you pick up a *News Week, USA Today* or *Time* magazine, you'll see that

they make a graph out of everything. I think everyone would really benefit from practicing these skills more."

The administration encouraged teachers from every department to try and incorporate these methods into their classes.

"I really have [incorporated more non-fiction and data analysis into my class]," Montag said. "Whether it's me reading or my students reading,

incorporating non-fiction reading is easy because there are many topical issues. For example, the FDA just passed new legislation on food safety that we studied. Science also is extremely obvious with [data analysis] but being able to understand and interpret things in all areas and subjects is important."

According to senior Holly Grant, STA students struggle with non-fiction reading and data evaluation. She noticed these techniques are now incorporated into her classes more.

"In writing class, we have to do non-fiction

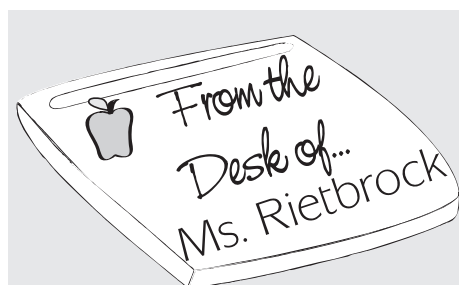
writing and reading and last year in American history we did some things with graphs," Grant said.

STA will finish the re-accreditation process in 2013.

"This process has everything to do with improving secondary education and the longevity of St. Teresa's," McCormick said. ★ contact Cassie Redlingshafer at [credlingshafer@dartnewsonline.com](mailto:credlingshafer@dartnewsonline.com)

"This process has everything to do with improving secondary education."

Barbara McCormick, principal for academic affairs



Each issue, the *Dart* showcases a teacher, revealing facts about their hidden lives to readers

story by **CHRISTINA BARTON**  
opinion editor

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas everywhere you go: take a look in Ms. Rietbrock's room with Christmas music and winter sweaters

aglow. If you walk by her chemistry room, you are bound to hear Christmas carols coming from her computer. Or you might have noticed the variety of winter-themed sweaters she wears every day. For Rietbrock, Christmas has become a time for traditions and family. Yes, she does have enough sweaters to wear a different one every day from Thanksgiving to Christmas, but she says she just treats it as an inside joke with her students and children. Like most families, she has a list of traditions her family follows—traditions that are important for the Christmas season. Each of her five kids has their own small Christmas tree

and nativity set in their room. Each child receives an ornament and a new pair of pajamas to wear for pictures Christmas morning. The family has their own lighting ceremony Thanksgiving night and quickly puts up their Christmas decorations. Some traditions are especially dear to the family: every Sunday before Christmas, the Rietbrock clan has a family Christmas with Rietbrock's extended family. Although she may be thinking about the new Christmas sweater she wants, she always remembers the true meaning of Christmas, the meaning that drives her love of the season: Jesus's birth and family.

## The seven AdvancED Accreditation standards

AdvancED, STA's accreditation guide, uses seven standards to complete re-accreditation

1. Vision and purpose
2. Governance and leadership
3. Teaching and learning
4. Documenting and using results
5. Resources and support systems
6. Stakeholder communications and relationships
7. Commitment to continuous improvement

source: [www.advanc-ED.org](http://www.advanc-ED.org)

compiled by **CASSIE REDLINGSHAFFER**



# Kids need you to



Imagine being five years old again, waking up on Christmas morning in your warm, plush bed with your sister in the twin bed next to you. You run downstairs with your family to find all the Polly Pockets and Cabbage Patch Kids that Santa has left for you under the tree. The rest of the day is spent with your family eating honey baked ham and drinking eggnog while you play with all of your shiny, new toys.

Now imagine being five years old and waking up on Christmas morning in a bed that is not your own with a roommate who is not your sibling. As you walk downstairs with the other foster children, the anticipation builds in hopes of finding a gift with your name on it under the tree. This gift is from a stranger, yet it means so much more to you than just a new doll.

This scene is a reality to approximately 500,000 orphans in the United States alone who depend on the generosity of others for a memorable Christmas season filled with love, joyfulness and gifts. Without donations, these children would not receive any gifts during the holiday season and would feel forgotten and unloved. Donating gifts, used toys or even an old coat to homes for children

is something that all STA students and faculty should do, especially during the Christmas season. The impact that one Christmas gift can have on a foster child is unbelievable: it can bring them hope and show them what giving and caring for the dear neighbor is really like.

Giving these children a Christmas they deserve is extremely simple and will bring great joy not only to them, but to you as well. One way to help

The staff editorial represents the views of the *Dart* editorial board  
7 out of 7 editors voted in support of this editorial

out is through Niles Home for Children in Kansas City. This organization is a home for abused, neglected and abandoned children from ages 6 to 17. Niles makes it easy to donate to their kids who need gifts this Christmas. If you click "Holiday

Wish List" on their website, it will provide the names of numerous children, a brief description of each one and their own Christmas wish list. You can then sign up for a gift and drop it by the home, which accepts donations Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through December 22. Just by that one act of kindness, you have touched the life of a child in need.

In addition to giving material goods to these children, consider the gift of your time and talents. Niles Home for Children and multiple other children homes in the Kansas City area are looking for volunteers to teach life skills to the children, play with them and tutor them. By volunteering to be a part of these children's lives, you will not only be a positive role model, but you will be a friend.

This year, as you sit down to make your wish list, try to remember the children in foster homes who wake up on Christmas morning with the hopes that someone, somewhere, has left them a present under the tree. It's in your hands now—challenge yourself to give back to your community in this magical time of Christmas, and always remember that giving is far more fulfilling than receiving. ★

## Pros and cons of giving to the needy during Christmas time

With many different organizations, opportunities, students can find a way to give to those in need this holiday season

- Pros**
- You are giving a child in need a gift and letting them know you care.
  - You receive the amazing feeling that generosity brings.
  - You are living out STA's motto of caring for the dear neighbor without distinction.
- Cons**
- With money tight these days, some find it difficult to spare any for the needy.
  - You donate because you feel like you have to, not because you want to.
  - Depending on where you give your time, volunteering can be time consuming.

compiled by **MARY O'LEARY**

## How should STA girls give to those in need during the holiday season?

**Right on Target?** 

Each issue, the *Dart* asks students how they feel about the main ed topic. Here's what they said:

compiled by **MARY O'LEARY**



**Mincher**

"I think you should adopt a family because we're such a community-based school. Helping a family in the community would show that."  
Anna Mincher, senior



**Viles**

"Maybe we could help all the neighbors around STA, like clean up lawns and decorate houses to show them our appreciation."  
Brenna Viles, sophomore



**Coppinger**

"We could go out of our way to give community service to people who aren't as fortunate as us, like going to the food kitchen or adopting a family."  
Courtney Coppinger, freshman

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

# The 19 days of Christmas Break

From enjoying all-out snow ball fights to volunteering for our dear neighbor, the *Dart* compiled a calendar to help you enjoy the best Christmas break ever.

compiled by **KATIE HYDE**

After finishing your finals, celebrate the end of the semester with a nice, long rest. Go home, take a nap, then get up refreshed and ready to enjoy the best Christmas break of your young life.



Celebrate the beginning of Starbucks' holiday special! Buy one Christmas drink, get one free. Share with a friend or a sibling.

16

18

Be extra nice to your family today. Treat them to breakfast. Check out [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com) for ideas (think gingerbread waffles with homemade hot cocoa).

The Salvation Army needs volunteers today to help box meals for the needy. Live out the STA motto and contact (816) 968-0374.

# 21

If you haven't yet, take time with your friends or family to check out the Country Club Plaza lights. Maybe sing a rendition of "Santa Baby" on a street corner. Or not.

What else is there to do on Christmas Eve-Eve but watch "Eloise at the Plaza?" Re-live your youth with tireless Christmas favorites. There are only three more days of Christmas music, so get listening!



Spend the day eating delicious food, visiting family and anticipating Santa's arrival. If you're Christian, think about attending a late night service instead of Christmas Day.



19

20

22

23

24

# 26

Now that you've officially drained yourself of Christmas shopping and gift wrapping stress, consider pulling out one of those novels you've always wanted to read. Cuddle up by the fire with a book and a blanket.



Get out of the house today! Go visit friends for lunch or, weather permitting, get your sled and hit the hills. Initiate an all-out snowball war. Then cry when you get a snowball smashed in your face.

# 31 2011!

# 29

It's New Year's Eve! Watch the ball drop at midnight, celebrate with sparkling grape juice and wear funky glasses with 2011 on them!

Start off your 2011 right. Get out and help someone! Shovel your neighbor's sidewalk (if there's snow, obviously), or volunteer at the local food kitchen.

Prepare yourself for your return to school. Wash the Pant, find your backpack under the piles of wrapping paper and get a good night's sleep.



2

3

4



# ANOTHER home for the HOLIDAYS

Foreign exchange student Kaho Sugano from Japan celebrates her first Christmas away from home

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

STA's most recent foreign exchange student came to the US to get a better grasp of the English language, but now she finds herself in Kansas City, far from her parents for the first time on Christmas. This is the story of how the McDonald family found an unlikely guest in their home over the holidays.

#### Home away from home over the holidays

Since coming to America, Kaho has celebrated two major holidays with the McDonald family: Halloween and Thanksgiving.

In fact, Claire and Kaho's favorite memory together so far is their experience at HalloWeekends at Worlds of Fun.

"Kaho said that she hated haunted houses and roller coasters, even though she told me she had never been in a haunted house or on any roller coasters before," Claire said. "She ended up loving the roller coasters and was terrified in the houses."

However, when it came to Thanksgiving, the girls had differing ideas about the best parts of their day. "...we played Just Dance on the Wii with all of my family members," Claire said. "Everybody danced, including my grandma. And even though Kaho had never played that game, or let alone played on a Wii, she beat everyone and made high scores on each song."

Kaho's favorite part about her very first Thanksgiving was the food.

"My favorite part... was cooking and baking the food in the morning and eating many different kinds of foods, especially the molten lava cakes," Kaho said.

#### "Can we come often close to you?"

It was an ordinary afternoon in the home of STA student Claire McDonald as Claire and her mom Ronda were folding laundry. Target t-shirts and Urban Outfitters pencil-skirts typically dominate the pile of clothing, but on this particular day, something unusual caught their attention. As Ronda picked up a gray t-shirt, mom and daughter laughed at the words printed on the front: "In the world time go into something good in everything." Another similar shirt read "Can we come often close to you?"

The shirts were Kaho Sugano's, the McDonald's foreign exchange student from Hyogo, Japan. Kaho's



shirts left a bit lost in translation from Japanese to English language.

"All three of us laughed when we told Kaho about [how they didn't make sense]," Claire said. "She said that in Japan, clothes and things with English writing on them were considered cool."

#### How it all started

At the beginning of the school year, the McDonalds met another foreign exchange student from Japan through a family friend and learned that there were a few Japanese foreign exchange students that needed new homes, because their current American homes were not working out. Kaho was one of these students.

"My previous family in Harrisonville didn't have any children in their house, so I was alone during the day when they were working," Kaho said.

Being an only child in America differed from her home in Japan, where she has a 19-year-old brother named Yuki.

The McDonalds called Youth for Understanding (YFU), the foreign exchange program which sponsors Kaho, and after extensive interviews Kaho was placed in their family.

"Claire's family is... funny and [they] make me laugh," Kaho said. "I don't have any sisters in my Japanese family, so it's nice to have Claire. I can go shopping with her and hang out with her."

Kaho's desire to enter the YFU program began after an American foreign exchange student attended her school last summer and Kaho felt that she could not communicate with her effectively because of the language barrier.

"...a student from America came from my school, and I wanted to talk to her, but I didn't know much English at the time," Kaho said. "So that made me want to be fluent in English. At first, I wanted to go to Canada, but only a couple of students could be accepted. My second choice was America, so I decided to come here."

#### Fast Friends

"I am so glad to have another teenager in my house again," Claire said. "My sister is away at college and I wasn't used to being an only child. I love being able to go somewhere and always having someone to take with me."

Among these places are Target and Chipotle, and occasionally even to a Japanese restaurant, although Kaho said that American Japanese "tastes a lot different" and is not as good as authentic Japanese. Regardless, one of Kaho's favorite parts about America is the food.

Typically, YFU foreign exchange students are

paired with families based on personality tests, according to Claire, but in the case of Kaho, that was not necessarily true. Still, the girls became fast friends and already consider each other sisters.

"Kaho and I share a lot of traits," Claire said. "We almost have the exact same style and love a lot of the same things. I think the longer she is here, the more we act like sisters. We have kind of lost that 'cookie cutter' polite act and replaced it with a wittier friend act. We're not scared to joke around and say something rude to one another."

#### Once an STA girl, always an STA girl

Before Kaho lived with the McDonald family, she attended a different school in Harrisonville. When she moved into their house in October, STA was willing to allow her to attend school, since there were no other foreign exchange students this year.

"We were open to taking a student from AFS [Intercultural Programs], but it didn't work out," principal for student affairs Mary Ann Hoecker said. "We only take one student a year... but since that student didn't end up coming here, we felt open to taking Kaho when the McDonalds asked us to consider it."

Although she is an official part of the senior class, Kaho takes American history and literature, which are junior-level courses, to further develop her understanding of American culture.

Additionally, Claire and Kaho are both in algebra II. According to Claire, the girls have studied together and Kaho has helped her with her math homework all year.

"It's nice to have someone to just chill out and work on homework with," Claire said. "I'm glad that Kaho goes to STA also, because it's really easy transportation and we can dress in theme together on Fridays and we have some of the same homework."

So far, Kaho said that her least favorite part about STA is how early school starts and walking through the Quad in the cold.

However, there is one thing Kaho gets to enjoy at STA that she could not at her Japanese school: naps during free periods.

#### Christmas in America

This Christmas will be Kaho's first away from home, but her spirits are still high.

"I get to talk to my parents every two or three days [through] email and we have Skype-d two times," Kaho said.

Both the McDonalds and the Suganos celebrate Christmas in the same fashion: they make lavish meals, decorate Christmas trees and open presents. Although Kaho may not be American-born and raised, she is asking for many gifts that typical American teenagers would ask for.

"My dream gift is an iPod touch," Kaho said. "And I want many clothes, purses, boots and jewelry." ★ contact Morgan Said at [msaid@dartnewsline.com](mailto:msaid@dartnewsline.com)

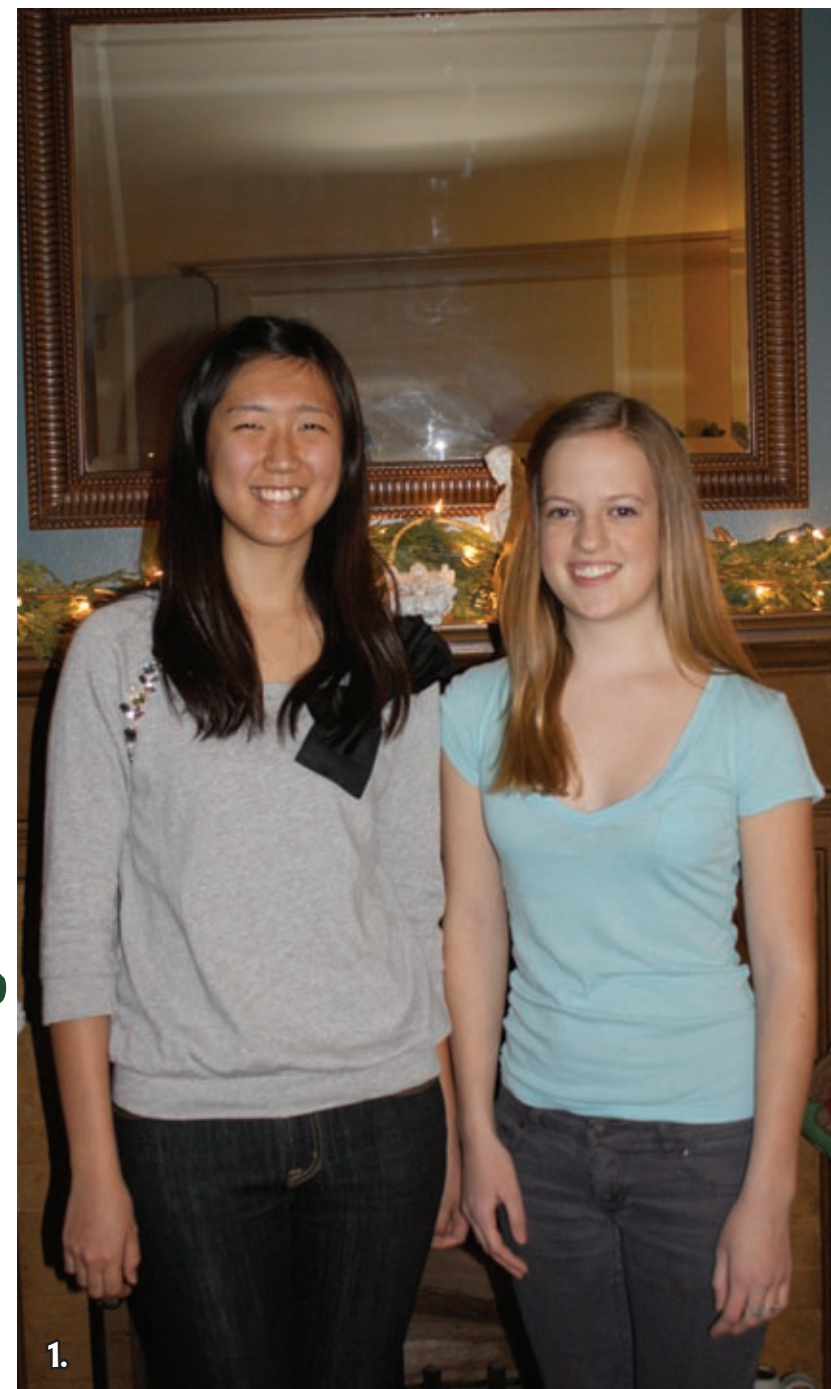


illustration by **CARA MCCLAIN**

**1. sisterly bond** ★ Foreign exchange student Kaho Sugano, left, and senior Claire McDonald pose in front of the McDonald's Christmas tree. This is Sugano's first Christmas away from her home in Hyogo, Japan, as well her first time in America. Photo by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**

**2. family portrait** ★ Kaho Sugano and her family pose for a family photo. The photo was one of the many possessions Sugano brought to America. Photo **SUBMITTED**

**3. stock hop** ★ Stockings hang down the McDonald family's fireplace. The McDonalds contacted the Youth For Understanding program when they heard there were some Japanese foreign exchange students whose current homes were not working out. Photo by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**



# Follow the engraved brick road

STA Spirit Club writes, performs annual winter pep rally, a parody of "The Wizard of Oz"

story by **KATIE MCCOMBS**  
PR & Circulation

## "I'm too tired to be funny"

Spirit Club president senior Kathleen Hough and vice president senior Betsy Tampke stared blankly at a plot summary as they worked into the late hours of the night: it was 11:45 p.m., one week before the big performance and the winter sports pep rally had not yet been written.

"Stop falling asleep, stop falling asleep," Kathleen said as she nudged her companion awake.

"I'm too tired to be funny," Betsy said.

"Ms. Dolan is going to kill us," Kathleen said.

"Okay, let's just take a 30-minute nap," Betsy said.

"Betsy, I don't do naps," Kathleen replied.

And she was right.

The officers' intended 30 minute cat-nap turned into a 10 hour snooze.

According to Kathleen and Betsy, this dialogue reflects a typical pre-pep rally night.

## Writer's block

Throughout the year, the two officers write three

pep rallies in coordination with each sports season. While the student body may anxiously anticipate each pep rally, Kathleen would rather not have more than three a year.

"Pep rallies are so fun to put on and get the school involved in," Kathleen said. "But at the same time, they add so much stress to our lives."

According to Kathleen, most of her stress comes from writing the pep rallies. Betsy agreed and said that the girls sit down together and focus on writing the pep rally for four to five hours.

"For the most part, we try to write the script how we want it to be performed," Betsy said. "We write things so that they're funny. Kathleen and I are open to suggestions, but we're pretty much attached to the script we write."

Kathleen and Betsy consider themselves a perfect pair for writing pep rallies because they balance each other out. Betsy is more time-oriented and practical, while Kathleen is more plot-focused and creative.

"We usually just feed off of one another," Kathleen said. "Betsy will say something funny and I'll add on to it."

## We're not in Kansas anymore

After the script is completed, Spirit Club faces a recurring issue of time management.

"It typically takes three weeks to prepare for a pep rally," Kathleen said. "That being said, we cram three weeks' worth of time into the week of the rally."

While creating STA's most recent pep rally for the winter sports season, Spirit Club began brainstorming and selecting a theme weeks in advance and

eventually chose "The Wizard of Oz."

According to Betsy, "The Wizard of Oz" was a very relevant theme for the entire staff and student body.

"[Kathleen and I] thought that it would be really funny to think of STA as 'The Wizard of Oz,'" Betsy said. "It was definitely a theme that everyone could relate to, whereas, in the previous pep rally, not that many people could relate to 'Full House' if they never watched the show."

## Cast away

The theme Spirit Club chooses for the pep rally ultimately decides its cast. Although the club typically "type casts," which is casting someone because their personality fits that character, they would prefer to refrain from doing this.

"We used to have people raise their hands and audition for the part right then and there, but it's intimidating for freshmen," Betsy said. "We would really like people to volunteer and would never put pressure on someone, but you have to have some thick skin to play a big part."

Both Spirit Club officers and members tried to incorporate more underclassmen into main roles in November's pep rally.

"I think we did a really good job of integrating fresh faces into this pep rally," Kathleen said. "New people were able to break out of their shell and be the funniest ones out there."

Freshman Katie Tampke volunteered for a main role playing the Mr. Whitney the scarecrow in the pep rally, despite the fact that she is a new member of the

club. "Even though I am a freshman, it was easier for me to be a big part because of my sister, Betsy," Katie said. "I have had three sisters go through STA and I felt like I knew a lot about my part, Mr. Whitney. I felt very comfortable on stage because my first scene was with Betsy."

Similarly, sophomore Elizabeth Arensberg enjoyed playing a lead role and felt comfortable performing, but would like to see more new people in the pep rallies.

"Sometimes, I don't like to volunteer because I would rather give someone who hasn't been in [a] pep rally a chance," Elizabeth said. "I don't mind if I get chosen for a big part because it's fun and nerve-racking. This pep rally, some of the upperclassmen suggested I play Sister Joan because I'm short and small."

For this pep rally, the club utilized activity periods, but had to schedule two "intense rehearsals" on the weekend before the performance for extra practice.

"There is only so much you can do in an hour of activity," Betsy said. "It was good for the weekend, because we had time to focus."

## Standing ovation

After the pep rally is written, cast and rehearsed, Spirit Club reflects on how they have done. For this pep rally, both Kathleen and Betsy agreed that it was their best STA production this year.

"Our ultimate goal is to beat the 'Saturday Night Live' pep rally from our freshman year, and I think we came very close to that with this one," Betsy said. "It was really funny to choose which teacher would fit the specific 'Wizard of Oz' character. We actually incorporated STA into all of it and people from STA are involved in every part." ★ contact Katie McCombs at [kmccombs@dartnews-online.com](mailto:kmccombs@dartnews-online.com)



**off to see the wizard** ★ Freshman Katie Tampke, from left, senior Betsy Tampke, sophomore Elaine Schmidt and senior Molly Kenney prance on stage Nov. 22 in the M&A auditorium. The STA Spirit Club performed their rendition of "The Wizard of Oz" for the winter sports pep rally. Check out the full performance of "The Sister Named Joan" and more pep rally photos on [dartnewsonline.com](http://dartnewsonline.com). Photo by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**





1

Seven months after a devastating house fire, junior Taylor Migliazzo returns to a reconstructed house

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

**T**he morning of April 24 began as any other Saturday in the Migliazzo household. The night before, Paul and Shelly Migliazzo told their daughters, junior Taylor and her 8th grade sister Olivia, that they were going to weekly brunch at their grandparents' house. They were going whether they liked it or not. April 24, the girls begrudgingly got out of bed bright and early. Taylor brushed her teeth, fixed her hair, pulled on black yoga pants and a University of Oklahoma sweatshirt and at 10 a.m. the four of them backed their blue Ford Explorer onto 68th Terrace. This was their Saturday morning routine.

However, this Saturday was not like any other.

They pulled up to their grandparents' familiar house near St. Thomas More parish, expecting a few hours of great food and a little family bonding. Little did they know, this would be their home for the next seven months.

About 30 minutes into eggs, bacon, orange juice and laughter, Olivia heard the "buzz, buzz, buzz" of her AT&T Mythic phone vibrating on the table. She answered the call only to hear her friend and neighbor Lilly O'Neil shout in panic, "Your house is on fire!" The six of them looked at each other around the table with confused looks, not knowing whether to run out the door or laugh at a simple prank.

"At first we thought it was a joke," Paul said. "It's a seventh grader calling another seventh grader. You figure they're being silly. But that's not something you normally joke about. So we told Olivia to call her back just to make sure."

Lilly wasn't joking.

The four jumped out of their chairs and raced out the door, their minds torn between reasonable thought and sheer panic. Taylor expected a small fire; she thought the back of the house might be slightly burned or an old chair would be scorched. She was looking forward to walking up the stairs to her sea-



**melt my heart** ★ The TV in the Migliazzo's family room was melted during the fire April 24. A picture nearby remained undamaged. Photo **SUBMITTED**

foam green room and finding everything the way she left it—her volleyball trophies from national tournaments on the shelf where they always are or her 16 years worth of picture collages hanging on the wall.

What they found was nowhere close to their expectations.

#### **Burning away**

They pulled up to find a crowd of concerned neighbors and friends speechlessly watching flames engulf their home, multiple flashing fire trucks parked on normally quaint 68th Terrace, firemen hosing down their bedrooms through second story windows and a heavy gray cloud of smoke hovering in the sky.

On the outside was the same red brick, white stucco, green-trimmed house they had seen an hour ago. It was the same house Taylor and Olivia had grown up in. It was the same house they had played American girl dolls in, baked chocolate chip cookies in, colored family portraits in and ate nightly family dinners in.

It was the same house on the outside, but on the inside, they only saw black—black walls, black



**torn apart** ★ The Migliazzos completely gutted their house during construction after a fire rendered the structure unstable. Photo **SUBMITTED**

ceilings, black furniture and black light fixtures. The wallpaper was bubbling so badly that it was falling off the walls, unrecognizable to the people who had seen it every day for over 16 years. The TVs were melting, the plastic falling like wax from lighted candles. Mirrors were smoky and fogged. A gaping hole had been formed in the dining room floor. The family stood in shock—the only emotion they could feel.

"It's surreal," Paul said. "You see all this activity—firemen busting up your floor, belongings being tossed out windows—and it's unbelievable. You see it on the news and you know it happens, but it doesn't happen to you. You feel helpless. An hour ago, everything was normal, and now, everything is upside down."

Fire investigators determined the fire was an electrical fire, caused by a canned light in the basement that sparked—even though it was turned off. Although the fire took only six or seven minutes to spread throughout the entire house, the destruction it caused was monumental.

"I never thought it would happen to me until it did," Taylor said. "I kept thinking back to all the stuff

they teach you in grade school, like if a fire happens stop drop and roll. I never thought I had to listen to that but then this happened. You have to know what to do."

The Migliazzos left their house about 30 minutes before the fire started. Although most of their material possessions were destroyed by the flames, smoke or water from the firemen's hoses, there were no people or pets left inside the house. In the words of Taylor, they simply "got lucky."

"Right from the start, the fact that we were all together and we didn't have to worry about anyone's safety made [the fire] just about stuff," Paul said. "It's just stuff. It's replaceable. Knowing no one was in harm's way was a burden we didn't have to deal with. The furniture we sat on every day was destroyed, but a lot of the pictures and memorabilia from the kids' childhoods were saved since they were in the attic. We still have lifelong memories."

#### **Family matters**

Without anywhere to turn, the family ended the day where they had started it: at Paul's parents'





“It was really emotional because it wasn't just Taylor who was affected. Her whole family was crying. It was scary to think about how one of them could have been there and gotten hurt.”  
Kathleen Vogel, junior

“I went right over, and as soon as the house was in sight and I saw how bad it was I burst into tears. It's sad to think about how much they lost. Not just material things, but also sentimental things. I couldn't do a lot for her, but I just stayed with her and tried to console her as much as possible.”  
Meka Kelly, junior

“That day we really just tried to keep things normal, we didn't want her to be alone. The best thing we could do was just be there for her as a friend and help her in any little way, like borrowing clothes or spending the night.”  
Katie Patterson, junior

“I got out of my lacrosse game and had a million missed messages saying to go to Taylor's house. I got there right as they got the fire under control. My mouth dropped. I couldn't believe that somewhere I had been three days ago was just gone. All I could offer Taylor was my support and my closet.”  
Margot Livers, junior

“You don't think it'll ever happen to you. When it happens to someone you know, it's really eye opening.”  
Peter O'Neill, neighbor



1. Junior Taylor Migliazzo moves back into her house Dec. 7 after a fire damaged the entire inside last Spring. 2. Migliazzo opens a box with belongings for her new room Dec. 7. 3. Shelly Migliazzo, Taylor's mother, glances around her newly renovated kitchen since the fire destroyed it April 24. Photos by **TAYLOR WOODRUFF**



**matter of time** ★ Starting in the basement, the fire burned a hole in the floor of the living room and melted the walls. Photo **SUBMITTED**

**black out** ★ After knocking out windows to extinguish the fire April 24, windows were boarded up with blocks of wood. Photo **SUBMITTED**

house. The five-bedroom house that they usually visited a few times a month became their home. No one had their own clothes or their own bed. Taylor and Olivia had to share a closet. No one could rely on Shelly's comforting sauerbraten pasta. They weren't near their neighborhood support system; they were in unfamiliar territory. Regardless, her grandparents, Vince and Bernice, took the family in without question, making their son and his family feel at home to the best of their abilities.

“[My grandparents] are perfect,” Taylor said. “They automatically took us in and didn't even have to think about it. They were always making us food and making sure we were okay after everything happened. They were so supportive throughout this whole process.”

#### New beginnings

After a few weeks of accepting what had happened, adjusting to life in a new environment and planning the future, Paul and Shelly began rebuilding the house. They searched for contractors, painters, electricians, plumbers and carpenters to build their

house literally from the ground up. The construction crew completely tore the inside apart, leaving nothing but the studs behind.

The Migliazzos bought new furniture. They changed the floor plan. They added closets here and there. In building their house, they built their future. After seven months of electrical wires sparking, drywall dust covering the floors, the smell of paint fumes seeping into every nook and cranny and the noise of power tools vibrating constantly, the house was finished.

On November 16 they packed up dozens of cardboard boxes, drove their explorer back to Brookside and walked through the door of their new house. This day was not only moving day, it was Taylor's 17 birthday. While moving back in was a blessing for each of the Migliazzos, to Taylor, simply eating her signature pink champagne cake—complete with pink icing, sparkles and a bottle of champagne mixed into vanilla batter—and blowing out candles in her own home was the best present she could have asked for.

“Sleeping in my bed the first night was so comfort-

able,” Taylor said. “It was the by far the best sleep I've gotten in the past seven months. Waking up was weird because I was like ‘wait, I'm actually in my room.’ It was a great birthday present.”

The walls may be new, but the family is just the same. Shelly still puts glass bowls of Hershey's Kisses around the house during the holidays. Antique tables and ancient decorations still elaborately furnish the living room. Family pictures still line the shelves.

“You move on,” Paul said. “We're right back where we were seven months ago. It feels like the exact same house.”

The Migliazzos can now put on their plaid skirts and suits in the morning, watch TV in their new hangout spot in the attic and eat family dinners around the glass dining room table. They now have a house complete with hardwood floors, brand new appliances, fresh coats of paint, new bedspreads and pillows, chandeliers hanging from the ceilings, tiled bathrooms and plasma screen TVs. To Taylor, it even smells new. But they also have a home—one that feels the same as it has for 17 years. ★ contact Megan Schaff at [mschaff@dartnewsonline.com](mailto:mschaff@dartnewsonline.com)

## By the numbers

**6** The number of minutes it took the fire to destroy the entire inside of the Migliazzo's house



Taylor's address on West 68th Terrace

**605**

**7** The number of months the Migliazzos lived with their grandparents while they renovated their old house.



Check out the pictures and video about the Migliazzo family house fire on DartNewsOnline.



## Sometimes, big gifts come in small packages



opinion by **CELE FRYER**  
videographer

It was two days before Christmas. Snow was beginning to fall as the wind howled in the blistering cold.

My older brother John and I were busy running last minute errands all over town for our Christmas-crazed mother. We stopped last at the Rose Brooks Center for battered women to deliver a couple barrels of Topsy's popcorn. After delivering the bins, we were headed home in the warmth of our car, quietly conversing and singing to the Christmas tunes on the radio. As we waited at the stoplight along 75th Street and Paseo Boulevard, a young boy in a short sleeved t-shirt shivered while attempting to cross the bustling intersection. He carried plastic bags full of belongings and his crippled grandmother struggled close behind, as her electric wheelchair malfunctioned.

John and I watched as the stoplight turned from red to green and the grandmother remained stranded in the middle of the street. The little boy ran back and forth, setting their bags on the curb, trying to help her.

Fed up cars honked at the two and sped past, shooting harsh looks at them. John turned right and quickly put the car in park. I looked at him, confused, as he suddenly got out and began running toward the strangers. I sat, watching the scene unfold. John ran into the intersection, grabbed the chair of the grandmother and pushed it to the safety of the sidewalk.

I continued to sit in astonishment as I watched him converse with the two. The boy and woman looked at him, smiling and hugging him, thanking him for his help. I saw John pull out his wallet and hand a \$100 bill to the boy. The boy's face lit up with excitement and joy. John waved and began walking back toward the car.

He was almost there when the boy began running after him, "Wait! Wait!" John turned around and the boy jumped into my brother's arms, embracing him, whispering in his ear, tears streaming down both of their faces.

"Are you the Secret Santa?" he asked. John shook his head as the boy continued to cry, "Thank you. Thank you so much. This is the best Christmas ever."

John got back into the car. We both looked at each other through tear filled eyes, smiled and headed toward our home. The whole way there, no words were said, only the soft murmur of Christmas music played in the background. No words needed to be exchanged; our tears said it all. Through one simple act, my brother had demonstrated and shown the real meaning of Christmas: to give and in return you will be overwhelmed with one of the greatest gifts of all—love. So, the next time you hear Johnny Mathis singing about the most wonderful time of the year in your warm home or car, stop, think and say a prayer for all those people in our own city and beyond who aren't as fortunate as each of us, who dread the stresses and bone-chilling temperatures this holiday season brings. ★ Contact Cele Fryer at [cfryer@dartnewsonline.com](mailto:cfryer@dartnewsonline.com)



**a watchful eye** ★ President Nan Bone recently purchased a ceramic statue of Critter, which sits on the windowsill in the front office of Donnelly Hall. The statue, standing tall in Critter's usual resting place, serves as a reminder that Critter is always watching over campus, administrative assistant Kelly Drummond said. Photo by **KATHLEEN HOUGH**

# days of our lives

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

There are **2** days until the Nightmare Before Christmas Sock-Hop.

Exactly **4** days until semester exams.

Only **16** days until Christmas.

Approximately **23** days until 2011.

About **66** days until the Father/Daughter Dance.

A mere **92** days until Spring Break.

And only **168** days until summer. ★

compiled by **MURPHY MARX**



## Critter's Corner

compiled by **KATHLEEN HOUGH**

On Oct. 28, Critter, the campus cat, died from a car accident. Students updated their Facebook statuses to commemorate a campus legend. Visit [dartnewsonline.com](http://dartnewsonline.com) for more coverage.

**Emily Baker here's to our fallen homie, Critter.. another one lost to the streets. RIP**

October 28 at 7:00pm · Unlike · Comment · View Feedback (5)

**Morgan Bené goodbye critter...ill miss ya little buddy**

October 28 at 6:29pm · Like · Comment

**Jodie Foster time for lil' bitz to go home now.**

October 28 at 4:27pm · Like · Comment

**Miranda Green I'm pretty sure everyones status at STA is about Critter. Whoever ran him over will pay. We are coming for you.**

**Margot Livers a sad day at STA, rest in peace Critter!**

October 28 at 5:28pm · Like · Comment

**Elizabeth Vater ohh critter. you will be missed greatly. little bitz will NEVER take your place in our hearts.**

**Katie Tampke Critter, Rest In Peace. You will always be St. Teresa's greatest cat.**

## My life sucks

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



**Shedd**

A couple of months ago on my way to school, I was rear-ended. Scared and in shock, I couldn't tell the 9-1-1 operator where I was. It took the EMTs over an hour to find me. The doctors told me my neck will never fully recover. This is the second accident where I have received extreme whiplash. MLS.

Rachel Shedd, junior

## It's a wonderful life

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

Katie Crow was taking a picture of me blowing rose petals out of my hands. We needed wind, so we started saying, "God, can you send a breeze, anything?" Then, there was a breeze and the picture came out perfect. These little things make me say "It's a Wonderful Life."

Taylor Rees, sophomore



**Rees**

compiled by **EMILY BRESSETTE**



# Battle Cry

Dressed as pilgrims and Native Americans in celebration of Thanksgiving, STA students cheered on the Stars' varsity basketball team as it took on the Notre Dame de Sion High School Storm Nov. 22 in the Goppert Center. STA lost 45-42.



1.



2.



3.

**1. what do we eat?** ★ Pilgrim senior Anna White cheers on the STA basketball team.

**2. indian chant** ★ Drummer Conor Burke jams with the STA pep band, "Shooting Stars," at halftime playing the Outkast song "Roses."

**3. bonnet babes** ★ Juniors Kelly O'Byrne, left, Allison Fitts, front, and Kathleen Devine sport matching pilgrim gear for the pilgrims and Indians themed game.

**4. tribe leader** ★ Senior Kathleen Hough leads the STA student section in the spirited cheer "Our Team is Red Hot."

**5. hip to the hop** ★ STA dance team juniors Alex Radtke, left, and Lindsay Cook perform their hip-hop dance in the Goppert Center.

**6. ballin'** ★ Senior Ally Franken battles the Sion Storm for the basketball at the first game of the season. The final score of the game was 45-42.

Photos by **TAYLOR WOODRUFF**



4.



5.



6.