

the **dart**

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ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY

foundations OF OUR faith

St. Teresa's will celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony for the new chapel of St. Joseph and Windmoor Center March 23. This fourth building, which will complete the Quad of the Little Flower, is the newest addition to the school's 101-year history on campus. See pages 10-11.

the *Dart* staff

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MORGAN SAID

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Letters Policy

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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The *Dart* will print corrections as soon as possible after the error is discovered.



Snow days unlikely to change schedule

Administration defines snow day requirements, students, teachers cope with possible repercussions

story by ROWAN O'BRIEN-WILLIAMS
academics editor

STA's schedule, allowing for five snow days, will not change after exactly five snow days this year, according to principal for student affairs Mary Anne Hoecker. This means that second semester finals, graduation and the last day of school are still on schedule.

According to principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick, students will be in school 174 days, meeting Missouri's requirements.

These requirements do not apply to private or parochial schools, according to MO.gov, the official Missouri state website. However, STA still chooses to follow them. STA also follows AdvancED's accreditation process. According to McCormick, this organization follows the state's requirements and does not set its own number of instructional days.

According to dese.mo.gov, a website for instructional days and inclement weather, a legal school term may include fewer than 174 days and 1,044 hours during certain types of inclement weather. The inclement weather rules, which "provide relief in the event of weather conditions which pose a threat to the safety and welfare of students," take effect under three circumstances: excessively cold temperatures, snow and ice storms and, under some conditions, excessively heavy rain. Two of these circumstances—excessively cold temperatures and snow and ice storms—could possibly apply to two of the five snow days STA has had this year.

If STA did happen to have another snow day, we would most likely attend school on a day that we normally have off, such as Easter Monday, according to Hoecker. We would also have to consider whether another snow day would actually affect the schedule, because two snow days may not apply due to inclement weather.

Although there is the possibility of another snow day, according to Hoecker, over the last 20 years, STA has never exceeded the number of snow days set into the school calendar. Hoecker also mentioned that there have been more times when STA has had no snow days.

Although the STA schedule remains the same, both teachers and students had to adjust to this year's snow days. According to theology teacher Betsy Hansbrough, the snow days this year initially set her back.

"One or two snow days is just a gift from God but five is just killing [teachers and students]," Hansbrough said.

In any case, STA students must attend school for a total of 174 days or 1,044 hours.

"It has to do with a formula, but basically, it's not so many days, it's how many educational hours," president Nan Bone said. "If you don't meet the days, you have to meet the hours." ★ contact Rowan O'Brien-Williams at robrienwilliams@dartnewsonline.com

300 WORDS: *the shot we all dream for*

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

story by MORGAN SAID
editor-in-chief

Dressed in her black and gold varsity basketball jersey, sophomore Peepers Gray was determined to win the game. It was overtime in the District semifinal tournament, and the opposing Lee's Summit High School had possession of the ball. The score was tied 59-59. It looked like the game was about to enter double overtime.

That is, until a Lee's Summit post player missed a crucial shot and Peepers recovered the ball with seven seconds remaining on the clock. She grabbed



SnOMG ★ Ms. Anne Edmonds, mother of junior Lucy Edmonds, shovels snow outside of her home Feb. 1. During the *Dart*'s snow day photo challenge, students submitted various photos to dartnewsonline.com. Photo by LUCY EDMONDS

the basketball, and after just three dribbles, "chucked" it into the air right before the half-court circle.

Now, all she could do was hope for a miracle.

The clock counted down, 4... 3... 2...

Swoosh.

The scoreboard now read 62-59.

Peepers had just scored the game winning shot, advancing the varsity Stars to the Class 5 District 13 finals.

As her team charged the court, Peepers found herself laying in shock at the bottom of the Stars' dog pile, which included senior sister, Caroline.

STA head coach Diana Krull ran onto the court



Gray

and hugged Peepers, and sitting in the stands, her mom was in tears.

Peepers's "crazy" swoosh didn't just spark a reaction among STA fans in the Hickman Mills Junior High gym—Lee's Summit fans had nothing but "pure shock" on their faces.

The shot even got media attention: Metro Sports aired the shot, prompting viewers to "think back when we were kids, we all did that driveway basketball dream shot, the half court shot to win a game at the buzzer. It rarely ever comes true. But for Peepers Gray of St. Teresa's Academy, it did."

Peepers said she is "kind of embarrassed" by the video, which now has slightly over 1,200 hits on YouTube.

Whether or not Peepers enjoyed the attention from her notorious shot, one thing is for sure: this is one moment that she won't soon forget. ★ contact Morgan Said at msaid@dartnewsonline.com

Hernon to retire, cites age as main reason

After 31 years of teaching at STA, head of math department makes decision to retire next school year

story by **EMILY BRESSETTE**
staff writer

Editor's note: By Hernon's request, the Dart submitted a list of questions from which she selected questions to answer by written response.

At the end of this school year, math teacher and department head Arlene Hernon will retire after 31 years at STA. Hernon wrote that that her age is the primary reason she is leaving.

As she leaves STA, Hernon reflects fondly on her three decades at the Academy.

"[I have had a] definitely positive [experience]!" Hernon wrote. "If not, I would have been long gone."

Since Hernon has a long history at STA, it took time for her to decide to retire.

"Retirement takes planning, so this was not a quick decision," Hernon wrote.

Among some of the first people to know about Hernon's retirement were members of her advisory who, according to Hernon, took the news well.

"My advisees know," Hernon wrote. "They are the best!"

Junior Hanna Katz, who not only had Hernon as an advisor, but also as a teacher, said it is difficult to think of Hernon leaving STA.

"It's really weird to think about [Hernon] retiring because she has been a part of the STA community since I really started to know about [STA]," Katz said.

Before Hernon announced her retirement, STA planned to hire one new math teacher. Now, the school will hire two, according to principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick.

"One of the reasons [we are hiring a new math teacher] is because we increased the number



math memories ★ Math teacher Arlene Hernon works on her SmartBoard during activity period. Hernon announced that she will retire from STA after 31 years of teaching. Photo by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**

of credits," McCormick said. "A student has to have four years of math. Our enrollment has also increased in the lower grades, so as they move up, we have a need for more teachers."

According to McCormick, the main goal of hiring an extra math teacher is to alleviate the amount of work for teachers. Currently, each math teacher is teaching six sections per day, McCormick

said, and by hiring a new teacher, each will teach five sections.

The STA administration must also choose a new head of the math department. McCormick said the math department will meet sometime

this spring to discuss who should take over. While McCormick and other administrators may discuss who should replace Hernon, the math department will ultimately decide.

As for life after STA, Hernon will not be completely gone.

"I plan to live a good life!" Hernon wrote. "Ms. Bone has asked me to sub, so you might see me occasionally."

A few things Hernon will miss at STA include her friends in the math department, her colleagues and especially her advisees. Katz said she will also miss having Hernon as her advisor.

"I know I'm going to miss having Ms. Hernon as an advisor and I don't envy whoever has to find her replacement," Katz said. "She was not only a great advisor, but I also thought she was a fantastic teacher." ★ contact Emily Bresette at ebresette@dartnewsonline.com

"I know I'm going to miss having Ms. Hernon as an advisor and I don't envy whoever has to find her replacement. She was not only a great advisor, but I also thought she was a fantastic teacher."

Hanna Katz, junior

Teachers, technology team test new handheld computers

Technology team members test tablets, handheld computers that teachers can use in classrooms

story by **SARA MEURER**
last look editor

About two months ago, members of the STA faculty and technology team began testing tablets, portable personal computers equipped with touchscreen capabilities. STA is testing many brands of tablets similar to the iPad, according to technology team member Jeff Zimmerman. Teachers, not students, would use this tool in the classroom if the school were to purchase them.

"[The tablet] is essentially a laptop with touch capabilities," Zimmerman said. "The teachers testing them will help us determine if these would be beneficial, or if just having laptops would be better."

STA science teachers Terry Conner, Renee Blake and Mary Montag and math teacher Jeanella Clark have all tested this new gadget. Clark began testing the tablet in January and believes it would not benefit her class.

"I don't see any benefit in my classroom," Clark said. "It wouldn't function any different than a normal computer."

Principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick believes the tablets will make teaching easier.

"STA teachers are testing tablet PC's to see if the mobile devices would assist in the teaching process," McCormick said. "Administration and teachers are considering the use of mobile/smart devices for data collection during classroom walkthroughs."

However, Clark believes that tablets would be more helpful for students rather than teachers.



trying out tablets ★ A student tests a tablet illustrating how the write-on laptop computers work. Tablets are handheld computers with functions not available on laptops. Photo illustration by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**

"I see more benefit to the students because instead of typing notes you could write them," Clark said. "We could go completely paperless if we had them."

McCormick explains that using tablets is a much more efficient way of collecting data.

"The tablet allows for handwriting to be converted to typed text as an anecdotal record of classroom observations," McCormick said. "I was hoping the tablets would provide a better format for gathering information."

Ultimately, Clark would rather have a laptop than a tablet.

"A tablet is definitely cool and the functions are

absolutely amazing," Clark said. "But if I had the choice between having a laptop and a tablet, I would choose a laptop because it would be more beneficial for me."

Administration has not yet determined whether tablets will be purchased for the school. McCormick says that the objective is to make teaching and learning the ideal experience.

"I am confident that STA will continue to investigate technology that will provide optimal teaching and learning environments for both teachers and students," McCormick said. "The tablets are a part of this investigative process." ★ contact Sara Meurer at smeurer@dartnewsonline.com

Read all about it: Stop bragging about spring break plans



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

Fellow seniors, school's out for...spring break. Almost. Many of you are venturing to the notorious Playa del Carmen, Mexico—home of all-night parties, tiny swim suits on too-tan bodies, hundreds of sweaty spring-breakers looking for a good time and little-to-no parental supervision. Fun.

There's no doubt your trip to Mexico will be anything but insane. Good for you. Have fun. Get crazy. Just stop obsessing about it, please.

I've been hearing people talk incessantly about Playa since the day school started in August. And I'm sick of it. I don't want to listen to you talk about your roommates at Sandos. Or how many minutes of tanning you bought. Or how you have a bikini for every color of the rainbow. Or how many exact days, hours, minutes and seconds are left until your plane takes off.

I don't want to watch you eat apples and drink Diet Coke for lunch every day so you can fit into the smallest two-piece possible. I don't care if you don't know how much pesos are worth in American dollars. I don't care if your chaperones will let you get away with anything. Congratulations. It's not all that.

Or maybe it is. No matter how much I find myself mocking your no-carb diets or rolling my eyes at your relentless conversations about whether triangle tops, halters or bandeaus are cuter, there's still a part of me that wants to be on that plane with you. I know I shouldn't. I know it's hypocritical. I know I'm not supposed to want to party in Mexico. But a part of me does.

The other part keeps thinking that almost everyone is staying at the same hotel, which means spring break '11 is pretty much Kansas City with a beach, no parents and a drinking age of 18. That's a recipe for success if I've ever heard one.

The purpose of a Mexican spring break is typically not to have a trip to remember, but a trip to be incapable of remembering the week after. Stories of downing tequila, taking body shots and drinking Coronas (with lime wedges, of course) have dominated the spring break scene. "I literally don't remember anything from that vacation" is something I've heard past seniors say after a wild spring break experience. Classy. I didn't know that was the goal of a vacation.

Regardless of how many months have been spent planning, booking and constantly prepping for Playa, the entire month after spring break will consist of stories about day rages, Mexican clubs, drunken escapades and vomiting on the beach. Not to mention, a few students will inevitably suffer from eternal hangovers after a week in Playa.

Seniors, I don't mean to take all my rage out on you. I know you may think I'm only so cynical because I'm not going on the unofficial class of 2011 vacation. I would love to party in Playa with Kansas City's senior class, and although I'll be in St. Petersburg laying on the beach, reading trashy magazines, it won't be the same. With only a few more months at the Academy, I want to spend as much time with all of you as possible. I promise, my jealousy comes from love.

So, class of 2011 seniors, do me a favor. Have fun. Be safe. Make some memz. No regretz. Take some pics. Don't forget about me while you're there. Just don't obsess about it when you get back. Okay? Thanks. ★ contact Megan Schaff at mschaff@dartnewsonline.com

DARTBOARD

Senior earns Silver Key Award

Senior Amy Wendland earned a Silver Key Award in the 2011 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Contest, which recognizes students' art or creative writing on a regional level. Wendland wrote her winning personal narrative in writing teacher Dianne Hirner's class. Wendland's work was chosen among 521 other submissions acquired in the Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas areas.

According to Wendland, her narrative explained why her family now owns a cat after having bad experiences with dogs.

"I wrote about all the dogs my family had and described why each was an utter failure in dog ownership," Wendland said. "After having three dogs that bit people without reason and one that tried to eat our guinea pigs, my family just gave up and got an antisocial cat. But we love him."

Wendland submitted the narrative herself online, with the direction and assistance of Hirner. However, Wendland did not expect to win anything at all and just hoped for a good grade. But, she was pleasantly surprised and honored with the outcome.

"I was really flattered to know that someone [who] has seen a lot of good writing thought that something I had written was worthy of being called good writing too," Wendland said.

June 1, Wendland's piece will be presented in the online publication *Missouri Youth Write*.

STA math team places second

The STA math team placed second overall in the Kansas City Teachers of Mathematics Competition on Feb. 27. The local competition was compiled of over 250 students from 19 Missouri and Kansas high schools. STA was categorized in the small school division, after schools were divided into large school and small school categories.

Math team member Katie Hornbeck, whose team placed first, did not expect to do that well.

"I didn't expect to win," Hornbeck said. "I sort of just went it and winged it."

Of the 29 awards given to females, 18 went to STA girls.

Mathletics team: third place for Senior Libby O'Neil, junior Paige Wendland and senior Laura Martin

Advanced math team: third place for Senior Sue Seemani, junior Paige Wendland and senior Laura Martin

Algebra team: third place for Senior Kathleen Hough, sophomore Elizabeth Stoops, sophomore Lane McGuire and freshman Natalie Rall

Geometry Team: first place for Junior Hannah Wolf, sophomore Sarah Kostoryz, freshman Shelby Hawkins and freshman Katie Hornbeck

Word problem team: second place for Senior Libby O'Neil, Junior Erin Sellers, Junior Grace Crowe, Sophomore Kate Sanders

Individual awards:

Freshman Shelby Hawkins: second place algebraic equations, second place geometry, second place word problems, third place number sense and second place all-around freshman

Freshman Katie Hornbeck: fifth place geometry

Sophomore Elizabeth Stoops: third place algebraic equations and fourth place graphing

Sophomore Kate Sanders: fourth place algebraic equations, fifth place geometry and third place word problems

Sophomore Lane McGuire: fourth place word problems

Junior Paige Wendland: fourth place algebraic equations and fourth place word problems

Senior Sue Seemani: fifth place probability/statistics, fourth place trigonometry, fourth place word problems, fourth place calculus and third place all-around senior

Senior Libby O'Neil: third place Calculus

compiled by **KATIE MCCOMBS**

Administration confiscates dance team sweatshirts

After discovering that sweatshirts included former student's name, administration confiscates them

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

Editor's note: *The Dart is withholding the former student's name due to concerns expressed by STA president Nan Bone in addition to the former student and her family.*

Earlier this month, the administration confiscated the dance team's sweatshirts after discovering that the sweatshirts included the name of a former student.

The administration became aware of the sweatshirts when a former STA parent and attorney contacted president Nan Bone to inform her that the sweatshirts featured the name of a former student.

The former student declined to comment on the record for this article.

The idea for the sweatshirt came from a dance team tradition that seniors have passed down since 2004: a mailbag mascot that the team named after a former student. Over the years, the team has filled the bag with medals from competitions, notes to each other and even food. According to dance team member Lindsay Cook, no one on the team realized that their mascot is actually a former STA student who left the school before graduating.

"We were shocked [when we found out it was a former student] because we didn't know it would turn into such a big deal," Cook said. "[The bag] had been made so many years before so we didn't know what the whole story was. It was just a tradition. We all just passed it down without knowing the full story."

In honor of the bag, which has been passed down since its creation, the team designed sweatshirts featuring the bag this year. The sweatshirts included a drawn picture of the bag with the words, "Seriously, there's no way [she's] single," and on the picture of the bag is the name of the former student.

According to Cook, the idea for the sweatshirt came from a joke a fellow camper at the University of Central Missouri's dance camp said.

After Bone spoke with the attorney, she spoke



banned bag ★ The STA dance team performed their hip-hop routine during half time of the Nov. 22 varsity STA basketball game versus Notre Dame de Sion. Photo by **MEAGAN STOOPS**

with two of the dance team captains, seniors Betsy Tampke and Taylor Kramer, to get a better idea of the bag, the sweatshirts and the traditions behind them.

"Talking to Betsy [and Taylor], I knew it was totally innocent," Bone said. "In the end, when I made the decision to pull them, I told the dance team 'It's not you, I know you didn't do anything mean to the [former] student. But it's not appropriate to be wearing a sweatshirt with a former student's name on it without their permission.'"

After speaking with Tampke and Kramer, Bone asked dance team sponsor Stacie O'Rear to speak with the rest of the dance team members about the decision to confiscate the sweatshirts. Bone also decided, because she doesn't want to waste the sweatshirts, to send them with a student on a mission trip for donation.

"When I told [the team] what the situation was, they were all very concerned because I don't think the girls wanted to make fun of somebody or do anything derogatory toward somebody,"

O'Rear said. "They were all very willing to turn the sweatshirts in and go for a different design."

Along with the removal of the sweatshirts, O'Rear informed the team at their State competition last weekend that it would be the bag's last tournament. Once the freshman that has the bag gives it to O'Rear, she plans to hand it over to the administration.

"Why keep it?" O'Rear said. "If it's a negative thing toward a person, I don't think they'd want to keep it. I don't think they want to be looked at in any way as doing something that's negative toward somebody else that they don't even know." ★ contact Katie Hyde at khyde@dartnewsonline.com

STA students experience glitchy batteries, netbook malfunctions

Students have brought batteries to the help desk throughout the year with reports of malfunctions

story by **EMMA ROBERTSON**
staff writer

Since the start of the year, the netbook batteries of more than 30 STA students have malfunctioned. This occurs when the contacts connecting the batteries to the netbooks detach with movement, which causes the netbooks to shut down.

"We believe we got a bad batch of batteries," technology support Jeff Zimmerman said in an email interview. "While the effects were still felt, it only affected a small number of students."

Sophomore Hannah McCausland experienced one of the 30 cases of netbook problems reported. According to McCausland, she had a loaner computer before Thanksgiving because her netbook would constantly turn off.

"Sometimes [the netbook] would let me turn it on and work on it for a couple hours but then it would turn off," McCausland said. "Other times it wouldn't even let me work at all, and it would just turn off automatically."

Students who have these problems are encouraged to report the problem to the help desk where it can be fixed, according to Stewart and Zimmerman. According to network administrator Matt Stewart, the test that students did during advisory allowed the help desk to separate the malfunctioning batteries from the working ones.

"Moving the netbook forwards and back again



broken batteries★ The help desk works to fix students' malfunctioning netbook batteries. About 30 students turned their netbooks in after the batteries continuously detached from the netbooks. Photo by **KIRSTY MCGHIE**

while on the flat surface tests the battery contacts," Stewart said in an email interview. "If [the batteries] are from the possible bad batch, then they will separate and cause the netbook to shut down."

When students submit their malfunctioning battery to the help desk, the turn around time is usually two to three days, according to Zimmerman. The battery will be replaced with a loaner battery while the problem is fixed. As long as the students report the malfunctioning netbook problems to the help desk, the problem is covered under warranty.

According to Zimmerman, the usual cost to replace a netbook battery is \$120, since it is one of the most expensive parts of the netbook. According to McCausland, the Help Desk sent out for a

completely new battery since they could not fix the original battery.

"When I got that new battery back, that same day I had to return [the battery] because it had the same problem," McCausland said.

Problems are usually fixed by sending a request to Dell for a new battery as there is no current way to fix the type of battery on the netbook, according to Stewart.

McCausland said that she felt nervous because she never knew when she would stop having access to her work.

"I felt really overwhelmed and nervous I wouldn't get stuff done," McCausland said. ★ contact Emma Robertson at erobertson@dartnews-online.com

Chapel should be place of prayer, meditation



STA is known for having one of the most beautiful college-like campuses in Kansas City, complete with three buildings and a spacious quad. But there is something missing at this Catholic high school founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph: a building dedicated to worship. Starting March 23, the latest improvement to our campus—the chapel—will begin construction.

This chapel should be a place unlike any other on campus, where students can do things like weekly meditation and silent prayer. Although the chapel will hold four classrooms, the students and faculty at STA need to make sure we use this chapel to its full advantage by dedicating it as a place of worship and offering meditation and a

4. Relief from pre-menstrual symptoms
5. Enhanced immune system
6. Builds self-confidence and self acceptance
7. Decreased muscle tension
8. Resolved fears and phobias
9. Reduced tendency to worry
10. Enhanced energy and strength
11. Increased compassion, forgiveness and happiness

In addition to weekly meditation, the chapel should offer a small room or space dedicated to silent prayer. This room should be open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. It would give students and faculty a place to get away from all the hustle and bustle of the school day to simply talk to God without any outside disturbances. Praying

is also a great way of achieving a sense of peace by taking your mind off your studies and focusing it on your prayers. Prayer can help students who are having problems with friends, family or schoolwork by talking about them with God and asking for guidance. The Catholic

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

7 out of 7 editors voted in support of this editorial

peaceful place for prayer.

Most students at STA would agree that stress is a daily visitor in our busy lives: wouldn't it be nice to have a quiet and peaceful environment to relax in throughout the day? The chapel should be used to provide meditation to students during both activities three times a week. This would allow students to take a much needed break from their worries, to relax and to calm their minds.

Benefits of meditation include:

1. Improved learning ability and memory
2. Increased creativity and productivity
3. Relief from emotional stress and headaches

Encyclopedia states that prayer is necessary for salvation; without prayer we cannot resist temptation or receive God's graces. Prayer is a vital part of our Catholic faith, and students and faculty need to be given the opportunity to do this activity whenever they want in a quiet environment.

The chapel is going to be a great addition to our already thriving campus; however, it can be an even greater addition if it focuses on reducing students' stress levels and improving students' spiritual growth. Offering meditation and silent prayer would give students the opportunity to do both of these things and much more. ★

Pros and Cons of meditation in the new chapel

STA students consider new uses for the chapel, offer options for reducing stress during school

Pros

- Decreased levels of stress for students
- Increased concentration and ability to learn
- Spiritual growth by praying and talking to God

Cons

- Falling asleep during meditation could make students tired for the rest of the day
- Finding teachers to moderate prayer and lead meditation would prove challenging
- Meditating could prevent students from using their spare time to work

compiled by **MARY O'LEARY**

Right On Target?



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

compiled by **MARY O'LEARY**

What should students be allowed to do in the chapel?

"[Prayer and meditation] would be good to have in the chapel because it would be a nice break from the classroom environment." Grace Dominique, sophomore



Dominique

"Prayer is a big part of my life, and [a space dedicated for prayer] would be a great opportunity to say some daily prayers."

Maggie Rellihan, sophomore



Rellihan

"People could go and pray if they were having a bad day or if they wanted to offer an intention for a loved one."

Ariana Goode, junior



Goode

Remembering lost lives, not a creepy habit



opinion by **CHRISTINA BARTON**
opinion editor

Many of my friends call my obsession/hobby/pastime/whatever you want to call it, creepy. Many of you will probably think the same thing, but I am not concerned with the critics. I am not afraid for people to learn about my "hobby."

I read obituaries. Every day. I do not know how I started or why I started for that matter, but every day, I sit down and read the obituaries in the *Kansas City Star*. Although I do not read all of the obituaries, my reading is not always random. I am, for some strange reason, drawn to obituaries

that end up revealing relatives of the deceased as someone I know. I often know when an STA student's grandparent, aunt, uncle, or cousin dies because I see the student's name as a survivor of the deceased.

I can see why my friends think I am strange or think that I stalk people. For me though, reading obituaries is a personal thing. Since my aunt died in 2006, I understand the pain people go through. In a matter of four months, two boys in my grade at St. Peter's lost their

moms to cancer and I lost my aunt to cancer. The difficulty of going to three funerals, to see so much sadness, made me realize how everyone goes through the same thing. I realized many people lose their lives every day and many people suffer through those losses.

I also saw how lucky my family was to have so many people who cared about us when we needed support. I saw the droves of people who came to my aunt's wake, all who were somehow

affected by her, who wanted to remember her. Not everyone is so lucky. Many people do not have a lot of family or friends to remember them when they are gone. Reading the obituaries gives me an outlet to pray for those who have lost their lives and to give their lives the recognition they deserve.

Obituaries welcome me to recognize those who have gone before me, to give respect to those suffering from the loss of a loved one. Even though I did not know either of the St. Peter's mothers well nor was extremely close with my aunt, the pain and heartache was the same. Someone is gone from your physical life, but at the same time, they are still with you. Not a day goes by when I don't think "What if she didn't die?" or "What if he didn't have to suffer that loss?" Yet, looking past the "what ifs" and accepting reality drives me to continue reading obituaries. I pray for those who have lost someone they love, knowing I would want the same thing for myself if someone in my family died.

Although they may be depressing, the obituaries give tribute to the lives people led and the new life they will now lead in heaven. I want to support that. Yeah, it may be really creepy when I tell my friends that Suzie's great uncle died and that Jill's cousin died, but I won't stop reading obituaries. I want to know when those people die. I may not actually say anything to them (they would be very creeped out if I gave them my condolences, especially if they have no idea who I am), but I will continue to pray for them.

Dr. Joe always said he read the obituaries to make sure he was still alive. And while that is not my intention, it is good to know I am not alone in my obituary reading habit. Join the club and you may discover something about yourself or your faith that you never knew before. ★ contact Christina Barton at cbarton@dartnewsonline.com

The Final Say

Reading obituaries gives an outlet to pray for others and give people the recognition their lives deserve.

Hipsters: ever heard of them?



opinion by **CARA MCLAIN**
managing editor of web

My glasses are prescription. I don't own anything from American Apparel. I don't live in Midtown. So this excludes me from being a hipster, right?

Whew.

At some point, calling someone a "hipster" became insulting. The would-be hipsters, feeling their inherent uniqueness slipping away while spotting their peers at the same thrift store or listening to the same band as them, demoted the term.

The hipster now most generally is a desperate, superficial person constantly trying to stay ahead of the mainstream trends. They use what the Wiki "How to be a Hipster" page deems the most "important hipster line: 'I liked them before they were cool'" as a personal mantra. They strive for authenticity and originality, all the while condemning those with the same goal in mind.

Many may not agree on a specific definition of a hipster, just as long as it's not defining them.

Mark Greif, a founder of the *n+1* literary magazine, wrote an essay for the *New York Times* titled "The Hipster in the Mirror" about the sociology of hipsterism.

He argues that "'taste' is the hipster's primary currency" and also a "means of strategy and competition."

Hipsters use their tastes in music, fashion and art as a way of one-upping those who threaten their ability to be the most different, the most authentic.

"The things you prefer—tastes that you like to think of as personal, unique, justified only by sensibility—correspond tightly to defining measures of social class: your profession, your highest degree and your father's profession," Greif wrote.

He differentiates the types of hipsters according to their economic background, identifying everyone from the lower middle class to the "trust fund hipsters."

The differences in background and opportunity

strike up the ongoing competition for superior taste because as Greif wrote "hipster knowledge compensates for economic immobility."

I have noticed the word "hipster" has become the perfect weapon to demean one's competition and forge ahead on the planes of superior taste.

So is this where my aversion to the classification hipster comes from?

Well, admittedly yes, but also in the superficiality of it all. If we judge hipsters on the surface level only, then what prevents us from judging or being judged based on other categories like race, gender, sexual orientation or economic background?

In actuality, it's all the same. We stop looking once we reach the exterior, never delving deep enough to find a hipster's humanity. We can't blame one specific group for this type of behavior either. We all participate in it, so we can all make the conscious effort to stop it.

Let's start here, with hipsters. Before we judge and separate ourselves from them or any other groups of people, let's keep their humanity in mind while we journey past the exterior. ★ contact Cara McClain at cmclain@dartnewsonline.com

The Final Say

Judging hipsters can lead to judging other groups of people.

WikiHow to be a Hipster

1. Gain a strong sense of ironic and sarcastic humor
2. Name-drop often
3. Insult a lot of bands
4. Remember to use perhaps the most important hipster line: "I liked them before they were cool"
5. Fashion is just about as important as your music taste is
6. Start growing your own food
7. Denial
8. Live near a large population of hipsters or else you will not be able to show off how hip you are

compiled by **CARA MCLAIN**

Keep up the cheering



opinion by **ALLISON FITTS**
web staffer

I have a confession to make. A few weeks ago, there was a day where I was not a Star. I didn't dress up as a pilgrim. I didn't do wacky, unique chants. I didn't cheer on my classmates and friends. Instead, I went to another high school's Friday night basketball game (gasp!).

Don't worry, it wasn't a Sion game.

However, I don't necessarily want to name names because, quite frankly, I don't want to embarrass this other school.

My friend who attends the other school and I decided it would be fun to go watch one of the school's biggest basketball games of the year. Due to all the hype surrounding the game, I was excited to see what crazy things other schools did to cheer on their teams. Would there be themes? Costumes? Fireworks? I was ready for anything and everything. Unfortunately, there was a major difference between my imagination and reality.

Unless it was "teenagers," there was no apparent game theme. The best cheer of the night was the repetition of the school's color (blue) 11 times in a row. The cheerleading squad didn't even show up! And sadly, there were no fireworks. Although I was saddened by this school's lack of spirit, it made me appreciate our spirit at STA that much more. I really didn't understand the magnitude of our enthusiasm toward sports at STA until I saw a tired, bored crowd at another school.

The great thing about our immense amount of school spirit is how much joy it brings to the STA community. When all of us sing "Party at STA" performed by Shooting Star, it may seem like we are just being goofy. However, we are helping the players, our very own classmates, to power on through tough games. On game days, you can almost feel the sisterhood being formed in the gym or on the field.

We have so many reasons to cheer on our Stars! Our volleyball team was district champions this year. Cross country has made it to state the past two years. Peepers Gray made a half court shot during the basketball district tournament a few weeks ago (the video is blowing up on Facebook).

I will never again take for granted our "Sion Meat" cheer. I will never again skip a big soccer game because I have "too much homework." I will never again go to an STA game and not appreciate the strong support system we provide each other.

The upcoming spring sports season will be a great way to show our support for our Stars. Soccer, lacrosse and track compete against Sion a total of 11 times this season. We even have a school-wide Black and Gold scrimmage on March 24 where the soccer

teams will play each other, followed by the lacrosse teams. It will be a great way to pump our school spirit for the sports season ahead!

My point is not that we have better student representation at games than a school five times our size, (although we do, and that is embarrassing for them). Rather, I want everyone to continue doing what we do best: cheer on our Stars. Whether you realize it or not, the school spirit we have defines us as a school and as a sisterhood. ★ contact Allison Fitts at afitts@dartnewsonline.com

The Final Say

Our school spirit at games helps us to support each other and form a strong sisterhood. We do a great job with this already, so keep it up Stars!

“Although I was saddened by this school's lack of spirit, it made me appreciate our spirit at STA that much more. I really didn't understand the magnitude of our enthusiasm towards sports at STA until I saw a tired and bored crowd at another school.”

Nix the yoga pants, wear the uniform



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

In eighth grade, I took Dr. Joe Grantham's morning algebra I class at STA. Every morning after class, I waited in the entryway of Donnelly Hall for my carpool to pick me up. Naturally, I couldn't help gawking at all the older high school girls. However, during these intense gawking sessions, I noticed one thing—while I was dressed in my St. Peter's School plaid shirt, polo and v-neck sweater, some STA students were not. I often wondered how so many girls got away with blatant dress code violations. Unfortunately, three years later, I still wonder this same thing.

Styles have changed, and now, most girls prefer wearing yoga pants rather than the approved skirt or black uniform dress pant. However, this is a uniform violation. The student handbook clearly states that "pants may not be: capri, cut at bottom, jeans material, sweat

or flannel." It also states that "administration reserves right to determine acceptance of pant," which they have done multiple times.

According to principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick, yoga pants are not allowed because they're not uniform and they're not professional.

"Maybe [yoga pants would be acceptable] if [STA] was a gym or if I was a yoga teacher, but we are not all that," McCormick said.

In all honesty, I'd have to agree. STA prepares us for our future: it's a college-preparatory high school. Most of our futures will involve colleges and professional fields, which require professional dress, and for a reason. What message would a lawyer send if she showed up to court dressed in sweat pants? Most people would think she didn't take her job seriously. Adjectives like "lazy" and "unprepared" might be thrown around. STA students send this same message when they show up to school dressed in yoga pants.

According to McCormick, STA students and their uniforms send messages even when they are off campus. Students also send messages to visitors who come onto the STA campus.

"People draw their own conclusions based on the images they see," McCormick said.

This couldn't be more true. When students

go to work or run errands after school, they send messages to society at large. A properly dressed student tells others that STA is a respectable and professional establishment. A student in yoga pants tells others that STA students don't take school seriously. Is this really how you want to represent your own alma mater?

Our school—and for that matter, the nature of any school—is a unified establishment. All STA students attend the same school, play sports for the same school and should wear the same school uniform.

However, students didn't convey this image to McCormick when she came onto the STA campus for the first time.

"I wasn't sure what the dress pant was when I came [to STA]," McCormick said.

At one point, one of our own administrators couldn't tell what the uniform was because of such widespread dress code violations. It's ridiculous. All students should follow the dress code in order to convey a unified image.

Girls, lose the yoga pants and support the Academy. ★ contact Rowan O'Brien-Williams at robrienwilliams@dartnewsonline.com

The Final Say

Nix the yoga pants.

Sorry mom, dad, I've got a disease: it's called senioritis



opinion by **MADALVNE BIRD**
centerspread editor

"Madalvne, don't you have any homework to do?" This is the question my mom greets me with almost every night. I inevitably respond with, "Yes, but I'm not being lazy, Mom. I have a disease."

Yeah, I've got it. You know what I'm talking about. That condition that people in the twelfth grade eventually contract. The dreaded senioritis. The condition where I have absolutely no drive to accomplish anything but to get to graduation.

My college applications are finished, so I obviously have nothing left to do, right? Wrong.

It's sad when I end up spending more time contemplating doing my homework or studying than actually doing it. I very rarely even take my backpack out of my car now. My grades probably reflect this new-found laziness of mine.

Here is a breakdown of what a typical day looks for me: wake-up at about 7:25 a.m., roll out of bed and dress quickly, and then I make the four minute journey from my house to school. Once I arrive, I leisurely stroll up to Carlson advisory to sign myself in just in the nick of time. I then proceed to my difficult senior schedule full of frees where I do nothing but procrastinate and use my time unwisely. Thanks a lot, Laura Neenan, for introducing me to Grooveshark via your blog on DNO. I'm addicted to it now.

That Spanish test I was supposed to be studying for? Lo siento, Señora. Facebook has become a new type of studying for me. I spend at least two hours a night on the social networking site, stalking my fellow seniors. When I got tired

"It's sad when I end up spending more time contemplating doing my homework or studying than actually doing it."

of actually being on Facebook? I watched the movie "the Social Network". And after that? I spent the rest of my night on Twitter, my latest obsession. I would say that I spend more time thinking about composing a new tweet than sitting down to my schoolwork. After that I loungingly scroll through my Netflix, just because by now it's already 9:30 p.m., why would I start doing anything at this time at night?

Even as I am writing this column, I am contemplating not finishing it. I find myself unable to focus in class and counting down the minutes until I can leave early for my period nine free. (I have that free Monday-Thursday. Eat your hearts out, seniors).

The only thing that I really want to do is hang out with my classmates. I love coming to school, just not going to class. Somebody, please help me find a cure for this problem that I am having, because it is actually really interfering with my life right now. Good luck in college, self. ★ contact Madalvne Bird at mbird@dartnewsonline.com

The Final Say

Senioritis is making my day life at STA more difficult than it actually needs to be.

Silent study: not so silent after all



opinion by **KATIE MCCOMBS**
staff writer

The rooster just crowed, and the sun just rose. I'm now wide-eyed and bushy-tailed Monday, period one, at 7:46 a.m., in silent study. Well, not exactly. When I sit down to begin my Spanish homework due next period, all I need is a little paz y silencio. Peace and quiet. That is what I bargained for when I thought of a place where it was silent... and I could study... Silent study? Perfect choice. I obviously had a rough night of procrastination and lack of sleep, as my mind is already drifting, and I just need to crack down and focus.

As a typical early-arriver to silent study, the Commons are all mine. I have plenty of spots to pick from and plenty of silence to absorb. In the time span of about 7:46 to around 8:01, I can basically hear crickets chirp, it is so quiet. But, after 8:01, all heck breaks loose. You would think the Ringling Brothers circus came to town. You all start flooding in, stomping around, dragging their feet, making a huge racket. I lose total focus already, just by these nonverbal actions. You comfortably settle in without any respect for the surrounding studiers and mark their territory. We're off to a bad start and it's only 8:05. "Okay you're just hustling in to avoid a tardy slip and are a little disheveled by your own morning problems. I get it, it has happened to all of us," I think. But, I would think since you have already turned heads when parading in with lions, elephants and fire rings, you would become a little embarrassed and make an effort to not disturb anyone the rest of the period.

This is most definitely not the case. Noises start filling my normal area in the corner, where I purposely sit to avoid the nuisance. These

noises do not involve the culprit(s) getting situated with their studies and unzipping backpacks or clipping binders, which is totally acceptable. Instead, you are chit-chatting away as if you were on a lunch date. There are just pods of you scattered throughout the Commons, sitting and gossiping away like it's nobody's business. I hate to be frank, but I would much rather than listen to a Josh Groban CD than to you talking about Sally Sue who likes Tom's second cousin's best friend. However, I do have a sliver of respect for that one girl who asks a quick question to her friend about a math problem. To be honest, I do that when bad comes to worse.

Regardless, I have much more respect for my surrounding peers, like me, who actually use this silent environment. Why even go into an area labeled "silent study" when you're going to have a jab sesh with your besties? Granted, I do enjoy socializing with my gal pals, but I save it for lunch/activity. Here's a thought: go to an area where talking is allowed, or even encouraged. It just seems a tad bit ironic to talk in a place that is supposed to be silent. Hate to state the obvious, but it's not called "talking study." Even Ms. McKee's constant "Girls, please be quiet" is muffled by your banter. She then has to make her rounds and personally tell you to quiet yourselves. Come on, Academy, silence is golden. ★ contact Katie McCombs at kmccombs@dartnewsonline.com



graphic by **CARA MCCLAIN**

The Final Say

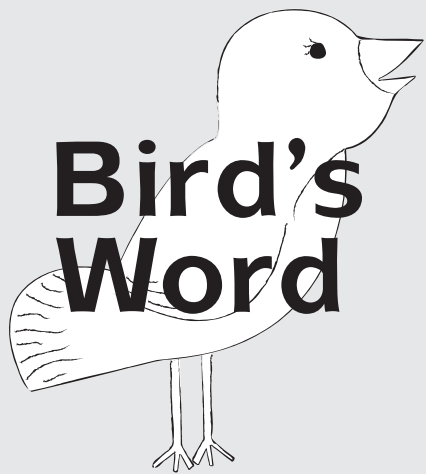
Silent study is not so silent anymore.

Corrections

The *Dart* staff fixes an issue 6 mistake

Academics: In the story "New course options to begin next year," no accelerated course is weighted or worth college credit.

The *Dart* regrets the error.



Bird's Word

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

Dear Bird,

Lately I have been having trouble with my spending habits. I have been spending so much money lately on things that aren't that important or necessary in my life, especially since spring break is coming up soon. My parents are growing increasingly frustrated with this shopping problem that I have been having and keep telling me that I need to be saving money for college. But I just can't seem to stop myself from buying, literally, everything in sight. The people at Forever 21 and Urban Outfitters know me by name now and it's getting to the point where my shopping issue is becoming embarrassing. I hide shopping bags in my car so that my parents don't see that I bought something new, again. I've become obsessed with clothes and going out and having a good time, that I am forgetting how I really do need to be saving up for my soon to be freshman year in college. What should I do, Bird? Do you have any helpful tips to curb my spending habits?

Sincerely,
Shopaholic Senior

Dear Shopaholic,

It's funny that I received this letter, considering that I am having similar problems right now. I, too, find myself constantly spending money on things that I don't need. I spend a lot of time shopping and going out to dinner with my friends, when I could be saving it. Even though I have a job, I have a hard time realizing that I can't just spend all of my paycheck on clothes the second that it falls into my hand. So, this advice column is the perfect way for you and I to both learn how to curb our compulsive spending problems. Here are some ideas:

1. Purposely leave your debit card, ATM card, or credit card at home when you go shopping. This will be a way that you can't spend a lot of money because you don't have that much with you. When you go out, just take a very small amount of cash with you. This is perfect for the person who is a "swiper" (someone who swipes their card without actually thinking how much money they are spending). The swiper doesn't think that they are spending that much because they don't see the money physically leaving their hands.

2. Don't buy something immediately after you see it in the store. Tell the person working at the register to hold it for you and then walk around in other stores. Maybe you'll realize that you really don't need it or that you already have something similar. Give yourself proper decision-making time.

3. Just avoid malls and stores. If you are that tempted to buy stuff when you are in a store, then just stay out of them. Note: this is a last resort.

These tips should help out the everyday spend-thrift. I know that I am definitely going to try step number one, which is probably my biggest issue. I hope this helped, Shopaholic!

Sincerely,
Bird's Word

compiled by **MADALYNE BIRD**

To submit letters to Bird's Word, contact Madalyne Bird at mbird@dartnewsonline.com

Taming the stage, acting the part

Sophomore Sarah Kostoryz takes on lead role in gender reversed "Taming of the Shrew" adaptation

story by **NIKKI RODRIGUEZ**
web staff

In a scene set up like a boxing match, "Taming of the Shrew" lead characters played by Rockhurst High School senior Bryan Brown and STA sophomore Sarah Kostoryz face off. Brown strikes the first blow, but both actors end up wrestling on the stage floor in a literal battle of the sexes.

"The fight scene was my favorite," director Shana Prentiss said. "I envisioned it as being very physical, and Sarah and Bryan really embraced and understood that."

Sophomore Sarah Kostoryz played the fiery female lead, Patruchia (originally Patruchio) in the winter production of "Taming of the Shrew."

In Prentiss's adaptation, Kostoryz played a "gold-digging businesswoman" with stereotypical male characteristics who woos a foul-tempered young man for his large dowry. Patruchia throws fits, boxing gloves, boots, food and clothing in a charade to give Katrino, played by Brown, a taste of his own medicine.

According to Prentiss, Kostoryz understood how physical Patruchia's character was during auditions.

"From the moment she got on the stage, she was up in everyone's face," Prentiss said.

Prentiss preserved Shakespeare's original story line in her gender reversal adaptation. Kostoryz's character tames and marries the unbearable Katrino.

According to Shrew cast member sophomore Elena Spaulding, Kostoryz and Prentiss tried different approaches to the character of Patruchia.

"First, she tried [playing Patruchia] as a crazy schizophrenic," Spaulding said. "Then she tried playing the part as a man, and it just clicked."

Kostoryz knew the play from Ms. Carrie Jacquin's English I class she took freshman year. To prepare for the play, the cast watched a slapstick comedy that inspired the boxing scene.

According to Kostoryz, the cast also watched a movie adaptation of "Shrew" to "see the transition from 'I hate you' to 'I love you.'"

Preparing for her role, Kostoryz mostly worked with sophomore Morgan Trees and Brown. The character study for Patruchia mostly involved talk-



twist and shout ★ Sarah Kostoryz, left, and Bryan Brown's characters fight during a performance of "Taming of the Shrew" at STA Feb. 16. The two play a couple with a complicated relationship. Photo by **ALLISON FITTS**

ing about what kind of woman she was.

"Bryan and I talked through it a lot," Kostoryz said. "While Ms. Prentiss was directing other people, we went off and did our own thing."

Originally, Kostoryz did not intend to try out for the play.

"At first, I really didn't want to [audition],"

Kostoryz said. "My boyfriend and my family kind of convinced me to go."

According to Spaulding, Kostoryz played Patruchia as a dominant, larger than life character.

"It was a little scary watching her during rehearsal," Spaulding said. "But she was the glue that

kept [the cast] together."

Playing larger than life characters was not new to Kostoryz. Last year, she played an egotistical reverend in "Greater Tuna," her first STA production. Kostoryz has played three male roles at STA and performances at the Fringe Fest in Scotland.

Kostoryz is considering another STA production next year.

"I'm thinking about whether I can do a musical or not," Kostoryz said. "I've never taken singing lessons, so that's something I may look into. I danced for nine years, but I don't know." ★ contact Nikki Rodriguez at nrodriguez@dartnewsonline.com

Getting a kick out of new exercise trend

As kickboxing's high intensity workouts become more popular, STA students join the trend

story by **EMILY MCCANN**
staff writer

With sweat pouring down her face, sophomore Taylor Steen repeatedly punches and kicks a 100 pound bag. She jabs with her left, punches with her right and kicks as hard as she can, completing this sequence over and over until her muscles feel numb.

Otis Roper, a highly trained Mixed Martial Arts instructor and trainer at Title Boxing Club, yells at Steen to keep going, shouting out specific instructions and patterns over blaring Michael Jackson songs. Roper checks in on Steen, making sure she is doing the moves and sequences correctly. He keeps Steen focused, yelling encouraging phrases like, "Don't give up, fiery ginger!"

This has been Steen's after-school routine for the last three months. Steen is a member at Title Boxing Club and attends classes about three times a week.

Boxing clubs are popping up all over Kansas City, such as Title Boxing Club in Prairie Village and Authentic Boxing Club in downtown Kansas City.

According to Title Boxing Club owner Kim Nofsinger, membership has recently increased. Nofsinger attributes this increase to several different factors.

"First of all, very few places have over 50 heavy



photo kicker ★ A kickboxer practices in her class Dec. 1 at Title One Boxing Club on State Line Road. Photo by **KATHLEEN HOUGH**

bags for use in a class setting," Nofsinger said. "Plus all of our trainers have a fight background so it is a completely different class than you would see in a kickboxing class at a traditional gym."

According to Nofsinger, the word is also spreading about the health benefits of kickboxing.

"I'm not surprised it has become so popular,"

Steen said. "It's great exercise and you leave feeling like you just got the best workout ever."

According to a study by the University of Mississippi that measured the physical health benefits of kickboxing, this form of exercise improves one's fitness level and heart health. Kickboxing helps to keep blood pressure under control in the long run and also improves heart rate. The study also found that punching and kicking can help reduce stress by allowing those moves without the fear of hurting others.

"I love how I feel after kickboxing," Steen said. "But it works so well for me because I can't get distracted. [My instructors] force me to [work hard]."

Not only does kickboxing make you feel better, but according to the American Council on Exercise, it can also help you look better. A recent study done by the organization proved that kickboxing burns approximately 350 to 450 calories per hour.

According to Roper, the typical structure of a class includes a warm up with some muscle toning and jumping jacks, followed by 30 minutes of kickboxing that includes knee strikes, kicks and punches.

"The important thing to remember is that you train like a fighter without getting hit," Roper said.

Steen believes that the atmosphere at Title Boxing Club also helps her stay motivated during her classes.

"The class instructor that we go to gave us individual nicknames," Steen said. "Mine is fiery ginger. It's really fun and so much better than a gym because you stay moving and don't get distracted." ★ contact Emily McCann at emccann@dartnewsonline.com

Building on tradition

St. Teresa's will celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony for the new chapel of St. Joseph and Windmoor Center March 23. This fourth building, which will complete the Quad of the Little Flower, is the newest addition to the school's 101-year history on campus.



Front view of chapel

STA president Nan Bone discusses the groundbreaking ceremony and plans for new building

story by CELIA O'FLAHERTY lifestyles editor

In 1909, 102 years ago, STA relocated to the present Windmoor campus on 57th and Main Street. Thirty years ago, STA welcomed its third building, the Goppert Center onto campus. Wednesday, March 23, STA will break ground on its fourth building to complete the Quad, the Chapel of St. Joseph and Windmoor Center.

Breaking Ground

According to campus ministry director Joe LaScala, the groundbreaking ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. with a prayer service led by the Bishop of archdiocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Robert Finn, in the Goppert Center. Students and guests will listen to readings, Bishop Finn's homily and intercessions.

"It will be like a normal prayer service...students will help in their normal roles," LaScala said. "[But] we will then do something that we have not done. We will process from the gym to the building site as a community."

Finn will then say a prayer of blessing over the site and sprinkle it with holy water. According to executive assistant Becky Flores, Finn, STA board members, members of the STA administration, select students and top donors will then actually break ground. Next, everyone will join as a community, say the Our Father and listen to a closing prayer, according to LaScala. Students will be allowed to dress up for the one hour ceremony and classes will resume afterward.

To LaScala, this ceremony is much more than preparation for the construction of the new building.

"The groundbreaking and this whole process takes the work of everyone," LaScala said. "The history of groundbreaking ceremonies is that it blesses the work of the people, not just the construction workers who are physically building it, but the donors who helped make it possible, the students and faculty who will make use of the chapel once its complete and God for being present throughout the whole process. This is a time for celebration, that we, as a community, show that we are dedicated to making God and our relationship with Him a focal point."

Build me up

Construction workers will begin building the Chapel of St. Joseph and Windmoor Center shortly after



Aerial shot of STA



South view of chapel



View of chapel from Quad

the breaking ground ceremony. Construction should last for about 10 months, according to president Nan Bone.

Once the building is finished, the chapel will be used for class and alumnae masses, meditations and course gatherings, according to executive director of development Mary Beth Compton.

The new building will have two names to distinguish the chapel from the classrooms: the Chapel of St. Joseph and Windmoor Center. There will be entrances from both the parking lot and the Quad, but students will also be able to enter the Quad through sidewalks on either side of the building. The entire building will be made of the same brick as Donnelly Hall, but the Chapel of St. Joseph will be surrounded by a metal lace-shaped sheet, which, according to stteresasacademy.org, is a significant symbol of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet:

"The architects [of the new building] conducted research and learned that St. Teresa of Avila was the patron saint of lace makers, and that in the 1600s the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet began making lace as a source of income and as a tool for women to escape poverty. The artistic tradition of lace making continues today and is considered a vital part of the heritage of the Sisters of St. Joseph."

The chapel will seat between 150 and 175 people, and Bone plans on dedicating the Chapel of St. Joseph and the hallway connecting the parking lot to the Quad to special artifacts. For example, Gould Evans designers plan on placing the St. Joseph statue

(now located in the west hallway of the Music and Arts building), which was a gift from the father of the first STA graduate, in the hallway. Other additions to the historical displays in the building include Fr. Donnelly's Bible, antique chalices, other special religious artifacts and possibly digitalized photos of previous STA classes. According to Bone, she wants both students and visitors to experience these artifacts.

"A visitor could come into our lobby and go through the history of our school," Bone said.

According to Bone, the most unique aspect of the building is that while part of the building will exhibit the 150 years of history at STA, the other part will be filled with the newest technologies of the 21st century. The Windmoor Center will include restrooms, a kitchen and a large area where electronic, folding walls will be able to form up to four high-tech classrooms. Because the classrooms will have no windows, the architects decided to add large windows facing the Quad, so that sunlight would be able to enter the rooms. Bone said that she hopes to work in an area in front of these windows for lounge chairs where students can "curl up, read a book and study."

Nan Bone, President

When it comes to the technologies of these classrooms, Bone is still searching for the tools that will best fit STA's needs. One program she and principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick are researching is Blue Valley School District's Center for Advanced Professional Studies Program (CAPS) where students work with businesses to create proj-

ects that they will produce at multimedia rooms at their school, then use in the business.

"We would really like to see our students, down the road, be able to take a semester credit with a business," Bone said. "It's taking real world learning and applying it [to school]...it gives [students] a reason for learning."

As for the actual courses and teachers that will move to the Windmoor Center classrooms, Bone and the administration have made no final decisions. While specifics of the new building are not finalized, Bone feels more excited as the groundbreaking ceremony and construction draw nearer.

"It's here!" Bone said. "It's happening! This school is almost 150 years old, it has been about 30 years since we have built a building [on campus]. [Current STA students] are living history—the campus will be a complete quad and it will be just like a college campus."

Above all, Bone sees the Chapel of St. Joseph and Windmoor Center as a sign of STA's rapid growth.

"[The new building] says something about us," Bone said. "[STA has] this rich history, tradition and legacy, but yet we are so vibrant, alive and going forward. It is such an honor to really honor our Catholic heritage."

Digging deep

One of the construction projects that STA will start soon after the groundbreaking ceremony will be the addition of geothermal wells. According to Bone, the wells will be placed deep into the ground, using the Earth's natural thermal energy to heat and cool the Chapel of St. Joseph and Windmoor Center building.

"The idea of placing geothermal wells on the [STA] campus sparked with the Sisters of St. Joseph," Bone

Who is on the invitation list?

- CSJ members
 - STA board members
 - Gould Evans designers
 - Olsson Associates and large donors
 - All STA students, faculty, staff, parents and local alumnae
- source: President Nan Bone

Ins and outs of the chapel

All photos SUBMITTED compiled by CELIA O'FLAHERTY

The chapel will be surrounded by a metal lace-shaped sheet, a symbol of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

"The architects [of the new building] conducted research and learned that St. Teresa of Avila was the patron saint of lace makers, and that in the 1600s the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet began making lace as a source of income and as a tool for women to escape poverty. The artistic tradition of lace making continues today and is considered a vital part of the heritage of the Sisters of St. Joseph." Source: stteresasacademy.org



The chapel will seat between 150 and 175 people and Bone plans on dedicating the Chapel of St. Joseph and the hallway connecting the parking lot to the quad to special artifacts. For example, Gould Evans designers plan on placing the St. Joseph statue in the hallway. Other additions to the historical displays in the building include:

- Fr. Donnelly's Bible
- Antique chalices,
- Other special religious artifacts and
- Possibly digitalized photos of previous STA classes

One program Bone and principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick are researching is Blue Valley School District's Center for Advanced Professional Studies Program (CAPS) where students work with businesses to create projects that they will produce at multimedia rooms at their school, then use in the business.

The Windmoor Center will include:

- Restrooms
 - Kitchen
 - A large area where electronic, folding walls will be able to form up to four high-tech classrooms
 - Large Windows facing the quad to let in natural light
 - Lounge chairs where students can "curl up, read a book and study."
- Source: Nan Bone, President

Money raised

Overall, STA has raised over \$41 million for the Capital Campaign, specifically for the construction of the Chapel of St. Joseph and Windmoor Center, according to executive director of development Mary Beth Compton. Although this amount is already over STA president Nan Bone's original goal, the development team is still working to raise more money for the campaign.

Construction site plans

During the period of construction of the geothermal wells, there will be a construction fence around a portion of the campus. Because of this, there will be temporary sidewalks built for students.

Interior of Chapel



What is happening to the current chapel?

The chapel in M&A will be converted into the drama room.

- The room will include:
- men and women's dressing rooms
- makeup counter
- larger space for play preparation
- closer proximity to auditorium

"I am thrilled! [The room] has more space, it is closer to the auditorium, it has windows and it is not connected to the bathroom."

—Drama teacher Shana Prentiss

said. "They were the first group of environmentalists of the [Kansas City] area."

Although the installation of the geothermal wells will cost more than that of regular heating and cooling systems, Bone said the wells will save STA about 40 percent in the long run.

"At first, we debated [using geothermal wells]," Bone said. "We were short on funds, but in the end we asked, 'Is this economically right for this building?'"

According to Bone, "beautification" also played a role in her decision to install the wells.

"[The Chapel of St. Joseph and Windmoor Center] is a smaller building than M&A and Donnelly," Bone said. "We don't want [students and teachers] to look down from other buildings and see an air conditioner. A lot of thought went into the look of the building."

While aesthetics played a major role in Bone's decision, it all came down to the Sisters of St. Joseph.

"We felt like [adding geothermal wells] was the right thing to do for the building," Bone said. "It is dedicated to them. We wanted to reflect their mission."

Out with the old, in with the new

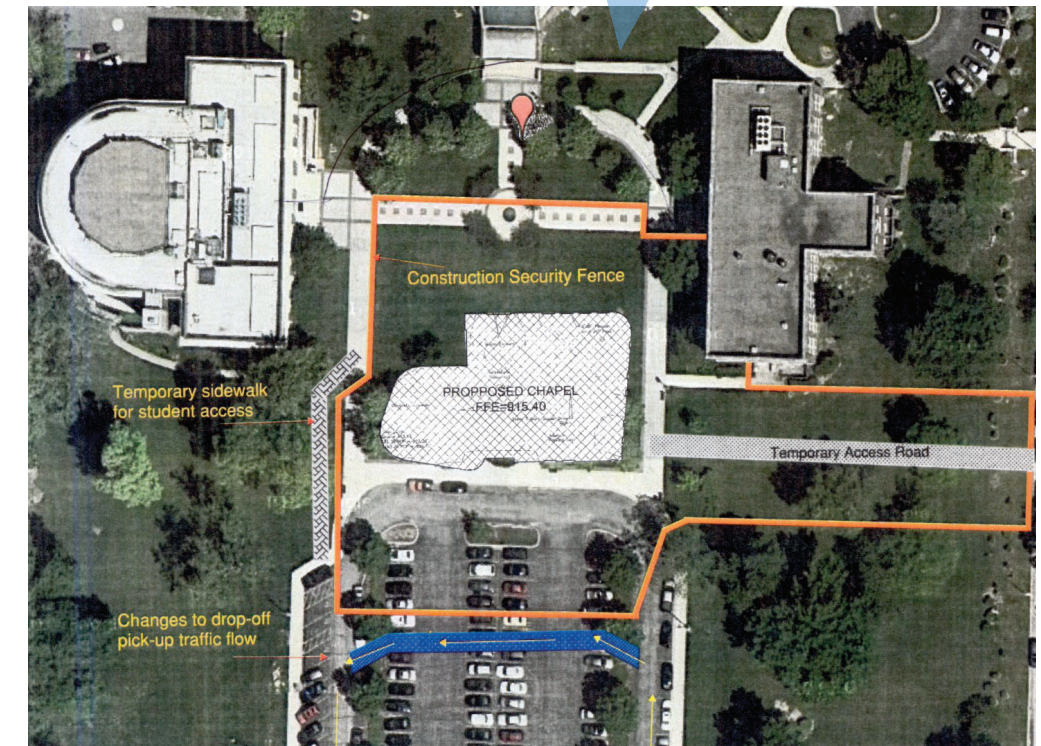
The administration will renovate the current cha-

pel on the first floor of M&A into a room for drama teacher Shana Prentiss' theater program after the construction of the Chapel of St. Joseph and Windmoor Center. According to Prentiss, the room will include men and women's dressing rooms and a makeup counter. Although this room will provide a larger space for musical and play preparation, Prentiss is excited most for the location of the room.

"I am thrilled!" Prentiss said. "[The room] has more space, it is closer to the auditorium, it has windows and it is not connected to the bathroom." According to STA president Nan Bone, the administration's long term goal is to move teachers out of the M&A basement.

"We would like the music department to be one side of the building, and the drama department on the other," Bone said. "If this happens, we will use [the basement] classrooms when we have to, possibly for resource centers or silent study rooms." However, Bone said that although Prentiss will move to the first floor, her plans for the future of the basement are not permanent. She would like to finish construction of the new building before beginning to think about other renovations.

"With [all of these changes], we told the teachers to be open, to just see how it goes," Bone said. ★ contact Celia O'Flaherty at coflaherty@dartnewsonline.com



Winter sports finish strong, hopeful



divin' in ★ Senior Catherine Arensberg dives at the Individual League Championships Feb. 10. STA took first place at this meet. Photo by **SARAH WIRTZ**

While the swim and basketball teams finished strong, dance team struggled to meet their goals

story by **CASSIE REDLINGSHAFER**
sports editor

Swimming

The swim team placed eighteenth at the State meet, their most successful finish in school history, Feb. 19. Individual swimmers also placed high and broke school records.

"I was ecstatic with how we finished," Varsity swimmer Rose Hutchison said. "I never thought we'd do as well as we did."

Hutchison placed seventh in both the 50 meter freestyle and the 100 meter freestyle.

Both of these times are now school records. Hutchison also was named first team all-state, which is awarded to the top eight swimmers in each category.

"I didn't expect to do as well as I did in 50 but in the 100 I was seeded fifth and so I wanted to do a little better than I did," Hutchinson said. "But I'm still so happy with seventh."

Many other STA swimmers also placed at State. Sophomore Peyton Gajan placed fourteenth in the 100 meter freestyle and eighteenth in the 100 meter backstroke. Senior Rachel Edmonds placed 30th in the 200 meter breaststroke. The 200 meter medley relay, which was composed of senior Addie Thompson, sophomores Jane Evans, Hutchison and Gajan, placed twentieth.

"[The season] went by really fast even though others might not think it did," Hutchison said. "It wasn't much different from last year. It was a good season. I had fun."

Basketball

The Varsity basketball team ended their season with a loss in the District championships Feb. 25. The team lost to Lee's Summit West High School, completing their season with a 6-13 record.

"We all had a feeling we had the chance [to do well at Districts] but I don't think any of us thought it would really happen," Varsity player junior Megan Lankford said. "With how the season went, we didn't think our goals would come true."

According to Lankford, the team was exhausted going into the championship game because the

semifinal game against Lee's Summit High School was decided in overtime by a last second half court shot by sophomore Peepers Gray.

"After that shot we were really excited for the championship," Lankford said. "We really wanted to go for it and get a banner."

Overall, Lankford thinks the team progressed as the season went on.

"After we got through the Sion game and the head coach stuff, I think that was the point in the season where we all came together and thought we could really do this," Lankford said. "Overall, we had a pretty good season. In the last nine games we really played well together."



Lankford



Hutchison

Dance Team

The dance team received fifth place in Hip-Hop, however did not place overall at the State competition in St. Louis Feb. 26. After last year's second place overall finish, the team was disappointed in the results.

"I think we all went in not really knowing what was going to happen but we did think we'd do better than we did," sophomore dancer Emmi Shearman said.

"Our coaches were even surprised we didn't do better. The scoring was weird to everyone."

According to Shearman, the team was excited for the State competition and the team improved immensely since the start of the season.

"The season was a little disappointing, but now we know what we should work on [for next year]," Shearman said. "We were all excited [for State] because we thought we'd do well. We were especially excited because we finished the season really strong, although at the beginning of the season the team was kind of iffy."

According to Shearman, the ultimate goal for the dance team every year is to place at State.

"Now we can focus on starting and finishing strong next year [in order to meet our goal]," Shearman said. ★ contact Cassie Redlingshafer at credling-shafer@dartnewsonline.com



Shearman

Varsity basketball coach resigns mid-season

After the loss against Notre Dame de Sion, Doug Nelson resigned from his position as head coach

story by **ABBY UCHE**
staff writer

Two STA varsity basketball players, who wish not to be identified, announced their decision to leave the team following their loss against Notre Dame de Sion High School Jan. 27. The next day, the team was informed of another loss. Head coach Doug Nelson had resigned.

Jan. 28, president Nan Bone met with the two varsity players to inform them that Nelson resigned and that assistant coach Diana Krull would take over the head coaching position. However, they were not given much further detail.

"We weren't given any reasoning," senior and varsity player Maddie Lueke said. "[Bone] just said that [Nelson] had decided to resign."

In an after-school meeting in the Verheyen Room the same day, Bone, Krull, assistant athletic director Jack Garvin and athletic director Mark Hough delivered the news to the rest of the basketball program.

Despite the recent changes and the ensuing ru-

mors surrounding their season, the varsity basketball team was able to end their regular season with victories over the Pembroke Hill School, Spring Hill High School and Metro Academy. The team then went on to win their first round Districts game 44-7 over Ruskin High School. The Stars advanced as far as the District championship game, where they lost to Lee's Summit West 66-42.

According to Hough, Nelson's resignation was a mutual decision between both the coach and STA.

"St. Teresa's Academy and [Nelson] mutually agreed that it would be in his best interest to step aside for the remainder of the season," Hough said.

Even though he is no longer coaching, Nelson maintains an appreciation for STA and is glad to have had the opportunity to coach. However, Nelson feels that the position was not a good match overall.

"In the long run, as much as I enjoyed coaching and the St. Teresa's family, [the coaching position] really just wasn't a good fit," Nelson said.

Nelson also said that he was excited when he began coaching the basketball team, but he said that at the time he predicted difficulties with the season.

"I knew that this year was going to be a hard year," Nelson said.

After Nelson resigned, both anonymous girls

re-evaluated their decisions to quit the team.

"[We] were going to stop playing after the Sion game out of frustration from throughout the season, but then we decided to play again," one of the anonymous varsity players said.

Shortly after, rumors about the team and Nelson's resignation began to swirl. Players are aware of the controversy surrounding Nelson's decision and according to Lueke, rumors about the resignation have been spread by not only students, but coaches from other schools. However, Lueke does not want this to be what people focus on when they think about the team.

With a new head coach and all team members present, the varsity team is beginning to move forward. The team has developed a good relationship with Krull, and according to Lueke, has handled the recent changes very well.

"I think the team has taken [the changes] really well," Lueke said. "We all mesh with [Krull] really really well, and we all like her a lot. So I see it going forward from here."

Hough also believes the team will move forward under their new coach. However, he still appreciates Nelson's contributions to the season.

"[STA] is grateful to [Nelson] for his work and commitment to our basketball program," Hough said. "With the appointment of [Krull], we look for-

ward to keeping our program moving forward and providing our girls the best opportunity for success in [their remaining games]."

Krull coached the Stars for their nine remaining games of the regular season, as well as the post season.

At the close of the season, the team had 10 players who started games, as well as eight who had scored at least eight points in one game. According to the team's latest newsletter, "depth on the roster has been one of the team's strengths."

Improved relationships have also contributed to the team's strength. Lueke feels that the bond between the players and their coach has strengthened since Krull took over.

"I think that our relationship with our new coach is a lot stronger [than our relationship with Nelson was]...and we feel like we can talk to her about anything," Lueke said.

Lueke feels that the team and their new coach have moved forward as a whole and wants an end to the rumors.

"I just don't want people spreading rumors about all of it," Lueke said. "[Nelson] just resigned. There were differences, he resigned. It's done. [The team is] moving forward from here and that's it."

★ contact Abby Uche at auche@dartnewsonline.com

CLOUD 10: New, synthetic marijuana popular due to legality

Synthetic weed raises legal questions, causes concern about teenage brain development

story by **HANNAH WOLF**
features editor

She sat up after dozing off for a few minutes. The room was spinning and she felt like she was swaying back and forth. Pain shot down her back. Her arm felt numb, like she had just slept on it wrong and it had fallen asleep. But the pain was coming from the inside. She could feel Cloud 10 affecting her body.

"It's not a relaxing high, but one that's probably more anxiety driven," Ms. Karen Schalker, a prevention specialist at the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Kansas City, said about Cloud 10.

This new form of synthetic marijuana has caused another form of anxiety as well. Currently being tested in St. Charles, MO to determine its legal future, Cloud 10 has sparked fear in some authority figures. Selling at local gas stations for about \$25 a gram, this substance is advertised as a form of incense. This was the same story for another incense-advertised, synthetic marijuana called K2, which reached its highest popularity in the spring of 2010, but soon became illegal in Missouri in August of 2010.

"[Cloud 10] isn't advertised to be smoked," an STA student, who wishes to remain anonymous, said. "It's not advertised as a drug to alter your mind. Cloud 10 is synthetic. It's made in a lab. It's completely legal because it's advertised as incense."

Many wonder about the legal future of Cloud 10. According to Schalker, the Federal Drug Administration cannot keep up with every new version of marijuana.

"They are definitely interested in banning [Cloud 10]," Schalker said. "But they can't ban it until it's out there and they can't predict what is coming next. It's a real challenge to keep up with the next version."

History teacher Craig Whitney thinks the government needs to come up with another way to stop the use of marijuana.

"Prohibition in my view doesn't work," Whitney said. "You've got to think of a different approach if you really don't want people using it. If we're going to make marijuana illegal, we should make this stuff illegal, too."

Whitney believes that the rationale for making marijuana illegal was because it alters the state of mind. He believes synthetic weed is doing the same thing, and the same consequences are in play.

The main appeal of Cloud 10 is the high one achieves from it, said to be similar to the high from marijuana. However, according to the anonymous student, the effects of Cloud 10 appeared more severe than that of normal marijuana.

"Typically when you're on the effects of normal pot you can control yourself," the anonymous student said. "You can still drive or function as a

normal human being. On cloud 10, you're unresponsive. I couldn't think straight. There was no way I was going to drive."

Not only did the student describe the experience as scary, but uncomfortable as well.

"It's kind of like a bee stinging your brain, and then what your whole brain would feel like after," the anonymous student said. "You can feel it taking affect. There was shooting pain down my arms and legs. It wasn't awful pain, but it was just uncomfortable. It made me really nauseous."

According to Schalker, nausea is a common side effect. She says Cloud 10 produces a "pretty nasty version" of a marijuana high, with side effects such as headaches and dizziness.

According to Schalker, the student had reason to think twice. Marijuana actually has more carcinogens, or cancer causing agents, than cigarettes. Not only does this increase the risk of cancer, but stunts brain development as well.

"The last [part of your brain] to develop is the cerebral cortex in the front of your brain," Schalker said. "The first place that alcohol and drugs affect is that front part of your brain. The things that are developing [there] are the things kids in high school and college need to do, like problem solve, think critically and [make] judgments."

However, the brain is also to blame for why some may become dependent on marijuana or Cloud 10. According to Schalker, there is a cannabinoid receptor for marijuana or Cloud 10 that professionals have found in the brain. This receptor takes in and uses up chemicals from weed. This causes one to crave the same chemicals again, and therefore causes a higher rate for potential abuse or dependence.

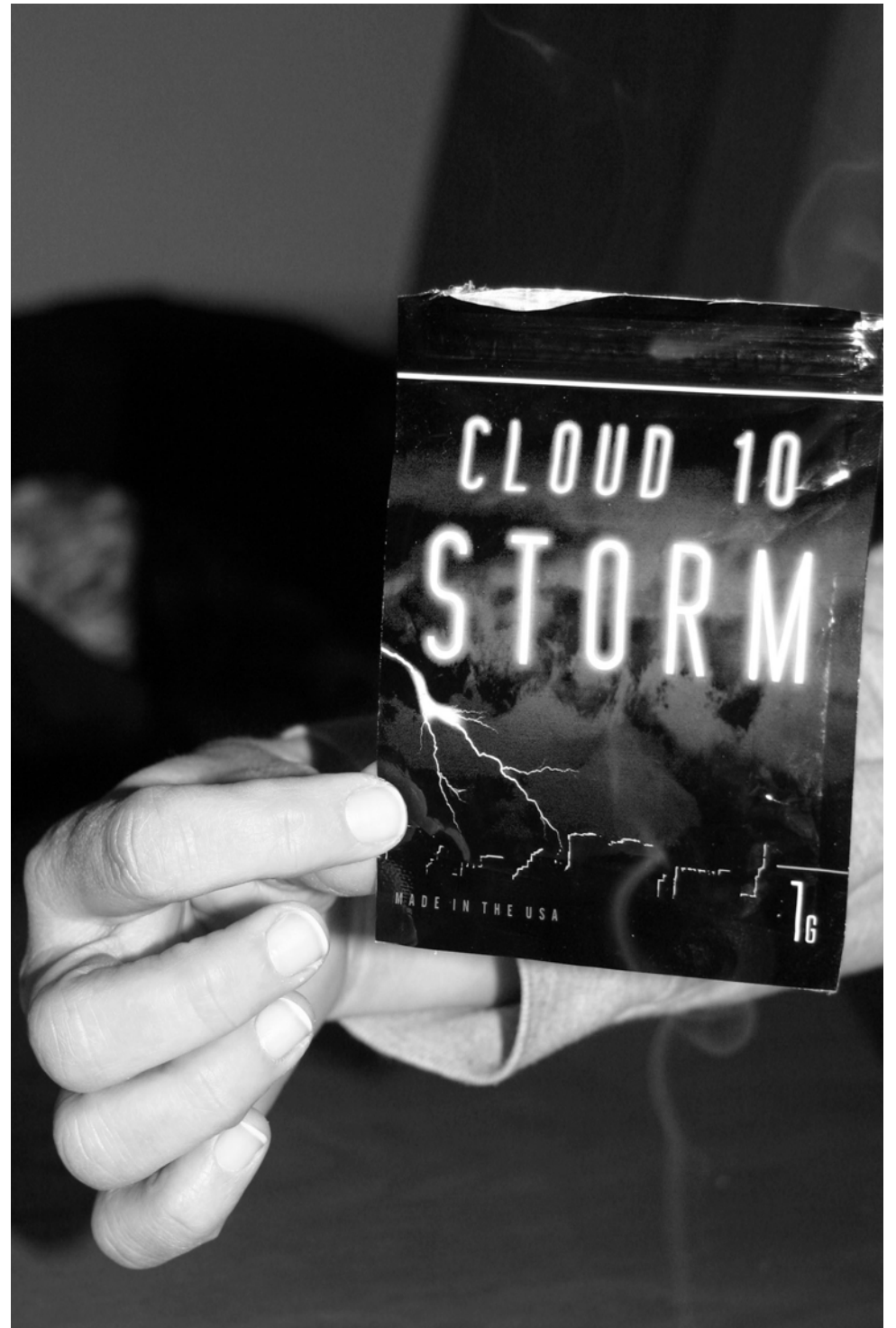
On the other hand, there are a few different reasons why teens begin to smoke marijuana or Cloud 10 in the first place, according to Schalker.

"Kids will usually say [they smoke because of] peer pressure or boredom," Schalker said. "We're coming to realize, even at the highest federal government level...that substance abuse is in direct relationship with general mental health issues. People are starting to understand that kids are self-medicating for either a valid mental health issue they aren't aware of yet or for emotional hurt."

According to Schalker, The Drug Enforcement Agency, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Systems Administration and the Department of Education have all acknowledged the importance of creating prevention programs that address both these issues because there is so much co-occurrence. Although one does not cause the other, disorders such as ADHD, depression, bipolar disorder and anxiety go hand in hand with smoking marijuana or Cloud 10.

The anonymous student would agree that anxiety is a reason some teenagers smoke weed.

"[Cloud 10 is] not good to use as a stress buster, but it is [used that way]," the anonymous student said. "It's something to do with your friends. It's just fun. It makes you think about things you wouldn't normally think about."



floating on cloud 10 ★ The chemically created drug, Cloud 10, can be found at gas stations and convenient stores. It is sold as incense for about \$25 a gram and not advertised to be smoked. Photo by **KARA PRUITT**

It is this different state of being that Schalker is worried about.

"I would like to see any synthetic form of marijuana [become] illegal because it alters your state of mind," Schalker said. "They are harmful to your brain

and body. Specifically for these products, they've been around for such a short period of time that nobody even knows how it might impact your brain and body functions. 'They're not good for you.' ★ contact Hannah Wolf at hwolf@dartnewsonline.com

Tips for mind, body, soul

Each issue, the *Dart* provides suggestions for changes in daily habits to increase the well-being of the mind, body and soul.

compiled by **HANNAH WOLF**

MIND

By organizing your homework, you organize your mind. According to Southwest Solutions, a business organization company, using a color coding system reduces retrieval time by 40 percent—which means you will spend less time looking for that missing worksheet and more time working on it. Because the mind associates with color much faster than black and white, it is easier to identify things when they are based on color. Make your math folder pink and your English spiral green and you will reduce your risk of losing things.

BODY

How are you sitting right now? Is your back hunched so your shoulders are next to your ears? Comfortable or not, this posture is actually damaging your body. Not only will your back begin to hurt, but you could be setting yourself up for scoliosis, a condition where the spine curves abnormally. Webmd.com recommends sitting with your spine straight and keeping your shoulders low. Occasionally stretching will help relieve unneeded tension.

SOUL

Don't allow yourself to dwell on bad, irreversible moments. Instead, write a fake letter addressing what went wrong and what you could have done to fix it. If you're mad at a teacher about an unfair test or are frustrated with a friend, vent your feelings on paper. *Seventeen* magazine suggests that if you can't stop thinking about a heartbreaking moment from your last relationship, jot it in an email. Just make sure the paper ends up in the trash!



Annie Steinert, sophomore

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

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

A: I like to paint, but I also really like ceramics. I like that it develops, and that you watch it go from a basic shape to something really cool.

Q: Where do you draw inspiration for your art?

A: Sometimes just from looking at the clouds and the way that shadows come from them.

Q: What initially interested you in art?

A: I've just really liked what I've done at [STA]. I didn't really have any interest in art until last year.

Q: So, I heard you won an award for your art.

A: A piece I made is in the K-12 National Ceramic Exhibition. Ms. Dibble submitted it and it got nominated. The piece that was submitted was a vase. I made a plaster mold of my face and then put three of my faces onto the vase.

Q: How did you feel when you won your award?

A: I was surprised because I didn't know that we were going to find out that early. I didn't know people other than me were going to like my art.

compiled by **KATE ROHR**

Portfolio class shows work at Avila University

Local university selects six pieces of STA students' work to showcase at art exhibit

story by **CHELSEA BIRCHMIER**
news editor

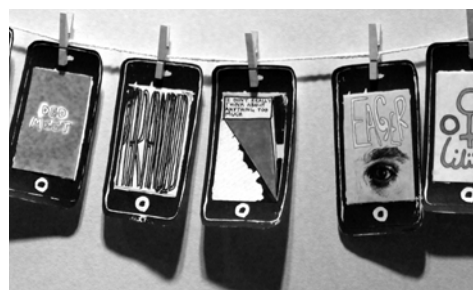
Avila University selected the work of six students from the portfolio class to display at their fifth annual high school exhibit Feb 27.

"We usually only have two to three things accepted, so six is a pretty big deal," art teacher Theresa Wallerstedt said. "It's a relatively small show. Only 40 to 45 pieces are shown."

With the help of her students, Wallerstedt selected 10 pieces to send in, and of those, six were chosen.

"I have a pretty good eye on what things will get accepted just because I'm so old," Wallerstedt said.

Works accepted include senior Anna Rayburn's "Sarah in Edinburg," senior Clare Odegard's "Woman Out of the Box" and "Ear Bugs," senior Michaela Knittel's "Louvre Studies" and "Creatures" and senior Nina Raimo's "In the Commons."



Woman Out of the Box by Clare Odegard

"I think [having six pieces accepted] is a big deal, because [Wallerstedt] was kind of shocked," Rayburn said. "Not shocked that our work was good enough to get in, but shocked that so many got in."

Rayburn created her drawing on a scratchboard, a board covered in white clay, coated with a thin layer of black paint. According to Rayburn, she created it by scratching the black paint with a tool that makes a sound "like nails on a chalkboard". She spent at least a week working on the piece during classes, frees and activities.

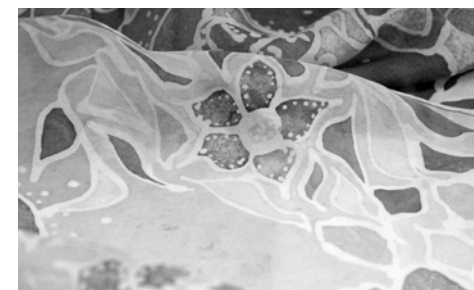
"We have a small group, but they're dedicated," Wallerstedt said. "They spend hundreds of hours on their work."

The top three rewards available in the exhibit include \$1,500, \$2,500 and \$3,500 renewable scholarships to Avila's art program. Mostly, though, Wallerstedt is glad her students will have the chance to show off their work.

"Any time you have an opportunity to show girls' work, take advantage," Wallerstedt said. "We have a pretty good art program here. I'm lucky to have the girls I have." ★ contact Chelsea Birchmier at cbirchmier@dartnewsonline.com



Sarah in Edinburg by Anna Rayburn



Buddah by Sarah Godfrey



Louvre Studies by Michaela Knittel



In the Commons by Nina Raimo

Confessions of tweetaholics: the new world of Twitter



opinion by **LAURA NEENAN**
entertainment editor

My name is @laura_neenan and I am a tweetaholic.

Twitter is without a doubt the new social networking system that everyone is talking about. Every since my first tweet in December of 2010, I have been hooked.

The social networking site, Twitter, began in 2006. Twitter is similar to Facebook, but instead of each user having profiles with pictures, wallposts and "likes," each tweet that a user can send is the equivalent of a status update. Anyone who simply creates a profile can send out a mini-message, known as a tweet, that is less than 140 characters. Twitter can basically become an archive of your life.

Although it took me awhile to get the hang of it, I have begun to use my resources and now dub myself a twitter queen. From a tweetaholic to the rest of the Twitter virgins reading out there, here are some ways to get the most out of your Twitter experience (Twitter lingo included):

1. Celebrity Stalking: First, Twitter can be used to track down celebrities. All you have to do

is search one of your favorite celebs, hit follow, and you will be able to see what is going on in their daily life.

There is nothing more entertaining than knowing the exact moment when Snooki from the Jersey Shore is tanning, having a photo shoot with her fellow "guidettes" or thinking about a dream from the night before #GTL.

Celebrity tweeting is what grabbed the media's attention.

2. Spark Your Interest: Following celebrities on Twitter is not everyone's cup of tea. But that's what's great about this new world of social networking. You can follow anyone or anything on Twitter that may spark your interest. Sports fanatics, political science nerds or comedians can all find someone or something to follow that will give them updates as they desire. For all you Harry Potter fanatics,

@Lord_Voldemort has his own Twitter. #avadakadavra

Laura Neenan, senior

because of the small community that I have began to follow consisting of seniors from Rockhurst, Sion and STA. The phrase "I'm tweeting that," has become common among high schoolers. From funny moments with friends to unique situations, nothing is filtered when it comes to Twitter.

My car literally stops because it ran out of gas, so I tweet about it. I am going on a 10.1 mile marathon bike ride with @addie_thompson, @btampke and @stankyfranke, so I tweet about it. Most importantly, #thatawkwardmoment when my dad announces he forgot to bring underwear on a weekend vacation, I tweet about it. #sorry

Follow me @laura_neenan because you know I'll be tweeting like crazy. Don't mistake me for the popular user, @whitegirlproblems. ★ contact Laura Neenan at ineenan@dartnewsonline.com



opinion by **ALLISON FITTS**
web staffer

My name is @AllisonFitts and I'm also a tweetaholic.

Like @laura_neenan, I love Twitter for the entertainment it provides. I constantly receive tweets from friends discussing their car troubles, thoughts about getting braces and fears about the ACT. And you can't forget the recent tweets about Justin Beiber's new haircut.

While these fun tweets from friends often brighten my day, my favorite Twitter user to follow is DartNewsOnline. It keeps me up to date on all the happenings at STA. Here is what following @dartnewsonline can do for you:

1. Sports Updates: Have you ever missed an STA/Sion game and wondered the score, #whowon? With @dartnewsonline, live updates, stats and final scores can be sent to your phone. It's more reliable than Sports Center!

2. Schedule Reminders: Have you ever shown up to school at 7:30 a.m. only to find out that no one else was at school and it was actually a late start, #whoops? Prevent this tragedy from ever happening again by following @dartnewsonline. You will receive reminders about special schedules, dress down days and meetings during activity periods.

3. Story Notification: Have you spent sleepless nights waiting for my next "I Challenge You" blog to be posted, #iloveblogs? By following @dartnewsonline, you will receive a tweet whenever new content is posted to dartnewsonline.com. This includes photo galleries, blogs, videos, stories and much, much more!

Following the DartNewsOnline on Twitter is essential for every member of the STA community. It keeps us informed and connected to one another in a way only 140 characters can. ★ contact Allison Fitts at afitts@dartnewsonline.com

Top Users to Follow on Twitter

STA students with Twitter accounts follow these users for facts, fun

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Celebrities: | Informative: |
| ladygaga | dartnewsonline |
| KimKardashian | STARSLAX |
| Sn00ki | jesuschrist |
| justinbieber | whitegirlproblems |
| chelseahandler | Lord_Voldemort7 |
| charliesheen | OMGFacts |

compiled by **LAURA NEENAN**



dartnewsonline The Dart Online

Read student's experiences with service week compiled by

@madbird11 on #dartnewsonline

2 minutes ago

@: the act of tagging another user in a tweet

hashtag: used to group and organize tweets and follow common trends

dancing with the stars

The senior class will hold the second annual Dancing with the Stars fundraiser March 25. The *Dart* nicknamed the eight couples below, who are preparing a dance and choosing music to compete for first place.

story by **CHRISTINA BARTON**
opinion editor

RAMUEKE

Who: senior Maddie Lueke and facilities manager Raphael Ramirez
Do you feel more pressure because your partner won first place last year with alumna Megan Wilkerson?: "We have to be even more creative this year [because of his win last year]," Lueke said.
Challenges: Lueke chose to participate in Dancing with the Stars knowing she might have a conflict with STA varsity basketball. Because the varsity team made it to District finals, the school decided to reschedule the event, allowing Lueke to participate in both activities.



BEDELMAN

Who: senior Ellie Edelman and English teacher Ashley Bailey
Why did you choose to participate in Dancing with the Stars?: "I haven't really done anything [at STA] and I thought this would be a great opportunity to shine," Edelman said.
How did you decide on the theme of rap music?: "She definitely picked out some things where she clearly thought about both of us and what was good," Bailey said.
What have you learned about your partner?: "She is down with rap," Edelman said.



SANDOLLE

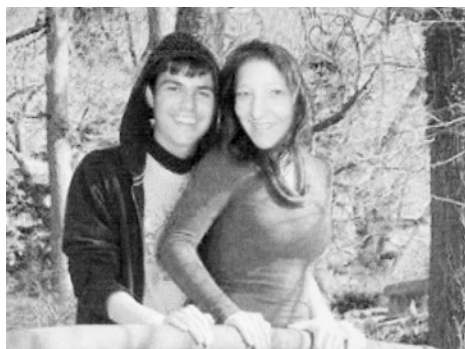
Who: junior Brie Sandridge and computer lab moderator Sister Joan Tolle
What have you learned about your partner?: "She is really easy to work with and she is so much fun," Sandridge said. "We never quit laughing. She is just a blast in a nun."

How have practices been running so far?: "She is so open minded," Sandridge said. "She never complains and whenever I am having trouble with a move she helps me out."
Challenges: It is a struggle to find time to practice with both of their busy schedules. Sandridge and Tolle still have fun working together, sometimes having trouble getting things done during practices.



MCNEENAN

Who: senior Laura Neenan and music teacher Michelle McIntire
What is your favorite part of participating in Dancing with the Stars?: "Honestly, the best part has been getting to know students I don't know," McIntire said.
Challenge: "I have been sacrificing my lunch time," McIntire said. "Instead of eating, Laura has been making me burn lots of calories."



GIROMLINSON

Who: senior Lindsay Girardeau and Rockhurst High School senior Alex Tomlinson
What new things have you learned about your partner?: "I learned he has a pretty weird side I was not fully aware of," Girardeau said.
Challenge: Due to busy schedules, practicing together was initially difficult. Tomlinson is a lead in a Rockhurst theater production and Girardeau is working on student productions.



photos by **TAYLOR WOODRUFF**
staff photographer

PORRIS

Who: senior Maura Porter and math teacher Barb Harris
Where did you get the inspiration for your dance?: "We just started with a

general idea and worked off it, put our own, often awkward, spin on classic dances and songs," Porter said. "[Harris] dove in headfirst and has kept me on my toes, literally and figuratively."
Why did you participate?: "I like to make a fool of myself, usually on stage," Porter said.



FROLAN

Who: senior Cele Fryer and English teacher Katie Dolan
Challenge: "I am not the best dancer on the block so I have to devote a ton of time to perfecting my moves and it is cutting into my sleep and study habits," Fryer said.



DASCALA

Who: junior Maddie Dang and campus ministry director Joe LaScala
Although you were reluctant to participate, are you glad you did it?: "Mainly it has just been a lot of fun," LaScala said. "I am not a dancer by any means, but it has just been fun."

16 features



IN A MILLION

Freshman Abby Dearth helps support, protect her brother Austin with rare Lowe syndrome

story by **LAURA NEENAN**
entertainment editor

"Isn't he handsome?" she asks to a group passing by, staring with piercing eyes at her teenage brother.

Despite the judgmental looks Austin Dearth faces on a regular basis due to his unconventional appearance, his younger sister and her friends always come to his defense.

"People stare at [Austin] all the time when we take him places, so me and my friends made up this stare down game," freshman Abby Dearth said. "We stare [onlookers] down if they are staring at him. We're really protective of him."

Austin, a senior at Bishop O'Hara High School, has Lowe syndrome, an extremely rare genetic condition that causes physical and mental handicaps. For Abby, growing up in the shadow of Austin was difficult at times.

"Ever since I have been able to comprehend this, our family has kind of centered around him," Abby said. "Our family's mood and activities are based on him. Sometimes it annoys me that everyone says, 'You're Austin's sister,' but I don't really care. It's cool that people are that accepting."

Patience

According to the online article, "Lowe Syndrome: Facts About this Rare Genetic Disorder," Lowe syndrome only occurs in about one out of 500,000 births. When Patti and Bob Dearth found out that their second son had this genetic disorder, their lives were immediately "turned upside down."

"We joke and say, 'we should take his social security number and play it on the lottery,'" Patti said. "He literally is one in a million. It's kind of one of those things that just popped up. It was such a surprise."

Oculo-cerebro-renal syndrome, also known as Lowe syndrome, is a genetic disorder which affects the brain and kidney and occurs in only males. This syndrome results in cataracts in both eyes, glaucoma, seizures, "leaky" kidneys and a tendency to develop bone fractures, according to lowesyndrome.org.

"[Austin] requires an inordinate amount of patience and just physical care," Patti said. "We try and make that part of our life."

On top of her responsibilities as a student, Abby takes on a different role at home supporting Austin.

"I definitely have to watch him, not that he needs to be babysat, but just helping him with little stuff like making food or tying his shoes," Abby said.

"It's the little stuff that I help him with."

Schoolmates

In 1996, a group of parents in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph began the Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education, or FIRE. The program's funding subsidizes the costs of special education services for children with diagnosed special needs, according to fire-program.org.

Beginning in kindergarten, Austin attended St. Peter's Catholic School as a pioneer in the brand new FIRE program. Patti and her husband chose to send Austin to the same school as their son, Sam, who is only two years older than Austin.

"It just seemed like a natural thing to do," Patti said. "I think it would have been really hard to send him somewhere else. That is kind of the focus of FIRE, that you can send your kids with special needs to the same school as their siblings."

According to Abby, she enjoyed attending the same grade school as her older brother.

"I knew we were going to go to separate high schools, so it was good to be with him for awhile," Abby said.

Health scares

Seizures occur in about half the cases of Lowe syndrome, according to lowesyndrome.org. Abby was present for both of the major seizures Austin has suffered. When Abby was in fifth grade, she saw her

brother "sitting in his chair one minute" and having a seizure on their dining room floor the next.

"It was really scary because I had never seen [a seizure] before," Abby said. "I was scared, shocked and worried. We didn't see it coming. I didn't know what was going on and I didn't know what to do."

From spinal surgery to a respiratory infection, Austin has been hospitalized for different health issues his entire life. Abby and her family deal with the spontaneity of Austin's health

problems on a daily basis.

"It takes my focus away from everything else [when Austin is in the hospital] because I am so worried," Abby said. "It's just crazy because we never know what to expect."

According to Patti, Austin often goes to Children's Mercy Hospital for his ongoing health problems and issues with his kidneys and bones. Abby enjoys visiting Austin when he is in the hospital, especially after a serious trauma.

"It's good to see him because sometimes he is really sad when he goes to the hospital," Abby said. "When [my family] comes to see him, he smiles, and it's just really good to see him smile."

Precious moments

Although Austin is a man of few words, he smiled when he began to talk about his sister.

"[My sister] does funny things to make me laugh," Austin said.

According to Abby, Austin loves telling jokes, and the family enjoys having contests to see who can come up with the best joke to make each other laugh more.

"When [Austin] laughs really hard, he has his really high-pitched giggle," Abby said. "Me and [Sam] try to get him to laugh really hard because it's so funny."

According to Abby, Austin loves to draw, sing and listen to music, including their new favorite, Justin Bieber. Abby is not only an influence on Austin's music taste, but her friends are an influence on him as well.

"I like it when my sister invites her friends over," Austin said. "It's kind of fun [to hang out with a bunch of girls]."

Looking toward the future

Austin will be graduating from O'Hara this spring with the first class to complete high school in the FIRE program.

"I'll miss my friends next year," Austin said. "I'll miss [meeting] the new freshmen." Patti

hopes for Austin to get several part time jobs and as a result, feel valued and productive.

"Sometimes [Bob and I] were a little harder on [Austin] because we didn't want him to be treated like he couldn't do much," Patti said. "Just like we have expectations for Sam and Abby, his have been adjusted, but we certainly have set goals for him and want him to be as independent as possible."

Abby not only hopes that one day he can live with other special needs kids, but also eventually find a girlfriend, get married and possibly even have kids.

"I want him in my life all the time," Abby said. "I hope he likes me too, because I am going to make him. I plan to keep him around for awhile."

Join the club

Patti believes that Abby and Sam have bonded over looking out for their brother.

"It's like a club, people just get it," Patti said.

"They get what it's like to be in a family where maybe they didn't get as much time with Mom and Dad as they wanted to because Austin needed us. Having Austin in the middle has really brought [Abby and Sam] closer."

According to Patti, Austin has enriched Abby and Sam's lives. Despite their unique childhood due to Austin's health problems, Abby and Sam remain a pillar of support.

"They are his biggest cheerleaders and his biggest fans," Patti said. "They also keep him grounded. If we tend to go too easy on him, they say, 'No, just because you have a disability doesn't mean you get off easy.'"

Abby continues to protect her older brother, but according to Austin, he keeps an eye on her as well.

"[My experiences] have taught me a lot," Abby said. "I am more patient, accepting and open. It's made me realize that things are really special in your life, and you should cherish them. He's my

best friend." ★ contact Laura Neenan at Ineenan@dartnewsonline.com

Lighting the FIRE

story excerpt by **NATALIE FITTS**

It all started with one conversation after mass in 1996.

Ms. Maura Nulton and her family were sitting in the pew behind Ms. Mary Anne Hammond and her family. Nulton began asking Hammond questions about her daughter, Kailey. According to Hammond, Nulton said that she could tell Kailey had some sort of mental disability.

When Hammond asked Nulton why she was asking so many questions, she pointed to her autistic son, Charlie. Nulton said that she wanted him to be educated alongside her other four children at St. Peter's Catholic School.

This conversation was the stepping stone that eventually lead to FIRE.

"Part of our Catholic calling is to help educate and support families," Hammond said. For the next 10 years, Hammond and Nulton ran FIRE together.

...In 2008, Hammond and Nulton decided to hire an executive director to take over their positions, both planning to cut back to a volunteer position.

...According to Hammond, people thank her about once a week for starting FIRE, but the positive things it has done for her family make it seem like she is getting thanked daily.

"It's the gift that keeps on giving," Hammond said.



read the rest of Natalie Fitts's story at www.dartnewsonline.com



Photos by **SARAH WIRTZ**

Valedictorian, salutatorian named

Despite recent changes to grading scale, administration announces valedictorian, salutatorian positions

story by **LUCIA MASCHLER**
staff writer

Early last month, STA calculated the academic standings of the graduating class of 2011. Senior Sarah Moran was named valedictorian and senior Libby O'Neil was named salutatorian. The girls' cumulative percentages were 101.09 percent and 100.39 percent, respectively.

According to college counselor Debi Hudson, O'Neil's and Moran's grades were calculated after

seven semesters of work, including the weight from AP and honors classes. The weight added to students' final grades had changed this year from one higher letter grade to five extra percentage points.

"It makes no difference what scale we use in determining who is valedictorian and who is salutatorian," Hudson said. "It is still an acknowledgment of who has earned the highest GPA in the class."

According to Moran, despite consolations from various teachers and administrators, the switch from letter grades to percentages in this school year concerned some students about how it would affect their final GPAs.

"In the beginning, I was worried it was going to be a difference with percentages [versus the old grading scale]," Moran said. "But because it applied to everyone, it's not that much of a difference because you are still being compared on the same scale. If your grades are higher on the old scale, you're still going to have the higher grades no matter what."

According to O'Neil, though the percentage grading may not affect how students' grades actually compare, it may affect how hard students work to attain certain academic goals.

"[The new percentage system] may remove the incentive from some students who strive to achieve a certain letter grade," O'Neil said. "Grades are now in a vacuum, with no standard against which to compare the raw percentage grades."

However, both Moran and O'Neil expected to be named top in their class, despite the switch in grading scales.

"Quite frankly, [Moran] and I have been expecting that it would be between the two of us for valedictorian since sophomore year," O'Neil said. "I was not surprised that we won the top two spots, nor was I surprised that she got first over me."

Along with their close academic standings, Moran and O'Neil have remained close friends over the years.



smarty pants ★ Valedictorian Sarah Moran, left, and salutatorian Libby O'Neil have compared grades since sophomore year. In early February, the administration revealed their official standings. Photos by **SARAH WIRTZ**

"Libby is one of my best friends," Moran said. "We've have a friendly competition in school. We'll tease each other playfully, but it's also kind of seriously, and ask, 'What's your GPA?' or, 'Oh, I have a higher grade in this class,' and stuff like that."

According to Moran, their competition boosted the two girls along more than anything.

"I always took the hardest classes I could," Moran said. "I didn't take classes just because they are weighted. I wanted to challenge myself to work as hard as possible."

The hard work doesn't stop with high school. Moran has applied to many selective schools, her

first choice being Columbia University. However, she will not hear back from these schools until the middle of March. O'Neil has applied to selective schools as well. She says her final choice will probably come down to the amount of scholarship money she receives.

Both Moran and O'Neil feel they have worked hard to get where they are now and are proud of all of their high school accomplishments.

"I am incredibly honored to be first," Moran said. "There are many truly intelligent and hardworking girls in my class." ★ contact Lucia Maschler at lmachler@dartnewsonline.com

By the numbers

Valedictorian Moran and salutatorian O'Neil reveal advanced course loads

Moran's classes:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7 AP classes | 3 Accelerated classes | 6 Honors classes |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|

O'Neil's classes:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7 AP classes | 4 Accelerated classes | 7 Honors classes |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|

compiled by **LUCIA MASCHLER**

Language department to offer Mandarin

New teacher to instruct current sophomores, juniors in next school year's Mandarin Chinese course

story by **KATE ROHR**
lifestyles editor

The STA language department will offer a Mandarin Chinese class for juniors and seniors beginning next school year. According to principal for academic affairs Barbara McCormick, the graduating class of 2015 will be required to take three years of a foreign language. Mandarin will provide another option for students wishing to take a different language their junior or senior year.

"When you look at what countries are aspiring in today's society, China's one of them, especially as it's an economic powerhouse," McCormick said. "I see students broadening their understanding of languages and cultures internationally."

Mandarin is a combination of northern Chinese dialects and has more native speakers than any other language in the world. According to world language department chair Alice Amick, the Mandarin course will be taught differently than other languages because of its culture's and history's importance. But the class will follow the same basic "four skills approach" as the other language

courses: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Mandarin Chinese does not use the same alphabet as European languages, but instead uses visual characters, each of which can have several meanings. According to Amick, the class will only be offered to juniors and seniors because of the difficulty of the language.

"It will be a very different style of language," Amick said. "I think that's why it's being focused at this point on the mature language learners—people who really know how to study and prepare for language, because it will definitely be a challenge."

Ms. Valda Hsu, who also teaches at Longview Community College and the Kansas City Art Institute, will teach the course. She believes that the importance of understanding the Chinese language and culture is growing. Hsu hopes to include the study of Chinese culture and history in addition to studying the language.

"By learning [Mandarin Chinese], we not only can learn from [the Chinese] but they can learn from the students here," Hsu said. "What I see this as is that there is a great door of opportunity, and learning Chinese is like giving them a key, so they can open the door with it. Then you can step into that, and see what you can do with it."

Amick believes that the Mandarin course will provide STA with a new international perspec-

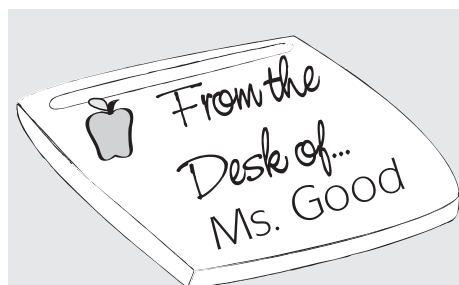


tongue twister ★ Tuesday, sophomore Libby Stoops signed up for classes during registration. Among these was Mandarin Chinese, a new class available to current sophomores and juniors. Photo by **KATHLEEN HOUGH**

tive.

"I think the biggest difference that I see is that it would represent an eastern civilization perspective, because the languages that we have represent

western civilization," Amick said. "China is an ancient civilization, but it is also in the forefront of what's happening in the world now." ★ contact Kate Rohr at krohr@dartnewsonline.com



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

story by **CHRISTINA BARTON**
opinion editor

Looking for a home in 1986, religion teacher Robin Good and her family fell in love with a very different, very interesting house. This

house lied on an acre and a third with woods, but unlike most homes, had windows covering 98 percent of the back on two floors. This type of home is known as a passive solar house, meaning Good can manage her heating and cooling through the use of large windows and solar blankets that trap energy from the sun. Solar blankets consist of five to six layers that absorb the sun's heat and a top curtain layer for the room's interior. A heat retention wall, across from the windows, also helps absorb the

heat that circulates throughout the house.

In the winter, Good covers her windows with solar blankets during the day and removes the blankets after she returns from school. In the summer, Good covers her windows with the solar blankets during the late afternoon and evening, keeping cool air in the house. Good's house may not seem like most homes in the metro area, but it is environmentally conscious. Plus, the design makes it one of a kind and puts it ahead of its time.

days of our lives

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

Exactly **1** day until Spring Break '11

A speedy **15** days until the spring sports pep rally

Approximately **22** days until Student Productions

About **31** days until the Mother-Daughter Luncheon

Nearly **36** days until the next day off

A hoppin' **43** days until Easter Break

And only **77** days

1,848 hours,
110,880 minutes,
6,652,800 seconds
until summer. ★

compiled by **KATIE McCOMBS**

that's what she said

The *Dart* prowled Facebook in search of the most catchy and intriguing statuses on the social network. STA, "What's on your mind?"

compiled by **LAURA NEENAN**

- Caroline Gray**
dreaming of playa
7 hours ago via Mobile Web · Like · Comment
- Kathleen Vogel**
I wish I was cool.
February 28 at 3:06pm via Mobile Web · Like · Comment
- Katie Tampke**
Official STA lax broski 2011
March 4 at 6:45pm · Like · Comment
- Katie Patterson**
I am a believer.
19 hours ago via Mobile Web · Like · Comment
- Molly Woolery**
Mother nature strikes again... Powers out.. Nbd
February 24 at 1:36pm via iPhone · Like · Comment
- Mickey Redlingshafer**
Maggie Rellihan just peed on my kitchen floor
March 2 at 1:36pm · Like · Comment
- Mady Sargent**
SNOW CREEK TOMZZZ!!!! HOPE WE DON'T DIE GOING DOWN THOSE INTENSE MOUNTAINS!
March 2 at 8:05pm · Like · Comment
- Rosie Hutchison**
Happy bday J Beibz. I will love you even when you're bald.
March 1 at 4:46pm via Facebook® for HP webOS · Like · Comment

My life sucks



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

compiled by **EMILY BRESSETTE**



Freeman

"A couple weeks ago, right before Snowpacolypse, I slipped on the ice and fell back, hitting my knee. I went into M&A and immediately felt dizzy. The next thing I know, I wake up flat on the floor with Ms. Hansbrough and Ms. Hoecker hovering over me. Apparently I fainted from shock and inflamed nerves in my knee, according to Hansbrough. MLS."

Shannon Freeman, junior

It's a wonderful life



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

Just the other day, I was googling images of Isla Mujeres on my netty. It's an island off the coast of Cancun and it was 85 degrees there that day. In three days I will be there! It's definitely a wonderful life.



Twellman

Taylor Twellman, junior



1

1. hitting the slopes ★ A group of freshmen, led by testing center moderator Jennifer Petree, ride down the slopes of Snow Creek on inner tubes. This was the second year the freshmen class attended the field trip.



2

2. hold on tight ★ Drama teacher Shana Prentiss, from left, gym teacher Stacie O'Rear and freshman Natalie Nuessle soar down the slopes March 2. Teachers and students linked tubes to sled down the hills.



3

3. no hands ★ Freshmen Kathleen Blanck, from left, Paige Drummond and Brianna Valine skid down the Snow Creek slope together.



4

4. chillin' ★ Assistant athletic director Jack Garvin shares a smile as he rides down the Snow Creek slopes. Garvin accompanied freshmen to their Snow Creek field trip. Photos submitted by **KELLY DRUMMOND**



we're playin' bas-KET-ball ★ Gail Goestenkors, far left, the head coach of the University of Texas women's basketball team runs through practice in STA's Goppert Center to practice for the Big 12 Women's Basketball Tournament Tuesday. After beating the Missouri Tigers in the opening round 79-66 at Municipal Auditorium, the Longhorns faced Texas A&M Wednesday. Photo by **TAYLOR WOODRUFF**

Who's your daddy?

STA students and their fathers dressed up as famous characters from books and movies for the annual Father-Daughter Dinner Dance Feb.13. The dance was held at the Kansas City Marriott Hotel, where couples were served dinner followed by dancing and the traditional senior dance contest.



1. **bust a move** ★ Senior Emily Cox dances with stepdad Mark Patterson, dressed as Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne.

2. **girls just wanna have fun** ★ Sophomore Serenity Wallace, left, jokes with Margie Stone on the dance floor of the Father-Daughter Dinner Dance. The dance took place Feb. 13 at the Kansas City Marriott Hotel.

3. **dance the night away** ★ Senior Betsy Tampke dances with her father Scott Tampke. The couple, along with freshman sister Katie, dressed as the lion, the witch and the wardrobe from "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe."

4. **we are the champions** ★ Winners of the senior dance-off, Katie Pautler and father Paul, claim their first place prizes. The couple won a dinner for eight at Bonefish Grill, a framed poster, two movie passes and a Barnes and Noble gift card.

Photos by **KARA PRUITT**