

The Boylan Current

VOLUME 2
ISSUE 4
DECEMBER 21, 2007

Merry Christmas...



*From The Boylan Current
Editors and Staff*



The Titans successfully get through the Schaumburg Saxons' defense and score.



The Varsity Dance Team performs during halftime of one of the first games of the season.



Senior Oliver Chmell tackles a Hononegah player from behind.



Mrs. Virginia Burd helps out in the Academic Support Center.

When Do Students Find Time for School?

*Reprinted from The Boylan Line, 1970

By Martha Gorman and Ingrid Augspols

Physically exhausted and sleepy-eyed I trudged into my Algebra-Trig class that was already in full progress. I sat down and opened my book to the page full of confusing numbers that was presently being discussed.

My thoughts turned back to last night's activities. Somewhere among square roots and quadratic equations, my aching arms and legs kept reminding me of the whistle drills and laps that a typical wrestler encounters in practice day after day. "John," the teacher suddenly questioned, "where is your homework? You young people never cease to amaze me, having so much time and just wasting it away. What do you do with all your time?"

Now, thoroughly depressed, I wondered whether I should try to explain my failure to complete my assignment. Last night, in between the Student Council meeting and play rehearsal, I could have used those fifteen minutes to start my algebra, but right then, food seemed much more inviting.

The teacher's attention now shifted to inverse functions and graphs. By this time my mind was completely cluttered with thoughts about wrestling meets, kissing booths, opening night, and the pretty blonde that has been sitting next to me all semester. All around me students were suffering from the same dilemma; "What's more important: outside activities or school work?"

"Gee," the thought just occurred to me. "I really care about those things I stick my neck out for, and those activities I lose sleep over and I think, along the way, I've developed a little responsibility. Sure, projects have fallen through, but even so, they have taught me something. And as for people, some of the characters I've met can't be found in any book."

Looking for a Job?

The Rockford Park District is looking for customer service-oriented people to apply for seasonal employment opportunities for 2008 at its annual Job Fair, this year being held **Friday, December 28, 2007** at the Indoor Sports Center (ISC), 8800 E. Riverside Blvd., Loves Park. The times are as follows: general job fair interview hours are **9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; however, extended hours until 6:00p.m. will be available only for applicants interviewing for any positions at Magic Waters or aquatic facilities (including lifeguards.)** Seasonal help is needed for Magic Waters, swimming pools, golf courses, Sportscore complexes, youth recreation programs, and more. Job fair applicants must be age 16 or older, and most applicants will be interviewed on site. Shuttle bus transportation will run from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. from the Park District Downtown Office to ISC. Students, teachers, and retirees are encouraged to apply. Job applications are also taken on line at www.rockfordparkdistrict.org (click on Jobs), and Mondays-Fridays, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Park District administrative office downtown, 401 S. Main St., Rockford. For more information, call **815-987-1593**.

Teen Impact Teaches Elementary School Kids to Stay Drug-Free for Life

By Rachel Filak

Teen Impact has a unique way of spreading a drug free message to younger children: Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) presentations which are devised for children from 1st to 8th grade. Teen Impact members are sent out to elementary Catholic grade schools to present the effects of tobacco and other drugs. These presentations are usually an hour and a half long and incorporate facts with activities. Mr. Gross Mouth (a model of a cancerous mouth, the outcome of tobacco), jars filled with tar to represent how much tar is held in the lungs after smoking for a year, and a puzzle with pictures of household objects that include chemicals that are in cigarettes, are all used as aids to help the children understand tobacco use. The children enjoy the activities and at the same time learn about harmful drug use. As one member added, "These presentations are a great success and keep Teen Impact members connected with the younger generation."

Tradition of Spreading Christmas Spirit Begins

By Rita Hovar

A long time Titan tradition of helping those in need recently ended-the annual Christmas Basket event, conducted by Student Council. This service project started on November 16 and ended December 18. The Christmas Baskets help families who are struggling financially, and need extra help during the holiday season. Each homeroom collected non-perishable food as well as household items, toys, and clothes. Each student also donated 8 dollars that went towards food items and presents for the members of the families. This year Boylan helped 60 deserving families through this event. Mrs. Burd, who is in charge of Student Council, said her favorite part of the Christmas Baskets is when the trucks are loaded on delivery day. She stated, "It is amazing to witness how generous our school community can be."

Key Club Celebrates National Week

By Emily O'Connor

From November 5-9, Boylan celebrated their annual Key Club Week. Boylan's Key Club does many things to help out our community and school. The clubs members participated in stadium clean-ups after home games, help out with fundraisers, and do many other acts of community service. They hold meetings every other Thursday during they discuss future service projects they can participate in. To kick off the nationally celebrated week, the club handed out ribbons for all members to wear. On Tuesday of that week, the officers of the club delivered canned goods to the Rockford Rescue Mission food pantry which they had collected during a previous project, "Trick or Treating for Canned Goods" which supports UNICEF. The club held a bake sale on Wednesday, and on Thursday, those who attended the meeting received a "nutritional" breakfast: donuts and juice. Future Key Club plans include a pin ceremony for all new members and many holiday service projects. On Saturday many people worked at the game selling concessions and that following Sunday morning helped with stadium clean up.

The Gruesome History of the Illustrious Greek Columns is Revealed...



Photo by Thomas Cass

By Lauren Deutsch

Mock Trial Practices Law, the Art of Arguing

By Caitlin Lanis

Mock Trial is a competition team that allows the students involved to become more familiar with the law. This is a great activity to be involved with, especially for students who want to go to law school. Advisor Mrs. Carol Birchfield says, "Mock Trial provides a greater respect and appreciation for the American Judicial Branch and the Constitution." Try-outs for the 2007-2008 Mock Trial competition team were held for three weeks during late September through early October. At that point, fifteen people were informed that they would be part of the team. However, only ten will go on to be part of the competition team. These cuts will be made in late December, after the Christmas Scrimmage.

With senior Melissa Cheng as captain, the members of the team prepare for competitions, such as the Christmas Scrimmage, by meeting twice a week. On Mondays after school, they meet in room 136. On Wednesday mornings before school, they meet in the Lecture Hall. This coming January, the competition team will put in more time by meeting Saturday mornings in the library in addition to Mondays and Wednesdays. Mrs. Birchfield claims, "Mock Trial is a good extracurricular activity to be involved with because it allows the students to learn to express their side of an argument successfully." She also says, "It allows students to work with other students they do not have classes with and to work as a part of a team, rather than individually."

In 1970 the Boylan Latin Club and the Latin teacher, Dr. Francis Monarski bought four over one hundred year-old, seven foot hand-carved limestone columns with the help of the Scandroli Construction Company. These four columns were formerly part of the old Winnebago County Courthouse that was demolished in the late 1960's for a newer courthouse. They are now used to hold outdoor plays and Latin readings. However, these columns were not always in this happy environment. In fact, these columns have seen a very bloody history.

The county first used to hang criminals in front of the columns, and then on May 11, 1877 the dome that these columns supported fell. The Frank Leslie Illustrated Newspaper reported that "just as the keystone was being placed in the dome...the brickwork between the iron and stone gave away, and the entire dome and interior walls of the structure fell with a terrible crash." There were nine people that died in the horrible accident and many other people were injured. It cost \$211,000 to rebuild the courthouse.

Despite the gruesome history that the columns have, they are still beautiful pieces of art with an Ionic and Corinthian style. They are a wonderful addition to Boylan.

Students Win and Support the Dream Foundation Simultaneously

By Diane Derry

What do Austin Morman, Bryan Nelson, and Matthew Ventimiglia all have in common? They were all winners of major prizes in the SARO club raffle. Austin won the Wii, Bryan won the iPod Nano, and Matt won the XBOX 360. The raffle was put on by the SARO club. This club was started three years ago by Boylan students in an attempt to provide aid to local and national causes. Its officers are Melissa Cheng, Maggie Fulling, Hannah Olson and Riley Flodin. This raffle was orchestrated to raise money for the Dream Foundation. The donation was given in memory of Mrs. Ann Kenny, the mother of two Boylan students, who died of cancer earlier this year. This foundation is an organization that helps terminally ill adults. "It's the first organization specifically helping adults, all of whom have a life expectancy of under one year and have some type of financial need," explains Kate Deckard. Some of the other winners of smaller prizes, such as gift cards and iTunes money, were Chris McMean, Brooke Javurek, Zach Belford, and Phillip Bergediek. Overall, this raffle raised \$1,613.50. "We were extremely excited and grateful for all the student participation," said Kate. This raffle was clearly a huge success which will further help the patients in the Dream Foundation.



Photo by Kaylen Ralph

Some of the new NHS Senior inductees recite the NHS pledge during their induction ceremony on November 29th.

National Honor Society Inducts Seniors

Inductees:

Sophia Araoz
Cristina Arnold
Stephanie Blaszczyk
Vince Chiarelli
Savannah Cussen
Steven Dieckhaus
Arielle Einhorn
Elizabeth Howard
Roy Leaf
Michael Licari
Michelle Lind
Colin McGuire
Hanna McHugh
Hannah Provenza
David Schnoor
Nicole Timm
Kelsey Webb

Senior Exam Exemption Approved

The administration has approved the implementation on a trial basis of the senior exemption for 2nd semester exams. Mr. Hiemenz said, "The faculty and administration hope that this policy will encourage seniors to continue to work diligently through the entire 3rd and 4th quarters. Both the attendance and demerit limitations are meant to be incentives." He went on to say that seniors should be aware that many colleges request a transcript after the completion of the student's senior year to make a final acceptance decision. This policy should make it easier for seniors to maintain acceptable grade levels.

Grade School Kids Get a Taste of Scholastic Bowl

By Ryan Loos

The Scholastic Bowl Grade School Tournament was held on Oct. 30, Nov. 6, and Nov. 7 after school in the Annex. The tournament, which is held every year, allows grade school students to show off their knowledge in a plethora of subjects including math, science, English, literature, history, and other miscellaneous subject matter. Schools in attendance included St. Bernadette, St. Bridget, St. Edward, Holy Family, St. James of Rockford, St. Peter Cathedral, St. Peter South Beloit, and St. Rita. The teams participated in a total of eight rounds which spanned across three days with the last round being a "fun" round. After the final round, there was a pizza party for all of the players and their coaches. When all was said and done, Holy Family took home 1st place, St. Bridget 2nd, and St. Peter Cathedral 3rd. Seeing Holy Family win was very exciting for Brett Harp, Danny Hannan, and Jimmy Bauer who are all currently on the Boylan Varsity Scholastic Bowl Team. "It was great seeing my alma mater win. It brought back great memories of Holy Family," Danny Hannan commented. They remember when they won the tournament at Boylan and ended up winning 3rd place in the State Tournament back when they were at Holy Family. This year, both the JV and Varsity Scholastic Bowl Teams have been doing

The Approved Proposal to the Administration:

1. The grade requirement for exemptions would be:
 - a. Both third and fourth quarter grade must be A, A or B, B
 - b. Students with a B one quarter and an A the other quarter would have the option of taking the semester exam or taking the B as the final semester grade.
 - c. Students with all other grade combinations would be required to take the semester exam.
2. The attendance requirement would be no more than three absences each quarter. School sponsored activity absences would not count against the student's total absences.
3. Students having more than 40 or more demerits would be required to take semester exams.

very well. Both teams have brought home trophies with the JV team getting 2nd and the Varsity getting 3rd in their own respective tournaments. With many more tournaments down the road, both teams set their sights on 1st place in their next tournament.

ExxonMobil Grant

Boylan Catholic High School has received a \$500 dollar grant from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program to support the school's Community Outreach Program. Elmwood Mobil of Rockford worked with Boylan's administration to secure the grant, which is one of 4,000 available to schools across the country served by Exxon or Mobil stations. This is the third consecutive year the school has been awarded this grant from ExxonMobil.

The ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program is designed to provide Exxon and Mobil retailers with an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools. This grant was made possible by funding from the ExxonMobil Corporation.

Natural Helpers Celebrate Christmas Season

By Dana Clemens

On December 2, the Natural Helpers gathered together to celebrate the Christmas spirit and to enjoy each others' company at the Christmas Mass and Dinner party. The evening began with Mass said by Father McMorrow. The students then went to the cafeteria to eat a buffet dinner including delicious appetizers, scrumptious main dishes, and tasty desserts, all prepared by the natural helpers. The cafeteria was decorated to reflect the spirit of the holiday by the co-chairs Barb Roman and Therese Bermingham, assisted by juniors Emily Hayes and Ashley Andersen. After a filling dinner, the group played musical chairs and engaged in a gift exchange. Gifts, which could not exceed the monetary value of a whopping one dollar amount, varied from plastic noise-making swords, to candy, to tree ornaments. Kate Deckard, junior, said her favorite part of the evening was the food, especially the peanut butter balls.

All Conference Team Members and Coaches of the Year

Girls' Golf:

Erin Gorman (MVP)
Allee Graceffa
Taylor Rumble

Team Advancement:

Conference Champions
Regional Champions
Team State Qualifier

Boys' Golf:



All Conference Team Members Corey Konieczcki (left) and Jordan Keefer (right) accept their trophy from a NIC-10 official.

Jordan Keefer

Corey Konieczcki

Mike Van Sistine (Coach of the Year)

Team Advancement:

Conference Champions
One Individual State Qualifier

Girls' Tennis:

Sarah Thappa
Elizabeth Howard (MVP)
Maggie Fulling
Paige Fiorello
Haley Schumacher
Brianna Markgraf
Steve Price (Coach of the Year)

Team Advancement:

Conference Champions
Sectional Champions
Five Individual State Qualifiers

Boys' Soccer:

Derek Bristol
Adam Czerniewski
Rocco Taglia
D.J. Kling

Team Advancement:

Regional Champions
Sectional Champions
Super-Sectional Champions
Team State Qualifier
3rd Place Finish at State

Boys' Cross Country:

Will O'Malley

Girls' Cross Country

Deborah Hilby

Volleyball:

Danielle Ostendorf

Football:

Alex Greco
Nathan Hilby
Derek Dimke
Jeff Marrs
Colin McGuire
Dan Dansill
Partick Appino (MVP: Defense)
Austin Morman
Dan Appino (Coach of the Year)

Team Advancement:

Conference Champs
State Quarterfinals

Girls' Swimming:

Alana Telfer
Rachel Larson
Grace Cormier
Rachel Bohn
Taylor Molln
Suzanne Goebel
Christy Kowalski (Coach of the Year)

Team Advancement:

Conference Champs
Six Individual State Qualifiers



All Conference Members Rachel Bohn, Suzanne Goebel, and Grace Cormier, pose on the block.

Varsity Volleyball Players Reveal Funny Stories, Moments

By Joy Schaefer

What was your most embarrassing moment?

Danielle Ostendorf: "In a game I wound up for a spike, but I missed the ball."

Emily Johnson: "In practice we were practicing hitting and after I went, I turned and fell."

Any other funny stories?

Jenna Bender: "After beating Harlem we were celebrating and Megan Ostendorf's hair got stuck in Megan Gendron's braces."

(To Danielle and Jenna) How was it to play with your sisters?

Danielle: "I really liked it. When we sometimes got stuck as partners we would hit it really hard at each other. I really liked being able to talk about our mistakes after games since we played the same position. Jenna:" I liked it. I liked doing drills with my sister since we did it at home. We would also discuss how we played or what we did wrong with each other."

Titans Continue Beginning of Season Tradition

By Jenna Engelsen

The Green and White Game has been one of many traditions at Boylan for 28 years, beginning the year that Coach Steven Goers began coaching. "We started the Green and White Game so that the team could practice in front of a crowd and with referees, and so that the Titan fans could get a preview of the teams," said Goers. Not only does Coach Goers find this practice game important, but the players do also. "I like it because it helps all of us get the kinks out before we play our first game," said senior guard Jake Kasper. The Green and White Varsity Game began at 7:00 in the main gym on November 15. Not only was the crowd able to watch the boys play, but some were also able to participate in activities such as a three-point contest and a two on two scrimmage. The crowd also was able to watch some Titan players compete in a dunk contest.

Varsity Dance Team Competes at NIC-10 Showdown

By Katherine Sierzdicki



The Boylan Dance Team has been very successful this year, and is still in the midst of a season that has already seen a fifth place finish in the NIC-10. Rosa Altamore, senior, commented, "The freshmen girls are amazing. Everyone has been doing very well." Many of their songs include hip hop, and a favorite song of some dancers is "When Doves Cry." During competition, the team did a novelty dance that included jazz, hip hop, tap, and ballet. Each dancer chose a part of the dance they excelled at and danced the part individually to show each of their talents. Before doing a routine, all the dancers get together in a circle with their right foot put towards the center, and say a rhyme, a prayer, and a cheer. The entertainment and fun that the team brings to the games and events is a major component of the all around "Titan Spirit" Boylan is known for.

Boys' Basketball vs. Freeport Rescheduled

The sophomore and varsity boys' basketball games postponed on Saturday, December 1st have been rescheduled to Saturday, December 22nd. The sophomore game begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by the varsity game at 7:30 p.m. The games will be played in the Boylan Main Gym.

Freshman Swimmers Kidnapped

By Joy Schaefer

Every year the seniors of the swim team kidnap the freshmen. Seniors Brittany Royce and Rachel Bohn were asked some questions about it: here is how it went down. Before the actual kidnapping occurred, the seniors called the freshmen's parents to ask permission to go into their house and kidnap their children. Once they got the okay, the seniors Map-Quested the houses. The seniors met at six in the morning on a Sunday and dispersed to their designated locations. After kidnapping the freshmen, the seniors took them to the pool complex for breakfast.

How did you wake the freshmen up?

Brittany said that she woke them up with a whistle and ripped off their covers. She then told them that they had ten seconds to get whatever they needed.

Rachel said that she quietly snuck into the freshman's room then started jumping on the beds while screaming and blowing whistles.

Did you tell the freshmen where you were going?

Brittany: "No. I told them that we were going to the pool complex to do laps." This was a good plan because when she pulled up to the pool complex the freshmen thought she was telling the truth.

Rachel: "No. We just drove around a lot to fool them."

Did this happen to you when you were a freshman?

Brittany: yes

Rachel: yes

How did they kidnap you? What were your reactions?

Brittany: "They came in blowing air horns." Brittany's response was, "I not getting up this early" and turned around to go back to sleep.

Rachel: "They came in with whistles and jumped on my bed screaming." Rachel recalled the moment saying, "I was half asleep and thought I was dreaming."

Titan Football in the IHSA State Tournament

By Ryan Knodle

The Boylan Titans, after finishing 9-0 in the regular season, earned the top cede in the 7A State Football Tournament. Although Boylan is a 6A school, the IHSA uses a multiplier on our enrollment to even out the advantage we have, being a private school. Also from the NIC-10, both Hononegah and Guilford achieved the 8 and 9 cedes, respectively, in the tournament. Boylan began its first round action against Mount Prospect, the 16th ceded, 5-4 team. Prospect's cede was deceiving, however, in that the program has won three state championships in the last six years. After a hard fought battle and a touchdown with 1:36 left on the clock, the Titans pulled ahead and advanced to the second round. There they met their cross-town rivals, the Guilford Vikings, who had just upset Hononegah the previous week. The Titans traveled to Guilford and with tremendous student and fan support, and a dominant first half, secured the 23-6 win. They advanced to the quarterfinals where they would play the team who knocked them out of the playoffs last year, the Lake Zurich Bears. The week leading up to the game was exciting, including a controversial newspaper article imploring Rockford to support the Bears, and many responses from parents, students, and others defending Boylan. It was an emotional game, with both teams exchanging big plays. One of these was senior Derek Dimke kicking a state playoff record 54 yard field goal. The game was close through the closing seconds, but a late drive by Lake Zurich put the game out of reach. The Titans played a tough, physical game against one of the best teams they've faced all year. Boylan finishes the season at 11-1, undefeated in the regular season, and NIC-10 Conference champs. They had an incredible season utilizing teamwork and perseverance when few gave them a chance.

Creative Destruction

By Eric Andersen

At first glance the term creative destruction appears to be oxymoronic. Its definition is even more confusing: creative destruction is the idea that job losses can benefit the economy. This seems to contradict what many people believe: only job creation can benefit the economy. In fact, job creation is assumed to benefit the economy so much that politicians often brag about how many jobs they have "created" while in office. But the loss of jobs can free valuable resources and lead to great economic growth.

A prime example of creative destruction was the introduction of the Model T Ford in 1908. It was an instant success, launching America and the world into a new era. By the end of its production in 1927, more than 15 million were produced and sold. The automobile was one of the most crucial factors in shaping the modern economy. However, at the time many people would have argued that it was a horrible development which would hurt the economy, especially those who produced the coaches and buggies. Most, if not all coach producers eventually went out of business due to the Ford Model T. Such massive job loss should have devastated the economy, but that did not happen.

When jobs are lost, it is often because more efficient and less costly methods of production are discovered. The Ford Company produced faster transportation and for less money. Therefore, the buggy producers lost business and eventually closed. But the buggy producers did not sit idle—they needed money. Some took smaller jobs; others learned new skills and eventually reentered the workforce. Society's gain was twofold. Not only was better transportation available, but there was a greater labor supply available for new jobs. As the economy grew, these extra laborers were needed in other areas.

While job loss is difficult for many families, it is not the only factor to consider. Society gains more than it loses. The jobless can adjust and reenter the workforce, perhaps in another field, but squandered economic progress cannot be regained. Often, when economic policy is being decided, too much emphasis is placed on those who lose their jobs. This is understandable. The jobless are present and tangible. Many have had family members lose jobs and subsequently must struggle to make ends meet. On the other side, no one has ever seen lost economic opportunity walking around looking depressed. Higher prices and lower quality goods are accepted because no alternative is provided.

Job loss should not be prevented by outside forces, such as political policy. Many times, there is great pressure to prevent job loss caused by outsourcing or foreign competition, but if such measures had been taken to prevent Ford from producing the Model T, the economy would be infinitely worse off now. The same is true of today's economy. Foreign products and labor are attacked by politicians as being destructive, but they should be embraced for providing superior goods at a lower price. Many families save money on purchasing foreign made goods and can reinvest their savings in the American economy, making it stronger. Those who have lost their job may reenter the workforce in another area where jobs are in higher demand. In the long run, allowing creative destruction to operate will make the economy and everyone affected by it better off.

Letter to *The Boylan Current*

The proposed Second Semester Senior Test Exemption would be beneficial and rewarding to various groups of students. For example, those who will be taking AP exams can focus more upon that test which they've been preparing for all year long; students who have tried all year to excel in their academics are rewarded with a little less

studying amidst graduation since they've proved over the last two quarters that they've mastered the material. Finally, the opportunity for test exemptions will certainly motivate students to attend school and try more at a time when most seniors suffer from "senioritis".

Stephanie Blaszczyk
11/20/07

Wait, What!?

By Andrew Thappa

In front of a full house of Harry Potter fanatics, JK Rowling sat, reading excerpts from her final installment of the epic series, entitled "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." After she was done reading she fielded various questions, one in particular stuck out. The fan asked if Albus Dumbledore, the headmaster of the famous Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry had ever fallen in love. Rowling replied, "Dumbledore is gay, actually."

As I read this I wondered why would Rowling even bring up sexual orientation. Does sexual orientation make Dumbledore a worse person? Absolutely not. Sexual orientation has no bearing on the story and Rowling really did not need to bring it up in her discussion of the book. As a Harry Potter fan, I can't help but ask myself if people will not like Dumbledore as much as they have in the past simply based on his sexual orientation. I think that, despite growing tolerance for homosexuality, there will always be a shroud of doubt cast over any character who is gay, and I think that Rowling did Dumbledore's character a disservice by pronouncing that he is "gay." Dumbledore is one of the most loved characters in Harry Potter and it would truly be a shame if his character is marginalized by the simple fact that he is a homosexual.

Over 100 students signed a petition in support of the proposed 2nd Semester Exemption for seniors. The policy was approved and will be implemented this year for current seniors. -Editorial Editor

Restaurant Re-view: Granite City Food and Brewery

By Erin Daly

One night in mid-November, my family and I went to dinner at Granite City Food and Brewery. Located across from Cherryvale Mall (near the new Barnes and Noble), Granite City is a casual restaurant and brewery with a comfortable yet sophisticated atmosphere and great food.

Before coming to the restaurant, I was warned that the portions of food were very large. Keeping this in mind, we decided to order a few dishes that everyone could try. The menu is impressive, with typical fare like salads, burgers, and pasta, and more unique choices like London Broil, flatbread pizzas, and a buffalo burger. We started with an appetizer: a chicken quesadilla, filled with grilled chicken, cheese, and pico de gallo (a kind of salsa). The quesadilla was excellent, with tender chicken and a buttery, crispy tortilla. Then we ordered a few entrees. My dad and I split the Grilled Salmon Oscar, grilled salmon topped with crab meat, asparagus, and a cream sauce, served with rice and vegetables. The fish was very good, with a great charbroiled flavor and flaky texture. I also tried a few bites of my mom's Grilled Asian Chicken Salad, which was also very fresh and tasty. My brother and sister split a half pound burger, which they ordered with waffle fries. The burger was juicy and had the same charbroiled flavor as the salmon, and the waffle fries were a unique alternative to regular french fries. With room for dessert, we split a generous portion of Big Chocolate Cake, the best I have ever eaten. It was moist, super-chocolaty, and came with fresh whipped cream and a tasty whiskey-butter sauce. The menu prices at Granite City vary, from \$3.50 for a cup of soup to \$22.00 for a full rack of ribs. Besides the delicious food, Granite City has a warm, inviting atmosphere. Stone pillars and black-and-white photos accent the restaurant and, because it is also a brewery, the giant brewing tanks are visible from the dining area. For an extraordinary dining experience with great food, a comfortable atmosphere, and friendly wait staff, I would highly recommend Granite City.

Current Event Quiz:

By Nikki Radloff

Can you figure out who this famous politician is? Test your knowledge of current affairs and see how well you know your events using the answers printed below.



1. Who is Britain's Prime Minister?
2. Who is the Head of Department of State in the President's Cabinet?
3. Homerun record-holder Barry Bonds was investigated for using steroids. What were the charges against him?
4. Who are the recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize for their work done to educate about human-caused climate changes and ways to reverse global warming?
5. Who is the President of Pakistan?

WHERE IS IT?

For each newspaper issue we will be displaying a picture that was taken somewhere on the Boylan Campus. It is up to you to find where it was taken. The first 10 people that submit their CORRECT ANSWER to newspaper@boylan.org will have their names published in the next issue underneath the new picture.



What and where are these?

By: Matt Kaney

1. Prime Minister Gordon Brown
2. Secretary Condoleezza Rice
3. Al Gore and United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Changes
4. Gen. Perviz Musharraf
5. Perjury and Obstruction of Justice

Answers to the Current Events Quiz:

Teacher Feature

By Kate Deckard

Mrs. Jansen



Name: Ingrid Jansen

Birthday: November 4th

Favorite recipe: My grandmother's shortbread

Favorite hobbies: Reading and knitting

Favorite TV show: *Numbers*

Do you and your family have any fun/special holiday traditions?

"On Christmas Eve, we read *The Nativity Story* and *'Twas The Night Before Christmas'*."

What are you planning on serving/eating for Christmas dinner?

"We will start with shrimp cocktail. Then for the main course we will have roast turkey, ham, boiled potatoes, roast potatoes, stuffing, brussel sprouts, carrots, and gravy. For dessert we will have plum pudding, cream and mince pies, and Christmas cake."

Does your family have a real tree or an artificial tree? Any special decorating traditions?

"We have a real tree and my children decorate it."

Being Irish, do you have any unique customs that add to the Christmas season?

"One Christmas Eve, we place a lighted

candle in the window. It is an old Irish tradition that started during the Penal times when the Irish were not allowed to practice their Catholic religion. The candle indicated to the priests that they were welcome. We also have Christmas crackers, which are like party favors, that contain a hat, a joke, and a small gift."

Do you do a lot of holiday baking?

"Cookies are not really an Irish tradition, so I don't usually bake a lot of them. I do make Christmas cake, mince pies, and shortbread."

Are you a last minute shopper or do you prepare for the holiday months in advance?

"I usually start in November, partly because I have to send gifts to my family in Ireland and Spain."

What is your favorite Christmas carol?

"'Oiche Chiun' ('Silent Night' in Gaelige)" by Enya."

What is the best present you have ever received?

"The best present I received was last Christmas when my mother came from Ireland, my sister and her family came from Spain (I hadn't seen my sister in 4 years), and my uncle came from California to spend Christmas with us."

Word Connection Puzzle

Directions:

Start with the bolded letter

Move up down, right, left, or diagonal to find the next letter to form words.

Connect the words to find a phrase.

(The blanks at the bottom will help you figure out how many letters are in each word.)

PUZZLE

E I T T H S

N R R U I W

C E T E T H

E P E H S A

E X S N D T

F O T A T S

-Einstein

By Kim Madden

Get to Know... Senior Sophia Araoz

Favorites:

Color: purple

Movie: *City of Angels* and *Ever After*

Day of the Week: "Saturday is nice."

Season: Spring

Holiday: Christmas

How many Boylan productions have you been involved in?

"Six, plus three Variety Shows."

Do you have a favorite show that you have been in?

"*Kindergarten* was my favorite fall show and *West Side Story* was my favorite spring show."

Do you have a favorite role that you have done?

"My role in *Kindergarten* was fun; also Guenevere in *Camelot*."

What is your favorite part of *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*?

"A scene called 'Problems and Inconveniences' because it teaches us that if we just stepped back and examined the big "scheme of things" we'll realize we don't have it so bad."

What is the best part of being involved in Boylan productions?

"Doing what you love the most and being with people for hours and hours everyday, we get so close!"

Have you done anything theatrical outside of Boylan?

"Another production of *West Side Story* with Bonzi Productions and the show and parade at Six Flags Great America."

How long have you been singing?

"This is my fourth year; since freshman year."



Photo by Kaylen Ralph

Who is your favorite singer?

"Oh my goodness I can't answer that! Too many!"

What is your favorite song?

"Right now it is a song called 'If I Didn't Believe in You' from a show called *The Last Five Years*, but it changes, like, every month."

Man on the Street

By Grace Cormier

Thanksgiving vs. Christmas?...Why?



Sarah Falzone- Sophomore-Christmas

"I like buying presents for others."



Rachel Bohn- Senior-Thanksgiving

"I like when my family gets together, and we always have really good food."



Sarah Crask- Junior-Christmas

"I love the feeling you get with all of the excitement."



Kasey Esgar- Sophomore Christmas

"I like the pretty lights and that I get to travel to see my family, in places like California"

WE ARE
STILL
ACCEPTING
AND
WELCOMING
ANY COMIC
STRIPS (BY
STUDENTS
OR
FACULTY)
IN THE
MAIN
OFFICE
ATTN: THE
BOYLAN
CURRENT

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As you may know, part of the News & Features Section of *The Boylan Current* is the Did You Know column. The Editors of the paper need your help coming up with some facts. Any time throughout the year that you come across or hear any interesting facts that students or staff members may be unaware of, please let us know! Turn in anything you come up with to the Main Office :
ATTN Boylan Current Editors

Thank You!

- *The Boylan Current* Editors



Jared Doyle- Freshman-Christmas

“I like the decorations throughout the season. It seems like everyone is really happy.”



Erica Figurin- Senior-Christmas

“I eat way too much at Thanksgiving.”



Tommy Fandel- Sophomore-Christmas

“I like the longer break from school and exchanging gifts.”



Chelsea Rangel- Sophomore-Christmas

“I love the snow, hot cocoa, and tons of presents.”

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday. As the countdown to break continues, I can feel the anticipation and excitement mounting in the halls. Finally we shall have a well-deserved pause in the stresses school can bring, which of course will start right back up again with semesters the week after we return. However, I'm going to take advantage of the entire break, filling it with family visits, socializing with friends, eating my weight in Christmas cookies, and admittedly, a little studying for semesters...maybe.

It's always easier to get into the Christmas spirit when those around us are too. One of the things in which I most prominently see the Christmas spirit is through our annual Christmas Baskets program. The fact that everyone is willing to think of the families at St. Elizabeth Center that we are helping through our donations is so admirable, and something I am glad to be a part of. I would like to commend the Student Council on their wonderful and planning and execution of this event.

Over the break, I will certainly be thinking of this paper, and accordingly, all of you. We will not be producing a January 2008 issue, but I promise come February there will be on jam-packed paper floating around. Until then, enjoy your break and stay safe. We certainly need everyone here to bring in a new year at Boylan Catholic.

Sincerely,
Kaylen B. Ralph
Executive Editor

Editorial Staff:

Executive Editor:

Kaylen Ralph

News and Features :

Jordan Calgario

Sports :

Joy Schaefer

Editorials:

Katy Telfer

Entertainment:

Brooke Javurek and
Abigail Kleckler

Photography:

Courtney Calgario

Layout:

Sarah Thappa

Copy:

Rachel Doherty

Advisor:

Mr. Dennis Hiemenz

Curriculum Changes for the 2008-2009 School Year

At its December 5th meeting, the Academic Council met to discuss and recommend course changes for the 2008-2009 school year. The following curriculum changes have been recommended to and approved by the administration.

- Art:** Addition of A.P. Art History and A. P. Art 4 Studio
- Business:** Add Photoshop 2 as a one semester elective
- English:** Allow seniors to register for A.P. Literature, previously only open to juniors
- Mathematics:** The math curriculum has been revised to conform to the State of Illinois mathematics requirements for graduation. Beginning with the class of 2012, all students must complete an algebra and a geometry class.
- Religious Studies:** Reinstate Apologetics as a one semester elective for seniors.
- Family and Consumer Sciences:** Add Foods 2 at the junior level as a one semester course.
- Foreign Language:** Requested a name change to World Languages. Addition of Italian 1 for next year.
- Social Studies:** Name changed to Social Science Department

The Boylan Current Mission Statement:

The Boylan Current seeks to promote interest in scholastic and extracurricular activities. Our aim above all is to expand the awareness of issues on a local, national, and world level, and to promote programs which are beneficial to the school and community. *The Boylan Current* will strive to be thorough and accurate, and will be held to the highest ethical standards.