



Updated security measures help protect students

w Zoe Ljubic
Editor in Chief

In an era of school shootings such as the one at Columbine and of terrorist attacks, students may hesitate to roam the hallways of Niles West. Because of the school's automated visitor check-in policy, however, students do not have to worry about feeling unsafe.

"Every [school] has a visitor check-in policy. We have finally automated the system to keep [efficient] records of who is coming in and out of our building," District 219 Security Director Jim DiJohn said.

The three-year-old auditorium lobby security check-in policy has proven to be successful. According to DiJohn, security measures have risen to "extreme levels" in order to keep the school environment safe for all students and faculty members.

The check-in policy is as follows: Visitors approach the front desk and are immediately asked where they are headed. Security guards then call for verification and ask the visitor to present identification. If the visitor's destination is confirmed, his/her driver's license is run through a background check on a National Sex Offender database.

"[The National Sex Offender website] has 44 out of the 50 states in America subscribed [to the database]. What is really great about the program is that all states around Illinois are subscribed," DiJohn said. "We are able to monitor who comes into our building."

If the visitor does not show up on the database, security personnel give the visitor a badge. The badge a visitor must wear includes a name, photo identification and destination.

"[The badge] helps students distinguish who is a visitor in the building," DiJohn said. "If a visitor is wandering the halls on the second floor while [his/her] badge says [(s)he] should be in the counselors' office, security will know something is up."

Previously, Niles Township District 219 kept enormous binders in which visitors personally signed with the time and signature. According to DiJohn, the old-fashioned process consisted of visitors walking into the building, signing into the binder, getting a pass and entering the building.

"We have had [incidents in which] we would have a visitor do something, anything, and we would have to go back and look through three huge binders to find [his/her] information. The [process] was tedious," DiJohn said. "By automating the system, if there is a problem, we can easily access our records."

With the updated system, security officials are able to trace back people who came into the building a year back.

"If we ever had to file a police report, we know we have successfully identified the visitor and have all the information in store. We [would know] very good information on [him/her] whereas the old-fashioned way we did not," DiJohn said.

DiJohn also mentioned how schools in the neighborhood, especially Chicago public schools, lack this efficient system. "Most schools hold your driver's license or just give you a pass. With our automated system, we have successfully identified the individual and have a good amount of information on them on record," DiJohn added.

U.S. history teacher Matthew Wiemer appreciates the measures taken on the visitor check-in policy. "The process is done in the name of safety so that we know who is coming into our building and [can] prevent school tragedies such as the Laurie Dann case in the 1980s," Wiemer said.

Dann shot a number of children, killing one at the Hubberd Woods Elementary School in Winnetka in 1988.

Students expressed their thankfulness of the process as well.

"I don't have a problem with [the visitor check-in policy] or background checks because [they are] making the students safer," junior Jeremy Berman said.

Senior Aaron Davis concurs. "The majority of the students appreciate the extra safety measures taken by the school, especially with all the recent school tragedies, and it is a really good thing that the school is taking action," Davis added.

With numerous visitors coming in and out of the building

periodically throughout the day, the security department needs to make sure at all hours that students, faculty members and anyone else in the building are safe.

Junior Caroline Majerczyk appreciates the administration's concern.

"I am sure that many [students], including myself, feel very safe with security monitoring who comes into the building. It helps students understand that the school actually cares," Majerczyk added.

According to front desk security guard Shawnette Odusina, this easy, one-minute process has been and continues to be very successful. She added that visitors do not have a problem showing identification.

"We make sure we run [his/her] driver's license, give them

a badge and call for an escort. Without an escort, they aren't allowed into the building."

Security Coordinator Brent Fowler believes this system has kept the school safe and will continue to do so. "[With this program] we can successfully identify National Sex Offenders and protect our students," Fowler said. "I strongly support the program."

Aside from the visitor check-in policy, security officials run a criminal background check on all staff. "[Everyone goes] through a fingerprint background check," DiJohn said. "We feel confident we know enough about the people we have working in this building."

Wiemer feels content with the criminal background check on faculty members.

"[Aside from] the benefits of this [process], it is an Illinois

state law to run background checks on employees," Wiemer said. "Although the [process] may seem like the school is acting like the 'big brother,' overall, it is a huge benefit for a safer school."

Fear and uneasiness strike freshmen as they enter the building on their first day of high school. Freshman Milena Zalloni described her adjustment to a new environment.

"Coming into a new environment, I was expecting the absolute worse. I am glad that the school is taking such drastic measures to monitor who comes into the building," Zalloni said.

DiJohn expressed confidence that the security measures taken by the school have greatly improved the safety of the students and faculty members.

"What we are able to do now is identify our visitors and streamline [the process] them by putting a destination on the badge. By using the technology that is available to us, [we have] become more efficient managing the visitor process," DiJohn said.



Updated security measures ensure the safety of students and faculty members.
Photo by Rexly Penaflores

Student represents Skokie library at ceremony

w Nikki George
Staff Writer

Sophomore Aleks Krapivkin represented the Skokie Public Library (SPL) at an Oct. 7 ceremony at the White House honoring SPL with the 2008 National Medal for Museum and Library Service Award (IMLS).

As an active community representative of the Skokie Library, Krapivkin accompanied library director Carolyn Anthony and SPL vice president John Graham to Washington to accept the award from first lady Laura Bush. In recognition of his volunteer service at the library, Krapivkin was chosen to attend the event.

According to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, SPL was recognized for its achievements in embracing the diversity of its constituency and in targeting and tailoring its programming to the many populations

it serves.

Krapivkin has been an active community member at the SPL for many years.

"My family and I came to the United States four years ago, and ever since I came, I [have] volunteered at the library," Krapivkin said. "I guess the library appreciated my work since I came [to Skokie] so they asked if I would come with them to accept the award," Krapivkin said.

Krapivkin's primary duties for SPL include adding new content and designing web pages on the library's website, www.skokie.net.org.

Each year, the IMLS honors five libraries and five museums with \$10,000.

"The Skokie Public Library was not the only [library recognized]. There were [nine]

other groups of representatives present to accept this award for their own library or museum," Krapivkin said.



Krapivkin

Students to be inducted into National Honor Society

w Nikki George
Staff Writer

Forty-nine students will be inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS) on Wednesday Nov. 5.

"National Honor Society is an invitation-only society that students [must] qualify," student activities director Peter Geddeis said.

According to college-career counselor Daniel Gin, NHS inductees are judged on four criteria. "[Inductees] are first judged on their grades [which] have to be at a 6.0 weighted average in their fifth semester year of high school. Next, students go through a character requirement [in which] the chosen teachers that will be assessing the students will need to prove that they are suited to be a part of the society," Gin said.

Then, students are assessed on their involvement, Gin said.

"Students need to have joined at least two extracurricular activities, such as joining a club, athletics or fine arts every year at Niles West," he added.

Last, students are expected to go through a teacher evaluation component in which teachers judge the students based on their experience, and then submit their decision to the NHS sponsors. The evaluation process is overseen by Gin and co-sponsor James Bryla and takes place two times a year, once in the spring and once again in the fall.

After a student has been accepted, it is Gin and Bryla's job to notify the student with a letter or nomination apart of the society. Juniors in their second semester are eligible, but the seniors make up most of the society.

Co-sponsor Geddeis oversees the process. Along with Gin and Bryla, he ultimately decides what students are accepted and informs honorees by letter that they have been accepted into NHS.

WESTWIRE



Technology causes decline in motivation

w Hillary Lindwall
News/Wire Editor

When I think about the teenagers of today, I cannot help but be reminded of convenience. Being a teen myself, I appreciate the fact that technological advances have helped to make life easier. However, this has been a major contributor to a noticeable decline in the diligence of the teen work ethic. Because of the continual progression of technology, my fear is that teens will become increasingly lazy and careless and lose personal contact with people.

Although it can be very useful, the computer is the main source of communication between teens and is beginning to replace many aspects of teen life. Rather than talking in person

Because of the continual progression of technology, my fear is that teens will become increasingly lazy and careless and lose personal contact with people

or on the phone, teenagers choose to chat online or simply connect through Facebook™ and other such social networking websites. Today, teens are just a click away from a wealth of information, eliminating the need to go to a library or do research using books.

Teenagers today would rather find an easy way out rather than doing the actual work associated with completing certain tasks. Technology is useful in fulfilling this need because any information can be found in less than one second with the help of the Internet or technological communication with other students.

Teens use the computer for recreational purposes as well as schoolwork. Hours can be spent chatting online and watching videos on YouTube™. Teens have created their own world over the Internet and are becoming overly reliant and far less personable. Nearly all forms of true human contact have been lost to the Internet as well as text messaging.

This also contributes to the loss of respect for others and the dehumanization of teenagers. When talking to peers over the computer rather than in person, it is a lot easier to say things that are hurtful or careless. Rather than talking to a person, one is talking to a mechanized being. This contributes to the decline of communication skills and, ultimately, a loss of human contact.

When our parents were teens, many of the luxuries in which we now indulge were nonexistent. Devices such as the World Wide Web and cell phones had not been invented yet. This way, teens had much more personal contact as well as better language skills.

We will not be able to run the world in the future if we cannot break our habits and become hardworking without the help of technology in the present

Today, teenagers find talking online or through e-mails to be a lot easier than talking on the phone or personally. Important, basic skills such as communication are not taught to teens because the majority of contact does not occur in person. This can result in dire consequences when teens are interviewed for college as well as future jobs.

When I imagine the future, I can picture a world in which personal contact is second only to technological forms of communication. This is a problem that should be addressed now. Our generation should recognize this issue and be able to admit that it may become a larger dilemma in the future. However, simultaneously, teens should be thankful for the convenience that technology creates. Many adolescents take technological advances for granted when they actually should realize how difficult life would be without their help. If we continue to subject ourselves to the luxury that is created by this convenience, the teen work ethic will continue to decline. We are the leaders of tomorrow and should form a strong will rather than giving in to carelessness and laziness. We will not be able to run the world in the future if we cannot break our habits and become hard working without the help of technology in the present.

A Day in the Life...

Media specialist Sherry Baehr helps keep IRC running smoothly

w Bridget Van Der Bosch
Staff Writer

The bell rings for first period, and Sherry Baehr has already been at school for an hour working on programs for juniors and 10-page research papers. As a media specialist in the Information Research Center (IRC), each day, she has the opportunity to experience something different.

Baehr starts her day by arriving at the Niles West IRC around 7:15 a.m. She uploads the work she did at home, talks to classroom teachers about the current day's plans and helps students find new books to read before the school day begins.

When the first period bell rings, she quickly reviews her busy schedule for the day. On this day, Baehr is scheduled to teach three health classes and one U.S. history class. She collaborates with different classroom teachers to create a plan that will help students conduct research.

When health classes for periods one, three, five and eight arrived, Baehr and Helen Rifkin, a fellow IRC media specialist, pulled books off the shelves to make sure all the reliable resources along with the Internet, are available to the students. This was Baehr's first time teaching the specific health assignment.

Baehr observed Rifkin during first period, and by third period was ready to jump right in and help the students. She formulated questions for the students to grasp the information. Also, she went through the online products the IRC offers and made sure students understood what they were trying to research.

Before Carole Goodfriend's U.S. History class came in, Baehr prepared her lecture for efficient research. According to Baehr, for the past several months, Goodfriend and Baehr have been collaborating to put together the most efficient techniques to



Sherry Baehr works hard to serve students in IRC.
Photo by Bridget Van Der Bosch

conduct research for the Chicago History Fair. Not only did Baehr pull work sheets from the Chicago Metro History Fair website, but she actually created her own worksheets to offer a way to organize and record what the students had already researched. She ended the segment by showing how to use an online content generator for citing research.

On top of creating numerous websites for classroom instructors, Baehr and fellow staff members at the IRC prepare presentations for school functions. For Teachers' Institute Day,

Baehr is in charge of creating a presentation about a new online product the IRC offers this year.

Baehr also is responsible for creating a list of books that the IRC orders. "I have read about 40 books this year, but that isn't nearly enough," she said. One of the things she does for students is help to connect them with books. "I have students that I helped find a book for come up to me saying, 'I am done. Give me something else to read.'" She even manages a networking site that features all the books she has read. She said, "It is like a really, pathetically nerdy Facebook™." Students can go to the site and see all the books she has read, and read

comments she has made on some of the things she has read.

In her first year as a media specialist after three years as an IRC floor supervisor, Baehr made a midlife career switch. Prior to working in the IRC, Baehr worked as an interior designer, a position in which she used AutoCAD, a design program employed by drafting, engineering and 3D modeling animation courses. "I know enough about the program that I could help students with assignments," she said.

This interior designer-turned-librarian has a lot to offer here at West. "I want everyone to know that our priority here in the IRC is the faculty and the students. That will always be our number one."

Students qualify as national merit semifinalists

w Hira Malik
Staff Writer

The 16,000 students who qualified as National Merit Scholarship semifinalists this year include four students from Niles West: seniors Andrew Lee, Randy Lefkowitz, Morgan Yates and Alexander Zasso.

Each October, District 219 offers students the option in taking the PSAT. According to www.collegeplanningsimplified.com, juniors may qualify for scholarships by scoring in the 99th percentile on the exam.

The score is obtained from three sections: critical reading, math and writing. Each section is worth 80 points for a possible total index score of 240.

An index score of 215 qualifies one to be a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. The four West semifinalists garnered scores of 225 (Zasso), 223 (Yates), 217 (Lee) and 215 (Lefkowitz).

All four are ranked in the top 10 percent of the senior class, with grade point averages near or above 7.0.

Although Zasso encourages students who "feel that studying works for you" to do just that, none of the semifinalists engaged in prior preparation.

"I just came to school and took the test. I did not even know that doing well on the test could qualify me for a Merit Scholarship," Yates said.

However, Lefkowitz did advise proper rest as a way to keep mentally calm for the standardized test. "I would tell others to [get a good night's sleep]," he said.

Zasso agrees. "The biggest [piece of advice] I have to offer is to get a good night's sleep [and] eat breakfast."

Semifinalists have the opportunity to compete for National Merit Scholarships by taking the SAT test and submitting a letter of recommendation from their guidance counselors.

Beginning in March of 2009, the National Merit Scholarship Committee will notify approximately 8,200 finalists that they have been selected to receive an award.

Dance marathon to benefit cancer camp

w Naomi Prale
Around Town Editor

This year's Dance Marathon, Saturday, May 9, will benefit One Step at a Time, a camp devoted to helping children fight cancer.

"A lot of charities who apply to be the Dance Marathon charity," sponsor Jessica Fliman said. "We have to go through a selection process when choosing the new charity."

The process begins with many charities applying to be recipients of the fundraising from Dance Marathon. Dance Marathon executives look at the background information on these charities, including ratings, and narrow the charities down to seven.

"These charities then come to Niles West, and pitch themselves and their charity to us. Niles West and Niles North Dance Marathon executives come and listen, along with the student governments from both schools and varsity team captains," Fliman said.

After each charity has its chance to speak, both schools'

executives sit down to debate and discuss these charities. "After this, we choose a charity for [the following] year," Fliman said, "because we figure that we want to be even more prepared at the beginning of the year with our charity already chosen."

According to Fliman, One Step at a Time is a winter and summer camp that is for children who suffer from cancer. "The camp doesn't turn anyone away," Fliman added. "It is expensive, but the camp works with the campers in order to find a balance between what the parents can afford and how much the camp pays."

At the camp, many of the staff are volunteers, some of are surviving campers, and there are many doctors and health specialists at the camp. Kids who currently are undergoing cancer treatments have places where they can stay if they are sick. This way, they can enjoy themselves and stay healthy.

"[Dance marathon's] goal [each year] is to educate the school about whatever topic we choose for our charity," Fliman said. "This year, we are talking about cancer. In previous years, we have done other charities that support other causes."

WestWord

New theater director hopes to redefine department

w Hillary Lindwall
News/Wire Editor

With the loss of theatre director Elizabeth Levin, the theatre department needed a strong replacement to fill the void. If his students' assessments are any indication, new director Andrew Sinclair was an inspired choice.

Sinclair, who previously taught theater at Maine East High School for six years, expressed excitement about the opportunity to direct over four plays every year.

"There were two full time theatre teachers [at Maine East], so I only got to direct one show a year. When this job came about, it was like a dream job," Sinclair said. "To get to teach as many classes as I get to teach in theatre and to direct as much as I do, it was like I was finally doing what I had worked through college to get my degree in."

Senior Roxie Zeller applauds Sinclair for his involvement. "[Sinclair] does not just direct us from his seat, he likes to put himself at the same level as us, which makes us comfortable. He

gets involved with us and really makes class fun," Zeller said. This year, Sinclair hopes to increase the level of student involvement in the theatre department.

"I would love to get more students involved in theatre. I think that for a school this big, we should be bursting at the seams with students who want to participate, especially since we are currently the number one fine arts department in the country, and we do five main stage plays and musicals a year," Sinclair said.

When he is not teaching, acting, or directing, Sinclair loves to watch movies and experience the city. Growing up in small farm town in southern Illinois, Sinclair has only lived in Chicago for the past six years. Living in the city has given Sinclair the opportunity to become involved with many professional productions.

"I love the fact that not only am I teacher, but I am an actor as well," Sinclair said. "I have done several plays professionally in

the city within the last few years. I am also a company member of two theaters, Hubris Productions and Chicago Playback Theater, and last year I got to direct my very first professional show. It is nice to have a day job here where I can have summers off to actually practice what I am teaching."

Sinclair said that he feels lucky to be entering an already well-established theatre department and hopes to strengthen it even more.

"I am coming into a program that is already really strong, so I do not have to reinvent anything, I just get to redefine and hopefully make [the theatre department] even bigger and better," Sinclair said. "What I hope

to bring is my energy and my passion for theatre. I am hoping that that will rub off on the students."



Sinclair

Somewhat True Tales to steal the hearts of local children

w Adriana Zalloni
Staff Writer

The Niles West theatre department will debut the children's play *The Somewhat True Tales of Robin Hood* Tuesday, Nov. 18-Saturday, Nov. 22, in the Black Box Theater.

The cast will present six shows, including two for local elementary schools and a community performance. Performances open to Niles West students will be held on Friday, Nov. 21, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 22, at 2

p.m.

Every year, the theatre department puts on a show aimed specifically at a younger audience. This year, theatre director Andrew Sinclair plans to make this children's play fun for all ages.

Sinclair expressed excitement about this year's production. "It is just a very fun show. The kids will love it, and the adults will get the jokes the children do not," Sinclair said.

The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood is a farce based on the actual Robin Hood story. The show is filled with irony, Sinclair said. Usually, the prince is seen as the hero who always saves

the day. In *Somewhat True Tales*, the prince is meant to be a puny, little boy. The princess trumps him in height and strength.

"The irony is what will make the play funny. I am excited," junior Alicia Peake (Allan) said.

Robin Hood will be played by senior Jason Suran. Junior Fiona Stephens will play Marian, and sophomore Alex Krapivkin will play the prince.

Cast members include seniors David Chervony (Sheriff), Owais Ahmed (Friar Tuck), Carrie Goldberg (Fawning Lady), Bonny Sucherman (Mary), Mark De Leon (Guard/

ensemble), Jennie Koval (Fawning Lady) and Parfait Kanam (Donald); juniors Sean Buckley (lady in waiting), David Fisch (Little John), Ani Poladian (Lady Laughalot), Alyssa Jutovsky (Debbie), Charlee Cotton (Will Scarlett) and Dominique Forte (Fawning Lady); sophomores Lizzy Hudson (Fawning Lady), Jan Rodina (Lionel), Leah Hummel (Beulah) and Becca Levy; (Guard/ ensemble) and freshman Lauren Langer (towns girl) and Anahita Karimi (guard/ ensemble).

For ticket information, call the Theater Box Office at (847) 626-2633.

District art show provides therapeutic relief for the senses

w Hira Malik
Staff Writer

District 219 artists' creations will be featured in The Illinois Institute for Therapy Through the Arts (IITA) high school show on Friday, Nov. 21, at the Music Institute of Chicago's [MIC] Evanston West Campus at 7 p.m.

The show features photography, ceramics,

painting, drawing and sculpture crafted by 25 students from West and 25 from Niles North.

This art show is open to any student who wants to display his/her art, not just those currently enrolled in art classes.

"I think it is a really exciting and great way to get students' artwork out into the community," art teacher Barbara Wismer said. "I hope people will come; everyone is invited," she added.

According to Wismer, the pieces on which the students have worked usually take 2-5 weeks.

The Evanston West Campus is one of the most recent additions to MIC. The campus offers MIC's Therapy Through the Arts program, which helps people with developmental delays, physical challenges and physiological needs. According to its website, www.musicinst.org, MIC also offers music, drama and visual art to help those undergoing therapy.

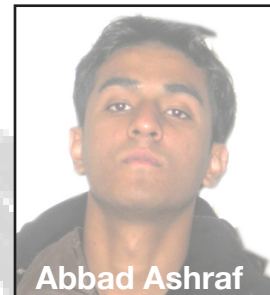
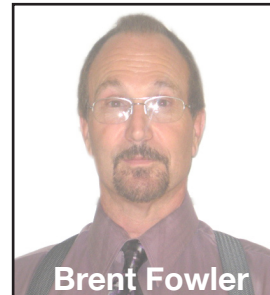
"I think that this is an opportunity for any student to show [his/her talent]," art teacher John Zilewicz said. "This is a very positive

experience for students because their work can be shown on a professional level," he added.

The exhibition is open to the public at a designated performance viewing area on the campus.

"Last year, we had about 100 people attend, and I hope that this year will have the same amount of people if not more," Wismer said.

Wismer added that the show will be the first of 13 opportunities for students to display their work during the 2008-09 school year.

Pop Quiz	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Staff
Halloween means...	 Jasmin Nieves	 Deja Jones	 William Camacho	 Abbad Ashraf	 Brent Fowler
Best Haunted House in Chicagoland...	Getting candy and have a great time.	The Devil's holiday	Dressing up however you want	Free candy	A very long night
Most overused Halloween phrase...	Studio 13	Navy Pier	Six Flags	Navy Pier	Navy Pier
Favorite scary movie...	Trick-or-treat smell my feet	Trick-or-treat give me something good to eat	Trick-or-treat	Trick-or-treat	Trick-or-treat smell my feet
I'm going as _____ for Halloween.	Quarantine	It	Child's Play	Scary Movie 4	The Exorcist
	Girl from Phantom of the Opera	Dora the Exploror	The Joker	Myself	Policeman

WESTWIRE

Short Circuits

Volunteer fair offers opportunities

This year's annual volunteer fair will be sponsored by the Respect Committee during lunch periods 3-7, Wednesday, Nov. 19, in the cafeteria hallway.

This fair provides students with the opportunity to explore public service. The Skokie and Morton Grove public libraries, Lincolnwood Police Department, Rush North Shore Hospital and many other local public service agencies, charities and public service departments set up tables to interact with the students to encourage volunteerism.

"We believe that it is important for everyone to give back to the community. Plus, it helps the students become more educated about the issues for which they volunteer," student activities director Peter Geddeis said.

Co-sponsor David Shaoul agreed. "We ask local organizations to come and provide some awareness of their organization so students can get an idea of [volunteer] opportunities in their community," he said.

Parent-teacher conferences to be held Nov. 19 and 25

This year's parent-teacher conferences will be held Wednesday, Nov. 19, 4:30-8 p.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 25, 5-8:30 p.m.

To request a five-minute appointment with their child's teacher, parents may go online to www.niles219.org/west and click the link on the home page to register.

Registration began Oct. 24 and will continue through Sunday, Nov. 2. "If parents miss the deadline and want to communicate with their child's teacher," Assistant Principal of Operations Ryan McTague said, "they can talk with the teacher over the phone."

—Hira Malik & Nikki George

Fine arts students to perform in festival

by Helen Salamanca
Staff Writer

Fine arts students are currently preparing for this year's Illinois Music Educators' Association (IMEA) Festival, which will take place Saturday, Nov. 15 and 22 at Evanston Township and Barrington High Schools.

Students were selected through a vigorous audition process to become a part of district groups including choir, orchestra, band and vocal jazz. Niles West is included in district seven, one of nine districts that represent areas of Illinois. The annual auditions feature about 150 students per organization.

The IMEA orchestra, band and choir will perform on Nov. 15 at Evanston Township High School while jazz students will perform on Nov. 22 at Barrington High School.

Band director William Koch, orchestra director Steven Katz and choir director Amy Branahl have worked with students since the beginning of the school year to prepare for the event.

All directors expressed enthusiasm for this year's festival. "I think we have a great, talented group," Katz said. "IMEA consists of the best, most talented students."

The Niles West students that were selected for the IMEA festival this year include sophomore band member Holly Jensen; choir members senior Oliver Barkell, junior Jane Chung and sophomore Nicole Yoon; junior orchestra member Hillary Lindwall and sophomore vocal jazz members Jane Chung and Sajni Ganger.

BEST Fair to help plan futures of students with special needs

by Bridget Van Der Bosch
Staff Writer

The seventh annual Transitions for the Future Resource Fair for Students with Special Needs, or BEST Fair, will be held at the Golf Mill Shopping Center on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The fair is arranged by the Business and Education for Students in Transition (BEST), a committee supported by the Cove School in Northbrook, Douglas Center in Skokie, Evanston Township High School, Niles Township District 219 and many other schools and organizations in the surrounding areas.

According to District 219 rehabilitation services supervisor Nancy Otter, the purpose of the BEST Fair is to help students with special needs plan for their post-high school transition. Students with special needs, their parents/guardians and special needs professionals are invited.

Representatives from employment services, government programs, health services, legal resources, recreational opportunities, residential programs and transportation units who aid those with special needs are expected to attend. These representatives will provide information, answer questions and help students plan post-high school.

"[The fair] is an opportunity to directly meet and speak to representatives [who] provide a variety of resources," Otter said. "This is a wonderful event," Otter said.

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Cheap 'n' easy Halloween costumes

On a tight budget, but still want to amuse and delight partygoers and candy givers this Halloween? Here are some suggestions that require nothing more than household items and imagination.

Lost television remote control



Chick magnet



Human refrigerator magnet



Cereal killer



God's gift to women

