

WestWord

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STEM lab construction begins this summer

W Rexly Penaflorida
Managing Editor

At the end of the current school year, construction will begin on a new area of Niles West High School. The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) lab will be created with the purpose of giving students the best education possible with some of the most sophisticated technology in the world.

According to science director Lois Wiesniewski, the STEM initiative was created six years ago in order to get students highly

engineering student can make a design on the board and a math student can look at the design and make a few adjustments in order to make it more effective. Interactions such as those can stimulate students in a way that will make their productivity very effective.”

Although the Think Tank will be used for collaboration, it is not the only reason why the area was created.

“Students can present their ideas or projects as well,” Wiesniewski said. “It can be presented internally. That means that they can present their projects to the students in the room or they can present externally, meaning that they can present worldwide to a community of like-minded people. We do not have the exact materials yet to present ideas globally, but that is one of the major goals that we want to achieve.”

While the construction has not been started yet, the research

that will occur inside the lab has already. Students under science teachers Britt Czupryna and Ruth Gleicher have been working with Abbott Laboratories in researching personalized medicine.

According to Wiesniewski, scientists from Abbott have been coming to West to help the students in their research. In turn, students have gone to Abbott to present to scientists and CEOs their view of personalized medicine.

In addition to research, collaboration between science and engineering has also begun. According to AS&T director Chris Powell, science teachers and an automotive teacher at North have collaborated to create a hybrid pickup truck.

According to Gatta, the lab will cost about \$367,500. The lab will be built on what is now the math and science resource center (MSRC) and will also take up the adjacent rooms on either side of the MSRC.

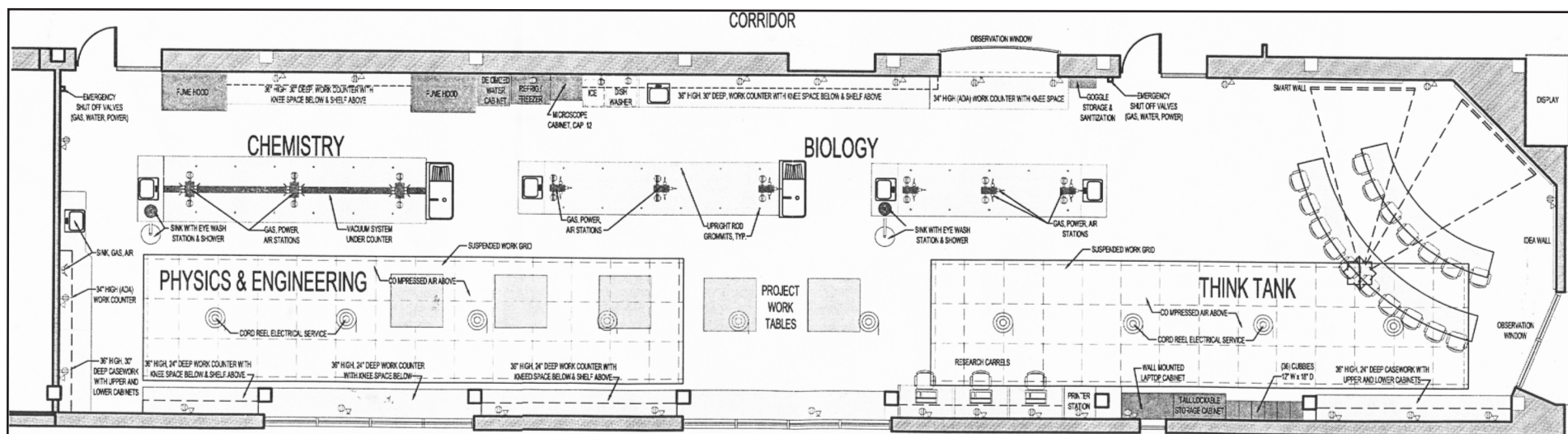


Photo courtesy Kaine Osburn

involved in the science, engineering and mathematics fields with a large emphasis on using technology.

“Colleges have been working with high schools on this initiative in order to get a large number of students interested in the program,” Wiesniewski said. “The National Science Foundation is also funding the initiative, so the program receives a lot of help and the hope is to create students that can have great problem-solving skills at both a high school and a college level.”

Wiesniewski said the idea for the lab area started three years ago.

“The science department had a program called Science Research in which students participated in high-end research,” Wiesniewski continued. “In applied science and technology (AS&T), we had Project Lead the Way where students had research level work. The two groups met at the end of last year to participate in a research class, and that was when both groups had conversations about combining the vast amount of opportunities that each project had to offer.”

At a district meeting a few months ago, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Paul O’Malley described the creation of the lab as a marriage of industrial materials and education.

“The materials in the room will be state of the art. A lot of the things in the lab will be made from metals,” O’Malley said. “There are also other types of equipment that will be used for special experiments that involve fire or gas. We will also be having flame-retardant tables. We will also have metal grids hanging from the ceiling which are also called ‘monkey bars’. The monkey bars will be used for physics-like experiments where the students can hang their materials or hang a video camera to record.”

However, the STEM lab will not be used solely for science classes. According to Superintendent Nanciann Gatta, the lab will be for students who are involved in research groups, members of Project Lead the Way, some Advanced Placement science classes and clubs such as Science Olympiad.

Most of the materials are designed to assist students in science research projects, but Wiesniewski assured that mathematics and engineering researchers will also get the full benefit of the lab.

“Students who do not use the science materials need computers that will be able to show their research to a bigger audience than that of the lab. The lab will provide those students with an abundance of computers,” Wiesniewski said.

One of the many features of the lab will be the Think Tank. According to Wiesniewski, the Think Tank is a place where students can collaborate and share ideas.

“There will be one corner of the room full of white boards, and that will be the Think Tank. This area is great because this is where students of science, engineering and mathematics can come together to help each other,” Wiesniewski said. “For example, an

Science Olympiad finishes fifth

W Zoe Ljubic
Editor in Chief

The Science Olympiad team finished fifth out of 39 schools in the state competition at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana April 25.

Gold medals were earned by senior Maureen Gullen and freshman Erin Balke for Fossils and seniors Karissa Moy and Andrew Lee for It’s About Time.

Silver medals were earned by senior Ann Lee and Andrew Lee for Write It Do It and junior Mike Radko and sophomore Nathan

“This year was fun. The hard work really paid off,” Moy said. “I have been doing Science Olympiad since fifth grade, and I can’t believe it is over now. It is very sad.”

Mitch Balke concurred.

“We have worked really hard since the beginning of the year,” Balke said.

Other team members contributing to this finish included seniors Angie David, March Kopsombut and Kyriaki Ades; junior Josh Lee and sophomores Jenny Lee and Antonio Kim.

The team is coached by science teachers Elizabeth Ramseyer, Howard Swider, Chris Barnett, Chris Hawker and Susie Lim.

Jenny Lee is looking forward to next year.

“I am excited for next year, so that we can do this all over again,” she said.



Science Olympians celebrate with fifth place trophy. Photo courtesy Elizabeth Ramseyer

Kerr for Towline Glider (Trial Event).

Bronze medals were earned by junior Ben Pichler and sophomore Kara Mui for Astronomy.

Fourth place medals were earned by Gullen and senior Dan Kim for Environmental Chemistry and juniors Mitch Balke and Steve Chang for Electric Vehicle.

Other top 10 finishers included sixth place: Gullen and Mui for Ecology and Ann Lee, Moy and Andrew Lee for Experimental Design; seventh place: Erin and Mitch Balke for Dynamic Planet and junior Urveel Shah and Pichler for Technical Problem Solving and eighth place: Mui and Pichler for Remote Sensing and Erin Balke and freshman Jessica Sutfin for Trajectory.

Moy expressed her enthusiasm regarding the team’s success.

Baum named new Wolves head football coach



Baum

Veteran high school football coach Scott Baum has been named the new head football coach of the Niles West Wolves, Athletic Director David Rosengard announced Wednesday. Baum teaches social studies at West and for the last three years has been offensive coordinator for the Wolves’ varsity program.

Baum has extensive coaching experience at the high school level. He was head varsity coach at De La Salle Institute in Chicago 2001 to 2005, with his teams playing in the ultra-competitive Chicago Catholic League Blue Division. Before that, he was head varsity football coach at Gordon Tech High School in Chicago 1997 to 2000. Baum led his team to Catholic League playoffs in 2000, when he had a season record of 6-5. Before that, at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, he served as both defensive and offensive coordinator. The Loyola team won the state championship in 1993, was state runner-up in 1992 and in 1995 and 1996 won the Chicago Prep Bowl Championships.

“I am thrilled and honored to be named the new Wolves football coach,” Baum said.

WESTWIRE



The ethics of journalism

w Hillary Lindwall
News/Wire Editor

Every day, journalists must make decisions. Whether it is deciding which articles to write, whom to interview or what angle they want to take, it is our job to produce the best work possible. However, how far must journalists go to achieve such success? The controversy exists when journalists must choose between their own personal involvement and allowing nature to run its course.

At the Newseum in Washington, D.C., there is a very powerful exhibit consisting of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs and the stories behind them. One of the most affecting photographs is one depicting a starving, dying child and a vulture moving ever closer to its prey.

The controversy exists when journalists must choose between their own personal involvement and allowing nature to run its course

According to the story behind the photograph, the photographer watched as the vulture came closer and closer to the child, but never made an attempt to save it. Instead, he snapped photographs and walked away from the scene when it no longer produced compelling photos. The question becomes: should the photographer have carried the child away and brought it to the hospital?

These types of decisions can only be made by the one in that situation, and one can never be sure how (s)he would react. However, another consideration would be whether the photo or the message behind the photo would be affected by the journalist's involvement. It is possible that the death of that child could actually save additional lives because of the publicity it receives? Even so, the question of morality still exists.

Another photograph depicted a mother and a child in midair, jumping from a building. Was it up to the journalist to try and help? Was he waiting at the bottom with his camera, ready to take the shot or was he concerned with their well-being? If the journalist decided that he wanted to help, was there anything that could be done? Most of these questions are unanswerable, but these are the types of questions that have plagued journalists for decades. One must decide, first, how involvement would change the situation, and second, how to act.

Many humanitarians would be disgusted by the choices some journalists make. They would believe that the sanctity of human life is much more important than any story. However, true journalists believe that by getting such a story, the publicity itself would improve the situation. If a journalist who reported on the genocide in Darfur were helping the people rather than getting the story, how would other countries know about the problem? It would be more beneficial to the people for the journalist to release the story and for the suffering to receive long-term rather than short-term assistance.

The only way journalists can help in a dire situation is by doing what they do best: reporting on it

As for a solution to the problem of morality in journalism, one cannot exist. Throughout time, hard journalism has been seen as one of the most difficult, heartless and least moral occupations. Moral journalism is like peaceful war: an oxymoron. The only way journalists can help in a dire situation is by doing what they do best: reporting on it.

However, journalists are anything but heartless, uncaring people. This decision may prove detrimental to their moral (and sometimes mental) stability. Some of the photographers featured in the Pulitzer Prize exhibit committed suicide because of their guilt. Nevertheless, letting nature run its course, not becoming involved and reporting the incident as it occurs, in most cases would be better than helping.

DECA's Lakhani assumes state leadership role

w Suhail Ansari
World Editor

It is often enriching to one's high school career to participate in extracurricular activities, since one may gain valuable skills such as teamwork, leadership and an understanding of other fields. One West student, junior Karim Lakhani, can proudly say that he has refined all the aforementioned skills with the support of the West community.

Lakhani is actively involved after school in the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA). He is Vice President (VP) of Illinois DECA and an officer of Niles West DECA. There are only four DECA statewide positions, out of the 1,500 students involved.

The State Executive Congress (SEC) was held in October at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines to both elect state officers and hold leadership activities. In order to compete for a state position, DECA members submitted applications which asked about previous experience, what one can do to improve DECA, why one wants to be an officer, etc. Out of all that applied, 25 were chosen to compete in the SEC. This consists of an elimination-style process including a written portion, an interview process for remaining 10 students, a speech for remaining 10 students and an election by delegates of attending schools.

West DECA attended SEC in October because Lakhani was one of the 25 picked to compete for an officer position. However, on the way to the exam, the West bus did not take into account construction which was taking place and Lakhani arrived with only half the time to take the test, as the DECA officials place blame for tardiness on the individual delegate.

After the written portion was graded, Lakhani moved on to the next level and 15 students were eliminated. After an interview, the students went on to make a speech in front of all schools attending. Lakhani spoke about his plans to make this year's DECA a once in a lifetime opportunity by increasing community involvement and improving communication between the individual DECA chapters. With each school having two votes, an election was held, and Lakhani was elected VP. He spent five hours studying for the written portion and three hours preparing his speech.

"I was glad to see all my hard work payoff. I owe a lot of the preparation to my great DECA advisors, Eric Lueder, Kay Coughlin and Tricia Brown," Lakhani said.

Including Lakhani, West has had only three DECA VPs in the history of its association with the organization. One other VP was Lakhani's sister Ambreen, who was VP during the 2003-04 school year.

"My sister Ambreen really inspired me to take on such a leadership role. Both my sisters, Sheila and Ambreen, helped me prepare my speech and supported me throughout this year," Lakhani said.

Lakhani's responsibility at the state level includes the communication and implementation of the year's agenda, communication with other Illinois DECA chapters and planning

and conducting the Illinois State Career Development Conference (SCDC).

Lakhani helped initiate increased community outreach with DECA by holding fundraisers during SCDC and by donating all proceeds to the Epilepsy Foundation. He helped phase out the paper newsletter and initiated a new video newsletter, of which he was in charge of editing and distributing.

Furthermore, Lakhani helped host the Illinois DECA Sports Marketing Seminar & Fundraiser in which Illinois DECA members watched a Chicago Bulls game as well as attending a lecture by the Chicago Bulls' marketing and advertising officials. The event helped students learn how marketing and advertising play a role in sports.

In addition to his VP position at the state level, Lakhani is an officer of the West chapter of DECA. Here, his responsibilities include running meetings, helping fundraise for conferences, helping members with their projects and teaching the techniques of competition.

Lakhani also participates in the hospitality and recreation marketing research competition. He participated both this year and his sophomore year with his partner senior Adil Ali.

Last year, their project was about how "going green" concepts—including how to go green, market research about how consumer spending is related to green initiatives, interviews of consumers, etc.—may be applied to Holiday Inn Skokie. Their project won third place at SCDC and was one of only 200 projects that moved on to the national level of competition. This year, the two planned a project regarding what a business can do to improve sales in the recession, in respect to Holiday Inn Skokie.

"I learned what responsibility businesses have to society in dealing with issues with global warming and the economic recession," Lakhani said. "The hotel has to use the least energy as it can and has to charge affordable prices while keeping jobs; [Holiday Inn

Skokie] has about 250 employees they need to protect from the recession."

In addition to his involvement with DECA, Lakhani is also involved in several other extra curricular activities. These activities include Math Team, Relay for Life and Boy Scouts of America among others. He also helped gather over 1000 books to send to a library that his sister established in Thailand.

Next year, Lakhani's ambitions include running for state DECA president. With newfound experience in managing Illinois DECA's affairs, Lakhani hopes to increase membership, competition and help more foundations by getting more people involved in the club.

"I am very grateful for this opportunity that West has provided me. The school has continuously given me support and has encouraged me to run for Illinois DECA President next year," Lakhani said.

In the future, he hopes to study business in his undergraduate years in either finance or hospitality and he hopes to attend law school one day.



Lakhani

A capella groups perform at Voices Only evening

w Hillary Lindwall
News/Wire Editor

A capella groups Echo Effect, High Fidelity and Guys and Dolls will perform at the Voices Only Evening concert on Friday, May 22, at 4 and 7 p.m. in the Black Box Theater.

The groups will perform their competition set, which includes Echo Effect's performance of "Under the Bridge," by the Red Hot Chili Peppers, High Fidelity's performance of "Sweet Dreams," by the Eurythmics and Guys and Dolls' performance of "Because," by the Beatles, among other pieces.

The groups have been in preparation for the event for some time.

"We have been working hard to create an excellent performance that will never be forgotten," senior Echo Effect and Guys and Dolls member David Nakic said.

"I am really excited about Voices Only because we have been working really hard on our music and we have a great selection of songs," junior High Fidelity member Becca Goldberg said. "We think everyone is going to enjoy them. I know that the other groups are going to be great, and I am so excited to put our songs out there for everyone to hear and enjoy," Goldberg said.

Senior Guys and Dolls member Andreas Nicholas agrees.

"One of the cool things about Echo Effect is that this is the only concert of its type," Nicholas said. "The group was started last year, and it was a lot of fun because we got to try a lot of new vocal techniques and work with a lot of different types of music that we wouldn't normally get to work with."

Echo Effect includes seniors Dan Aler, Kevin Galicia, Jorian Micor, Nakic, Chris Nodarse, Daric Guimary, Chris Olivares and Douglas Vega, Jr. and sophomores Patrick Cristi, Adam Gruezo, Ravi Patel and Eli Shiheiber.

Members of High Fidelity include seniors Becky Lang, Julia Bard and Becca Levy; juniors Jessica Guerrero, Dominique Forte, Goldberg, Mira Chotalia, Ashley Alexander, Charlee Cotton and Emma Mall and sophomore Agnes Krason.

Guys and Dolls are seniors Olivia Wallace, Nakic and Nicholas; juniors Alicia Peake, Sabriah Wiedeman, Jane Chung and Jorge Quiroz and sophomores Nicole Yoon, Aleksander Krapivkin and Ravi Patel.

The groups' sponsor, choir director Amy Branahl expressed enthusiasm about the upcoming event.

"It is a great concert. We are different from [other schools] in that we have...three groups that are the top three groups in their specialty field," Branahl said. "Our groups are the top of each genre. I am also really excited about the diversity of the music that we will be performing."

WestWord

Deans crack down on student tardiness

w Zoe Ljubic
Editor in Chief

Beginning March 9, Niles West strictly enforced its tardy policy to help assist teachers. From now on, each student who walks into the building late before first period for the second time, will receive a detention from the attendance office.

According to Assistant Principal of Operations Ryan McTague, this policy is nothing new.

"We are doing nothing more than following the tardy policy in the handbook," McTague said.

According to the student handbook, the first time a student is tardy, a warning is issued; the second incident calls for a 20-minute detention; the third incident calls for a 40-minute detention; the fourth incident calls for a one-hour detention and a fifth incident calls for a Saturday extended detention. If the student comes in over five minutes late, an extended tardy is issued, and the detention times rise.

"The problem with first period tardiness is that students are constantly coming in late and getting away with it. Also, the teachers are constantly writing up detentions, which takes away from class time," McTague said.

McTague explained that in the revised system, responsibility has shifted to the attendance office to take care of, because "it is tough for teachers to teach while students are walking in six, seven or even 10 minutes late," he said.

Protecting teaching time is the new procedure's goal, McTague said.

"We did this to help teachers handle the teaching while the attendance office deals with documenting each tardy and issuing the detentions," McTague said.

Many students are not happy with this new policy.

"We should get three 'warnings' before the detention is given, because one is not enough," freshman Shajiah Amin said.

Freshman Liz Troyk believes the policy "makes no sense" because students can be late any period of the day.

"What about the teachers during other periods that have to write detentions too? If you are having a bad day or wake up late one morning, or the second time in one year, you get a detention. It is not right," Troyk said.

Senior Dimitri Duros disagrees with McTague and believes the new policy is not helping teachers save time to teach.

"Teachers already waste enough time taking attendance and getting class started. It is first period: kids are still asleep half the time," Duros said.

Dean Mark Rigby agrees.

"The system has seriously decreased the number of tardies to first period," Rigby said. "After the first week, the number of students late was cut in half and has been relatively consistent since then."

Junior Sam Greene said that while he recognizes the effectiveness of this method, he doesn't believe it is necessary.

"The new first period tardy policy is childish, because in college they don't care if you are late. You don't even have to be in class," Greene said. "I thought the point of high school was to prepare you for college, and most importantly, you shouldn't

be late to class if you want to pass that class. For those kids who don't care about school, giving students detentions will not help; it will just make them hate school even more."

Science teacher Martha Lietz said that she is grateful for the administration's actions, but recognizes that either way, teachers must be alert and take responsibility for each class, whether or not it is first period.

"The deans are catching kids coming into the school building late, but if they are at their locker or bathroom, the teacher needs to take action. It is up to the teachers to follow the school policy," Lietz said. "[When students arrive late to class], it is detrimental to their learning and disruptive to the class."

Foreign language teacher Steve Beaver expressed the belief that this policy will emphasize the importance of being on time.



Dean Mark Rigby enforces first period tardy punishment. Photo by Zoe Ljubic

Sophomore Nick Karalexis presented an alternative.

"Everyone should have homeroom first period, just like before, so students get suited to the school day, and tardiness to first period would not be [an issue]," Karalexis said.

McTague disagrees, noting that the problems existed in previous years when the day began with homeroom.

"Students rolling in very late was a pattern that occurred all the time," McTague said. "Ever since we started using this method, there has been a significant reduction of tardies. At first we started with 100 per week, and now we are down to 27-30 per week."

"It only hurts the students who don't come to class on time, but the vast majority of students will not be affected. I think it is disruptive and shows a lack of respect for the start of the day when students walk in late. We need to learn to respect the start of the day," Beaver said. "It is always the same people walking in late every single day, thinking they can do this."

Beaver added that he believes this is a life-long lesson waiting to be learned.

"This is a cultural value that we need to learn, because when you go out into the real world, you will be judged whether or not you are on time," Beaver said.

Dance Marathon fundraiser fast approaching

w Hira Malik
Staff Writer

The annual District 219 Dance Marathon (DM) fundraising event will be held in Niles North's Codell Commons, Saturday, May 9, 5 p.m.-midnight, to support this year's charity, Camp One Step at a Time.

According to West's DM sponsors, science teacher Jessica Fliman and English teacher Dena Lichterman, each DM event is different from years past.

"Over \$70,000 was raised last year by the end of the night at Dance Marathon. It is always a new event, it is always a new charity and there are always new kids who are in charge," Fliman said.

Lichterman said the event relies on the dancers to make each DM different from previous years.

"Every year, we have new people, new energy and new excitement. Everyone brings something different every year. We just hope that students are excited to dance. The event in itself is a lot of fun, and we have great energy," Lichterman said.

The DM executive boards at both West and North plan the annual event.

"The students on the executive board work all year to ensure an exciting night for all the dancers who attend [the event]," Fliman said.

There are many tasks undertaken by board executives.

"I am on the food committee and the finance committee," senior DM executive Karissa Moy said. "For food, we have to organize the benefit events, like the Noodles and Company event. We also have to call companies or visit restaurants to ask for donations for the night of dance marathon, because all the food that night is donated," Moy added.

Senior executive Marian Schaepoester's duties begin at the outset of the event. "I am on the registration committee. The night of Dance Marathon I usually have to sit at the tables to check students in and I have to make sure that they have their permission slips," Schaepoester said.

The food, finance and registration committees are not the only

committees that work towards a smooth and exciting event for the dancers. The morale executive committee plays a role in the pumping up of the dancers prior to the night of DM.

"The morale committee tries to up the feeling of the dance. We try to make the dance as exciting as possible for all the dancers. My task the night of Dance Marathon is basically to help out all the committees that need my help, as well as help decorate the North gym," junior executive Flo Lee said.

Executives, dancers and sponsors expressed their excitement for the night of as well as the charity that the schools are donating too this year.

"I absolutely love the charity that Dance Marathon chose this year," junior executive Antonio Mladenov said. "We chose Camp One Step at a Time, which is a summer camp for children with cancer. Majority, if not all, of the doctors, nurses and camp

counselors are volunteers. This camp is there for children with cancer to have an exciting summer camp, the way many of us have here. This charity made cancer so real to me," Mladenov added.

A variety of special events will be featured during the evening.

"There will be themes the night of the event, like Jocks vs. Geeks hour. There will also be the Power Hour where the lights dim down. Students usually like the Power Hour," Lichterman said.

All students, faculty and alumni are invited to attend DM. It costs \$100 to enter for dancers, \$120 for morale captains and \$275 for executives. The last hour (power hour) will be \$15. The entrance fees are only for those who did not fundraise prior to the night of DM, the sponsors said.

Senior prom to be night to remember

w Adriana Zalloni
Sports Editor

Junior Cabinet will host the annual prom this year at the Chicago Marriott Downtown on Saturday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.-midnight.

The theme for this year's dance is "A Moment Like This," based on the song by Kelly Clarkson. The song will be the last one played that evening.

According to the Prom Planner 2009, tickets cost \$160 per couple or \$80 for individual. The final day to purchase tickets is today, during all lunch periods and after school, in the main office.

Included in the ticket price is an optional luxury bus that will transport students from the Marriot and back. The bus will include movies, music and entertainment. If students are interested in riding the bus, they must register when purchasing tickets.

A photographer from Visual Image Photography will be available at the prom. Ordering photos is optional, but a 50 percent deposit is required at prom.

According to the Prom Planner 2009, dinner will be served at 8:15 p.m., at the Marriott. Students will not be allowed to enter after 8 p.m. unless cleared in advance with Kathleen McCarte, junior cabinet sponsor.

Following the dance, the school will host a lock-in at West, with activities such as swimming in the pool, watching movies in the auditorium, playing video games in the Black Box Theater and discovering your destiny from fortune teller in Principal Kaine Osburn's office. The price of the after-prom lock-in is included in the prom ticket. The post prom begins at 12:30 and ends with breakfast at 7 a.m. Students who leave the post-prom activities prior to 7 a.m. must have parental permission.

Junior cabinet members expressed eager anticipation of the evening.

"Junior cabinet is on a roll," cabinet member Jane Chung said. "May 16 should be close to perfect."

Fellow cabinet member Danya Snowsky agrees.

"Planning Prom has been great," Snowsky said. "There have been a few mishaps, but overall, it has been a really good experience, and everything has fallen into place. The best part will be seeing how everything comes together after months of planning."

WESTWIRE

Short Circuits

Variety show set to entertain

by Morgan Quilici
Staff Writer

The annual Variety Show will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Robert L. Johnson auditorium.

The show will include performances from Niles West extracurricular groups including Color Guard, Hip Hop Club, Echo Effect and Guys and Dolls as well as myriad other student-generated acts.

"There are a lot of great acts this year, and I think that everyone who goes to see the show will have a great time," show coordinator George Bravos said. "We have a wide variety of acts; they are all well accomplished."

Other performers will include faculty rock band Twisted Helix and a singing group including choir teacher Amy Branhal. Dismembered and Unknowns, two student bands also will display their talent.

Junior Noor Hasan has performed in the Variety Show for three years. "I think it is a great experience because it brings all aspects of fine arts together," Hasan said.

Sophomore participant Nicole Yoon concurs.

"I think the show is going to be great this year," Yoon said. "It will be fun to watch because there is a large variety of different acts performing."

Tickets for the Variety Show are \$6, and proceeds will benefit Dance Marathon.

Movie night sponsored by student government

by Hira Malik
Staff Writer

The third annual movie night, sponsored by student government, will be held on the baseball field near the tennis courts on Friday, May 22, beginning at 6:30 p.m. for the dinner (senior send off) and 8 p.m. for a screening of *Ferris Beuller's Day Off*.

Various activities that evening include a barbeque at 6:30 p.m. and *Ferris Beuller's Day Off* at 8 p.m. All of the proceeds from that night go to support Dance Marathon's charity, Camp One Step at a Time.

According to the student government sponsors Jessica Fliman, Mathew Wiemer and P.J. Conklin, movie night has experienced a better turnout each year.

"Movie night was an idea we came up with three years ago," Wiemer said. "Every year, planning this event out becomes easier, because we know [whom] to call and when to call them. Our first year we made \$70, last year we made \$700, and hopefully, this year, [student government] can make 10 times that amount," Wiemer added.

Fliman shares Wiemer's sentiments.

"Movie night has been getting better every year since we started. I think that this year will be the year that tops them all where many students attend," Fliman said.

Fliman added that more students will be aware of movie night through video announcements, bulletins, fliers, posters and word of mouth.

As a student government sponsor, Wiemer expressed his responsibilities for the movie night.

"I oversee that the movie comes on time, and I make sure we are licensed to show the film," Wiemer said. "The sponsors and I go to Costco to buy all the burger and hot dog meat along with the buns so that the food can be grilled that night. I do not do all this by myself. My co-sponsors work with me as well. The day of movie night is a stressful day; however, by the time the film starts, I can relax," Wiemer added.

One of the students involved in the planning, senior student government vice-president Lynn Choi, expressed her commitment to movie night.

"I do not really have a specific role on the night of movie night. I will help wherever help is needed, whether it be giving out food to the seniors or selling treats during the movie," Choi said.

Senior student government president Nimra Elahi said that movie night is primarily designed for the seniors.

"Movie night is a great way for all the students and staff to relax and hang out with their friends. It especially is a fantastic way in which students can talk to the seniors, and say goodbye to the graduating class. It is a great way to ask [the seniors] which colleges they are attending, and such," Elahi said.

Student activities director Peter Geddeis agreed.

"Movie night is a good way for students to wind down at the end of the school year. The school year is almost entirely over, and it is a great way to come together as a school before the seniors graduate," Geddeis said.

Students must register online (through the student activities page) if they wish to eat at movie night. The movie is \$3; hot dogs are \$2; burgers are \$3; combo meal is \$5 and pop is \$1.

A Day in the Life...

Osburn helps to rejuvenate school spirit of students and staff

by Rexly Penafiora
Managing Editor

In less than two years, Principal Kaine Osburn has become the face of Niles West. Under Osburn, the school has seen a transformation in terms of how the attitude with which students go through their classes every day and a reinvention of the meaning of school spirit. While students might be vaguely aware of the changes, many do not know the man. *West Word* followed Osburn for the day to see how his leadership has become a major factor in the school's metamorphosis.

Osburn started his work even before the regular school hours. He spent about 15 minutes checking and replying to e-mails. Soon after, he greeted the exchange students from Strasbourg, France. He spent a few minutes talking to foreign language teacher Eileen Walvoord and to the principal of the French students. He made the French students feel welcome in a place that is far away from their home.

As soon as first period began, Osburn printed out flyers for prom. He then proceeded to walk around the halls and stapled the flyers on the bulletin boards. When asked why he could have just asked someone else to staple the flyers, he said, "I do it because I want to get out of my chair and meet the students and staff. I like to let them know that I am not just sitting in my desk all day, but I actually do stuff around the school."

After stapling the flyers, Osburn walked back to his office and along the way, he greeted students and staff who walked passed him.

At 9:30 a.m. Osburn greeted some visitors who were to be given a tour by Osburn. Along the tour, he also greeted eighth grade students from feeder junior high schools for their Shadow Day. Osburn's visitors were shown the various science and technology resources that the school had to offer.

As homeroom began, Osburn finished up the tour and then proceeded to observe a teacher during fourth period.

After returning from the observation, he went to the faculty lounge for lunch. There he greeted all of the staff in the lounge at the time and proceeded to sit down at a table. He was very involved in the conversations, and the staff clearly was happy



Principal Kaine Osburn works at his computer.
Photo by Rexly Penafiora

to hear his input or opinion on things. There was a conspicuous absence of administrator/staff tension that has often pervades schools.

While he was there, Osburn helped a few eighth grade teachers in directing them to a class where they could observe their students during the shadow periods.

After lunch, Osburn headed back to the office to read a newspaper. His reading was cut short by a closed door meeting with Assistant Principal of Operations Ryan McTague. After the meeting, Osburn went out and talked to Assistant Principal of Pupil Personnel Services Paula Miller about potential changes to the school's software programming.

Even though the end of ninth period was minutes away, Osburn's job was not done yet. He had a director's meeting to attend at the district office at 3:45. Osburn said that the particular day that *West Word* followed him was what he termed a "slow day." Based on this reporter's exhaustion, one would hate to see him on a busy day.

When asked about what makes his work day productive and exciting, he said anything that involves a student-centered activity.

"My favorite activity is the Principal's Recognition Breakfast. However, any student activity that I am involved in makes my day a lot better because I know I am doing my job right by giving the students the resources and attention that they need. If that happens, then I know that my day is going to be a great day."

Accolades ceremony honors students' achievements

by Nikki George
Staff Writer

Every year, Niles West's annual Accolades ceremony honors students' academic achievements. However, not many students know exactly what goes into choosing the winners at Accolades, which this year will take place May 19 in the Robert L. Johnson Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

"Accolades is a year-end awards ceremony where we recognize students from all departments of Niles West for all kinds of achievements. We are brought together that evening for students to receive awards, scholarships and commendations," student activities director Peter Geddeis said.

One student from each department is chosen to be presented with the departments' awards, except for applied science and technology, fine arts and physical welfare, which offer multiple awards.

Each department uses different criteria to pick the students who receive the awards.

"The English department chooses the award-winning senior [who is] taking an [Advanced Placement] literature class," department director Sanlida Cheng said. "[Those] interested in receiving the award are asked to submit a piece of their writing to the English department, and the English teachers rate the anonymous pieces. The student with the highest score receives the award at the Accolades ceremony."

Cheng added that next year, the process by which the department goes about choosing the recipient of the award will change.

"As you can imagine, 30 people rating many pieces of writing submitted from the students is a lot of hard work," Cheng said. "So, next year, we will solicit interest from students in an AP

literature class, and teachers who either had the students in the past or know the students well will sit in a room and decide who they think is to receive the award," Cheng said.

According to director Lisa Stone, "the mathematics department decides which senior has consistently demonstrated interest, ability, achievement and leadership both in the classroom and in after-school activities."

Not only does the mathematics department present an award, but also gives scholarship money to award winner.

"For the past few years, we have presented the award with [a] scholarship which a retired teacher by the name of Anthone Kort started in 1992. The present and retired math teachers raise money to give to the winning senior for a scholarship," Stone added.

The science department chooses its winning senior based on the challenging nature of classes and the hard work of the student.

"The science department generally looks at what AP classes the senior has taken or is taking, [his/her] grades for the year and if [(s)he has] taken any extra science activities or classes," science instructor Martha Lietz said.

The foreign language department's criteria are not much different from that of the Science department.

"The foreign language department teachers get together and look at which student has taken more than one foreign language and has shown a interest in foreign language," foreign language teacher Steven Beaver said.

The social studies department is similar to both the science and foreign language departments in its criteria.

"We look to see which senior has taken the most AP classes and have taken the most social studies classes in each semester and pick the senior that we believe shows the most passion," social studies instructor Shaun Waldron said.

The multifaceted nature of fine arts and applied science and technology accounts for the multiple awards in those subjects. Physical welfare offers an award for each gender.

WestWord

Our Town comes to our town

Mary Basic
Staff Writer

The theatre department will present Thornton Wilder's classic play *Our Town*, May 7-9 in the Black Box Theater.

The cast will offer a 10 a.m. community performance on Thursday, May 7, and will reprise the production at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9.

The play's plot line centers on George Gibbs (senior David Chervony), a not-so-bright but likable teenager who aspires to be a farmer. He is infatuated with his friend since childhood, Emily Webb (junior Ani Poladian), and the feeling is mutual. Senior Owais Ahmed, who plays the stage manager, the narrator and the conscience of the show, tells their story.

Ahmed says his favorite scene is the soda shop scene, in which George is trying to get Emily to forgive him after they have a fight about how

he has changed so much. "George takes Emily to the soda shop and buys her ice cream, even though he can't afford it. The audience gets to see them fall in love," he said.

Such scenarios set the play apart and make it a classic according to Sinclair.

"The theme of the play is to experience and learn from the details in life. We all move through life so quickly and rarely see the beauty and the answers that lie in the smallest details," director Andy Sinclair said. "Sometimes it takes a major event refocus our vision and to see the little aspects of life that form the whole picture."

Sinclair added that the production would take the classic story and "spin it on its ear. Our performance will be presented in a theatre-in-the-round setting," an arrangement that has never been used in the Black Box Theatre. "The audience will be a major part of the performance. This is not a show that an audience member can

sit back and watch—they are part of the story," Sinclair added.

Chervony elaborated.

"This play, although known as generally overdone by high schools, is the most complex piece I have taken part in and is so much deeper than the words on the page. Every character has a meaning; every line has a purpose," he said.

Sinclair said his goal is to present "*Our Town* to the 21st Century audience"—complete with "a very shocking Act III, which is unlike traditional productions."

Defending the choice of the popular drama, which Sinclair admitted has a reputation for being "overdone and over taught" in high schools, the director said, "When I was in high school I thought it was the most boring play I ever read. However, after a few years and a new vision of what the play is really about, I think that this play speaks honestly and frankly about every aspect of life, including death, which is the most difficult aspect to talk about," Sinclair said.

Despite its popularity, Sinclair said that he chose the piece because "I think that this play, which was originally written in 1938, is as relevant today as it was when it was written. I wanted to make sure that the 2008-09 season had a classic play, and I feel that this play speaks

to an audience."

Sinclair predicted that *Our Town* will be the audience's favorite production of the year.

"I think Niles West Theatre is taking a big risk with this production, and I guarantee that audiences will leave with plenty to talk about. I also guarantee that audiences will have never seen a production like this before," Sinclair said.

The cast list of *Our Town* includes seniors Jason Suran (Mr. Webb), Carrie Goldberg (Rebecca Gibbs), Benjamin Cormalleth (Simon Stimson), Bonny Sucherman (Mrs. Soames), Becky Lang (Sam Craig) and Roxie Zeller (Ensemble).

Juniors include Dan Machalinski (Dr. Gibbs), Alyssa Jutovsky (Mrs. Gibbs), Fiona Stephens (Mrs. Webb), David Fisch (Howie Newsome), Sean Buckley (Professor Willard), Jeremy Berman (Joe Stoddard) and Charlee Cotton (Ensemble).

Sophomores include Aleks Krapivkin (Constable Warren) and Leah Hummel (Ensemble).

Freshmen include Kyle Resurreccion (Wally Webb), Gabe Flippo (Joe Crowell), Zack Tarnoff (Si Crowell), Rachel Flink (Ensemble), Aaron Ruderman (Ensemble) and Julia Zasso (Ensemble).

Film festival exhibits student work

Helen Salamanca
Staff Writer

The fourth annual Dennis Duffy film festival will be held May 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Robert L. Johnson Auditorium.



Last year's film festival winner senior Andreas Nicholas plans on participating again this year. Photo courtesy Dan Machalinski

The judges for the festival will be English teachers David Klingenberg and Paul Wack, retired English teacher Dennis Duffy, Literacy

Center Coordinator Andrew Jeter, Principal Kaine Osburn and alumni Ryan Pollyea.

Klingenberg and Wack will choose the top 10 films from the batch that has been submitted.

According to Jeter, the film festival was originally created to exhibit the students' creativity and work. Each film should be under five minutes and be directed by a Niles West student.

The inspiration for the film festival was Duffy, Jeter said. Duffy was an English teacher who taught at Niles West and shared his love of films with his students. He was the first teacher who "took film seriously" Jeter said.

Senior Andreas Nicholas, last year's film festival winner, added that

"I have always been so intrigued by films. I love watching all of the top 10 films. This is a great way to show students' creativity and perspective about life."

The night will consist of showcasing the top 10 films selected by the judges, conferring the people's choice award and viewing a piece from a past winner. According to Jeter, the people's choice award is given to the film chosen as best by the audience. The winners of the year will be presented with an Oscar statuette made of a half-pound of milk chocolate that is coated with edible golden dust.

Fashion students rule the runway

Morgan Quilici
Staff Writer

The fashion workshop, fashion construction 1 and 2 and fashion merchandising classes will present their annual fashion show Thursday May 21, at 7 p.m. in the Robert L. Johnson Auditorium.

This year's theme is Mademoiselle De la Piste, which means "lady of the runway" in French.

The fashion students have prepared all year for this event. The merchandising classes, led by senior Taby Garneata and junior Bebe Bolortoli, planned and designed the show while the fashion workshop and fashion construction 1 and 2 classes designed and made the clothes for the show.

"This year the show is different in the way that it is more of a collection of each designer. Each designer gets to display her own clothes this year instead of displaying them by category.

It is a lot more personalized," junior designer Danica Stevanovic said.

Garneata expressed enthusiasm with this year's show.

"I think this year's show is going to be really great. Since the designers are going to come out and display their own collections, it resembles more of a real fashion show," Garneata said.

The show will include a variety of outfits and accessories that the fashion students have made all year.

"The students have worked really hard this year and it is exciting to have them showcase their hard work," fashion teacher Lisa Dunham said.

Garneata said the show provides the fashion students a rare opportunity to present the fruits of their labor.

"In sports, the athletes get to display their talent in games but for us, this show is where we can show our talent and creativity," she added.

Tickets for the show are \$2 each and will be available for purchase at the door.



1. What is President Obama's middle name?

- A. Hussein
- B. Jason
- C. Ferguson
- D. Hussein
- E. Hussein

2. The "suffragette movement" was designed to ensure what?

- A. Engines
- B. Women's rights to vote
- C. Jet bombings
- D. People other than white men were allowed to vote
- E. Women's rights to vote

3. Of the three states of matter, which has the most tightly packed atoms?

- A. Solids
- B. Solids
- C. Solids
- D. Solids
- E. Solids

4. What TV show is credited for a massive surge of applications for courses in forensic science?

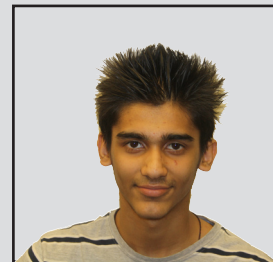
- A. "Family Guy"
- B. "C.S.I."
- C. "C.S.I."
- D. "C.S.I."
- E. "C.S.I."

5. Riyadh is the capital of what Middle-Eastern country?

- A. Iraq
- B. Iraq
- C. Iraq
- D. Iraq
- E. Saudi Arabia

6. Who held the most home runs in Major League Baseball before Barry Bonds and Mark McGwire?

- A. David Ortiz
- B. Ken Griffey Jr.
- C. Babe Ruth
- D. Joe Donagan
- E. Hank Aaron



A. Freshman - Sheroz Sajwani



B. Sophomore- Theresa Mathew



C. Junior - Eli Timatvos



D. Senior- Kyriaki Ades



E. Faculty- Doug Williams