

# The Charger

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www.thecharger.org

## Municipal complex to displace part of arboretum

BY STEVE G.

When you are driving down Irving Park road in the near future, you may notice some changes. A seven million dollar municipal complex will be built on part of the arboretum at the Spring Brook Nature Center. The complex will house a new village hall and a new police station.

There is some controversy over the construction, but advocates of the plan will still break ground this spring. I spoke to Dave Williams, the Itasca village administrator, regarding the projected construction.

Advocates claim that the village hall and police station are over-crowded, and that they cannot be expanded upon, because they are built on a flood plain.

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**All this and more!**

## District science fair participation way up



Seventh graders Emily W. and Julia N. won the Golden Test Tube.

BY STEVE G.,  
NEWS EDITOR

The 2003 Science Fair was an extremely successful event by District 10 standards. More than 125 students participated, and just as many people came to watch. There were projects on electricity, memory, cleaning, taste testing, and much more.

Dr. Nickisch stated that it was great to see so many more students participating this year. There was a fifty percent increase in participation from 2002. The judges even needed to draft an extra judge to get through all the projects.

Seventh graders Emily W. and Julia N. won the Golden Test Tube for the middle school level. Their winning project tested which parachute worked the best.

The girls used four different shaped parachutes: square, rectangle, triangle, and a circle. They tested each one nine times and averaged out the experiments.

When asked, Emily and Julia commented that they thought they won because they had a good idea, and they knew what they were talking about.

See **Science Fair**  
Page 2

Photo by Steve G.

## District 10 gets new nurse

BY BRITTANY O.

There's a new nurse in District 10 and her name is Nancie Weber. She really enjoys the students at District 10. Before she came to here, she worked as a substitute in the Glen Ellyn school district.

Mrs. Weber always knew that she wanted to be a nurse.

Her family is filled with doctors and nurses so that's one reason why she decided to become a nurse.

She also read books about nursing, thought it would be interesting, and liked the idea of being able to help people.

Her favorite areas of nursing are pediatric

and psychiatric nursing.

The most serious problem Mrs. Weber has had to deal with as a nurse was when a child suffered a severe asthma attack.

As far as advising current students, Mrs. Weber just wants to remind them to take care

of their bodies because what they do will affect them, sooner or later.

Mrs. Weber is married and has two girls. Her oldest will be fifteen in February and the youngest is twelve.

Her hobbies are decorating, t r a v e l i n g ,

gardening, reading, and visiting gourmet restaurants.



Photo by Brittany O.

## Park District renovation complete

BY KYLE P., SPORTS EDITOR

The Itasca Park District remodeling is done after quite some time. So far, the overall response to the changes have all been positive. The grand opening was attended by about seven hundred people.

The main focus of the Park District project was to make the facility more family friendly. They wanted to make it a place where the whole family could go and have something to do.

So far, the most popular area is the new fitness center. Since November, five hundred new participants have signed up for a yearly membership. That is double the number who signed up during the same period a year ago. The total membership for the fitness center is now about 1,600.

According to the Director of Operations for the Itasca Park District, Randy Schawel, many patrons have commented on the spaciousness, attractiveness, and the new layout of the new fitness room.

"The Lounge" is slowly gaining in popularity with local young people. Children from fourth grade up are invited to sign-up. So far, there are only about thirty kids registered. The people who have registered really seem to enjoy the new room. Mr. Schawel hopes that this trend will continue and that many more Itasca youths will participate.

So far, it appears that the new park district remodeling and renovations have been a great success.

## New construction controversy

Continued from page 1

Buying private land would cost about three million dollars, and cause an increase in taxes, so the village instead plans to use 2.75 acres of the Nature Center instead.

They plan to build the complex on part of the Arboretum. Architectural plans for the new complex state that it will be a two story prairie style building, overlooking the remainder of the arboretum, with a large community room on the second floor.

The village is using six million dollars that they have saved for the project and another million dollars from the state.

Crews are able to safely remove nineteen of the memorial trees that stand in the way of the building.

Other public property north of the public works will not be used because it is not in the center of the town, and the village plans to house a water treatment plant there in the future.

Opponents of the construction argue that the complex is overly lavish, and that the seven million it will cost could be diverted elsewhere, for projects like road improvements, and the water treatment facility.

They also say that we should try to conserve our green space, because there are fewer and fewer places like the arboretum every year.

The Nature Center was granted \$252,000 to buy land north of it. They plan to house a building that will include exhibits and storage on the site.

It is unclear what the old village hall will be used for once everyone has left, but the police station will hold additional town offices.

The question still remains. Is the complex really necessary? Should Itasca be more careful with its greenspace? Are there any other options? The issue has many sides and there are lots of answers.

## Science Fair

Continued from page 1

They added that the competition was tough and there were some really good projects.

Both girls really enjoyed doing their experiment. They decided to participate in the science fair to earn extra credit and because they had found a good experiment.

In discussing the fair, Dr. Nickisch said that he was so impressed with some of the participants' work, he thought they should go on to compete in science fairs for the region, the state and maybe even to the national science fair in Washington DC. He plans on recommending this to the school board.

# Sixth grade field trip to IMAX

Studying the mysteries of ancient Egypt



Photo by Mi.

Sixth graders, Jennifer F. and Michelle M. wait for the movie to start during the recent IMAX field trip.

## MICHELLE S.

On December 17, 2002, the whole sixth grade went on a field trip to the IMAX theater in Woodridge, IL. They had just finished studying ancient Egypt in Social Studies and went to see a movie, *The Mysteries of Egypt*.

This IMAX adventure landed each student in the middle of modern Egypt and transported them down the Nile, across the

Sahara, and through the Great Pyramids.

Mrs. Kabat, the sixth grade Social Studies teacher and coordinator of the outing, spiced up the day by adding *The Santa Clause 2* and concessions to the movie package.

Several students commented that learning is a lot more fun "at the movies." Many sixth graders felt that they were fortunate to have a teacher who willing to make education entertaining.

## CHARACTER COUNTS!



## February 2003

### *Citizenship*

Skyler M.  
Sandra G.  
Alex C.  
Acaisha B.  
Carmen Z.  
Lara P.  
Mike N.

### *Responsibility*

Trisha H.  
Chris R.  
Angela W.

### *Caring*

Jose R.  
Tim B.  
Jose M.

### *Respect*

Mark G.  
Kristen M.

### *Respect*

Brian M.  
Kelly B.  
Mari D.  
Gabriela L.

### *Trustworthiness*

Amanda M.

Julia N.  
Laura D.  
Dan B.

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BY LAURA B.  
COLUMNIST

## ID Policy

Is it really worth the trouble?

It's almost 4:00, and you and your friends have no available ride to go to the basketball game. You really want to see the game, so you decide to walk the two cold miles to Peacock. You dress warmly, but it's cold anyway.

Finally you get to Peacock, feeling almost frozen, just in time to see your friends play in the basketball game, and what happens? You get sent away, told to go walk back home! Why? Because you don't have a school ID.

Teachers claim to have told you about bringing an ID beforehand on the announcements, but does anybody listen to them? The ID for everything policy is stupid.

What does having a school ID prove? Does it prove that you're responsible, or does it just prove that you were lucky, and happened to find your ID in your pocket? Does it prove that you aren't going to cause trouble at the game?

The only thing that having an ID proves under these circumstances is that you're a Peacock student, and that you get milk, which doesn't seem to be of any help.

Supposing that you need to bring an ID for recognition that you are truly a Peacock student, wouldn't the teachers recognize you?

But of course. The only explanation for this annoying policy teachers can come up with is, "It's the rule, sorry kids." While Peacock students are being turned away, strangers to Peacock will not even be questioned, and are greeted cheerfully and shown the way in. They hold no identification.

Who knows who these "harmless" strangers are? At least teachers already know who the troublemakers are among Peacock students.

Behind all this confusion, there has got to be a reason somewhere, right?

# When is too much writing too much?

BY MONICA M.

"I hate writing!" This statement is said by students probably all over the world. What makes it funny is that the statement is always followed by, "I hate school!" And what makes this statement funnier is that it is always followed by "I wanna go home!"

Wouldn't you think that writing in language arts is enough writing for one day? Apparently one class is not good enough for our blue ribbon school!

I entered the eighth grade looking forward to new teachers, new classes such as common time, and most importantly, the last year at Peacock! I was looking forward to common time because I heard that it was a study hall.

Once I entered my first class of common time, I was told that it wasn't going to be a study hall like we'd heard. We were going to write essays and stories.

If that wasn't bad enough, everything we did in common time was going to be graded

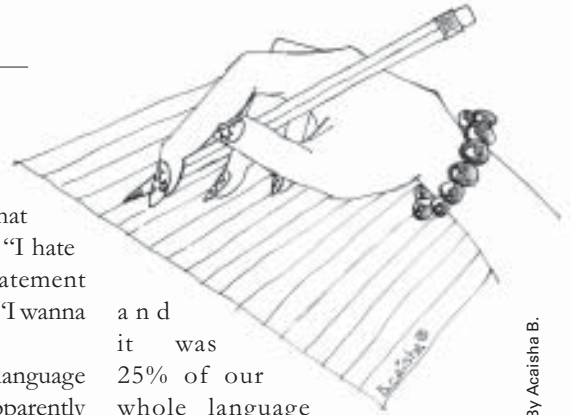
and it was 25% of our whole language arts grade.

I said, "What? More writing? I hate writing! I hate school! I wanna go home!" What a shocker!

We even write in physical education, otherwise known as gym! The only good news about writing in gym is that we only have to write a little, but we

have tests.

Of all classes to write in, it just had to be gym! I thought that gym was supposed to be a class for exercise and health. Gym was the only class that we didn't have to write in, but our blue ribbon school just couldn't accept that! God forbid us from having one class that we don't have to write in!



By Acaisha B.

**Gym was the only class that we didn't have to write in, but our blue ribbon school just couldn't accept that!**

## The Charger

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Email: staff@thecharger.org  
Web: http://thecharger.org  
Write the editorial board with questions, comments and complaints.  
Correspondence must be signed.

# Rude business owners anger student

BY SARAH B.

Everyone knows how unfairly teenagers are sometimes treated, as if they are a lower, less intelligent life form.

So where do adults get this idea from? They were all teenagers once too and they must know that how they stereotype us is wrong. Yet they just ignore it, and it makes us feel like we truly are stupid.

That's kind of how I felt when I tried to sell advertisements for *The Charger*. The process involved in selling advertisements is not that hard. First you have to call a business and ask them if they are interested, and if they are, you mail or fax them more information.

Almost every manager of every restaurant I called was interested up to the point when I told them I was a student, and not an adult.

A certain restaurant even went as far as to turn off their fax machine after asking me to

send them a fax. When I called them back to ask them to turn it back on, they said that it was on. So I

sent the information again and still their machine was not on.

Other managers agreed to buy the advertisements, but when a student went to collect the money, they changed their minds. These actions are very rude. Would business managers do this to an adult?

Out of all the excuses I heard, the hardest to believe included "We don't know where Itasca is." and "We don't speak enough English." If they don't want to buy the advertisements they could just say no, but of course they have to make up an excuse.

Adults warn us about stereotyping when they are the ones who do it most often. We all must accept that people pre-judge who we are going to be, but we can at least try to prevent it by not doing it ourselves.

**Adults warn us about stereotyping when they are the ones who do it most often.**

# Water bottle swindle?

BY MEGAN AND SARAH Z.

We asked eleven sixth graders and one sixth grade teacher the following questions: What do think of the quality of the water bottles sold by the student council? Do you think we should be able to bring our own water bottles?

The feeling against the school water bottles was nearly universal. They are too expensive at five dollars a bottle, and made

of cheap materials.

The students almost all complained about the bottles leaking in their backpacks and ruining their homework.

Mrs. Kabat commented that the bottles were a good way to raise money for a good cause, student council.

But she did add that "If the purpose of the water bottles was to hydrate ourselves, then we should be able to bring our own water bottles too."

# Community Service

## Are you getting it done?

BY JOANNA M., FINISHING EDITOR

Doing your homework, getting good grades on report cards and tests, and getting the teachers to like you are probably some of the things on your list of 'Things To Do This Year.

But what about community service? Has it made its way on to your list, or is it sitting in the back of your head waiting for the last minute?

Well, many students have already begun completing their hours, and some have even finished them. There are many ways to get them done, and since you only really need six hours, you can finish them all in one day.

What have the students of Peacock been doing to receive these hours, and what do they think of having to complete these hours each year?

Seventh grader Julie P. said "I helped out at the library, but most of my hours came from helping my younger sister Marie with soccer practice. It was kind of fun." Julie also said "I think it's a good idea to do community service."

Helping a younger/older brother/sister isn't the only way to get your hours done. Just ask Laila M.

"I helped my neighbor clean out her basement and garage." She also said "Even if

I didn't have to do community service I'd still help her because she is elderly and really nice."

Of course helping neighbors and close family members aren't the only ways to get the six hours done, but they sure are the fastest.

"I finished my six hours by helping out at bible school" was what Becky K. said. "It was somewhat fun, and it did help the community in a way."

"I already started on my community service by helping out at church and P.A.D.S," said Jessica Lipski "and I think it's a good idea

to do community service because you can give back to the community."

Megan L. said "I helped out some people and I also helped with a food drive. Some of it was fun, and I would have probably still have done it

even if it wasn't for the hours."

Church, friends, family, and neighbors are all people and places you go to to help, but they aren't the only ones. The Arbor, school, library, and Nature Center are all places where you can help out.

Don't forget you're not doing this just for some measly six hours for school, but to help out your community and fellow man. So don't forget to enjoy yourself, even when you're helping an old lady cross the street. Most importantly though, give back to the community because you want to, not because you have to.

**Most importantly though, give back to the community because you want to, not because you have to.**

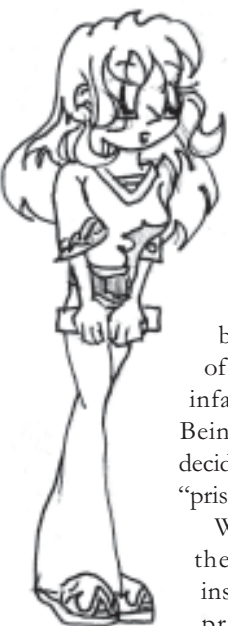
# Cheerleaders

## Athletic motivators or annoying nuisances?

BY ASHLEY D.

Since the start of tryouts, the debate over whether cheerleading deserves athletic respect or not has skyrocketed.

Several of the basketball players say the cheerleaders are distracting and prevent them from playing their best.



Some of the spectators categorize them as “no-talent ditzs” or “boy-crazy snobs.” However, these offensive characterizations can be disproved.

I myself wasn't the biggest fan or advocate of cheerleading until the infamous tryouts began. Being an avid athlete, I decided to give this so-called “prissy” sport a try.

When I first walked into the cafeteria, I was instantly stunned at the prodigious talent and flexibility of my competition. And they were just practicing!

I pathetically stood in awe of my cheerleading peers doing back bends, back walk overs, and back half turn bend flip-over thingies. I tried to start out simply, but I got a headache attempting to execute the ever-so-complicated summer-salt.

By that time, I had established that maybe those little tricks weren't for me. Then we began the learning process, starting off with the cheers. The first thing that ran through my head was “Yay! I'm good at waving my arms around and screaming at the top of my lungs, I'll dominate.”

I soon concluded however, that performing cheers is a much more complicated task than it seemed. I was aware that one of the requirements was a good screaming voice but I wasn't aware of all the other hard parts.

Not only do you have to scream in sync with your fellow cheerleaders, but it is also necessary to scream the proper words.

Not only do you have to wave your hands in the air, but it is also necessary to have the hand and feet positions immaculately correct on each and every cheer move.

As if all that isn't enough to hold in my tiny memory bank, a mandatory requisite (which is strictly enforced) is that you absolutely **MUST SMILE** in order to “captivate your audience.” This is so it doesn't appear as though cheerleading is fatal and you're about to die. I was truly lousy at this last part.

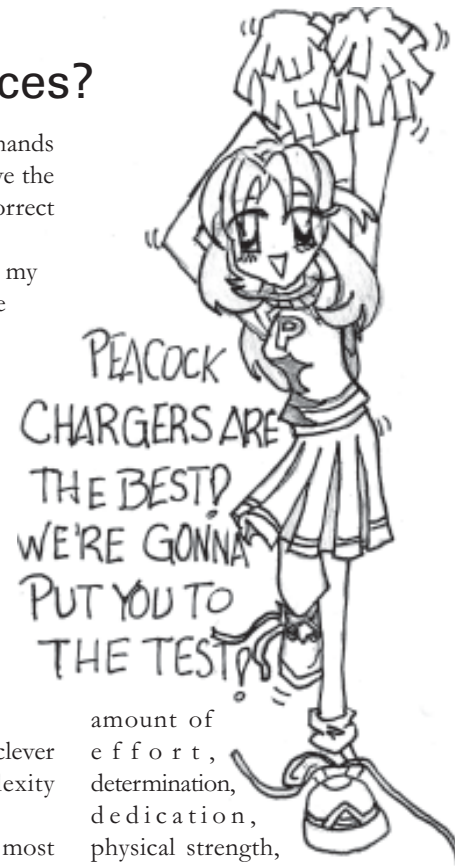
Yet, I was still chock-full of optimism and ready for the next cheerleading tryout duty. Little did I know (as usual) that the next qualification for making the team was learning a fast-pace, near impossible dance to the notorious a.m. p.m. song.

The moves we had to learn were clever and quite intricate, and their complexity intimidated all but a fearless few.

Learning that dance had to be the most difficult criteria for making the team. It seemed as though the judges and coaches were asking mere junior high students to perform a miracle by learning every prerequisite in the few days we'd been given. Luckily, one of my cheerleading friends, Agnes, was there to help me with the dance and the cheers.

Eventually (surprisingly enough), I did learn the requirements and put on the best cheerleading show that I could for the judges. Although I didn't make the team, I can safely say that it was a great experience to tryout.

To become a cheerleader takes a great



Illustrations by Acaisha B., Art Editor

amount of effort, determination, dedication, physical strength, flexibility, intelligence, and a specific, unique type of athleticism.

Cheerleaders have just as much heart in what they do (if not more) as any basketball or football player. They deserve the same respect. It takes courage to put aside hurtful stereotyping and criticism to put a smile on your face and do what you love.

The cheerleaders confidence and talent should be praised, not insulted. After jumping in their shoes, I *know* that they aren't “no talent ditzs” and “boy crazy snobs.”

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# The Book Nook



## Anne of Green Gables stands the test of time

BY PAM R.

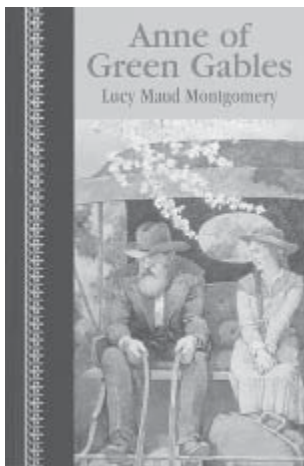
*Anne of Green Gables* was written by L.M. Montgomery. It was originally published in 1908 but it is still very popular.

If you like books that have sequels, this is the perfect book for you. *Anne of Green Gables* has seven books that follow it. This book is about girl who finally finds someone to love her.

Anne Shirley, who is the main character, was an orphan whom no one loved. Matthew and Marilla, who are siblings, are also important characters.

Matthew had a bad heart, so he and Marilla decided to adopt a little boy to help out with the farm work. They sent for a little boy, but when Matthew went to the train station, that's not what he found.

Much to his surprise, Matthew found a little girl with bright red hair and gray eyes



<http://images.amazon.com>

waiting for him. He took her to Green Gables with him because he didn't have the heart to send her away, and he and Marilla decided to let her stay.

Although Anne was accident prone, weird, talkative, absentminded, over-dramatic, and very self-conscious about her hair, they found out how kind, loving, and smart she really was, and they loved her with all of their hearts.

*Anne of Green Gables* is definitely a classic. Even though it was written in 1908, it is just as good as the books written now.

On a scale of 1 to 5, I would give this book a 4 because even though it's really long and hard to get into, you'll find that it was

worth the effort.

I recommend *Anne of Green Gables* to any girl who likes stories about people who have hardships, but triumph in the end.

## Echoes in the Grove rivets readers

BY JESSICA L.

*Echoes in the Grove* (1994), by Patricia Sierra, is exciting and realistic, and full of adventures. A novel for young adults, *Echoes in the Grove* is easy reading. The main character, who is very brave and daring, makes *Echoes* a great book.

*Echoes in the Grove* takes place in 1854 in the state of Ohio. Since it is 1854, there is still slavery. It is about a fifteen-year-old girl named Rebecca whose mother has just died from an illness called cholera.

Rebecca and her father move to Rebecca's Aunt Sarah and Uncle Ash's house, which is much bigger than Rebecca's because Sarah and Ash have quite a bit more money.

When they arrive at Sarah and Ash's house, Rebecca meets the servant girl named Mary. The next day at school, she meets her new teacher, William.

Rebecca eventually finds out that William is an abolitionist. He shows her a book called *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and says that if she wants, she can take the book to read. Rebecca takes the book. She decides after reading the book that slavery isn't right.

One night, William asks Rebecca for help. They go up to the servant girl Mary's bedroom to meet a family of slaves made up of a man, a woman and a little baby. William tells Rebecca that they are helping the family get to Canada where they will be free.

In *Echoes in the Grove*, there are many brave characters who are willing to take risks to do what they think is right.

*Echoes in the Grove* by Patricia Sierra is one of the best books I have ever read. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys reading adventure books.

## Off the Shelf

Novel news from the Itasca Community Library  
By Lori Craft

The Library is pleased to have a spot in the Charger in which to recommend great books and mention any upcoming programs.

Up for an adventure? Try *Crispin: Cross of Lead* by Avi, winner of the 2002 Newbery Award.

Crispin, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England, finds his life in danger as an evil village steward tries to keep him from learning that he is actually of noble birth and has inherited his deceased father's title.

Valentine's Day put you in a mood for a good romance? Try *Truth or Dairy* by Catherine Clark.

After Courtney's boyfriend breaks up with her, she vows to survive senior year on the anti-guy plan. But can she really give up guys and just focus on friends, school, and her job at the hip cafe Truth or Dairy?

Want an inspiring story for Black History Month? Try *Taking Liberty* by Ann Rinaldi.

After serving Martha Washington for twenty years as a privileged slave, Oney realizes that she will never be a part of General Washington's family. She must make a choice: does she stay where she is, comfortable with the family that she has known since birth, or does she take liberty into her own hands?

# Common hits big with new album *Electric Circus*

BY PAUL P.,  
EDITOR

LAYOUT

Chicago hasn't really had a history of hip-hop. That was, until 1992, when Common released his first album. He recorded his fifth album, *Electric Circus*, in late 2002.

*Electric Circus* is a genre-crossing project that takes rap music to some of the less traveled roads. The first hit from *Electric Circus* is the ballad "Come Close" that guest stars Mary J. Blige.

Some songs will be familiar to rap fans ("Soul Power" and "I Got the Right Ta") while others are far out and progressive, ("Aquarius" and "Jimi Was A Rock Star"). The latter type

brings back memories of OutKast's 2000 album *Stankonia*.

There is definitely an R&B/funk/soul feel to the entire album. This may be due to the production of Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson from The Roots.

Perhaps the only problem with *Electric Circus* is that not everyone will appreciate the eclectic style that changes from song to song.

Guest stars include Sonny of P.O.D., Cee-Lo, Bilal, The Neptunes, Mary J. Blige, Jill Scott, and Erykah Badu.

I highly recommend Common's *Electric*

*Circus* to any hip-hop fan who wishes to branch out from ordinary styles and listen to some really engaging music.



<http://images.amazon.com>

# "Evelyn" is serious drama with good plot

BY CASSANDRA D.

The movie *Evelyn* is about a family in Dublin, Ireland in 1953. It is based on a true story. The mother leaves her family behind, and the authorities take Evelyn and her two brothers away. They don't think the father, Desmond Doyle, is a good parent because he drinks and he doesn't have a job.

Desmond is very sad and so he tries to get his children back. He gets a job and eventually stops drinking. He goes to court and even attempts to kidnap Evelyn from the convent school she was sent to, and is caught trespassing on the land. He gets very upset when a nun beats Evelyn.

This movie is about a father's love for his children and how he tries to get them back. It is mostly a serious drama and it is very good, although a few parts were a little boring.



<http://us.en4.vimg.com/movies.yahoo.com/images/hv/allposters/30/1808403930p.jpg>

I recommend *Evelyn* to someone who enjoys watching a serious, but good movie. It is rated PG. On a scale of 1-4, my rating for this movie a 3.5.

# Sergio's in Itasca

## New restaurant is thriving

BY CARMEN Z.

Do you have the taste for some good Italian food? Eat at Sergio's Cucina Italiana. The restaurant is located at 280 N. Rohlwing Road right off of Irving Park Road in Itasca.

During the week, you don't need reservations, but on the weekend you will need one. So call (630) 773-0700.

We went to Sergio's for my mom's birthday. It was a chilly night, almost 25 degrees below zero! As we walked in, we immediately warmed up. There were beautiful mosaic tiles on the floor, dimmed lighting, and the serenading of Italian music.

We were greeted by a friendly hostess who showed us to our table. I began to look at the menu, everything is in Italian, but don't worry, the English translations are provided.

Warm, fresh baked bread is brought to your table to enjoy while you're waiting for your meal.

The menu has many of the traditional Italian pasta dishes, along with a variety of veal, chicken, and fish entrées.

A main entrée includes a choice of soup or salad, roasted potatoes, vegetables, or a side of pasta. For you dessert lovers, there's not much to choose from.

We ordered veal limone (lemon & white wine sauce) with roasted potatoes and a salad. The salad dressing is a house Italian, which is a bit too tangy for my taste.

The veal was very tender and delicious. After we finished, nobody was thinking about having dessert.

The hostess overheard it was my mom's birthday and brought her a piece of tiramisu cake with a candle on it. We shared it and were stuffed.

The prices range from \$9.00 for pasta dishes and \$15.00 - \$35.00 for the main entrees. I don't think that most little kids would enjoy eating at Sergio's.

Food: 3

Atmosphere: 5

Service: 4

Cleanliness: 5

Value for Money: 3

Kid Friendliness: 2

Overall Experience: 4

# Will and Grace is sidesplitting comedy

BY AGNES Z., NEWS EDITOR

*Will and Grace* is a hilarious sitcom. On a rating scale of one to four, it is definitely a four!

It's been on for about five years but it has not been reviewed in *The Charger* until now.

There are four main characters, Will, Grace, Jack, and Karen. Will and Jack both play gay men. Grace is best friends and roommates with Will. Karen is Jack's roommate and Grace's best friend.

These four friends go through so many problems together, but are always there for each other.

*Will and Grace* is on every Thursday, on NBC. It should be noted that *Will and Grace* is a PG-13 sort of comedy.

# "SR-71" rocks out new album

BY JACKIE S., ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

SR-71 is a hard rock band with lyrics to match it. Their kind of hard rock is heavy drum beats, lyrics like ice, and guitars that just keep rocking away.

The band consists of four members: Mitch Allan on vocals and guitars, guitarist Mark Beauchaemin, drummer John Allen and bassist Jeff Reid.

SR-71 is known for their hit single "Tomorrow," from their second CD, also entitled *Tomorrow*. All the other songs on the CD are great too.

In one of the songs, Mitch Allan sings about the after effects of September 11, and in another, about the dark side of life.

The song "Tomorrow" is about making the choice to live a better life.

If you like Blink-182 or Linkin Park,



http://images.amazon.com

you'll probably like SR-71. SR-71 is a hard rock band you don't want to pass up.

Genre(kind of music): Hard Rock

Rate(1-5): 5

Recommendation: Definitely worth getting!



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# Be my Valentine

**COMPILED BY CAITLYN C., MARI D., MEGAN L., RENA W.,  
URSZULA M. AND TRICIA H., ILLUSTRATIONS BY AMY E.,  
ACAISHA B. AND ALEX B.**

To Shawna and Samantha  
Hey! Happy Valentines day! I hope it's great! I love you guys a lot! LYL, BFF!  
From Shannon

To Tori and Angela  
HEY! You're my bestest friends! Good Luck with all your guys~hehe! Ensaladcara Love yourz! BFF! Thank for everything!  
From Samantha

To All cheerleaders and Shawna  
Happy V-Day! Love you Lots 4ever. I Love Bicki!  
From Lara and Ashley

To Radvile and Joanna  
Hey! I hope you have the best Valentines day ever! Love you! BFF!  
From Samantha

To Joe F.  
Love you lots  
From You know who

To Eddie  
Happy Valentines day! Hope it is great!  
From Anonymous

To Everyone  
Happy V-Day! I wuv you all! Briana, Sarah, Laura, Danielle, Poms, Eriko, Reni, Megan, and the rest of you  
From Monica M

To Dawson  
Happy Valentines day!  
Have fun babe! LYL!  
BFF!  
From Samantha

To Anne M.  
Hey Baby! I hope your Valentines day is the greatest. I love you lots. BFF LYL! TTYL!  
From Shannon

To Everyone  
Happy v-day. Michelle, Shannon, Monica, Sarah, Ana, Briana, Laura, Kim, Nikki, Sara, Sky, Katie, Eriko, Agnes, Reni, And every one else!  
From Christy and Danielle

To Ashley Z.  
Hey Babe! Good luck on valentines day! Have lots of fun~hehe! LYL.BFF!  
From Samantha

To Martino, Jess, and Sarah  
Happy Valentines Day! Hope it is great. Luv ya guys a lot!  
From Shannon

To Gordie  
Hey! Happy Valentines day! Hope it's great! You're the best. TTYL!LYL!  
From Shannon

To Nicole, Kathy, and Britta  
I hope you all have a great V-Day! And hope you can come to my party! LATER!  
From GIGI

To Everyone  
Whats up! Have a great Valentines day! I don't know what else to write so eat lots of Chocolate! Eriko, Sarah, Reni, Briana, Laura, Monica  
From Meghan H.

To Schboop  
HEY BILL! Have a cool Val Day!  
From YOUR SIS

To Sky commando winky  
Hey P man! Happy Val Day!  
From YOUR SIS

To PEOPLE  
To Agnes, Christy, Michelle, Caitlyn, Megan E., Kim, and Rachel. And me. ONE BIG HUG! Lol  
From Brendon T.

To Budds!  
Hey Angela, Danielle, Aga, Monica, Sarah, Michelle, Meghan, Rachel, Tori, Samantha, Radvile, Ana, Katie, Ashley, Shannon, and all my other friends! No money, No space!  
From Guess Who?

To All My Friends  
Happy V-day to Sammie, Cathy, Emma, Yazmin, Lidia, Maggie, Gina, Kristen, Hannah, Eriko, Marina, and anyone I forgot. Hope you all get your guys.  
From Marlena

Holla to my crew!! Happy V-DAY! LYL  
From Ana Nelson

To Julie P.  
Happy Half B-day!! Don't you let this go to your head.  
From Kelly P.

Shout-out to all my friends! Holla Back! You guys are the greatest!  
From Kaitlyn L.

To My Friends  
Hey guys love ya! Thanks for everything!  
From Kelly

To All of our friends  
We are so going to swim in Jello! Happy Valentine's Day! I love Jello! Jello rocks my toes!  
From Reni and Eriko

To All my friends!  
Thanks for everything! Love all of youz! Bffs!  
From Radz

To All our teachers!  
You rock! Have an awesome Valentine's Day  
From Angela and Radvile

To Dawson  
Hey Babe! Happy Valentines Day! I hope it's great! The whole Alley thing lol! You'll get him! I love you! LYLAS! BFF!  
From Shannon

To Mike N.  
I Have Liked you for a While and I sit by your lunch table! I love you as much as swimming!  
From Anonymous

To Christy, Jessica, Jamie, Monica, Marlena, Carly, Shawna, Kim, and Kristen M. Happy Valentines day girls! LYLAS, Have fun with the guys!  
From Anonymous

To Alex and Mike B.  
Happy Valentines day! I hope its great! Love ya guys a lot! Mike your hand will get better lol! Love ya Lots! LYLAB!  
From Shannon

To Brendon, Mike, Kelly, and Kaitlyn  
Hey Guys/gals I hope your Valentines day is GREAT! I love ya all!  
From Shannon

To Angela, Tori, and Radz  
Hey Huns I love you guys a lot! Happy Valentines day! If you have someone special in your heart go get him! LOL! LYL! BFF! LYLAS!

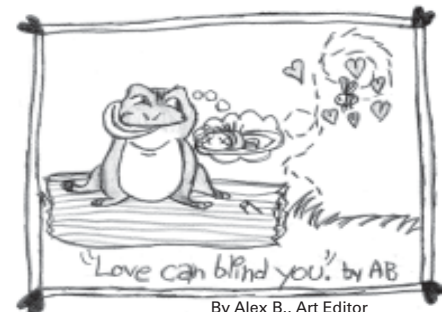
To Nick P  
Hey babe! Happy V-Day. Good Luck with the gurlz! Always remember the elevator and "our" song! Hehe Love you always.  
From Samantha

To Chris R.  
Hey Hun! Happy Valentines Day! Good luck with the ladies! HEHE! Love ya always,  
From Samantha

To All my friends  
Hey everybody Happy Valentine's Day! Erin, Thanks for being my best friend!  
From Colleen

To Jenny, Kelly, Rachel, Lara, Paige, Megan, Dawson, Shannon, Monkey, Caitlyn, Kaitlyn!  
You Guys are the best! Happy Valentine's Day, you know Colleen is a fuzzy pink bunny!  
From Spitz and Slick

To Shannon and Shawna  
Hey! Have fun on Valentine's Day! Love youz! BFF!  
From Samantha



By Alex B., Art Editor

To Kristen, Erin, Colleen, Michelle, and Joanna  
Hey! Have a great Valentine's Day! Hope it is great! Love ya all lots! LYL! LYLAS!  
From Shannon

To Lara, Paige, Kaity, and Megan.  
Hey! Happy Valentine's Day! Good luck with the guys!  
LYL! BFF!  
From Samantha

To Gina, Kathy, Danielle, and Britta  
Happy V-Day! It's been great at Peacock! I'll miss this school! It's been so fun! Everyone else I forget (B-Ball team) Luvs Ya!  
From Coley

To Keith, Mike N., and Steve  
Hey Guys Hope your Valentine's Day is great! Love Ya!  
From Shannon and Shawna

To My Friends  
Happy Valentines Day to my best friends! You guys Rock!  
From Heather

To All my homies  
Wusup Kristen, Jess, Carly, Angela, Shannon, Radvile, Erin, Kelly, Shawna, Samantha, Kaitlyn, Colleen, Anna, Kim, Lara, Paige, Megan, Tori, Mike, Keith, Frankie, Phil, Nick, and Dave  
From Joanna

To Steve G.  
Hey! Happy Valentines Day! We love you! Thanks for being there for us!  
From Samantha and Angela!

To Nick, Danny, Matt, and Brandon  
Hey! Happy Valentine's Day! Love ya guys a lot! LOL!  
You Guys are awesome! LYL! BFF!  
From Shannon

To Laura, Danielle, Eriko, Monica, Sarah, Briana, Reni, and Cathy  
Hey! Happy V-Day! BFF!  
From Agnes

To Mike!  
Mike S. Is so Cool! You are Great at skateboarding!  
Everybody likes you.  
From Your hun!

To Jess, Sammy, Megan Kristen, Mart, Jamie, Nicole, Val, Jazz, Crystal, Lindsey, Dana, Emily, Will, Logan, Kevin, and Frank.  
From Kacie

To Michael  
Happy Valentine's Day! See you Around  
From Anonymous

To All of my best buddies  
Happy Valentine's Day!!!  
From Julia Nelson

To All of my friends  
You guys are the BEST!  
From Sammy Jo

To Peter  
Um, Happy Valentine's Day, from you know who!  
Igglesnarf!  
From Anonymous

To Acaisha, Joanna, Lalia, Danielle, Meg L, Jessie, Courtney, Jackie  
Hey Guys! Hope you have a kicken Valentine's Day  
From Amy

To Kristina  
Happy Valentine's Day Love you always.  
From Dereck S.

To The Nooget club  
Happy Valentine's Day to the members of the Nooget club!  
By the way I paid a good quarter for this- SO READ IT!!!  
LOL  
From Alexandra

To My friends  
Sam, Kacie, Jess, Laura, Blaise, Kristen, Mary, Jamie, Ashley, Alissa, Lindsey, Val, Dana, Nicole, Emmy, Rosa, Rachel, Jessie, Laurie, Jasmine, Crystal!  
From Megan S.

To All my friends  
Happy Valentine's Day!  
Have a great day!  
From Emily Wesley

To All my friends  
Happy Valentine's Day to all my best friends!  
From Becky K.

To Alex S.  
I love you, and Happy Valentine's Day  
From anonymous

To all friends  
Happy Valentines day to all of my friends!  
From Julie P.

Happy Valentines day to all my friends in 7th and 8th grade.  
From Claire Z.

To Heather and Nikhil  
Happy V-day hope you have fun! See ya soon.  
From Rena

To Amanda and Celz  
Happy V-day! Have fun SYL!  
From Rena

To Megan L.  
Wazzz up Happy V-day Hope it's fun!  
From Rena

To Alexandra  
Hey A.J. Happy V-day hope it's a blast Good luck with you know who!  
From Rena

To Kevin, Logan, Nicky, Alex, William, and Randy  
I just wanted to say I love ya, specially Kevin and Logan. He He, I will c ya all later cya lyl buh bye  
From Blondie

To All my friends  
Hey! I love you all! Hope you guys have a great v-day.  
You're the best!  
Love Jess D.

To Mikey S, Liz H., Danielle J, Laurie C, Dereck S, Kevin H., Logan M, Kevin V, Evin S, Jeff H, Nick P, Will V, Rena W, Megan S, Mary A, Justin C, Mike M, Mike C, and Ryan G.  
Happy V-day Guys. Luv Ya Lotz.  
From Megan L.

To All my Friendz  
Hey Guyz! Happy Valentine's Day Guyz! Luv ya! (Listen Baby, ain't no mountain high)  
From Laura D.

To Tianna  
I hope your valentines day is filled with love  
From Paul W.

To Brittany Olenek  
Happy Valentines Day from the one who likes you the most  
From Derek L.

To Crystal Mejia  
Hi Mejia! You are a good friend  
From Grace

To Michella  
You are a good friend and you always know what to say.  
You are a good athlete  
From Kayla

To Urszula  
Happy Valentines Day. I like you a lot  
From Chris W.

To Kayla  
You are a good friend! Thanks for the valentine!  
From Grace

To Jessica T.  
You are always nice and very happy.  
From Kayla

To My Friends  
Hey you guys! You guys are the greatest! I don't know what I'd do without you! Happy Valentines Day  
From Michella

To Michella  
You are a good friend and you always know what to say.  
From Kayla

To Grace  
You are always excited and jumpy  
From Kayla

To Maddy  
You are a sweet girl and you are always happy.  
From Kayla

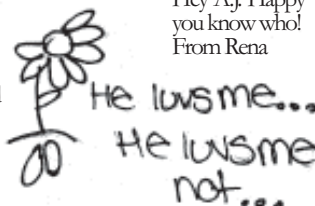
To Stephanie  
You are always energetic and a really good friend  
From Kayla

To My best Friend Urszula  
I hope you have a great Valentines Day. You're a really good friend.  
From Paulina

To Brianne  
You are a good friend  
From Kayla

To Rachel W.  
Happy Valentines Day from your guy. Will you go to the Valentines Day Dance with me?  
From Marcus J.

To Megan Zaubi  
Happy Valentines Day. Would you like to go to the Valentines Dance with me?  
From Bill W.



To All my friends  
To all of my friends, thanks for being my buds! Olivia,  
Brienne, Katie, Michelle, Grace, and all others, you rock!  
From Tricia Henry

To Jessica T.  
Happy Valentines Day!  
From Andrew C.

To Caron  
To the greatest person! Happy  
Valentines Day!  
From Michella

To All my friends  
Happy Valentines Day to all of  
my friends Stephanie, Nikki,  
Callie, Sandra, Morgan, Britt,  
Michelle, Tianna and Sarah  
From Camille D.

To Bill and Paul  
Hi, hope you have a good day!  
From Trisha Moersch

To All my friends  
Happy Valentines Day Brittany, Crystal, Remblake, Grace,  
Charley, Camille, and Stephanie  
From Sarah Samello

To Jessica  
Have a Happy Valentines day! Hope you and Andrew do  
good! BFF  
From Anonymous

To Jessica  
I want you to know I care for you and maybe you will feel  
the same.  
From Anonymous

To Adam D.  
Happy Valentines Day!  
From Anonymous

To Victoria C.  
Roses are red,  
Violets are blue,  
Sugar is sweet,  
And so are you.  
From Anonymous

To Kayla  
Have a happy valentines day! You are the coolest! BFF  
From Anonymous

To Maddy  
From Anonymous

To Stephanie Daley  
Happy Valentines Day! Have a great one with George!  
BFF  
From Anonymous

To Michella  
Mich, you're my best bud forever!  
From Anonymous

To My friends  
I wish all of you a Happy Valentines Day!  
From Joe H.

To Marcus  
Marcus, Happy Valentines Day! Will you go to the next  
dance with me?  
From Liz R.

To Chris M.  
I like you a lot Happy Valentines Day! Xoxoxox MOAH!  
From Anonymous

To Brandon Crespo  
I just want to wish you a Happy Valentines day Brandon!  
I also want to say that I like you!  
From Megan Curry

To Nick D.  
I just want to wish you a Happy Valentines Day and I  
really like you.  
From Secret Admirer

To Stephanie D.  
Hi! I love you!  
From George M.

To Ben C.  
I just wanted to tell you I really  
like you and that I hope you  
have a Happy Valentines Day!  
From Secret Admirer

To All My friends  
Happy Valentines Day Brittany O, Jenny F, Michelle M,  
Anna B, Olivia P, Lisa C, Kelly A, and everybody else.  
Thanks for everything.  
From Urszula



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\*More than a third of McDonald's independent owner/operators and more than half of McDonald's Corporation executives began their careers in a McDonald's restaurant.



# Tony Hawk Pro Skater 4 rules

BY EVIN S.

Tony Hawk 4 is of course the newest and best one so far. In THPS4, you transfer over spines and there are a whole bunch of new flatland moves.

There are special characters, new special moves, and secret areas, which you have to find. You can only get THPS4 on PS2 (Play station 2), X-box, or Game Cube.

The game gets five stars out of five for game play, graphics, and the difficulty of the levels.

THPS4 also features a bunch of new levels like San Fran, a zoo, and Kona, one of the neatest skate parks ever.

If you want, you can play online with the online adapter for PS2 or X-box.

There are 14 Pro Skaters to choose from and a couple of secret skaters.

Tony Hawk Pro Skater 4 is awesome; you should go out and buy it or at least rent it.

To Brian M.  
Happy Valentines Day! I like you a lot.  
From Anonymous

To Maddy and Michella  
Thank you for being great friends.  
From Caron Thomsen

To My Best friend Paulina  
I hope you have a great Valentines Day! Thanks for being there for me. I can always count on you. You're the best.  
From Urszula

To Tim B  
Have a happy V-day bye!  
From Anonymous

To Chris W.  
Happy Valentines Day! I just wanted you to know I like you.  
From You know who

To Mrs. Mann and Mrs. Leikin  
Thank you for your time and effort for making the best season ever! We had a great time. Go Chargers!!!!  
From Brittany and Rachelle

To sixth grade Teachers  
Mrs. Laughlin, Mrs. Kabat, Mr. Behrendt And Mr. Koenig  
I hope you have a great Valentines Day.  
From Anonymous

To Adam C.  
Adam Curry I hope you have a great Valentines Day.  
From Cristhal H.

To Gab L. and Cristhal H.  
Hey wazz up? I want you to have a happy Valentines Day!  
From well you know who...Bye-Bye!  
From Abigail R.

# Eighth grade boys worked hard

Continued from page 16

The boys finished the season with a .500 average, winning six and losing six.

Team member, Dave K., said, "I had a great time playing basketball this year for Mr. Anderson. He's a great coach, and along with Mr. Poremba, I've learned a lot by playing the past three years for them."

Dave added, "We had a great team and did pretty well this season." "We could have won more games but we made too many mistakes in crucial parts of the game."

Teammate, Kyle P. said he really enjoys playing the game. "Although it's tough making

all of the practices, especially on the weekends, I have had a great time playing. Mr. Anderson is a great coach. He's taught me a lot my past three years playing for the team."

Phil L. added, "I had a great time this season. This was my first year on the team, and I've learned a lot."

Eight Grade Boys Basketball Team (2003): Kyle P., Phil L., David K., Keith M., Mike N., Kevin K., Joe F., Chris R., Bryan T., Frankie C., and Alex S.

**"We could have won more games but we made too many mistakes in crucial parts of the game."**

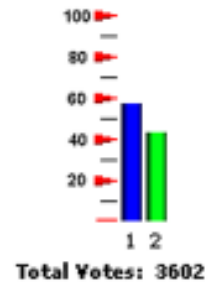
## Online poll results

A trial period permitting students to chew gum is underway at Peacock. Discarded gum, however, is being found throughout the building. Do you think that gum should be allowed in school?

	votes	percent
1.) Yes, I think it's a good idea.	2048	57%
2.) No, I think it's a bad idea.	1554	43%

The Charger online poll can be found at:  
<http://thecharger.org>

This online poll is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those Internet users who have chosen to participate. The results cannot be assumed to represent the opinions of Peacock students in general, nor the public as a whole.



To 6th grade teachers  
Happy Valentines Day to the 6th grade teachers!  
From Carmen Zaccaria

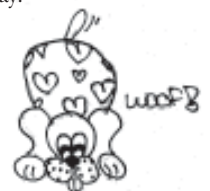


To Newspaper staff  
Happy Valentines Day to all.  
From Anonymous

To Mrs. Kabat's sixth grade students  
It has been a pleasure working with such intelligent, aggressive, learners. Keep up the good work!!!  
From Mrs. Kabat

To Leo Club  
Thanks for your hard work and dedication for those less fortunate. You have a kind heart!  
From Mrs. Kabat

To Mary  
Happy Second Valentines Day!  
Love Mommy and Dad



# New uniforms highlight of cheerleaders season

BY SUSIE S.

If you attended an eighth grade boy's basketball game this year, you probably noticed the eight girls on the sideline cheering the basketball team on.

Tori C., Caitlyn C., Paige P., Lara P., Rachel R., Angela W., Ashley Z., and Agnes Z. made up this year's eighth grade girl's cheerleading squad.

But as Mrs. Leikin stated, "It takes more to be a cheerleader than a loud voice." It's Mrs. Leikin's third year coaching the squad, and

**"It takes more to be a cheerleader than a loud voice."**

being a cheerleader in high school, she knows what it takes. Mrs. Leikin explains that to be a good cheerleader, you have to have a good voice, be in shape, have coordination, a great attitude, and have either dance or cheerleading experience.

All eight girls have learned many cheers,

and they also help make them up. Not all the cheers are shouting though. Many include mounts, jumps, and a lot of strength.

A cheerleading practice consists of mainly three parts. First the girls warm up, and while they do that, Mrs. Leikin and Mrs. Mann answer any of their questions, and they set up a goal to accomplish that day.

Then they have a little cardiovascular warm-up, and next they get to the hard stuff. They polish up new cheers, practice mounts, get ready for pep rallies, and accomplish their goal for the day.

Unfortunately there haven't been many practices for the girls since the season began.

Probably the biggest talk of the season was the eighth grade cheerleaders' new uniforms. "The girls were really excited," Mrs. Leikin said, "and I was really excited for them."

The new uniforms say Peacock unlike the old sweaters which just had a "P" on the front,

and they have much more of a college look to them.

"Cheerleading, to me, is like a big game of yelling, and it's so much fun because you get to be loud!" explains Rachel R.

Two of Rachel's fellow cheerleaders, Tori and Caitlyn, agree with Rachel, adding, "It's fun because you get to be with your friends, and it's challenging."

All three girls agree that the hardest part about cheerleading is practicing over and over and of course, mounts.

When asked about possibly continuing with cheerleading, both Tori and Caitlyn said that they would like too, for as long as possible. While Rachel stated, "Soccer has always and will always be my first priority."

**"Cheerleading, to me, is like a big game of yelling, and it's so much fun because you get to be loud!" explains Rachel Riddle.**

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Thursday – 2:00-8:00pm

Friday – 3:30-8:00pm



**Itasca**

**Park District**

# Eighth grade Chargers dominate conference

## “Unbelievable and Undefeated”



Photo by Nicole M.

Eighth Grade Girls Team: Nicole D., Kelly B., Jenny O., Shannon P., Susie S., Colleen M., Hannah O., Kaitlyn L., Sarah B., Agnes Z., Joanna D., Lauren S., Ashley D.

**BY KAITLYN L.**

“Unbelievable and Undefeated.” That’s what Coach Anderson said when discussing this year’s eighth grade girls’ basketball team.

The Chargers finished the 2002 season

with an undefeated conference record. This was their second undefeated season in a row.

Team member Jenny O. thought that being undefeated last year helped inspire this year’s team.

The only thing that almost everyone on

the team regretted was losing to Westfield at the Lake Park Girls’ Tournament.

Shannon P. believed that the team’s success had to do with their teamwork, basketball skills, and knowing all of their plays.

Mr. Anderson was also important. He was a great coach and knew exactly how to make the team great.

Many of the parents who had daughters on the team agreed that watching them play this season was a lot of fun. Mr. Powers commented that he enjoyed watching the games not only because they were exciting, but also because all the players looked like they were having a great time.

Not surprisingly, the fans also had fun watching the girls win. Eighth grader Susie Scheck commented that the basketball season helped our school spirit for other sports because it showed students just how good Peacock could be.

All the team members agreed that the most fun about playing was being with your friends. The practices were a lot of fun because even though everyone worked hard, there was still time to have fun.

The most memorable game of the season was definitely the last game against Westfield at Peacock. It was very intense because the Chargers wanted to avenge their tournament defeat. Every game was exciting, but that game had the most fans and the most fun.

## Eighth grade boys finish even

**BY SHANNON P.**

The eighth grade boy’s basketball team had a tough season. They finished 6-6 in the conference, placing them in fourth place.

The roster consisted of eleven players this year instead of the usual thirteen.

Despite the disappointing record, Coach Anderson said that he couldn’t have asked for a better season.

“The boys were always out there playing with heart. Despite some close losses, they never came out unprepared or unwilling to play,” he explained.

The boys played in two tournaments over

Christmas break. In the Lake Park tournament, they placed fourth, finishing 1-3.

But in the Driscoll tournament, they made it to the semifinals, placing third with a 3-1 record.

“I was upset with how the boys played at Lake Park. They didn’t play their best, but I was quite impressed with their turnaround in the Driscoll tournament. They had a great run.”

See **Eighth Grade**  
Page 14

## Sixth and seventh grade boys close tough season

**BY NICOLE M.**

In a disappointing season, the sixth and seventh grade boy’s basketball team had a better road than home record. They won three out of five away games.

Coach Poremba still had high spirits throughout the season. He praised the boys’ effort.

The team also had a lot of support from the fans. Most of their losses were close.

The team was 3-9 in conference play, 4-14 overall.