

The Charger

Volume 7, Number 4

APRIL 2004

www.thecharger.org

Students triumph at annual art fair

BY AMY E.
NEWS EDITOR

This year, the annual Scholastics Art Contest was held and three of Peacock's own were selected to participate.

Ernie K., David Z. and Joanna M., all eighth graders, were recognized at the contest this year. Ernie received the Silver Key award, which is second place, and David and Joanna both received honorable mentions.

Mrs. Dengler was interviewed to get a basic view of the art show. The Scholastic Art Contest is the only art show of its kind. There were over two thousand entries this year alone.

Peacock is involved in the West Suburban Consortium of Schools, which sponsors the contest. It was held at the Elmhurst Art Museum this year. This contest is available to seventh and eighth graders. Mrs. Dengler was allowed to enter only twenty pieces of art.

The judges came from many different art backgrounds including college professors and professional artists from all over the Chicago area.

See Art fair
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Inside

Don't miss the
annual Literary
and Art
Magazine insert!

Students excited about Annie



Left to right, sixth graders Elizabeth R. (Tessie) and Colleen B. (Kate), and eighth grader Laura D. (Pepper) rehearse choreography for Annie.
(Photo by Joanna M.)

BY EMILY W.
SPORTS EDITOR

This spring, Peacock will present the musical *Annie*. Mother and daughter Carol and Karrie Lynch from Schaumburg on Stage will be directing. They have previously directed *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and many more musicals.

The Lynchs chose *Annie* for the many parts, fantastic music, and the good story. "*Annie* is definitely an audience pleaser. No matter how many times someone sees it, they always go away really loving it," said Carol Lynch.

Auditions for the production were on Monday, February 16. "I was very impressed with the students when they came out for auditions. Everyone seemed to sing on pitch

and had wonderful music techniques," said Ms. Lynch.

Callbacks were held on February 17 and 18. Audrey J., sixth grade, received the namesake role of Annie. "I've always wanted the part of Annie, it is very exciting," said Audrey.

Eighth graders Claire Z. will play Miss Hannigan, Acaisha B. will play Miss Grace Ferrel, and Ernie K. will play Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks.

Annie has many different parts, and everyone who tried out received a role. The taller students will play maids/butlers and Hooverites or bums

The shorter students will play orphans. Many of the actors received speaking parts as well.

See Annie
Page 2

Peacock hosts district choir contest

BY JESSICA L.
OP-ED EDITOR

On Saturday, March 13, 2004, Peacock hosted the Illinois Grade School Music Association, Northern Division, District #7 Chorus Contest. Eleven grade school choirs, including Peacock's, competed in the contest.

The first performance started at 8:30 in the morning and the last performance didn't start until 3:00 in the afternoon.

Three judges listened to the choirs and rated each choir a division one, division two or division three, with a division one being the highest. The judges were Ms. Nancy Alban, Mr. Patrick S. Barnett and Ms. Jen Tompa.

"I like to sing in chorus because it's fun to sing with my friends and Mr. Travis makes it really fun," commented Kali A., an eighth grade alto.

Peacock choir members, parents and teachers helped work at the contest. Many of them were choir guides. Each guide was assigned a choir and greeted their choir when they arrived.

The guides took their choirs to their homerooms, warm-up room and to the gymnasium, where the choirs performed. After performing, the choirs were led to the cafeteria, where food was sold and contest ratings were posted.

"I was a choir guide," said eighth grade soprano one, Joanna M., "One choir came two hours early and I was stuck guiding them around. I didn't like that."



Photo by Westin R.

Mr. Travis, Peacock's music teacher, directed Peacock's choir and the choir's piano accompanist was Mrs. Roberta Moraz.

The choir, consisting of over seventy-five students, performed at 1:00pm. They sang a total of three pieces titled *Joyfully Sing*, "Alleluia!", *Snow*, and *Festival Cantate*.

After singing, the choir continued to the cafeteria, where they anxiously awaited to find out what their rating was.

"It was kind of scary singing for the judges," commented sixth grade soprano one, Tessie F., "because they were staring at us and it was really quiet."

"It was pretty nerve wrecking," agreed eighth grade soprano one, Acaisha B.

Westmont Junior High's Choir, from Westmont, finished in first place, followed by Hadley Junior High's Choir, from Glen Ellyn, and Peacock's Choir finished in third place.

Director Mr. Travis said, "We finished in third place and beat out some of the choirs that have choir as a class during the day."

He is very proud of the choir. It took a great amount of effort to organize the contest and Mr. Travis said, "I don't think I will host another contest for several years."

Annual auto show delights fans

BY CELSEY B.

This year for the 2004 Car Show many styles of cars were shown. These included the new Hummer H4, Chevrolet SS Concept, Chevrolet 2004, and Monte Carlo SS.

My father, Mr. Brazeau, told me lots of information about the car show, because he has been there so many times.

Some of the new hot cars that will soon be



Aston Martin V12 Vanquish

coming out are the Mazda 2004 RX-8, BMW R-8 and the Aston Martin V12 Vanquish.

He also told me that when he got there, it was packed with a lot of people. He said that he really liked going there to

see all the new cars.

Next year should be an even better car show.

Annie is on

Continued from page 1

"So far, the practices have been going very smoothly," explained Carol Lynch. The cast has been enjoying the practices too.

"The play is so much fun right now. I think the show's going to be really good," said Claire Z.

Ernie Krause is excited for the up-coming *Annie* performance. "It should be a lot of fun, especially because this is my first musical," he said.

The show will take place on April 29 and 30 and May 1, 2004.

Peacock students vote "Yes" for spirit days

BY COLLEEN B.

The Student Council has been very busy with the spirit days this year. They have chosen to do Hat Day, Pajama Day and Blue and White Days.

Many students have different opinions about these days. Some people think that Hat Day is really boring and there should be something more exciting.

Meghan R., a sixth grader, thinks it would be really neat to have a Crazy Hair Day. This idea was brought up in Student Council meetings but didn't gather enough votes to be passed.

Peter D., on the other hand, thinks that the spirit days are great and nothing needs to be changed.

One of the questions asked was if Kevin H. and Evin S. would support a Spirit Week. They replied that it would be voted on in a Student Council meeting.

Everyone interviewed said that they would participate in a whole Spirit Week. After being asked, the president and vice president stated they would vote on what the days would be.

Kali C. thinks that there should be more Pajama Days. She replied "They were fun and that it is cool to have them."

Some of the students think that there aren't that many different themed days. Eighth grader Andy K. declared "There need to be more categories to choose from."

In Mrs. Laughlin's language classes it has been brought up to activate "Switched Day."



Student Council president Kevin H. and Vice-President Evin S. support a Spirit Week.

(Photo by Colleen B.)

This is when a teacher has the privilege to teach another class for the day. It is also possible to have a selected student teach the class for that day. This has not been talked about in the Student Council meetings yet.

Most of the students involved with this assignment decided that Hat Day was not very popular. They thought that it wasn't very fun to just wear a hat. They stated that it was better to have a bigger Spirit Day.

Kevin and Evin don't yet know what the rest of the year's Spirit Days will be. That is something to be voted in the upcoming Student Council meetings.

Earlier in September there was poor input on the Spirit Days. The president and vice president agree that it was probably because of people not knowing about it.

Lately there have been many people participating and it has become a fun thing to do.

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 to let you in on any upcoming library activities for teens.

Manga Mania

For those of you who enjoy manga, the library now subscribes to Shonen Jump magazine. It is housed in the Young Adult Magazine Collection. The most recent issue cannot be checked out, but all other issues may be checked out for a one week loan period.

Young Adult Music Collection

The library will soon be starting a Young Adult Music CD Collection. This collection will contain more up-to-date musical releases with teen appeal. Though we will try to purchase a variety of musical styles and artists, we will be unable to purchase any CD's that sport a parental advisory label. To recommend an item for purchase, please fill out a Suggestion for Purchase form located at the library's Circulation Desk.

Hot Item

The newest book in the Princess Diaries series by Meg Cabot, *Princess in Pink*, has been released and is available for check out at the library.

Ken Majkowicz

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Art fair

Continued from page 1

Some of the things that the judges looked for in the many pieces were creativity, thought behind the artwork, the artists emerging style and craftsmanship.

"There are many areas of art covered in the contest such as drawing, photography, both digital and normal, fibers, sculpture and print making," said Mrs. Dengler.

All of the artwork was displayed at the Elmhurst Art Museum for two weeks.

Joanna M. made a colored pencil drawing of hands. "I didn't think it could be an award winning piece of art," she said. Joanna's artwork received an honorable mention from the judges.

David Z. took a picture of a cat. When asked if he thought it was an award winning piece of art, he replied, "No, I did not." David's artwork received an honorable mention in the contest.

Ernie K. made a print of a toucan. "I thought it would do well in the contest because it was well made and Mrs. Dengler said it was good," he stated. Ernie's artwork received a second place award.

Editorial and Opinion

Homework

What's the deal with that?

BY ERIC A.
FINISHING EDITOR

Many kids think that we have too much homework. Some study results support this. Many results claim that with all the homework kids have, there is little time for activities and relaxation.

Teachers say that homework builds responsibility and intelligence. This is considered true, but too much can cause stress.

Overtime homework can become a problem for some, but can never be depleted from daily tasks. With activities growing throughout students' lives they need more time.

Many teachers give us homework and say, "That isn't that much," but it all adds up from other teachers. Others give us so much all the time that they think we don't have outside lives.

Admittedly, we can't get rid of homework, but there are alternatives.

One thing teachers can do is try to use time well so kids can start their homework in class. They can also make the homework a class assignment, and what isn't finished is homework.

There is no way to get rid of homework, but there are ways to make it better. It is up to the teachers to make things more convenient for everyone.

Congratulations!



On behalf of the whole school, we would like to congratulate Mrs. Engel on giving birth to a healthy baby girl.

By Andrea P.

The Charger

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Write the editorial board with questions, comments and complaints. Correspondence must be signed.

COMING SOON

Itasca Police Chief wants to hear from you

The Itasca Chief of Police, Chief Scott Heher, has requested a column in *The Charger!* He will allow Peacock students to ask questions about issues relating to policing in and around Itasca as well as other police related matters to members of the Police Department.

Mr. Heher hopes this will “provide a forum for your readers to learn information about police department activities as well as foster an environment that develops closer ties to our school age population.”

These questions and comments can be sent to Chief Heher via e-mail at sheher@itasca.com or via United States Mail at:

Chief Scott Heher
Itasca Police Department
411 North Prospect Avenue
Itasca, Illinois 60143

Chief Heher is looking forward to receiving questions and comments from the Peacock student body.

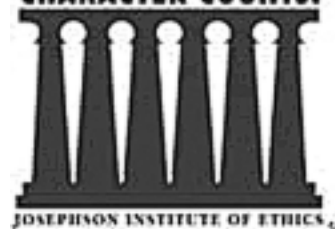
In other news, the Itasca Police Department will be hosting a weeklong Teen Police Academy on June 14th through June 18th at our new Municipal Complex.

The Teen Police Academy, an abbreviated version of our ten week Citizen Police Academy, will meet from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon, and will provide participants an excellent opportunity to experience first hand the many facets of policing in Itasca.

Class size is limited to 20 students. Interested students can request an application by contacting Officer Mike Shrader at Itasca’s Police Department’s Crime Prevention Bureau at 228-5707.

Chief Heher is looking forward to receiving questions and comments from the Peacock student body and hopes to be hearing from us soon.

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April 2004

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Logan M.
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Elizabeth R.
Kevin T.

Caring

Tim B.
Max G.
Misaki F.
Callie S.
Jose S.
John G.

Citizenship

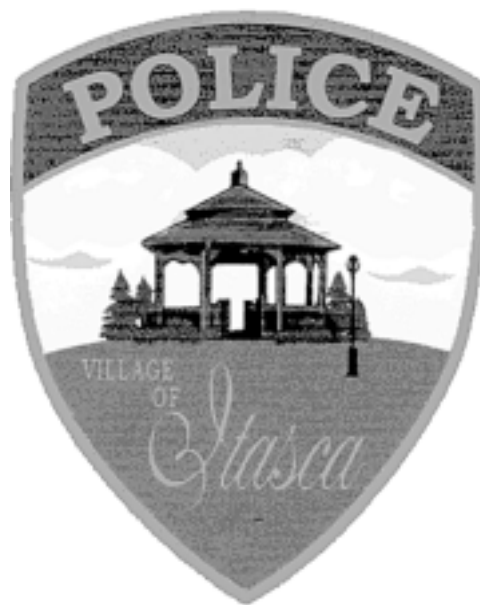
Eric A.
Adam D.
Steven J.
Pam R.

ITASCA POLICE DEPARTMENT COP CARD PROGRAM

In an effort to get to know more of the youth of Itasca, the Itasca Police Department will soon be distributing the 2004 edition of the “Cop Card” trading cards.

As in the past, Itasca police officers will be at various pre-arranged places around town so you can get their signatures. Cards can also be signed by the officers on the street, in the schools, or when you see them around town. Don’t miss out on this chance to win some really great prizes.

In order to enter the drawings that will be held at Itasca Fest you must have all the cards signed and the entry card returned to the Police Department before the last day of the Fest. See any Itasca police officer for more information.



Pajamas in school: comfortable or revealing

BY JACQUELINE C. AND DANI D.

Recently, the decision was made to limit when students may wear pajamas in school to spirit days. This decision was made because eighth grade teachers complained that girls were wearing p.j. shirts and pants that were too revealing. We asked a selection of students and Dr. Nickisch about this decision.



I disagree because p.j. pants are more colorful.

Agnes 6



I disagree, they're just pants. Some of them are see-thru and they shouldn't wear them, but I mean they're just normal clothes.

Trisha H., 7



I disagree because they are more comfortable to wear.

Natalie W., 7



I disagree because everyone likes to wear them.

Jake C. and Peter S., 6



Personally I disagree because it says nowhere in the school rules that we can't wear them to school. We should be able to wear what ever we want to school.

Kacie A., 8



I disagree because I think it's really stupid. People last year wore p.j. pants and they are just like sweatpants so there is no difference.

Julia N., 8



I disagree because they're clothes and they are comfortable and who cares.

Katie N., 7



You are allowed to wear flannel p.j. pants during spirit days. I made this decision because eighth grade teachers complained that mostly girls were wearing p.j. shirts and pants that were too revealing.

Dr. Nickisch



I disagree with it because last year a lot of the eighth graders wore p.j. pants, and its not a working environment

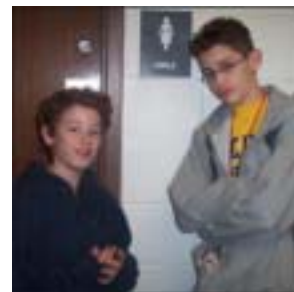
for us it is a working environment for the teachers but we are just kids.

Claire Z., 8



I disagree because I think you should be able to wear what ever you want and plus p.j. pants are more comfortable.

Tess F., 6



I disagree because p.j. pants are cool. Yeah!

Billy T. and Zack C., 6



I disagree because p.j. pants are comfortable, you should be able to wear what ever you want and plus it is the same thing as

wearing sweatpants, just a different material.

Audrey J., 6



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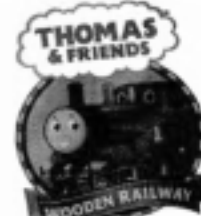
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Blackhawks lose again

Reflections on the end of another awful season

BY GEO N.

For the seventh season in a row, the Blackhawks didn't make the playoffs. They also had the worst record in the league.

And yet, at one point in the twentieth century, they were the best team out there.

One reason the Blackhawks have declined so markedly is probably because of their lousy trading record.

They made many trades that affected this season and last season and many seasons before that.

Four players, Ed Belfour, Chris Chelios, Dominik Hasek, and Jeremy Roenick, were among the best players on the team until they were traded or released. They were not replaced with comparable talent.

Then last year they traded Tony Amonte, who was their captain, to the Phoenix Coyotes.

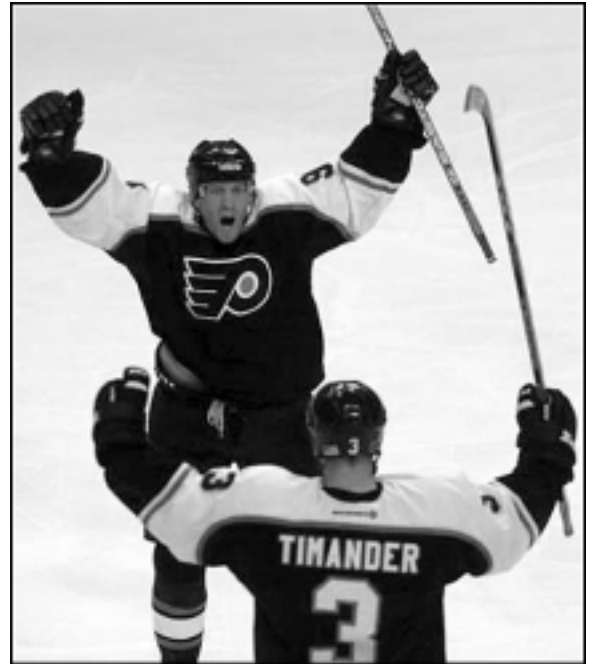
This season the Blackhawks traded two of their assistant captains, Alexei Zhamnov and Steve Sullivan.

Another problem was the injury to starting goalie Jocelyn Thibault. Thibault was an All-Star last year. Their backup

goalie isn't very good. This injury affected the Blackhawks greatly.

This season for the Blackhawks was a wreck. The season before it was a wreck. We can only hope for better next season.

This season for the Blackhawks was a wreck.



Former Blackhawks star Jeremy Roenick (top) is in the playoffs with the Philadelphia Flyers this April. REUTERS/Tim Shaffer

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Eighth grade girls enjoy season

Continued from page 15

The players discussed what they thought of Roselle as far as competition went.

Kacie said, "Roselle wasn't much of a competition just because they stunk. But I think Peacock got intimidated a lot and got nervous before games. That's why we tended to not do too well. But I think if we had a positive attitude toward the games, we'd do better."

Julia answered, "Roselle had a lot of good players, but they weren't that good as a team. So they weren't much of a competition for us."

Players hope to continue in volleyball

Continued from page 16



Photo by Elizabeth R.

Rachel and Amanda play volleyball at the Addison Park District. They both hope to play in high school at Lake Park.

Amanda explained, "We practice everyday, except Sundays."

"Peacock volleyball is really fun," Rachel commented.

Rachel and Amanda agree that the coaches are very nice and volleyball is a lot of fun.

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Volleyball fans enjoy competitive season

BY CRYSTAL K.

Ms. Heppeler, the eighth grade girls volleyball coach complimented the team on how well they performed on Monday, March 15, 2003, in a home victory over Roselle.

She stated, "The team fought really hard until the end. Obviously we went into three games, so that was tough for us."

Ms Heppeler recalled, "We had a little bit of a slow start, but we came together and pulled through in the end, and we played really well."

No one forgets the glorious moment in a game where the impossible plays became possible.

"I think the best moment for the team," said Ms Heppeler, "was a play in one game, where there was a ball going crazy. The girls were all over the court, and they got the ball and got it over the net." Remembering, she smiled. "It was an awesome play."

There's always room for improvement in any team. When the facts about improvement were straightened out, the whole team began to realize the changes needed to be made.

Ms. Heppeler said, "I think we needed to

work on getting the serves over the net and communicating as a team as to who's going for what ball."

As far as Roselle's competition for Peacock, Ms. Heppeler commented, "I don't

"The girls were all over the court, and they got the ball and got it over the net." Remembering, she smiled. "It was an awesome play."

think Roselle has as much skill as we do. We probably could've handled them a little bit better than we did at our game against them, but they gave us a good game. I suppose that's all that counts."

Eighth grade team member Kacie A. team commented, "Well, I thought that Peacock played very well. There were a lot of things we could have practiced, like serving because we weren't that good at that. But yeah, I think we overall played pretty well."

Kacie's teammate Julia N. added, "I think at the beginning of the Roselle game, we weren't doing so well because we just weren't communicating and getting the ball, but at the end we were definitely much better and we beat Roselle."

For Kacie, the best moments for the team were in the first game and third games, because she played in them.

Julia said, "I think the best moment was either when Emily G. dug the ball out of the net because we've been working on that during practices, or when Blaise M. won us an Ace."

As for the improvements that should have been made, Kacie and Julia both said, "There needed to be better communication and better serves."

See Eighth grade girls Page 13

Springwood volleyball coach proud of boys perseverance

BY CRYSTAL K.

Mr. Morris is the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade boys volleyball coach for Springwood Junior High School in Hanover Park.

Although the Springwood boys' lost in the volleyball game at Peacock on Thursday, March 18, 2003, Mr. Morris proudly stated, "I think we played strong. We had a little lapse in the back row in the first game, but in the second game we came on strong. I'm real proud of the boys because they played well in the third game.

Mr. Morris observed, "I think the best

moment was our stability and ability to hang on and pull out a win in the second match."

"I think the best moment was our stability and ability to hang on and pull out a win in the second match."

level Mr. Morris commented, "They're very good and they're one of the top teams in the

Mr. Morris described some crucial points that Springwood needed to work on. "We need to work on our footwork, and we need to work on moving in the back row, and overall just communicating out there with each other."

From an outsider's point of view looking into the Peacock boys quality and competition

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Coach and team love to play

Sixth and seventh grade girls volleyball

BY ELIZABETH R.

The sixth and seventh grade girls team had a slow start, but Coach Engel knew they would improve in the games that followed.

"All 15 players are dedicated and very talented young ladies."

"The sixth and seventh grade team looked awesome this year. They really improved since the beginning of the season," said Coach Engel. "All 15 players are dedicated and very talented young ladies."

She said that all sixth graders have improved a lot during the season. "Peacock's competition gets better every year," Mrs. Engel commented.

Coach Engel definitely enjoyed coaching volleyball this season.

When asked what their skills were in volleyball this season, seventh grader Rachel K. said, "My best skills on the court are bumping and spiking," Amanda M., seventh grade, added, "I'm best at setting."

Rachel has played volleyball for four years and Amanda has been playing for three years. Both girls have played Peacock volleyball for two years.

Besides playing in the Peacock volleyball season, they also play during the off-season.

"We practice everyday, except Sundays."



Katie N., seventh grade, keeps her eye on the ball during practice. (Photo by Elizabeth R.)

See **Players**
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Sunday, April 25

@ 2:00 PM

Spring Brook Nature Center

130 Forest Avenue, Itasca, IL

630-773-5572

- Earn Community Service Time
- Free Ice Cream Sundaes
- Every Hiker Gets A Water Bottle
- T-Shirt For Every Individual to Raise \$20 Or More



Go for a hike, collect some pledges.
Help raise funds and awareness for
Springbrook Creek

To Get Your Pledge Sheet:
Call or Stop By the Nature Center
Or go to *Itasca.com*