

The Charger

Volume 7, Number 5

MAY 2004

www.thecharger.org

Eighth graders anticipate graduation

BY PAM R.

It's that time of the year again when Peacock's eighth graders are getting ready to leave, and, just like every class before them, they're excited for the end of the school year and the school year to follow.

Eighth graders enjoyed the special privileges they received this year, like the field trips and graduation activities.

Alex D. said, "We get a lot more field trips than the other grades, and better field trips, like Springfield. We also get a little more permission to do things around the school than the other grades do. You know all the teachers and they know you, so it's a good relationship."

Joanna M., another eighth grader, said, "We get more field trips and get to dissect sharks, which some schools don't get to do."

Alex also commented that he wished the eighth graders had more time to do more projects and things along the same lines.

When asked about how he felt about graduating, Alex said, "It feels good to graduate from Peacock, but at the same time I'm a little sad because I'm not going to see most of my friends anymore."



Photo by Rena W.

Eighth graders, (left to right) Heather N., Celsey B., Amanda P., Alexander A. and Alexandra B. look forward to graduation on Tuesday, June 1, 2004.

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All this and more!

Community service comes down to the wire

BY AMY E.
EDITOR

NEWS

Now that the end of the school year 2003-04 is coming to a speedy end, many are excited. But there has been some cause for worry.

Dr. Nickisch has been going around to the eighth grade classes to inform the students of the danger some of them are in of not going to attend graduation. The reason? Many students have chosen not to complete their community service.

Dr. Nickisch has said that this year's graduation class is one of the best he's seen in years. Only two students are on academic probation and can't participate in the activities for graduation.

But over forty students waited until the last minute, risking missing all graduation events. These include the trip to Great America, the dinner dance, and the actual graduation ceremony.

See **Community Service**
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Looking forward to Lake Park

High school prospects

BY TAYLOR Z.

Will you be happy going to Lake Park when you graduate from Peacock?

Peacock is a big school but Lake Park is a lot bigger with a lot more people.



<http://www.lphs.org/construction/>

Jessica L. said "I want to go to Lake Park because I think it will be exciting to meet new people, and also because it's so much bigger.

She added, "It will be different there

because there are so many new people and more activities to do."

Next year Jessica really wants to join marching band and soccer.

Jasmine T. said "I'm kind of happy to leave, to get out of Peacock, it will be a little different because the people and the sports."

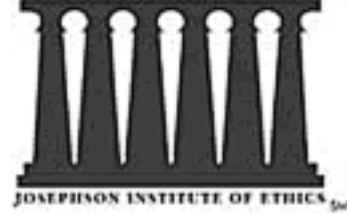
Jasmine wants to tryout to be a Lancet and possibly a cheerleader.

Kacie A. stated "I want to go to Lake Park to get out of Peacock and try something new.

Kacie is going to tryout for swimming, basketball and maybe softball and track.

It sounds like eighth graders are in for the new ride and cannot wait to meet the new people and are ready to start their high school years.

CHARACTER COUNTS!



May 2004

Caring

Brian K.
Jackie R.

Responsibility

Dana Y.
Morgan W-
V.
Amy E.
Liz H.
Raya P.
Carina M.
Colin T.
David M.

Respect

Mike H.

Citizenship

Alex A.
Pam R.
Jose S.
Pedro Me.
Callie S.
Carmen Z.
Enrique V.
Stephanie D.
Peter D.
Adam D.
Eric A.
Kelsey P.
Vicki L.
Nicole K.i
Rachel K.

Itasca Fire Protection District

Chief James Mac Arthur

Asst. Chief Greg McDonald

Firefighter and Administrative Staff



*Our Heroes of Tomorrow Are Built With
A Great Education Today!*

Annie was a hit with cast, crew and audience

BY COLLEEN B.

Late winter this year, Peacock started its annual acting activity. Students staged a musical based on the famous *Annie*. The only difference was that it was a smaller version.

Students felt that they were fortunate to have Carol Lynch and her daughter Kerrie Lynch as directors for the play.

Tom Vendafreddo provided the music, and Jim Beck handled the sound. Sets were by Bryan Ackerlund and Emily Shwartz. They were very helpful in pulling the whole performance together.

Actors practiced for roughly two months. They started in the cafeteria, and as April 29 rolled around, went on to the stage. Here they got to use the microphones for the first time in practice.

Most people had more than one part. All the cast was in the New York City scene. The maids and butlers were also the Hooverites, known as the "bums."



Eighth grader, Ernest K. (Daddy Warbucks) and sixth grader Audrey J. (Annie) perform on Friday, April 30 for the Peacock student body. (Photo by Tricia H.)

Claire Z. played one of the leading roles, Ms. Hannigan, the orphanage director. Claire said that on the first night she was nervous, but as she got used to the audience every night, it got easier.



The orphans from the recent Peacock production of *Annie Junior* include, (front row, left to right) eighth grader, Jessica D., sixth graders, Emily B., Elizabeth R. and Colleen B. (Photo by Tricia H.)

She mentioned that one of the hardest things to do was to remember blocking and to not laugh. She stated it was hard not to laugh because the door kept falling down on the orphanage.

On the flip-side, one of the easiest things was to memorize lines. Claire liked the stage the best and the people in the play. She enjoyed everything about it.

The Thursday and Saturday performances went pretty well she thought, but Friday was out of whack.

Everyone gave Claire helpful suggestions to improve her acting.

When asked if she would study drama in high school, Claire said definitely, yes.

Another person in the play was Molly C.. Her major roles were as a maid and as a Star To Be, along with Liz R. and Amy E.

Molly's other supporting parts were as a Hooverite and a New Yorker. Molly said that she was a little nervous when she started performing. She was afraid she might mess up. One of the hardest parts was to react to other people's lines and really show how the character felt.

Just like Claire, Molly thought the easiest thing to do was to remember the lines. She really loved being on stage and enjoyed it.

The down-side, Molly thought, was towards the end of the practices. By then they had to go to four-hour practices in the

cafeteria.

The leading role of Annie was played by a sixth grader, Audrey J.

Audrey has acted in lots of other plays and was completely comfortable in front of an audience.

For Audrey, the best part of it was to be performing with all her friends and having tons of fun! Audrey thought the school performance was the hardest.

Callie S., a seventh grader in tech crew, said it was really fun backstage. She got to move the sets off and on the stage. "It was very fun and organized unlike last year when it was very inefficient in the back."

Being backstage you don't get too much credit for it.

When asked if she felt like she wasn't getting enough praise, Callie responded "no," "it is still tons of fun."

Another person in tech crew was Eddie K. Eddie is Ernie K.'s older brother. He decided to help out and he was a welcome addition to the crew.

A seventh grade spectator, Rachel K., was watching the play on Friday afternoon when the play was presented for the school. She commented that it was a pretty good performance.

Claire said that on the first night she was nervous, but as she got used to the audience every night, it got easier.

Family's home struck by lightning

BY AMY E.

Over the past few days, the weather in Chicago has taken a turn for the worse. On May 20, 2004, a bad storm caused a lot of trouble.

There was pouring rain, which soon turned to hail. The lightning also caused damage in our own Itasca.

According to ABC, Channel 7 Chicago, lightning hit a set of apartments on Cherry Street in Itasca. It caused the brick walls to buckle.

The lightning also caused a small fire. Luckily, the family was not home and no one



The home of seventh grade student Cristhal H. was struck by lightning during a storm May 20, 2004. (Photo courtesy of ABC7)

was injured.

That night, ComEd reported 1000 homes without power.

Students study at Fermilab

BY LEO M.

The eighth grade class went to Fermilab on Tuesday, April 20, 2004.

Fermilab is located in Batavia, IL. Many parents also attended the field trip.

Fermilab consisted of the Lederman Science Center and Wilson Hall. Lederman Science Center was a small building full of games that students played.

They also completed activity worksheets for each section of the games and made them into a booklet.

Wilson Hall was the building that looked like praying hands and was where all of the action happened.

All students made up three questions prior to the trip to ask the docents.

"My favorite part of Fermilab was taking the tour and listening to the students ask questions to the docents and to the scientist," said eighth grade science teacher, Mrs. Krefetz.

She also said, "The timing was perfect this year. Instead in previous years, there was too much time at Lederman Science Center."

After going to both Lederman Science Center and Wilson Hall, all of the students met with a scientist in Wilson Hall. The scientist answered any questions the students had.

Then the docent did an experiment involving liquid nitrogen.

Since liquid nitrogen is so cold, the docent put a tennis ball into a container full of liquid nitrogen. He then spilled it onto the table, it naturally flowed onto the floor, and the floor was as cold as ice.

Mike C., an eighth grader who attended the trip commented, "I liked watching the scientist

perform the liquid nitrogen experiment and going around both of the buildings."

Many eighth graders enjoyed the field trip to Fermilab.

"I liked watching the scientist perform the liquid nitrogen experiment and going around both of the buildings."

Jazz Band triumphs

BY EMILY B.

Nine schools, including Peacock, competed on March 6, 2004, in the Illinois Grade School Music Association District 7 Jazz Band Contest.

Jazz Band conductor Mr. Loest prepared the band by many rehearsals, and students practiced at home. The band was rewarded for their hard work with a first class or Division I ranking and the highest point total of all the bands competing.

Mr. Loest thought that the band did a remarkable job. This was the jazz band's sixteenth Division I in eighteen years.

Brodie C. is in sixth grade and plays trumpet in the jazz band. He liked playing in the contest and enjoyed having pizza afterward.

Brodie thought it was "cool" to play for the judges, he said the contest was great and they were the best.

Winding down

Continued from page 1

Alex was really glad about all of the graduation activities and having the privilege of working on the video yearbook.

When asked about how she feels about graduating, Joanna said, "I'm actually kind of happy, but obviously I'm going to miss a few people because a

lot of them aren't going to be going to the same high school as I am."

Alex said he would miss some of the classes he had and some of the teachers, and he would miss his friends.

Alex added that he wouldn't miss the things he figured were pointless and all of the bibliographies.

Joanna thinks Great America and the other activities will be the best part of graduating.

"You know all the teachers and they know you, so it's a good relationship."

Community service wraps up

Continued from page 1

"I had no time all year," said Jimmy B., "but I am doing it this week."

"I'm too lazy," stated Derrick G., "I wait until the last minute."

Although some students have not finished their community service, many have been done for a long time.

"I finished my community service before the school year even started," stated Dereck S., "My mom made me."

"I helped with a food drive my advisory teacher organized," said Danielle J.

The deadline for completing community service is about ten days before graduation.

In the end, only two eighth graders did not complete their service time.

Not fulfilling the six hours per year of service not only affects the graduating eighth graders. If the six hours aren't finished by the end of the year, sixth and seventh grade students will not be eligible to receive their school ID cards next year.

2004 Usher Award winners



The 2004 recipients of the Wesley G. Usher Award, Pamela R. and Colin T., will speak at graduation on June 1, 2004.

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.



Editorial and Opinion

Enough is enough!

BY DANI D.

It is June first and school is out for summer. That is if you are an eighth grader of course. Hey, by the way eighth graders, congratulations and good luck in high school.

Unfortunately left in their dust are sixth and seventh graders. We are not just left behind to finish off the rest of the week since that would not be cruel enough. We are blessed with the pleasure of being able to return the following week for an additional two days.

It's difficult to figure out why we must attend school for a week longer than the eighth graders. Some blame the teachers, others claim it's the principal, and some say it's the school board.

I do know one thing, no matter who dreamed up the extra week, I am not looking forward to it. Whoever is responsible for this extra week, would you like to come and join us?

With compromise in mind I'd be willing to finish out the week. I just cannot get excited about the other days the following week. Does anyone else agree?

Peacock needs longer passing periods

BY JACKIE S.
AND ALYSSA L.

Do you think passing periods should be longer, shorter, or stay the same?

Many students think that the three minute passing periods should be increased.

The benefits of having a longer passing period include fewer chances of tardiness, more time to go to your locker and more time to walk to your classes that are not that close.

Emily B., sixth grade, agrees that we need a long passing period.

"We need to be able to go to our lockers or the bathroom and not worry about being late," she explained.

When asked if she thought anything could get out of hand during the extra time, Emily did respond, "Maybe some kids would goof-off and come to classes late anyway."

Taylor Z., sixth grade, said, "More fights could take place and people could goof-off."

"We don't have any time to empty out our backpacks or talk to our friends," commented

Kara F.

Sami H., sixth grader, added, "We don't want our backpacks to get too heavy! Three minutes is not enough time to go to the bathroom or socialize with our friends."

As you can tell, many people want longer passing periods but some do not.

Eighth grade science teacher Mrs. Krefetz said, "Three minutes is definitely enough time because we have a small school."

Dr. Nickisch said, "More kids would meet in the atrium and conversation would definitely increase. Socializing is an important part of school but we don't need to put passing periods in that position."

We asked about the chances in the future of longer passing periods, Dr. Nickisch replied, "If students come to me with a proposal to lengthen the passing periods then I will review it for academic reasons."

"We don't have any time to empty out our backpacks or talk to our friends," commented Kara Field.

Advisor thanks students and staff for another great year

I would like to thank all the students who contributed to *The Charger* this year and helped to make it a success. I would also like to thank the editorial staff for all their work and creativity.

I was particularly impressed with the quality of work by the editors in writing, editing and layout for *The Charger*. Their individual efforts as well as their ability to work together set a new standard for our editorial board.

I was also very happy with the quality and variety of stories produced by the whole staff.

I would like to mention seven students who merit special recognition: Amy E., Jessica L., Joanna M., Emily W., Alexandra B., Acaisha B. and Wayne R.

As news editor, Amy E. really helped set the new tone for the editorial staff this year, working hard at her editorial duties as well as taking on any job she was asked to do.

Jessica L. was a great addition to our editorial staff. Her polished articles and excellent editing really improved our Op-Ed section.

Joanna M. provided an intelligent and insightful feature section and wonderful organization for our literary and art magazine, "My Favorite Things."

Emily W. consistently wrote polished articles this year and her strong work ethic led to one of the best edited sports sections *The Charger* has ever had.

Alexandra B. and Acaisha B. have been our awesome art editors, whose work, especially in our literary and art Magazine, set a new standard for excellence.

Finally, our assistant advertising editor, Wayne R. kept our ad department thriving through another successful year. He was responsible for an enormous jump in revenue and the purchase of new digital cameras and audio recorders.

See Thanks
Page 8

Student Council presidential elections

What do you expect from our new student council president and vice president?

BY ERIC A. FINISHING EDITOR



I think we should have more spirit days, we should bring back gum, and we should be able to wear pajamas to

school. The president should also be nice.
Sarah S., 7th grade



I hope that they get us two more microwaves, and that they extend the dance times so we can have a lot more fun at

the dances.
Elliot T., 6th grade



I hope that the student council presidents will give us new privileges, and to clean up the school and

fix some of our student needs.
Veronica M., 7th grade



I think the student council should have more activities and field days.

Jack C., 7th grade



I think we should have more spirit days, and we should be able to wear pajamas.

Camille D., 7th grade



I don't think they should change anything, because they just make suggestions to the teachers.

Paul W., 7th grade



I think the student council should have better hot lunches, dances and field days.

Steve J., 7th grade



I hope we can get a longer passing period because we don't have enough time to put things in our lockers, and more microwaves because we still have long lines. Also longer dances would be the best.

Brian K., 6th grade

The Charger

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

Thanks for a great run

Continued from page 6

The editors will receive a CD-ROM version of *The Charger* as a token of appreciation. Any student who contributed to two issues of *The Charger* will receive a certificate of merit.

I wish the eighth graders luck in their high school careers.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the administration and teachers for their support, and Mrs. Denise Doyle and Mrs. Linda Purtell for all their help and patience in copying *The Charger* each month.

Finally, as with anything, nothing can go on forever. After seven years as faculty advisor to *The Charger*, it is time for me to move on to new challenges. The past forty-five issues of the *The Charger* have been a great learning time for the students and myself, and I will miss the experience. Thank you.

Charger staff

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Alyssa L.	Emily W.
Jennifer L.	Julia W.
Jessica L.	Carmen Z.
Megan L.	Megan Z.
Nicole M.	Taylor Z.

Eighth Grade Survey Results

COMPLIED BY JESSICA L. AND EMILY W.

Category	Boy	Girl
Best Personality	Justin C.	Becky K.
Most Outgoing	Randy P.	Jessica D.
Most Common Sense	Ernie K.	Carina M.
Smartest	David Z.	Pam R.
Funniest	Alex D.	Kacie A.
Preppiest	Jeff H.	Samantha M.
Sweetest	Colin T.	Emily W.
Happiest	Bryan L.	Emily G.
Most Mature	Brian H.	Dana M.
Best Laugh	Frank M.	Emily G.
Toughest	Blaine Q.	Stephanie S.
Quietest	Nikhil P.	Alexandra B.
Loudest	Tony R.	Megan L.
Most Admired	Colin T.	Valarie F.
Most Athletic	Colin T.	Kacie A.
Most Social	Randy P.	Nicole M.
Most Independent	Westin R.	Kali A.
Best Singer	Ernie K.	Acaisha B.
Best Actor	Ernie K.	Acaisha B.
Best Dancer	Brian L.	Nicole M.
Most Talented	Colin T.	Rosa A.
Fastest	Justin C.	Megan S.
Most Likely to Become President	Frank C.	Pam R.
Most Likely to Succeed	David Z.	Crystal K.
Gives the Best Advice	Randy P.	Jessica L.
Best Hair	Colin T.	Alissa D.
Best Dressed	Jeff H.	Dana M.
Best Smile	Kevin H.	Jessica D.
Coollest Voice	Chris B.	Lindsey M.
Most Organized	Leo M.	Jessica L.
Most Trustworthy	Leo M.	Julie P.
Most Responsible	Leo M.	Laila M.

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*There are more than 28,000 McDonald's restaurants around the world: 13,000 in the United States; 470 in Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana.

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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.

Have a Great Summer!!



Peacock was so fun! I had some great memories, and I will never forget them! Carina M.



Peacock was fun! 6th and 7th graders have fun with Mr. Scaletta. Don't be afraid to make mistakes nobody is perfect. Rena W.



I had so much fun at Peacock for the past 3 years. I am excited for Lake Park, but I will miss this school so much. Julia N.

Class of 2004

I'm really going to miss all my friends but I will always remember the great experiences and fun times we all spent together. I love you all and have loads of fun in high school! Ashley K.



It will take a long time for my hand to recover from all the homework. I don't want to know what Lake Park will do. Dan B.



Homework was torture!!! But I'm still gonna miss Peacock! Bye Mr. Poremba n' Mr. Travis! MKCXAN for eternity! Lake Park will crumble beneath my CHAOS!!! Alexandra B.





Yeah, I will miss my friends a lot and I've only been in Peacock for a year, but there are still things I will never miss!
Kali A.



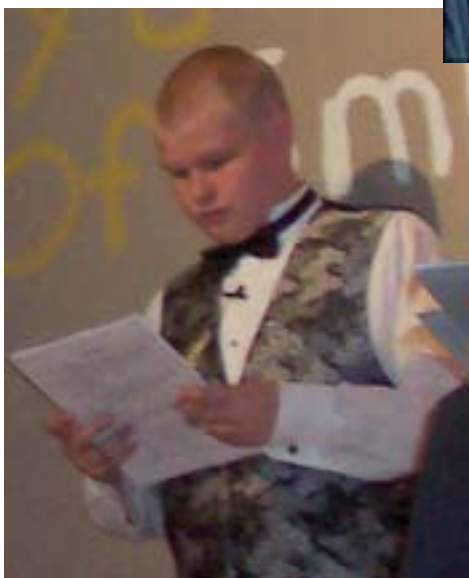
Since we're graduating and I might not see my friends again, I wanna say, thanks for all the memories and good luck in high school!
Crystal K.

Hey everyone! 8th grade was a blast! I can't wait for high school! Have a great summer everyone and see ya next year!
Jessica L.



I never had such a great time in my life. I LOVE Peacock Middle School!
Andy K.

8th grade was fun!
Jeff H.



Peacock taught me how to make mistakes and move on. Moving on involves apologizing and I'm sorry to everyone for anything mean I did here. Pamela R.

8th grade was fun. I can't wait for High school! I'm gonna miss this!
Rebecca K.

What a long strange trip it's been at Peacock Middle School. Good thing it's over!
Vicki W.

Being a new student this year, I have to say this school is small, but it has its advantages.
Krystal N.



8th grade was fine, Mr. Scaletta's my boy! Dan W.



All my years at Peacock were ok! And I will miss all my friends a lot! Jamie S.

8th grade was the best year because of the field trips and Mr. Scaletta. David M.

I love
memo
all the
miss it

8th grade was so much fun especially Mr. Scaletta's class. It was so fun going on the Springfield trip and 6 Flags. Bye my posse. Celsey B.



Hey Guys! I had a great time at Peacock with you all. Love you all of you! Cya at the Lake Park! Love ya Rachel M.

I'm gonna miss Peacock & the teachers. This place changed my life, with everything. Love ya guys and I'll miss you! Acaisha B.

I learned a lot of stuff this year! No really, I'm gonna miss every1! Bye people. Laila M.



8th grade was so much fun. I'll miss all my friends and teachers the Dinner Dance was fun and performing in Annie. Love Ya all!! Amanda P.

The past three years have flown by way too fast. I have enjoyed every minute. I've had many memorable moments. Thanks for all the fun. Claire Z.

Peacock and I have tons of memories. I loved playing basketball, and our teachers are the best! I'm going to Lake Park. Frank C.



My short time at P.M.S. seems like a long story short I'm not a Peacock Charger, I'm a Smith Panther 4 life. S.M.S. Baby!!! Jasmine B.



8th grade was fun. Ms. Heppler was the greatest. Mr. Scaletta was just funny. Ms. Leikin, we read too many books. Derek S.

had a great time in all that fun!



lots of fun

miss you

Peacock was fun and I had good times and bad times. I will miss it, but I'm looking forward to Lake Park! See you there! Julie P.



8th grade was super fun! Thank you for the three great years! Woohoo! We're grads now! Cu @ LP XOXO, Amy E.





I am going to miss my friends n' coaches. The sports have been fun especially the winning seasons. I will remember my memories forever. Logan M.

I had so much fun at Peacock! Oh my gosh we're almost high skoolers. I love you all! Jessica D.

These three years have been the best! See everyone at Lake Park! Emily W.

Peacock was fun but hanging out with my friends was even more fun. (tear) We'll all have fun in high school. Blaise M.

Hi there people! Honestly I have nothing to say except good luck to all who are going to LP and I'll miss Peacock and some of the teachers. 7th grade be afraid, be very afraid. Joanna M.



Hey! I'm going to miss all my friends so much! We've been together for 8 years! I will always remember everything we've done! Tackle Tag! Sam M.

Eighth grade was fun! When I go to Lake Park, I'm going to miss all my friends ALOT. I have alot of great memories at Peacock. Kristen M.





Peacock was fun while it lasted. I'm going to miss my friends so much but I can't wait to meet new people at high school! Love ya XOXO Dana M.



I'm going to miss Peacock so much! I've had so many memories here! I'm going to miss all my friends and teachers! XOXO Valerie F.



I will miss all my friends so much when I leave! I have so many memories here! Especially tackle tag! XOXO Alissa D.

It was a fun time here! Hope the rest of the students have fun, especially with your friends! Don't sweat the small stuff! Xoxo, Raya P.



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Teachers singing opera while taking attendance...
...Priceless
Courtney O.

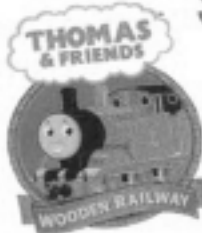
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NEDSRA does great things

BY AMANDA P.

NEDSRA stands for Northeast Dupage Special Recreation Association (NEDSRA).

NEDSRA services children in Addison Township and I have been working there for more than two years.

My personal working experience has been great. I work with mentally disabled kids and adults.

NEDSRA is a great place for some people to get community service. It is not a place for people who don't like or are uncomfortable around the mentally disabled.

Some programs in NEDSRA are basketball, track, bowling and much more.

Some people I have worked with are my mom Debbie P., and her friends, Sharon Pearce, Mindy Jack, Bob Griffin and Jonathan.

Some people who are full time are Beth Corso, Matt Corso, Ann Shelton, Larry and much more.

I have made plenty of friends there like Sean and Tim Monahan, Sammy Long, Jonathan, Jeremy, Christina, Chrissie, Emma,



Debbie P. and Sean Monahan volunteer their time to work with mentally disabled children at NEDSRA. (Photo by Amanda P.)

Eighth grader Megan Ludwisiak also works at NEDSRA. On Tuesdays, she teaches poms to the children and has the best time and she loves to do it.

I have made plenty of friends there like Sean and Tim Monahan, Sammy Long, Jonathan, Jeremy, Christina, Chrissie, Emma,

Katrina, Kelly and Jeff.

My friend Jonathan is in a band called E-Motion. He is a very sweet talented guy.

If you want community service or just want to make friends, take it from me, this is my favorite thing to do and it will always be.

NEDSRA gets ideas for new programs from its volunteers.

Eighth grader Megan L. also works at NEDSRA. On Tuesdays, she is teaching

poms to the children and has the best time and she loves to do it.

My visit to the Coroner's office

BY STEVEN J.

As part of my career exploration project, I visited the DuPage County Coroner's office on March 16, 2004.

Peter Siekmann, Chief Deputy Coroner of Dupage County, showed me around.

First he showed me the record room, then the histology lab. This is where they keep certain pieces of organs and tissue from deceased people.

The lab is filled with jars of small pieces of tissue and organs, so that if there are questions, the forensic pathologist doesn't have to exhume (dig up) the body, he or she can just test the sample in the jar.

Next, Mr. Siekmann took me to the X-Ray room, where they look for things beneath the skin that you cannot see with the naked eye. You can look for broken glass, knife blades, etc.

Then we went to the observation room where police officers, forensic pathologist, medical students, or anyone who helps work on the case can view the body.

Afterwards, Mr. Siekmann showed me the delivery garage where they receive corpses from hospitals, nursing homes, or anywhere there is a suspicious death like death under a doctor's care, residential death (with exceptions from a DNR-do not resuscitate), or homicides.

Next, we went to the autopsy suites where the pathologists perform the autopsies. An autopsy is when the forensic pathologist cuts open the body to look at the organs and other tissue to help determine the cause of death.

Finally we walked to the isolation autopsy suite, which is a room where the pathologists can do an autopsy away from the other bodies if necessary because of such things as an advanced state of decay or the threat of contagious diseases.

The isolation suite has its own X-ray equipment and direct access to its own personal freezer unit, which is kept at an amazing -30 degrees Fahrenheit!

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Eragon thrills

BY MARISA G.

Eragon was written by teenage prodigy Chris Paolini. It is about a poor fifteen year old boy named Eragon who finds what he thinks is a polished blue stone.

This 'stone' brings forth a dragon hatchling, making him the first rider in ages.

After his uncle is killed by an explosion caused by the Raz'zoc (the king's evil helpers), Eragon ventures on an epic adventure to get revenge over his uncle's death with his dragon, Saphira, and an old storyteller who proves to be much more as the story progresses.

Along the way, Eragon gains new friends like Angela, a werecat named Solembum, Arya, and Murtagh, who accompanies Eragon on his final journeys.

Eragon is a very good read. Chris Paolini follows in the tradition of J.R.R. Tolkien. It causes one to use their imagination, and it is very hard to put the book down.

Paolini gives his characters a human-like persona, and you can relate to their feelings throughout the book. This book is for the young



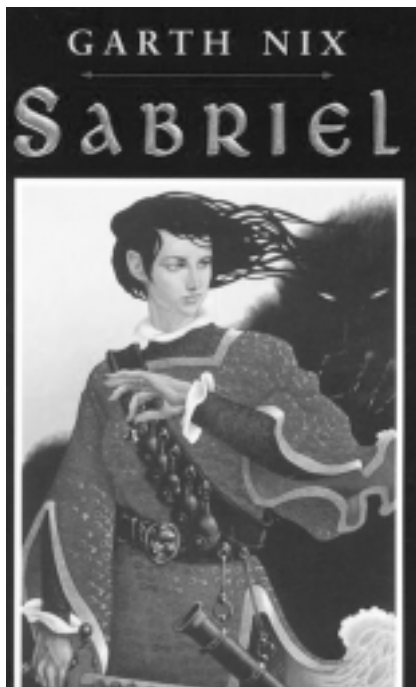
<http://www.amazon.com>

reader who loves reading about classic battles, magic, and mysterious beings.

Eragon is a remarkable novel coming from such a young author. I would rate it a five out of five stars for its excellent and accessible story.

Sabriel is magical and exciting

BY MELISSA S.



<http://www.amazon.com>

For anyone who likes an interesting adventure filled with suspense and a different kind of magic, then Garth Nix's *Sabriel* (1995) is a must read. *Sabriel* is Garth Nix's first book written for young adults.

When *Sabriel*, a prefect at Wyverly College in Ancelstierre, discovers that her father, Abhorsen, is in grave danger, she must venture beyond the Wall into the Old Kingdom where great peril, evil, and Free Magic roams the lands.

Sabriel is to take up her father's duties as Abhorsen and banish the Dead beyond the Final Gate, but one of the Greater Dead has other plans for her and her new companions.

On her journey, *Sabriel* encounters a side of the magic she thought she knew so well in ways that belittle her own knowledge of it; she learns things about her family that she was never aware of before, and she also gets a taste of true loss.

Sabriel is a fantastic read and is written based on ideas rarely encountered. On a scale from 1-5, I'd give it a 4 because it truly is a gripping tale. I recommend *Sabriel* to adventure-seeking readers who enjoy magic.

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.

Summer Reading Club

May 24 – August 16

Have you signed up yet for "Ride the Reading Trail!" - the library's 2004 Summer Reading Club? —If you haven't, there's still time. Participants earn fabulous prizes just by reading books.

Second Annual Junior High Fear Factor

Tuesday, August 3 . . .

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The library is looking for 5 – 10 brave junior high students willing to participate in our Second Annual Junior High Fear Factor competition. Contestants will be faced with gross and disgusting physical stunts and eating challenges! The winner will receive \$50.00 cash! If you have the guts to participate and are available from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 3, please contact Lori Craft at 773-1699. Your parents will need to sign a permission form.

Have a great summer!

Pirates!

BY CALLIE S.

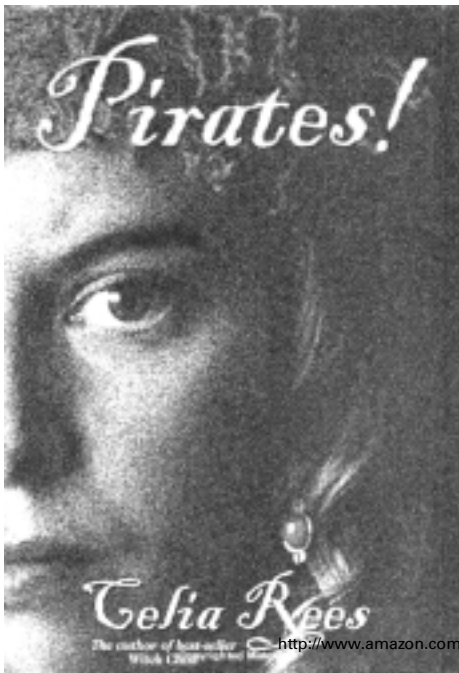
Pirates (2003), by award winning novelist Celia Rees, is a romantic love story and a thrilling adventure that will grab the hearts of the readers.

I would recommend *Pirates* to anyone who loves a great adventure and a romantic story.

Its strengths were that it was thrilling and kept going and flowing smoothly. My only complaint about Rees style is that it was sometimes unclear who was speaking.

Pirates is about a girl, Nancy Kington, who has to find her true love, William, and escape her evil suitor, the Captain.

Nancy runs away with her friend, Minerva



Sharpe, a black slave. They both become pirates to get treasure and to help Nancy find William.

Nancy is a young lady who will do anything to find her William. She's determined and a little spunky.

Minerva is brave and tenacious, and she will do anything to get her freedom.

William, a navel officer, is mysterious.

The Captain is an evil and mean man who is really creepy.

Pirates is fast moving and filled with treasure, battle, romance and adventure.

Pirates is a whole new world waiting to be explored. I would recommend it to both an adventure lover and a romantic story lover. Every book is a treasure but this book is the pearl.

Van Helsing offers the classic tale of good v. evil

BY MOLLY C.

Van Helsing is the classic good versus evil story, with many of the classic horror film stars, such as Dracula, Frankenstein, Dr. Jeckel and Mr. Hyde, werewolves, and vampires.

Van Helsing is a man who goes out to find and kill all evil-doers.

In the movie he is asked the question, "Some say you are a holy man, some say you are a murderer. Which one are you?" He simply replies, "Maybe a little of both."

When Van Helsing gets called to find and kill Dracula before Dracula kills the last of the royal family, Van meets the princess and teams up with her and a friar from a monastery.

Together these three must track down Dracula, kill him, all three of his brides, and their offspring, the tough part is that Dracula is already dead.

Along the way they meet up with Frankenstein, and a werewolf, who turns out to be the princess's brother.

Do they find Dracula and kill him or do they



Hugh Jackman stars as Van Helsing.

die trying?

You'll have to see for yourself, which I highly recommend.

Genre: Fiction/Horror

Rated - PG13

Overall Rating: 4 Stars

NBA Ballers

Bring it on with the best in street-ball

BY EVIN S.

NBA Ballers is the best street-ball game out on the market right now. You get to play against real NBA players like Jason Kidd, Vince Carter and Tracy McGrady. You even get the chance to play against all time great players like Magic Johnson, Dr J, Pistol Pete and Kareem Abdul Jabaar.

The graphics for video games are getting better and better. The faces on the NBA players are almost perfect. The jerseys, clothes, hair and diamonds all look totally real.

The basketball moves vary all the time. There are thirty-five different basic moves for your player and a bunch of special moves and special dunks.

The main objective of this game is called Rags To Riches; you're a no name baller and work yourself up to a high living highflying superstar. You play against the best of the best and work yourself up through many different tournaments.

Did I mention after you beat so many of these tournaments you get to pick out cars, homes (mansions!!) and friends.

You can play against NBA legends in special tournaments. It's one on one up to eleven, winner takes all. You can buy special moves such as the alley-oop, passing to a friend in the crowd, fire mode and many more.

You can also play one-on-one-on-one games, where it is three people trying to score the most points.

You can play with a friend in versus mode and see who the best baller is.

As an added feature, the sound track has songs that were especially made just for this game.

New York Minute surprisingly good comedy

BY ELIZABETH R.



<http://movies.yahoo.com>

Before I saw *New York Minute*, I wasn't expecting a very good performance, but it was better than I thought it would be.

Jane (Ashley Olsen) and her sister Roxy (Mary-Kate Olsen) are twins who are totally different from each other.

Jane's GPA is 4.6 and Roxy's is no where near that, in fact she is being chased by the county's truancy officer.

Jane is neat, organized, and almost the "perfect person." She has been practicing her speech to win a fellowship to Oxford University for later that day.

Roxy, on the other hand, is a sloppy, artistic, and disorganized person who plays the drums. One day, Roxy decides to skip school and see a video taping of a Simple Plan rock band.

The girls live outside New York City and take the train together to get to the speech and concert.

The two girls end up getting kicked off the train, and have to get to their destinations on their own.

A stranger drops a computer chip into

Roxy's purse to avoid being detected by the cops.

Soon, Jane and Roxy are being chased by Bennie Bang (Andy Richter), who wants the chip. Meanwhile, Roxy is being chased by truancy officer, Max Lomax (Eugene Levy).

The two girls find all sorts of trouble on this journey. The most important discovery they find is how much they've missed each other. They learn to work things out, and have an exciting day doing it.

I encourage everyone who enjoys a comedy and happy endings to see this movie.

Movie Review

"New York Minute"

Stars: 2 out of 4

Genre: Comedy

Rating: PG

Starring

As

Ashley Olsen

Jane Ryan

Mary-Kate Olsen

Roxy Ryan

Eugene Levy

Max Lomax

Andy Richter

Bennie Bang



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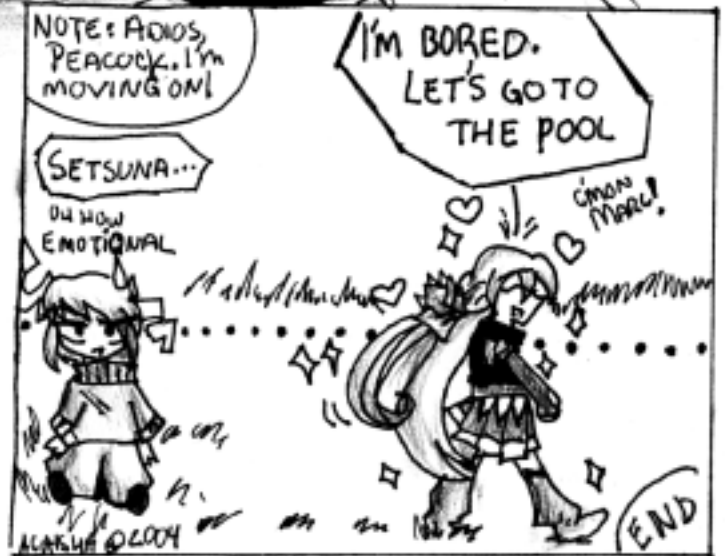
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Team members love to compete

Continued from page 24

Nick said, "My least favorite thing about track was having to run a lot."

Julia and Nick along with other sixth and seventh graders will be returning to Peacock's track team next year. Pam along with other graduating eighth graders will be joining the track team at Lake Park.

The coaches at Peacock wished the eighth graders good luck for the future.

All the coaches were very proud of the team for training hard at practices and meets. They hope next year the team will do better in the conference.

This year at Peacock, the girls finished in fifth place, and the boys finished in sixth place. Mr. Anderson said, "I hope next year we can get a banner on the wall."



Eighth graders Julia N. and Pamela R. wait for the starting gun at the Conference Track Meet held at Lake Park East Campus on Monday, May 10, 2004. (Photo by Tess F)

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Teens ages 11-17 years are invited to the Itasca Waterpark for a summer series of water, music, and fun! Bring your friends and swim suit if you dare! The village of Itasca sponsors H2O Nites. Concessions available.

Day: Sunday **Location:** Itasca Waterpark **Time:** 7:30-10:30
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Overnight Canoe Trip

This is a 21 mile scenic stretch of the Wisconsin River near Sauk City. On the first day, we will canoe approximately 12 miles and set up camp along the river. The second day will consist of packing up and paddling down the final 9 mile stretch. Fee includes canoe rental, lunch and T-Shirt. This trip is sponsored by IPRA. Further details available upon request.

Age	Day	Date	Fee
6 th -12 th Grade	Wed-Thu	Aug 11 & 12	\$60

Location: Wisconsin River, Sauk City, WI



Track season passed quickly and finished ok

BY JACQUELINE C. AND TESS F.

This year has been very exciting for the girls' cross country team, the boys' volleyball team and all of the basketball teams. The last sport season has passed by very quickly.

Many students participated in track this year. The coaches for track were Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Jomarron, and Mr. Larsen. The conference meet was held at Lake Park East on May 10, 2004.

Track events include: shot put, triple jump, long jump, high jump, mile, 800 (2 laps), 400 (1 lap), 200 (half a lap), 100 (quarter lap), 50 (eighth lap), and relays.

Sixth grader Julia W. said, "I like track because you are able to cheer on your friends at the meets."

Her favorite event is triple jump. Julia stated that she liked the meets because they showed how all your effort paid off.

"In practice, first we warmed up with a lap, then we did stations consisting of Indian runs

"Medinah was the toughest team in the conference because they practiced harder than we did!"

and jump rope; after that we split up into specific workouts," Julia added.

Eighth grader Pam R. said, "The track coaches are really awesome and very supportive.

Pam's favorite event is the 200.

She recalled, "The conference meet was really confusing because we had to keep going in and out of the building because of the weather, but other than that it was a lot of fun!"

Pam also stated, "Medinah was the toughest team in the conference because they practiced harder than we did."

Another sixth grader, Nicholas R. said, "I worked with Mr. Larsen the most throughout the track season. He gives great tips and good



Seventh grader Ben C. hands off to sixth grader Nick R. during the Conference Track Meet held at Lake Park East Campus on Monday, May 10, 2004. (Photo by Tess F.)

advice."

His favorite event was long jump.

See Track Page 23

Girls enjoy competitive Itasca park district soccer

BY JULIE P.

Many Peacock girls enjoy playing soccer for the Itasca Park District during their free time.

There are currently two Itasca Girls U-14 soccer teams. They are both off to a great start.

Mr. Stan Partyka, John Lipski, and Bryan Kohles coach the Itasca Cheetahs.

"We work really well together and our soccer team involves everyone in the game," said Coach Partyka.

Some of the athletes on the teams have been playing since they were five years old. Others are new to the game and have joined throughout the past couple of years.

Some of the athletes on the teams have been playing since they were five years old.

"I joined because it looked like fun, and I wanted to be with my friends," said forward Becky K.

The main reason the girls play soccer is because they enjoy it.

Jessica L., also a forward, commented, "It is really fun to hang out with your friends! I think the team is going to have a great season!"

She is not the only one; the girls on the team have been having a great time together, and are really close friends.

If you are a sixth or seventh grader interested in joining soccer for the fall season, call the Park District.

TRACK QUIZ

How much does the Peacock student body know about the sport of track and field?

BY EMILY W. SPORTS EDITOR

1. How many days of the week did the track team practice?
2. What is triple jump?
3. How long was the 2004 track season?
4. What place did the Peacock Girl's Track Team finish this year?
5. How far is a 1600 run?
6. Does a student need to try out for the track team?
7. What is a relay?
8. Who are the Charger coaches?
9. What place did the Peacock Boy's Track Team finish this year?
10. What are field events?

Answers can be found at <http://thecharger.org>