

# The Charger

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## Peacock students have patentable ideas

BY JESSICA L.  
OP-ED EDITOR

On Tuesday, November 25, 2003, Peacock's eighth grade class held a highly successful "Invention Convention."

Each eighth grader made an invention that he felt would impact society.

They presented their inventions to their teachers, classmates, parents and two patent lawyers.

After viewing the inventions, the eighth grade students and teachers and the patent lawyers voted on the top three inventions.

The winners were named at the end of the day during the announcements.

The first place winner was Lindsey M. with her Hands on Steering Device.

Second place was won by Courtney O. with her Fireplace Log Loader, and Colin T. won third place with his heated snow shovel.



Lindsey M., eighth grade, was the first place winner during the Invention Convention with her Hands on Steering Device. (Photo by Jessica L.)

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**All this and more!**

## Octoberfest luncheon is a hit

More than 120 students and 80 seniors participate

BY AMY E.  
NEWS EDITOR

The annual senior citizen luncheon was held on Friday, October 17, 2003. This year the Itasca seniors traveled to Germany.

Mrs. Mann the FACS teacher and her eighth grade class, Mr. Travis and the choir, and all of the encore classes prepared for many weeks.

Mrs. Mann and her class first learned about German cuisine and how to prepare the dishes they selected.

About a week before the luncheon, a group of students went shopping for the

items needed.

Finally, the big day arrived.

The FACS students were downstairs preparing for the meal. The servers helped decorate and the cooks cooked. There was excitement in the air. But things were getting stressful in the kitchen.

"People were complaining that the soup was too cold, but we worked it out," said Jackie O., one of the managers.

See **Senior Luncheon**  
Page 2

# Seniors look forward to luncheon next year

Continued from page 1

There were many different kinds of German food.

Kevin H. helped make the baked apples. "I hope everyone liked them and my favorite part was eating them," said Kevin.

Jeff H. helped make the bratwursts and sauerkraut. "They took a while to make but they turned out pretty good. And I also can't wait to eat everything."

Some of the servers were Laura D., Mary A., and Nicole M. "The decorations took a while to put up, but they look great," said Laura.

Mary stated, "Some of the seniors were too picky, but we worked it out."

"I didn't like having to wear the outfits because the girdle thing was too tight. But I did enjoy eating the cupcakes," said Nicole.

"I enjoyed working with all the seniors, but some of them were picky and crabby," added Laura.

There were also those who served drinks.

Frank C. commented, "The hot drinks were hard to carry and I almost dropped a pitcher. The root beer was easier to serve because it was cold."

There was a German dance presentation and a chorus performance.

"I enjoyed the dancing very much," stated

senior citizen Mrs. Fridlund, "It was very coordinated."

Many other people enjoyed the food.

"I come from German decent, so of course I enjoyed the food," stated Dr. Nickisch. "I can remember my mother making some of these foods."

Dr. Cull, District 10 Superintendent, said "I don't

**"I come from German decent, so of course I enjoyed the food," stated Dr. Nickisch, "I can remember my mother making some of these foods."**

normally enjoy German foods, but the bratwursts were very good."

There were many seniors at the luncheon. Mrs. Fridlund, with her husband, liked the food very much.

"I loved the apples, they were very sweet," said Mrs. Fridlund.

Many of the seniors thought Mr. Anderson did a wonderful job on announcing. Many commented on how beautiful the



Photo by Megan Z.

**Eighth graders, Samantha M. and Julia N. serve German food to Itasca seniors during the annual luncheon on October 17, 2003.**

art was.

"The photographs were very nice and so were the paintings," said Mrs. Harriet Bochenko, the president of the Itasca Senior Club who has been coming to the luncheon for ten years.

All in all, the luncheon was a hit.

"I think that the theme should be Germany each year, but just a different part of the country," Dr. Nickisch stated.

"I can't wait to see what next year will be like!"

## Leo Club helps develop leadership skills

BY JULIA P.

The Leo Club is an organized club that enables young people to work on teams and develop good leadership skills while getting community services hours. The purpose of the Leo Club is to help people who are less fortunate than we are.

One of the activities that the Leo Club participates in is the candy sale. The candy sales raise money for the blind and deaf.

So far, the sixth graders have collected

the most money and the eighth graders have collected the least.

At the Monday afterschool meetings of the Leo Club, members discuss what activities they are going to do and how to complete them successfully.

**The purpose of the Leo Club is to help people who are less fortunate than we are.**

Sometimes members make posters and flyers to

publicize their activities.

Besides the candy sale, the Leo Club will visit the people at the Arbor Nursing Home twice.

They are collecting warm clothes for people who are in need of coats, hats, gloves mittens etc.

The Leo Club also plans to celebrate March for the Parks Day (Earth Day).

The Leo Club always welcomes new members.

## Washington DC Trip to Arlington Cemetery will be special this year

BY AMY E.

That time of year is coming again. The trip to Washington D.C. is coming quickly, with much to look forward to. Mrs. Kabat, the sixth grade Social Studies teacher says that out of her ten years of going on the trip, this year will be the most exciting.

So what exactly is different from the previous trips? The group will be visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at Arlington Cemetery, in D.C., something very rare for a school to be able to do.

"I have been going on this trip for ten years, and every year I have signed up to do this, and this is the first time we have been chosen," said Mrs. Kabat, who's in charge of the whole trip.

There will be a few students who will be chosen to place a wreath at the tomb. It is an honor to be chosen to do this. Only a few schools in the whole country are selected.

Mrs. Kabat recently received a letter from

**It is an honor to be  
chosen to do this.  
Only a few schools  
in the whole country  
are selected.**

the Department of the Army including the tight schedule for the ceremony and information of the dress code that all students must follow to enter the cemetery.

"This year, we have a large group. There are 70 students and 15 adult chaperones attending the trip.

"There is much to look forward to this year," Mrs. Kabat stated.

The trip is scheduled May 19 to May 22, 2004.



## Students train to help others

BY JESSICA L.



Photo by Jessica L.

Nicole M., eighth grade, attended the Character in Action field trip and will be visiting all of the sixth grade advisories to teach the sixth graders about conflict resolution.

Student council members trained in conflict resolution will teach what they have learned in sixth grade advisory classes.

That is why on Tuesday, October 7, 2003, eight eighth grade students, along with Miss Heppeler, attended the Character in Action field trip sponsored by the Healthy DuPage County Character Coalition.

The students who attended this trip were Kevin H., Evin S., Alex D., Logan M., Jessica L., Julia N., Liz H. and Nicole M.

The field trip took place at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. The students were provided a lunch and also received a bag of goodies to take home.

This field trip was to teach kids how to become better people and make their school a better place.

Each student attended two classes. One of the classes was taught by a group of students from Glenbard East High School. Another class was taught by students from Hinsdale Central High School.

"I think that it was cool that the high

school students were there," said Nicole. "They really got us to understand things and it was cool hearing what they had to say."

Another class was taught by some people from the Chicago Comedy Company.

At the end of the trip, the students were entertained by a group of kids called "The Happiness Club." "I liked that part," commented Alex D., "because they rapped in different languages."

The students who attended this field trip will be visiting all of the sixth grade advisories to teach the sixth graders about conflict resolution. They will work with the advisories for five advisory periods each.

They have already visited the following classes: Miss Heppeler's, Mrs. Leikin's, Mrs. Krefetz's, Mr. Scaletta's and Mrs. Gimbel's. They will visit Ms. Betlej's and Mr. Anderson's advisory classes after Christmas.

## Red Ribbon Week raises drug abuse awareness

BY ALYSSA L.

During the third week in October, Peacock celebrated "Red Ribbon Week." Red Ribbon Week is a nationally recognized anti-drug and alcohol program for young people.

Peacock counselor Dr. West was quite pleased with the number of students who have been wearing their red ribbons. She hopes that some students from Peacock will be put into an advertisement, if they win the state contest for their poster or essay. This would influence students who did not enter a poster or essay this year.

Dr. West thinks that Red Ribbon Week teaches the students at Peacock to become more aware of the dangers that follow drugs and alcohol. Dr. West said that to become more involved with Red Ribbon Week, students can do certain things in their community, or church, to let people know about the recognition of this week.

### Why do we celebrate Red Ribbon Week? We celebrate it in honor of a man named Enrique Camerean.

The students at Franzen Elementary School are not currently celebrating Red Ribbon Week, and they probably won't until they come to middle school. Dr. West stated that this will not make a difference in their knowledge, because they are involved in the D.A.R.E program, with Officer Eagan.

Why do we celebrate Red Ribbon Week? We celebrate it in honor of a man named Enrique Camerean. He was a DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) officer murdered in the line of duty in 1985.

Dr. West thought that Red Ribbon Week was important, but she noted that it was just one part of the ongoing effort to get students to stay drug free.

## Beloved Benson custodian passes away

BY EMILY W.

Keith Nakashian, the head custodian at Benson Primary School, passed away suddenly on Monday, December 8, 2003, of a heart attack. He was 45.

Mr. Keith, as he was known by the students, worked at Benson for four years.

Services for Mr. Keith were held on Wednesday, December 10 at Salerno's Rosedale Chapel in Roselle.

"The first thing that comes to my mind as I think about Keith was his contagious laugh. It was big, loud, and real," said Benson principal, Mrs. Turner.

"Keith had a fun loving nature and a strong work ethic," she added.

"He treated Benson as you would your own home."

Everyday at lunch, Mr. Keith could be seen



Photo by Rosa S.

Mr. Raschk, Mr. Rob, Mr. Frank, and Mr. Keith pictured in February 1999 Charger as one of District 10's hardworking custodians.

juggling milk cartons to entertain the kids. He even gave some students nicknames, which they still remembered long after they left Benson.

All of the staff and students loved Mr. Keith, and he will be greatly missed.

Ken Majkowicz

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# An interview with Ms. Betlej

## The new resource teacher

BY CRYSTAL K.

Everyone has a first impression about a place that they haven't visited before.

Ms. Betlej said "I think Itasca is a cute little town with very friendly students, teachers, and parents."

Ms. Betlej graduated from Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She majored in psychology for special education and minored in elementary education.

Ms. Betlej explained, "I decided to become a teacher because I want to get students excited about learning"

She added, "I was also impressed with what Dr. Nickisch told me about Peacock; with the high academics and teachers that are helpful and caring."

Ms. Betlej previously taught preschool at Orchard Hill Christian Learning Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she was also a swim coach for four years.

Discussing this year, Ms. Betlej explained "I'm teaching a sixth grade Common Time class. We're working with reading and writing. An activity we're doing is writing to sixth graders in Michigan as penpals."

As for outside of school, Ms. Betlej enjoys listening to Dave Matthews and Counting Crows."



Photo by Crystal K.

Ms. Betlej, the new resource teacher for Peacock, wants to get students excited about learning.

"I've recently read *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*," she also recalled.

According to Ms. Betlej, her hobbies include reading, swimming, running, and being outdoors.

# Checkmate

## Chess club will host tournaments

BY EMILY B.

Chess club is where students who love to play chess can go and have fun. The Peacock Chess Club started on October 28, 2003.

Mr. Berendt is the teacher in charge. He doesn't just play chess at school. He plays at home on his free time. He plays against his family and even the computer.

This year, students will hopefully learn how to play chess better and maybe meet new people. Every week there is a chess puzzle and a brain teaser to complete.

Mr. Berendt also said that he will hold tournaments and championships this year.

About 35 people can attend the chess club.

Mr. Berendt wanted to add that anyone can go to the chess club and play a game of chess.



Photo by Emily B.

Sixth graders Kevin H. and A. Takher play chess during chess club after school in Mr. Behrendt's room.

You don't have to go to the chess club every time. Just go when you want.

Alyssa L., sixth grade, went to the first chess club meeting. Alyssa attends the chess club because she really enjoys playing chess even though she said she needed a little work.

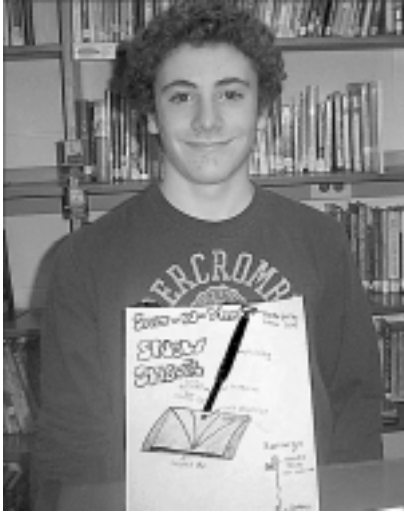
At the chess club she likes to play chess and chat with her partner a little. Alyssa hopes to become a better chess player.

She would recommend this to a friend because you can just come and play whenever you want.

If you enjoy chess come to the chess club in Mr. Berendt's room, Room 104, every Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 PM. If there are any changes in the time, it will be on the announcements.

# Invention Convention

Continued from page 1



Colin T., eighth grade, won third place with his "Salt-N-Melt Snow Shovel." (Photo by Jessica L.)

Lindsey M., first place winner, was very excited when she heard the news about her invention.

"My invention is called the Hands On Steering Device. It measures a person's blood alcohol level and if it's over .90, the steering wheel will lock until your blood alcohol level is back to normal," said Lindsey

Her invention could be compared to the Breathalyzer, which you blow into to check your blood alcohol level.

One of the patent lawyers who attended the invention convention, Mr. Mike Mazza, was amazed by how creative and unique the inventions were.

"Some of the best inventions that I saw," he mentioned, "were the extended rain shield on an umbrella, heated snow shovel and colored salt. They were all great ideas. I could go on and on."

Some other great inventions presented at the convention were a showerhead with a built in bottle of shampoo and a motorized mousetrap.

While looking around, Mr. Mazza found about ten inventions that he thought were good enough to be patented.

He will be checking to see if any of them have already been patented and sending a list back to the school.

The Invention Convention was organized by eighth grade teachers, Ms. Heppler and Mrs. Krefetz, as part of their joined social studies and science unit.

# Editorial and Opinion

## Study Hall is a must at Peacock

BY MARISA G.

Are you tired of getting a ton of homework? Can't go to tutorial because of after school activities? Does it feel like your backpack weighs more than you do? Wouldn't it be nice if you had a little time at school to do some of your homework?

A lot of other schools have a study hall for students to do their homework. Peacock students should also have the privilege of a study hall. Common time is now used for learning more about a certain subject that our teachers teach in their regular classes.

We know that homework is supposed to be done at home, but with all the after-school activities many kids are involved in, it's hard to finish all of our homework without

**We know that homework is supposed to be done at home, but with all the after-school activities many kids are involved in, it's hard to finish all of our homework without dropping something or staying up too late.**

dropping something or staying up too late. Most of us need time at school for homework and common time could easily be used for a study hall.

It would be better to have a study hall at Peacock because there would always be teachers nearby. If you had any questions about your homework, a teacher would always be available to help. Homework could be done much more quickly and easily.

If we had a test coming up, the teachers could have a study session during our study hall for students who are unable to attend the ones provided before and after school due to band, chorus, or other activities.

A study hall would be beneficial to many of the students at Peacock.

## It's fun to help out

BY JACKIE S. AND KELSEY P.

There are tons of things for you to do to help your community. One thing you can do is help out at the food pantry. That is how we decided to get our community service hours. Prudential Real Estate was in charge of the organization and they provided us with hats and shirts with their logo.

We walked door-to-door collecting goods for those who are less fortunate. It was fun to meet people who were generous enough to donate food.

After three hours of community service, we were glad to say we collected three grocery carts full of food! But sadly there was a lack of students to help.

So now you know that two students can make a big difference in your community! [Jessica, In here, some info on how to get involved in this or similar project?]

## The Charger

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

# Poll Question: Are the pep rallies "peppy" enough?

BY PAMELA R.

Peacock students were asked to suggest what improvements can be made to the pep rallies to make them more enjoyable.



We should actually be able to do something, less time for cheerleaders, and the crowd can get involved.

- Derek S., Eighth Grade



I think maybe a little music and some lights and stuff.

- Julia W., Sixth Grade



They could be longer, and they could get the audience more involved.

- Jessica L., Eighth Grade



More cheers for the cheerleaders and longer, maybe.

- William C., Sixth Grade



The audience should be able to participate more.

- Blaise M., Eighth Grade



They should be longer and more fun.

- Abigail R., Seventh Grade



More entertainment like comedy.

- Brody C., Sixth Grade



I don't know. I don't really like them, so let me just say get rid of them because it's kind of a waste of time. Or,

have them, like after school, so that anybody who is interested could come and watch them.

- Westin R., Eighth Grade



I think they should be longer and there should be more moves for the cheerleaders.

- Gabriela L., Seventh Grade



Well, you could have people in the audience come out and challenge the team.

- Leo M., Eighth Grade



I think they should have more music.

- Jennifer L., Sixth Grade



Well, we are constantly trying to improve our pep rallies, and, unfortunately, have not been able to come up with any really neat

ideas. We don't have a lot of time to prepare for them, and they're actually quite short. By the time we introduce the team members who are the stars of the pep rally, and have the cheerleaders do a little presentation, there's not much time for anything else, but if anybody has any ideas, we are 100% open and would love to hear from them.

- Mrs. Laughlin, Sixth Grade Language Arts

# The Book Nook



## Something Upstairs

BY ELIZABETH R.

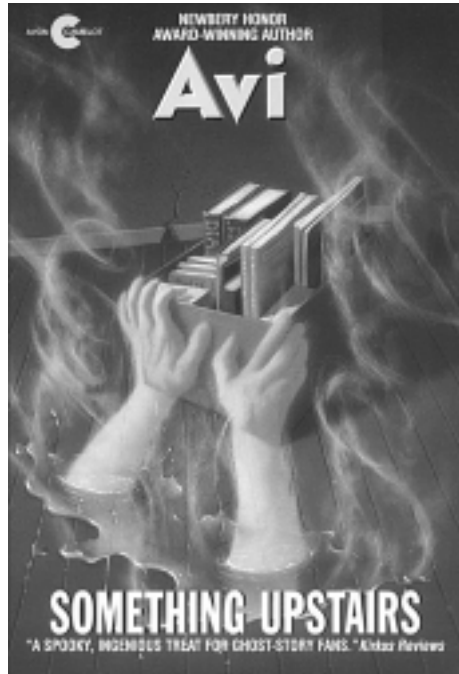
When Kenny Huldorf moves from Los Angeles, California to Providence, Rhode Island, he never expects what awaits him in his new house.

Even though his new house has been empty for years, he has the feeling it's not.

Kenny soon finds out that a ghost from the 1800s lives in the attic next to his room! The ghost was a black slave who lived in the house 200 years ago.

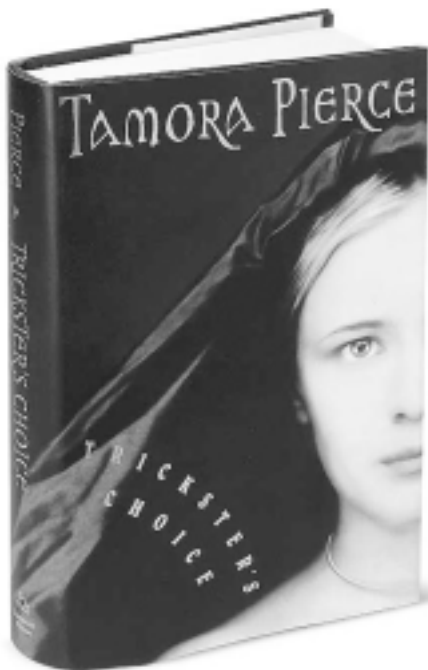
During the night someone killed the slave while he was asleep in his room. The ghost asks Kenny to help him find his murderer. They go back in time together to find out what happened so many years ago.

See **Something Upstairs**  
Page 10



## The newest Tamora Pierce novel won't disappoint

BY MELISSA S.



*Trickster's Choice* (Random House 2003) is an excellent book to read if you enjoy a fantasy novel that has reality and suspicion thrown into the twist.

This is esteemed fantasy writer Tamora Pierce's first book of her new series.

It's about a girl named Alianne, who hasn't decided what she's going to do with her life. Her only interest is in the field of spying, but her father, second in command of his realm's spies, doesn't want his daughter to be put in that kind of danger.

Alianne already knows the spy codes and the works, but no matter how badly she wants to, her parents won't allow her to become a spy.

From being captured by pirates and becoming a slave to waging with Kyprioth, the Trickster god, Alianne has lots of adventures.

See **Trickster's Choice**  
Page 9

## 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.

### Get Carded @ the Library

To start the New Year out right, the library would like to reward all junior high and high students who have Itasca library cards, and encourage any student who does not have a card to get one now.

If you come to the library during the month of January and show a Youth Services Staff member (Lori, Rikki, or Beth) your Itasca library card – expired cards do not count – and a picture i.d., your name will be entered into a raffle drawing for \$50.00. You may claim one raffle chance per visit in January, up to one raffle chance a day. The drawing will take place on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you do not have a card and you live in the village limits of Itasca, you can get a free card by coming to the library with a parent to fill out an application. Your parent should bring three forms of identification with at least two showing your current address. If you live in unincorporated Itasca, the same process applies, but a fee will be charged.

Call the library at 773-1699  
for more information.

# Get caught in The Mouse Trap

BY JULIA W.

Halfway through the play, a door creaks open. A hand finds the light switch and turns out the lights. Someone begins to whistle "Three Blind Mice" in a haunting way. The audience grows anxious as suspense fills the theatre. A scream pierces the silence. The lights come on to show us that someone is dead.

That's just one of the exciting parts in Agatha Christie's *The Mouse Trap*. The story begins when Mollie and Giles start a bed and breakfast for travelers on a cold winter night.

Some pretty interesting characters come to stay at the house: Christopher Wren, a strange, jittery man; Mrs. Boyle, the old and crabby widow; Major Metcalf, the jolly war veteran; Mr. Paravicini, the mysterious Italian; and lastly,

the odd Miss Casewell.

A blizzard traps the guests inside the old house when suddenly a policeman arrives on skis to warn everyone that a murder is going to take place. Everyone is a suspect. As the audience tries to guess who the murderer is, a surprise twist at the end leaves us in shock.

Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook staged this well-known British mystery in early in the fall.

All the actors performed well, especially John Reeger as Paravicini; he had funny lines that I still remember today.

The beautiful set had antique furniture and a working fire place.

*The Mousetrap* is no longer playing, but if you want to figure out the end, look up the book written by Agatha Christie.

Seeing a play is very different than going to a movie. Everything you see is three-dimensional, and you feel like you're there with the actors. Also, it's a great thing to do with your family.

I really recommend visiting Drury Lane anytime to see one of their terrific live plays.

# Trickster's Choice Fantasy and intrigue abound

Continued from page 8

Soon she finds herself charged with protecting the Balitangs, the family she serves, throughout the summer. This might be her

**Alianne already knows the spy codes and the works, but no matter how badly she wants to, her parents won't allow her to become a spy.**

chance to show her father what she's made of.

On a scale from 1-5, I'd give this book a 5 for it is definitely an ultimate page-turner.

I would strongly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a great

fantasy story. *Trickster's Choice* goes well beyond excellence.



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# Sixth grader loves to sing and dance

BY DANI D.



Photo courtesy of Audrey J.

Sixth grader, Audrey J., recently performed in the musical Annie.

For the past seven years, Audrey J. has been a successful child actress. It all started when she was five years old and trying out for *Bye, Bye Birdie* and making it!

Auditions for musicals are nerve-racking for Audrey since they are done before 500 other people. At auditions people dance and sing in front of the other actors and actresses.

During rehearsals Audrey explained, "We do warm ups with scales and warm up songs. Then we move on to learning the specific songs."

Then they next move to a different room where they learn the dances. They stay there also to do "blocking" or acting.

Audrey said that she does not become nervous during a performance. Performing is fun after rehearsing for almost three months.

Audrey has now been cast in eight musicals. Her favorite so far is "Footloose," She was eleven years old at the time.

I had the pleasure of attending one of Audrey's performances in the musical Annie. It was very enjoyable.

If you would like to catch Peacock's young actress, Audrey Joseph in her latest musical, she is currently performing in *Joseph and the Amazing Dream Coat* in Schaumburg.

## Something Upstairs

Continued from page 8

*Something Upstairs* is an exciting mystery by Avi. On a scale of 1-5, I would rate this book a 5.

I would definitely recommend this book to my classmates because it's the kind of book that you can't put down and one you can't wonder but what happens next.



By Acaisha B.



Illustration by Brian Moran

## Lombard Haunted House scary enough

BY STEVE JACOBSEN

In October, I went to The Jaycees Haunted House in Lombard with my sister and some of her friends.

I thought the effects were good. Although it was obvious what was going to happen it was still pretty scary.

Of the six of us that went, only four said they would be willing to go again, while the other two thought it was too scary to go a second time.

If you like a good scare, I would definitely recommend this haunted house. And remember there is no place to hide!

The cost to get in was \$7.00, and the wait to get in was about 40 minutes on the weekend.

## Wide variety of Halloween costumes dress up Itasca

BY JULIE PARTYKA

This past Halloween, there were some very unique costumes seen throughout the neighborhood.

**Rachel McMann dressed up as her least favorite pop star, Hilary Duff.**

Everyone from princesses to Hilary Duff was seen walking the streets.

One popular costume seen on the sidewalks was a gothic look.

Under all the makeup and hair dye was eight grader

Joanna Misiura. She wore all black including black lipstick, eye shadow and hair dye.

Claire Zelenka, eighth grader, was a geek. She wore plaid Capri's, high socks that didn't match, high pigtails, and a "funky" vest.

Blaise Murphy was a bumblebee. She

bought some wings and wore black and yellow.

Another creative costume was a magician. Crystal Kang dressed up by wearing a top hat, a long black cape and carrying a wand.

"The most unique costume I saw was the queen of hearts," Crystal said. "I thought it was a really great idea."

Rachel McMann dressed up as her least favorite pop star, Hilary Duff.

"I don't like her at all, so I'm going to dress up like her to make fun of her!" Rachel said.


Some other costumes seen on Halloween were:

- Dead waitress
- Thing one and thing two (from Dr. Seuss)
- Devils
- Camera
- Soccer player

There was one costume that baffled me among all others. There was a tall man dressed

**Then again, does anyone know what Dr. Nickisch was?**

**CHARACTER COUNTS!**



JOSEPHSON INSTITUTE OF ETHICS

**December 2003**

<p><i><b>Citizenship</b></i></p> <p>Steven Jacobsen Eric Abatte Adam Dudeck David Mack Rachel Remblake Blaise Murphy David Zillner Austin Grosso Tianna Miulli</p>	<p><i><b>Caring</b></i></p> <p>Wayne Ripley Michal Pruszkowski Aziza Hosein</p> <p><i><b>Responsibility</b></i></p> <p>Sabrina Smajic Tessie Fawley Logan Morrow Stephanie Daley</p>
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up as a butterfly. Sadly, I couldn't get the name of the owner of such an original idea. Then again, does anyone know what Dr. Nickisch was?

# Garbage strike of 2003 shows people the truth

BY JOANNA M.  
FEATURES EDITOR AND  
MEGAN L.  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

On the morning of October 1, 2003, several companies and residents noticed something odd sitting in front of their homes or in the back of the buildings. Garbage. As it soon turned out, 3,300 Teamsters from the Refuse Haulers Association had announced that they were on strike and refused to pick up the growing amount of garbage until their contract demands were met.

The 3,300 workers asked for better health benefits as well as an increase in their wages. The changes were decided upon when their previous contract ended on September 30, 2003.

With the concern of growing garbage and the health problems that it may cause, people tended to overlook the positive side of the whole strike. Not only were the workers getting their voices heard on the subject of the contract, but the people of Chicago and surrounding counties that were effected learned a lesson.

The extra garbage had to be taken care of, but there was no way to get rid of it, so residents and companies were forced to find ways of not wasting things as much. It showed those who were affected and even those who weren't how much land is being taken up in the ever growing demand for landfills.

Almost everyone has heard one or two things on how much we destroy the Earth because of pollution or the increase of garbage that is thrown away, but nothing was done to show us our mistakes. Not until October 1 did the people of this state realize what they were doing.

With all that has happened, questions start to arise slowly to mind. What would we do if this was to happen again and there was no solution? Are we really wasting that much garbage that we can barely stand nine days without pick up? Are the people of Chicago and DuPage prepared for another strike? Is there a way to stop all the garbage?

The workers got what they asked for, but can we receive the answers to those questions?



Eighth grader, Joanna M., demonstrates how much garbage piled up behind Peacock during the nine-day garbage strike this past fall. (Photo by Megan L.)

Streets were starting to stink. Garbage cans were chained down because the amount of garbage in them wouldn't allow the cans to close. The unusually warm weather didn't help the look and smell of things.

Out of seven of the nine days that the strike took place, Peacock managed to make a six foot pile, if not greater, of garbage. Students and faculty members are asked to recycle for a reason, but when comparing the large garbage bin that we use and the recycle bin outside, the size of the recycle bin was less than half of the other one that week.

Even after the strike, all three grades continue to throw away about six large garbage cans a day, and the recycling hasn't improved by much.

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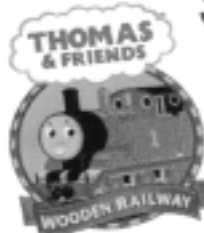
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# Portillo's is a local tradition

BY JENNIFER L.

Recently, my family and I ate at Portillo's in Bloomingdale located at 134 E. Lake Street. We went on a Saturday at lunchtime.

It was busy, but we didn't have to wait very long

We ordered a hotdog, an Italian beef sandwich, the antipasta salad, and my sister ordered spaghetti from Barney's, which is owned by Portillo's and connected to it.

I think Portillo's has excellent food. I especially like the hotdogs. I would highly



<http://www.portillos.com/>

recommend Portillo's to everyone.

In addition to hotdogs, they serve chili, assorted sandwiches, burgers, fries, salads, soups, and much more. I rated everything below on a scale from 1-5, with 5 being the best.

Food: 5  
 Atmosphere: 5  
 Service: 5  
 Cleanliness: 5  
 Value for money: 4  
 Kid Friendliness: 5  
 Overall Experience: 5

# School of Rock rocks theatres

BY SHANE D.

If you like music and comedy, I recommend that you see *School of Rock*.

In this movie there are many exciting parts and a lot of catchy music.

*School of Rock* stars Jack Black as the main character who gets a teaching job at a very preppy school after being fired from his band.

Instead of teaching his students normal subjects, he teaches them how to play rock instruments. Once the children get very good at playing, he takes them to a concert to perform for a \$10,000 grand prize.

He personally needs the money to pay his apartment rent. He doesn't have the money and needs it fast otherwise he will be evicted.

I can't tell you if he wins the contest or not.

All I can say is that *School of Rock* is a great movie and you should go see it as soon as possible.

Genre: Musical Comedy

Rating: PG-13

My Overall Rating: \*\*\*\*

## School of Rock



<http://www.schoolofrockmovie.com/>

BY ANDREA P.

Jack Black is back with his new movie *School of Rock*.

Black plays a down and out rock star who has just been fired from his own band.

Black needs a job quick to pay his rent.

One day he answers a phone call for a substitute teaching job for his roommate. Black impersonates his roommate by accepting the teaching job at a prep school.

What happens next in this movie will keep you laughing. This movie deserves four stars!  
 Rating PG-13

# Scary Movie 3 is a hit

BY AZIZA H.

A movie that recently came out and many people wanted to see or already have seen is *Scary Movie 3*.

The movie parodies other popular movies such as *8 mile*, *Signs* and *The Ring*.

A reporter named Cindy meets up with an old friend, Brenda, at her nephew's school. They become best friends and Brenda keeps a secret from her, that she will only have seven more days to live because she has seen a cursed videotape.

After you see the video, you will get a mysterious phone call saying that you will have seven more days to live (from *The Ring*). Brenda ends up dying and Cindy finds out how and takes the tape.

She watches it and gets the phone call; she does not know what is going on until she gets the message. Meanwhile, on a farm UFO's have left a strange message (from *Signs*).

## SCARY MOVIE 3

<http://www.scarymovie.com>

Cindy meets the farmer's brother, George, at the same place she met Brenda. He is a "rapper" who performs on stage almost everyday (from *8 mile*).

Cindy gets all the information she needs to figure out who is behind it all.

I will not tell you what happens from this point on, because you have to see for yourself. Sorry!

Overall, this was a good movie, but it could have been better. On a scale from 1 to 4, I would rate this movie a 3.

It was hilarious and a little scary, but it could still use some work. If you like comedies with thriller, action and adventure, then this is the movie for you!

Overall rating: 3, on a scale from 1-4

Genre: Comedy

Rating: PG-13



# Season's Greetings

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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.

# Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

BY PEDRO M.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles tells the story of four turtles who one day are mutated into humanlike form by a mysterious ooze. With the help of a rat named Splinter the turtles take the next big step by learning the martial arts and becoming super heroes.

The game's plot revolves around a mystical sword that is being searched for by the evil Shredder and his army of foot ninjas known as the Foot Clan. Along the way you'll encounter many faces including the turtles best pal April and the hockey mask-sporting hero.

The game's story is told in episode fashion, with each stage containing its own story. Every stage has around five or six areas you must complete before passing to the next stage.

The cut scenes are actually done well, but

the in-engine stuff only has characters standing around occasionally shaking their fists or changing their facial expression to signify being mad or something similar.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles bases its game play on the classic "beat them up" titles. The game play is about as simple as it can get.

Though you can play as any of the four turtles, they all handle the same.

There are four basic action controls that let you perform basic attacks, spin attacks, jumps, and throws. You also have the ability to execute an uppercut attack, where you throw your opponent in the air and juggle him.

You can earn new attacks and stats for your chosen turtle by taking part in Dojo missions. Dojo

missions are training levels that appear from time to time, where you have to complete various tasks assigned by master splinter.

The one nice thing is that this game contains a multi player component. You and a friend can pair up against shredders forces

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**The game's plot revolves around a mystical sword that is being searched for by the evil Shredder and his army of foot ninjas known as the Foot Clan.**

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<http://www.ninjaturtles.com>

in the game's story mode, similar to the classic version.

Playing the game in two-player mode is a lot more fun than playing by yourself. The most depressing thing about Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is that you cannot play as the four turtles considering there are four turtles.

# Mario Golf: Toadstool Tour

BY LEONARDO M.

Mario Golf: Toadstool Tour combines the sport of golf with the Mario gang. It's only for the Nintendo Gamecube. It was made by Nintendo and Camelot Co, Ltd.

You can play either by yourself or up to four players together.

It is rated E for everyone, there's no blood or any fighting, it's just a clean game of golf.

Mario Golf was released on July 29, 2003 and since then it has been \$49.75 at Wal-Mart, \$49.99 at Target and Best Buy.

Gamespot.com gave Mario Golf: Toadstool Tour an 8.3 out of ten points, which isn't bad. They also they graded it for the sound, graphics, and play control, and gave them an eight out of ten points

When you play a regular golf game, you have to start off with a tee off. Then you have

to get the ball to the hole within the par.

So if the hole has par 5, you have to get the ball into the hole within the par 5.

If you get one stroke under par, it's a birdie.

If you get the ball into the hole two strokes under par, it's called an eagle. If you are lucky enough to get the ball into the hole three

strokes under par, it's called a double eagle.

So then after every hole, you go to a new hole.

You can play the whole eighteen hole course, you can play the first nine holes, or the last nine holes.

The fun thing about the game is that each character has eight taunts, four good and four bad.

The four good taunts are stuff like, "Do Your Best!" and "You're The Best." Bad taunts would be something like someone



<http://www.mario-golf.com/>

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**The fun thing about the game is that each character has eight taunts, four good and four bad.**

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sneezing or "Move It!"

Some of the characters are Mario, Luigi, Peach, Daisy, Wario, Waluigi, Yoshi, Donkey Kong, Birdo, and Bowser.

Hints:

Secret Characters-

Shadow Mario- Collect every badge in Tournament Mode.

Petey Piranha- Complete all side games (besides birdie challenge) on beginner, intermediate, and expert.

Bowser Jr.- Complete Ring Shot Mode.

Boo- Get 50 Best Badges

Star Characters- Star characters are the same normal characters, but they have stars on them. You could choose whether or not to leave the character normal or change him/her into a star character. (If you add the star, the characters' stats will go lower.)

# The Advice Column

We can help you

Authors of questions and answers will remain anonymous.

**Our first question was from a seventh grader: "Everyone is bragging about how they have a boyfriend or girlfriend. I do like someone, but I don't know what to do."**

First of all, the people who are bragging shouldn't bother you. Being jealous will just make you more frustrated. Either way you shouldn't have to worry because junior high is still a little early to worry about this.

**Whatever you do, don't use friends to get through to talking to him.**

First thing you should do about the boy you like is talk to him. Almost always when a boy is told someone has a crush on him he won't react

in a negative way. You'll have to take the risk of him saying, "I really don't like you." Or, "Sweet!"

Whatever you do, don't use friends to get through to talking to him. This could cause bad rumors and things could get all messed up. The best thing to do when talking to him is to talk to him without friends, confidently, and most important is to just be you.

**The second question received was from a sixth grader: "Some boys always tease everyone. The teachers never see them. One of my friends gets picked on all the time. He won't talk to me anymore. I need help."**

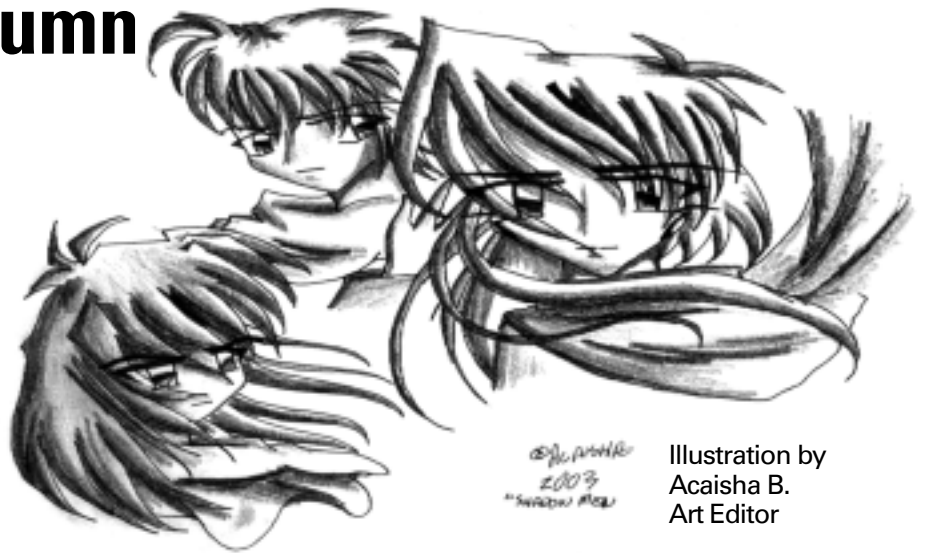
What you should do about your friend is try to talk to him through a friend or letter. First thing you want to do is ask him "Why don't you want to talk to me anymore?"

Mention how you used to be good friends and ask why he broke that friendship. Also don't force anything from him.

**Confidently stand up to the bullies and tell them to leave you alone.**

The first thing you should do about the group of boys is talk to a teacher, and ask the teacher to keep a closer eye on the boys.

If that doesn't work, you should get a big group of friends against them. Confidently stand up to the bullies and tell them to leave you alone. Bullies don't like good comebacks



©Acaisha B. 2003  
"Sweet" Mom

Illustration by  
Acaisha B.  
Art Editor

or rebellion against them, but you shouldn't do anything that could get you in trouble.

**Our third question was from a seventh grader: I have a friend who I can't stand, but he's nice and such. The thing is he has been showing off lately, and that's what I hate in people. Please help me!"**

The most important thing for you to do is admit to your friend what you think of him. Most likely your friend will deny what you say. If he is really your friend he will try not to brag so much.

You really need to explain to your friend with examples of when he has bragged in order to get through to him. Also, don't be mean or rude when talking to him. If he still bothers you the same or even more, you should reconsider your friendship.

**Our next question is from a seventh grader: My best friend and I got into an argument because her best friend is bad news. She won't talk to me anymore. How can I make things better?**

If you can't talk to your friend then you should try to get through to her through a letter or friend. You also might want to apologize for what you may have said, and you shouldn't deny anything you did wrong.

Once you have regained her friendship, explain to her without criticism why her friend is no good. If she really is your friend she'll be more aware of what happens or she might even give up the relationship.

**And our final question is from an eighth grader: "There is a seventh grader who is stalking me! What should I do?"**

If no real serious things are going on you should just ignore it and talk to your friends or an adult about it. Ask if they can help you with your problem.

If this becomes a case of voyeurism (Peeping Tom) you should tell a higher authority to handle him.

If this still continues you should notify the police. You shouldn't have to be scared to tell another person about this.

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# Lake Park Marching Band marches into victory

BY SAMANTHA H.

Last month the Lake Park Lancers Marching Band came to our school to play for us.

Shannon H., a drum major of the marching band, is my sister so I got the inside scoop on how marching band works.

She said, "The most rewarding things about marching band are the friendships that are formed and the sense of accomplishment that you get from excelling and succeeding."

She also said "Mr. Snoeck is an amazing band director and person. He is the best at what he does, and we band members are honored to be his students. He pushes us to be the best, and has become one of the most important people in my life."

Shannon then added, "Although it involves a lot of work, Peacock students should join marching band because it is a great feeling to be one of the best!"

I know a lot of people who think they won't join the marching band when they get to Lake Park. That is exactly what my sister thought, but she joined and there is nothing else she would rather do.

The Lancers are the Illinois state champions, and they made it to the semi-finals in the national Bands of America contest this year.



The Lake Park Lancer Marching Band percussion line performs at the Bands of America Preliminaries in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 13, 2003. (<http://www.lakeparkband.com>)



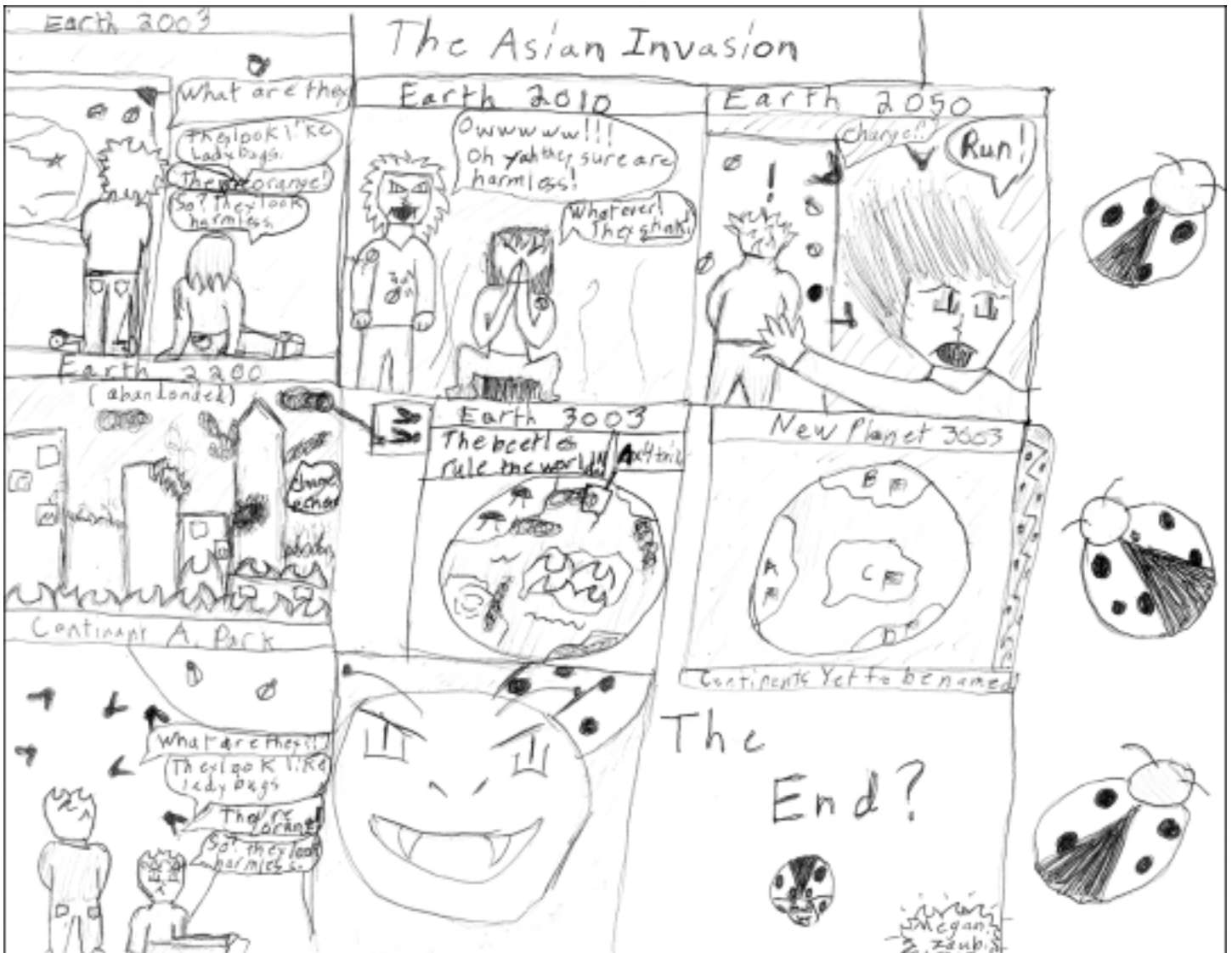
By Blaine Q.

READ THIS WAY → HUNGRY...



By Alex B

By Alex B., Art Editor



By Megan Z.



# Dog visits eighth grade recess

On Thursday, November 20, 2003, a lost dog visited eighth grade recess. The dog began chasing after a soccer ball with the students, not always returning the ball. The Itasca Police soon arrived to return the dog to his rightful owners.

# Bears play hard and look to the future

BY GEO N.

The Chicago Bears don't have any hope of making the playoffs, but they are still trying their hardest. The best thing they can do is to win the next two games.

Perhaps as a sign of good things to come, the Bears beat the Minnesota Vikings last Sunday, 13 to 10.

**Then Tillman ripped the ball out of Moss's hands for the interception.**

In that game, the Bears started their rookie Rex Grossman as quarterback. It was Grossman's first

regular season game in the NFL. He threw for 157 yards and completing 13 of 30 passes without scoring a touchdown.

The young and experienced defense of the Bears held the Vikings. The Bears gave up a lot of rushing yards in the first half but didn't

give up a touchdown. The defense of the Bears stopped the Vikings in many important situations.

The Bears really stopped the Vikings when rookie Charles Tillman ripped the ball out of the hands of Randy Moss, when he was trying to catch a touchdown pass.

Randy Moss was in the air and had the ball in his hands. Tillman had jumped into the air too. Then Tillman ripped the ball out of Moss's hands for the interception. He saved the game for the Bears.

Even though the Bears' playoff hopes are ruined, they will have next season to play their young rising stars and hopefully make the playoffs.



Chicago Bears rookie quarterback Rex Grossman at Bears training camp in July 2003. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

## Teen Events-Dec. 2003

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We will once again go to the all night teen ski party at Chestnut Mountain. Teens from all over the state will be there on Friday February 6 & 7. We will be taking a motor coach bus IF minimum is met, so sign up now! Call Angie at 630-773-2257 for more information.

Itasca Park District

# Sixth grader shoots and scores for the Hornets

A profile of forward Jennifer L.

BY COLLEEN B.

Peacock has many athletic students, and one of the most popular sports here is soccer.

Many of them were on the Itasca Hornets soccer team last fall.

One sixth grader on that team was Jennifer L. Her main position was forward. Jennifer has been playing soccer since she was four and enjoys it very much.

She decided to join the team because she thought it looked like a very fun activity to participate in.

The Hornets had two practices every week.

They began with different drills, like passing, shooting or running

Afterwards, the players stretched out and then they split the team in two and played a scrimmage. Jennifer liked practices but enjoyed the games even more.

Jennifer plays in many games every season. Before a game, the team started out by

exercising. Then they did some shooting drills.

They started the game after drills.

At the end of the game the players were rewarded with treats.

There are two seasons on the Hornets and

Jennifer plays both of them.

At the end of the year the players get trophies. Jennifer owns twelve trophies from every season she has played in.

The Hornets had a pizza party to finish off a great year.

The Hornets played their last game on November

1, 2003 in Roselle. They lost one game this season, tied one game, and won the rest of their games.

Jennifer loves to play soccer and hopes to continue to play in the future.

**The Hornets had a pizza party to finish off a great year.**

**Jennifer has been playing soccer since she was four and enjoys it very much.**

## Players had fun while learning

The new uniforms were cool too

Continued from page 24

"I really hope they are having as much fun as I am," he concluded.

The players had a lot to say too.

"The coach is pretty good, he knows a lot about basketball," Katie Nummer, seventh grade, (center) said.

Tessie F., sixth grade, (point guard) said that she liked how Mr. Poremba and Mr. Andersen run the practices.

"One of my best moments as a member of the team was when Emily G. hit Mr. Poremba in the head with the ball," Katie stated while laughing.

"Mr. Poremba is just hilarious."

As you may have noticed, the team received new uniforms this year.

"We wanted new uniforms for some time,

and Mr. Andersen was able to get them for us," Coach Poremba commented.

**"The new uniforms are nice, but the shorts were a problem," Callie Snyder, seventh grade, commented.**

"The new uniforms are nice, but the shorts were a problem," said Callie S., seventh grade.

"The new uniforms are ok, but when you washed them, the numbers started to come off," Katie N. added.

Overall, the team was pleased with their season and their new gear.

"I think that the new uniforms are really cool. Being a sixth grader, it's great that we get a chance to get brand new uniforms," Tess F r a w l e y commented.

## Team and coach positive about season

Continued from page 24

keep control of the ball and not let the other team get it."

Claire, Julia, and teammate Blaise M. agreed that Mr. Anderson was a great coach.

"He always helps us and answers any questions we might have had," said Claire.

Julia added, "Mr. Anderson is very cool. He's really positive and made practice fun."

The team members have enjoyed their basketball experience.

Blaise said, "I loved stealing the ball during games. It was great seeing the other team's

**"I loved stealing the ball during games. It was great seeing the other team's reaction."**

reaction."

Claire loved when they finally won a game against Springwood.

"This was a very enjoyable team to coach. I'm looking forward to seeing these girls improve in their learning, success, and enjoyment in the sport of basketball," Mr. Anderson said.

# Out with the old, in with the new!

BY BRITTANY O.

For the past year, sixth and seventh graders have complained about the old cheerleading uniforms. The eighth graders got the new uniforms, well what about seventh and sixth graders?

The coaches wanted us to look like a team, but we didn't. We were tired of being made fun of and were embarrassed to see the other schools with the nice uniforms while the ones we were wearing were ten years old.

The sixth and seventh graders cheerleaders got the news that we're finally getting new uniforms. We are all so happy and can't wait until they come.

**Brianne F. said, "They're better than the old ones. We will finally look like a team."**

Many members of the seventh grade cheerleading squad had thoughts about the new uniforms.

"I feel relieved that we're getting new uniforms and that we don't

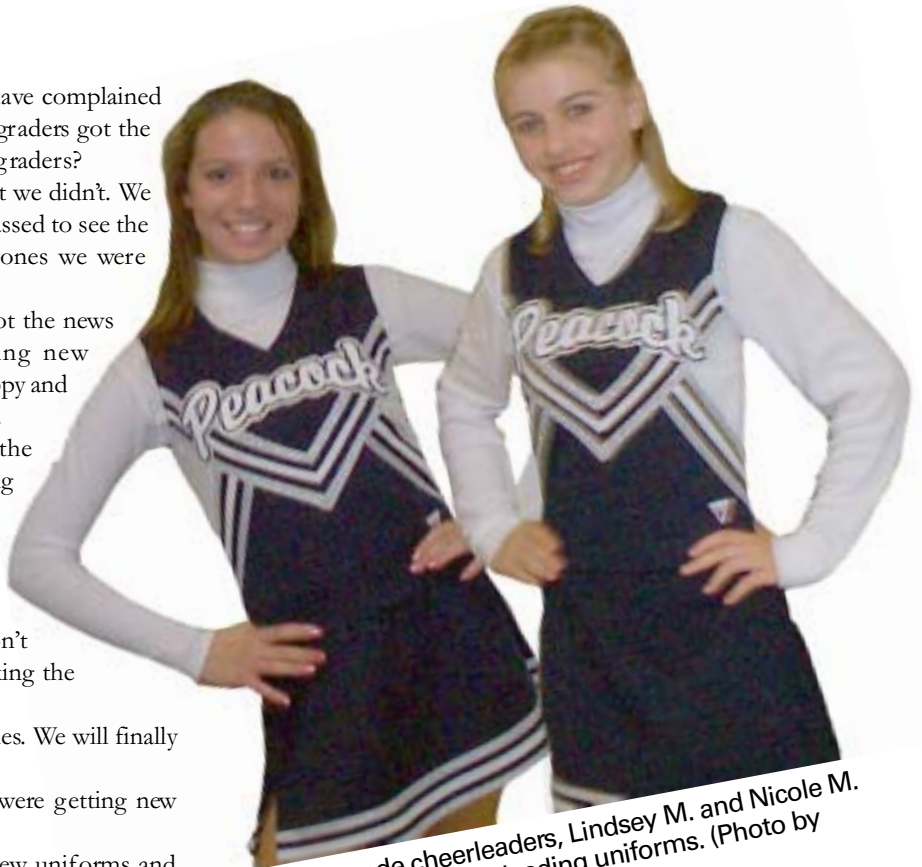
have to wear the old ones. I like the idea of looking the same as the eighth graders." said Crystal M.

Brianne F. said, "They're better than the old ones. We will finally look like a team."

Rachelle R. commented "I am excited that were getting new uniforms. Now we'll look better."

Michelle S. said, "It's awesome were getting new uniforms and they'll fit us better because our uniforms are really big on us."

These new uniforms are a great thing for our squad. They will give us more confidence and show our Charger pride.



Eighth grade cheerleaders, Lindsey M. and Nicole M. model the new cheerleading uniforms. (Photo by Brittany O.)



Illustration by Acaisha B.

## Inside

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**All this and more!**

# Eighth grade girls worked hard and showed improvement

BY EMILY W.  
SPORTS EDITOR

The eighth grade girls basketball team finished even for the season after a slow start, with a final record of 6-6.

Despite their less than outstanding start, Coach Anderson knew the team would improve.

"We had two tough games we should have won against Churchville and Wood Dale," explained Mr. Anderson. "Those close games are tough to lose."

Center Claire Z. exclaimed, "We were very excited and wanted to beat the teams we lost to earlier, so badly."

Some of the players identified keys to winning more games earlier this season. Claire believed that the team should have worked harder at their offense and lay-ups.

Guard Julia N. said, "The team needed to  
**See Even Season**  
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Photo by Emily W.

Eighth grade basketball players Jackie O., Claire Z. and Megan S. move down court during a home game against Springwood.

# Sixth and seventh grade girls enjoy the experience



Photo by Judy P.

Sixth and seventh grade coach, Mr. Poremba, gives the team pointers during a timeout against Springwood.

BY TRICIA H.  
ASSISTANT FINISHING EDITOR

"The games have been adrenaline rushing and heart pumping," commented seventh grader Michelle M.

The sixth and seventh grade basketball team was pumped, and ready to go all the way to the top. They tried very hard, despite ending the season with a 3-9 record.

"The team did very well this season. They learned fast and worked hard," Coach

Poremba said.

"The most difficult game of the season was the game against Westfield, but we looked at every game as a challenge," he added.

When asked who the most talented and the hardest working players were, Coach Poremba named the following (in alphabetical order): Michella C., Jacqueline C., Stephanie D., Kara F., Danielle F., Tess F., Tricia H., Katie N., Judi P., Elizabeth R., Jackie R., Sylvia S., Callie S., and Natalie W. (the entire team).

"I hate to mention just one," he added.

"Their effort and their athleticism are definitely their strong points," Mr. Poremba said.

**See Players had fun**  
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