

The Charger

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 3

FEBRUARY 2006: VALENTINE'S DAY ISSUE

WWW.THECHARGER.ORG

Peacock's Brightest Minds on Display

PHOTOS BY TIM B.

On Saturday February 4, 2006, Peacock had its annual Science Fair. This event was well attended by family members and students. There were many wonderful and exciting exhibits. The winners of ribbons and plaques follow.

Sixth Grade

Golden Test Tube: Josh D, "Growth rates of corn and bean plants"

First Place

- Michael L., Eric J.; "Are dogs right-handed or left-handed?"
- Cody A., Chris M.; "Best fertilizer"

Second Place

- Christina J., Brittany Koziol; "Best laundry detergent"
- Ryan N., Nick Piscopo. • Alex Taylor, "Effect of colored light on photosynthesis"

Third Place

- Ed P., CJ B.; "Best tasting hot dog"

Seventh Grade

Golden Test Tube: Jenna S., Kaitlynn N.; "Antibacterial soap"

First Place

- Lauren K., Quinn O.; "Tooth stain"

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Golden Test Tube plaques were awarded to the top-scoring entries in each grade. Left to right, Sabrina S. and Jacqueline C. (8th grade), Kaitlynn N. and Jenna S. (7th grade), and Josh D. (6th grade). Congratulations to these students and all those who received 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons.

William Owens: An Inspirational Leader

BY JULIA W.

On December 12th, at Yorktown Mall, Texas composer William Owens joined the Peacock Concert Band as an honored guest conductor. He led the band in his piece, "Santa on the Housetop." Owens allowed the band to experience and view music from another instructor's point of view. It put some spice into the concert that day.

During Owens' high school and college careers, many teachers inspired him to pursue a career in music. His high school teacher was not only a great player, but also a great conductor and teacher. "Watching her run the program," Owens says, "and how she did things and learning from her got me interested in the music education aspect."

Hanging around with other composers and listening to the musical literature helped start his composing career. He wrote his first piece in 1993 when he was a conductor for a middle school band. "I thought it would be

neat for somebody to write a piece exclusively for a grade level," Owens remembers. So he sat down and wrote "Leaders of Tomorrow." It never got published. "It's sitting in my drawer," he adds. "I don't know why I never

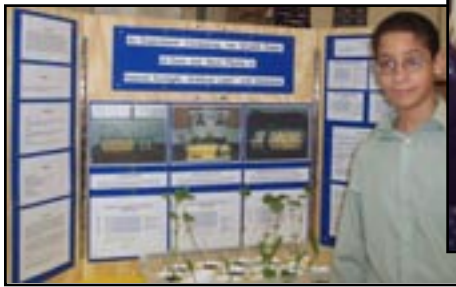
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Mr. William Owens and Mr. Loest

Brightest Minds

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- Eric V., Robert L.; "Catapult"
- Kristen G., Jessica L.; "Hard polish"

Second Place

- Stephen C., "Floating egg"
- Sandra M., "Rust remover"

Third Place

- Alex A., "TV and grades"
- Christina R., Stephanie J.; "Best make-up"

Eighth Grade

Golden Test Tube: Sabrina S., Jackie C.;
"Music and losing control"

First Place

- Geo N., "Altering study habits"
- Alyssa V., Meghan R.; "Best soap for killing bacteria"
- Jennifer L., Tara B.; "Does age affect memory?"
- Trevor B., "Effect of microwaved water on plants"
- Judi P., Tess F.; "Exercise and lung capacity"
- Max G., "Mold growth"
- Dani D., "Accuracy of horoscopes"
- Joe P., Shane D.; "Basketballs and surface bounce"

Second Place

- Kaitlyn B., Alana D.; "Allergies and Eighth graders"
- Dan Z., Kevin H.; "Does color affect memory?"
- Taylor Zerante, Amanda H.; "Difference between feet"
- Brandon H., Alec D.; "Best food preservative"
- Rachel B., Elizabeth R.; "Natural radiation"
- Kara F., Alyssa L.; "Newton's Third Law of Motion"

Third Place

- Katie G., Emily B.; "Best temperature for goldfish"
- Jacqui C., Audrey J.; "Taste of smoking"
- Breanna M., Marisa G.; "Oxygen & hydrogen"

Community Service for a Good Cause

BY ANDREA P.

Public Action to Deliver Shelter (P.A.D.S.) helps the people who are less fortunate than us. Churches in DuPage County take turns offering three meals and a place to sleep each night from October through April. Congregations, such as Holy Ghost Parish in Wood Dale and First Presbyterian Church of Itasca, provide space and/or services for one night a month. I have been there five times and have had an interesting time.

You are always busy. Work starts by setting up beds, sheets, and pillows. You later help set up tables and dishes while the adults

get dinner ready. Around 7:00 you pass out dinner and beverages until 7:40. After dinner everyone cleans up and gets ready for dessert. If you come in the morning, you can serve breakfast and hand out bagged lunches.

You can get more information at Holy Ghost, First Presbyterian, or call Beth Epstein, P.A.D.S. Director at 630-682-3846 x 241. You are also welcome to sign up for food donations.

P.A.D.S. is a great way to help and finish community service hours while knowing that you're doing something good.

The Charger

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Write the editorial board with questions or comments. Correspondence must be signed.

Review: The Like

BY RACHEL B.

Are You Thinking What I'm Thinking?

Apparently I am not thinking what The Like are thinking. I am not overly impressed with this album.

Sure it was OK, but it wasn't great or even really good. By the end of the first song, I was counting the seconds until the CD was over.

Maybe it was the slow beginning or the dull lyrics. I don't know. What I do know is that this is an album I could not, for the life of me, get into.

So in my honest critic's opinion, this CD was OK. I am positive someone, somewhere out there loves it and this band, but it's not really my kind of CD.

Review: The Veronicas

BY RACHEL B.

The Veronicas are famous already, traveling the world and such. They already have a hit song and a music video to go with it. And their album isn't even out yet.

The Veronicas are OK I suppose, but there is just something about them I don't like. Perhaps it's the oh-so-obvious popness their album will have or the sickly sweet lyrics that could give you cavities just from listening.

I am sure someone way out there loves this band, but that person is not here. I personally do not like The Veronicas. When their album comes out, I will not be buying it. You can do as you please.

Review: Aphasia

BY RACHEL B.

Fact & Fiction

Aphasia, an impairment of the power to use or comprehend words, or an awesome band? Technically it's both. Aphasia is a new band to hit the music scene. Though they have not yet had a number one song or been played on any major music networks. I find them a cool new rock band. The album *Fact & Fiction* has great guitar ballads and insanely catchy lyrics.

Overall Aphasia is a refreshing new face for the music world, completely worth the time and effort to get the CD.

Bridge Contest Winner!

The decision is in for the official name of the IT suspension bridge:

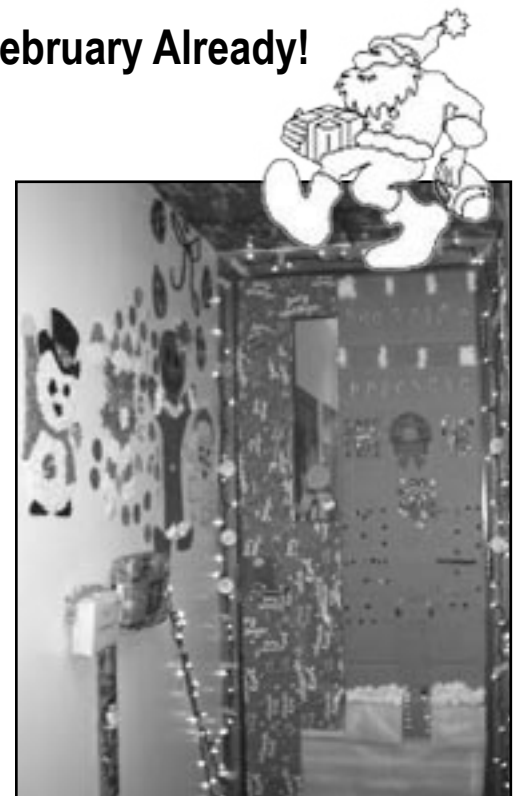
THE WASCAN SKYWAY

And the winner is Kristen G.. She will receive a \$10 Starbucks card. Tim Barker, runner up with "The Silver Gate Bridge" will receive a \$5 Starbucks card.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who entered the contest.



Ho! Ho! Ho! Who? It's February Already!



Forgotten about the holidays so soon? Let's flash back to our door contest winners: First prize to Mrs. Fults' advisory (above) and second prize to Mr. Crockett's (right).

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.

Recommended New Releases:

Birdwing by Rafe Martin **Y MAR**
Prince Ardwin, known as Birdwing, the youngest of six brothers turned into swans by their stepmother, is unable to complete the transformation back into human form, so he undertakes a journey to discover whether his feathered arm will be a curse or a blessing to him.

Avalon High by Meg Cabot **Y CAB**

Having moved to Annapolis, Maryland, with her medievalist parents, high school junior Ellie enrolls at Avalon High School where several students seem to be reincarnations of King Arthur and his court.

Program Alert:

Anime Club (Gr. 7-12)

Calling all anime/manga fans! Would you like to discuss your favorite anime/manga titles with other "anime-niacs" and view popular anime series on the library's big screen? Then stop by the library (no registration is required) from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on the following dates for snacks and discussion:

Monday, February 20
discussion + viewing *Oh My Goddess*

Monday, March 20
discussion + viewing (to be decided at February meeting)

Monday, April 17
discussion + viewing (to be decided at March meeting)

Games Corner

BY MICHAEL S.

Guitar Hero This is one of the most fun games you can play. It's interactive and gives you an idea on how it feels to be a rock star. Don't worry, it isn't one of those cheap, play TV games. It comes with the CD, a fake electric guitar that you "play," and stickers you can put on the guitar. It's very addicting.

There are about 30 songs you can play, including "Iron Man" and "Smoke on the Water." Also, you don't need to know how to play the guitar. It sort of simulates it. When I first tried it, I did not know how to play the guitar but to my amazement, I was able to play the game. All I had to do was do the tutorial and I was playing "Iron Man" and some other song the very next day. It does take some getting used though.

This game is very fun for competition against family and friends to see who can play better. I even beat my dad who knows how to play the guitar. Plus, if you want to start playing guitar, this game will help a little. I think this is one of the most fun interactive games. I'd give it a 10 out of 10 but Gamespot gives it 9.0 which is still great. You've got to try it. Rated **T** for teen. Also, it's available at Target or Best Buy for about \$70.

Socom 3 If you like war video games better, this would be for you. As you may know from the previous Socom games, you are the leader of your squad for various missions. They are quite long and the maps are huge. Socom 3 added an easier navigation system so you don't get lost in the huge map.

Some missions include rescuing hostages and capturing enemy leaders. There are various check points so you don't have to start the whole mission over when you're just about to finish. Add-ons reduce the frustration so it's more fun.

Another thing that makes this game great is the online play. Now with a 32-player online capability and easy-to-use vehicles, you can play against your friends and other people. But WATCH OUT! There are some bad people that play online. This is definitely a great game if you like war games. Rated: **M** for Mature. Rated 8.9 by Gamespot.

For more info go to www.gamespot.com

Game	Advisory	Rating
Guitar Hero	T	9
Socom 3	M	8.9

T = Teens M = Mature E = Everyone

Just Loungin' Around at the Park District

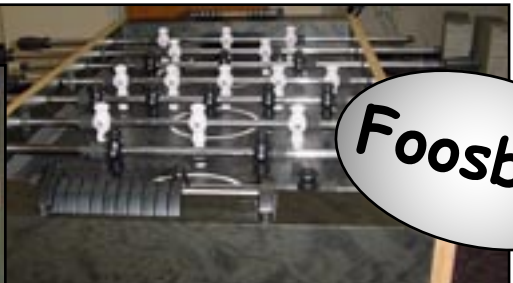
PHOTO ESSAY BY STEVEN A.



Welcome!



X-Box



Foosball



Chat "Room"

Pool



Air Hockey



What's Happening at the Itasca Park District?

February 20th

School Day Off Trip to Rink Side

Indoor skating rink
Lazer tag and arcade.

From 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. **Fee:**

- Resident \$34
- Non-resident \$38
- Grades 3rd-8th
- Register by 2/15

Have your birthday party in the Lounge with food, fun (X-Box, Big screen TV, new computer, foosball, pool, etc) and staff for \$170 (includes 15 participants).

Hang out at the Lounge after school: \$50 per year or \$3 per day.

February 25th
Soccer Registration deadline

New lower priced Lounge rentals: \$55 per hour.

For more info or suggestions for Park District Teen programming, call Karyn at 630.773.2257

Madden NFL X-BOX Tournament

For Grades 6th-8th
Saturday March 4th 10am
Fee: \$5/\$7

Valentine's Day Greetings and Shout Outs



Happy Valentine's Day, Ryan! Will you be my Valentine? Love, Sarah.

To Lauren Kolar. I don't know what to say so, Hi and Happy Valentine's Day. From Quinn O.

To Alyssa V. Uhh, nothing to say. From Alex A.

Sandy, don't kill me. It's Valentine's Day! From Kristen.

To my best freinds Barbara, Taylor, and Kacie! Happy Valentine's Day. From Mariam Q.



To Colonel Rocky, Sappy, Missy, Way, Quarterback, Juice Box, *B*, Haayer, SAH, Pepper, Bubblegum, Gravy Train. Happy Valentine's Day, Volley Ball Girls! From the coolest person ever!

Marian & Taylor ditched us to sell us this Valentine. From Barbara & Kacie.

To all our home guys. We love you too, man. Stay cool and stay home, puppies. From Laura & Marilyn.



To Jennifer L. Happy Valentine's Day! FV From Eric V.

T o Colleen &



Vix. Happy Valentine's Day!!! We love both of you. We are so sweet. P.S. Will you be our Valentines? From Zac & Jay.

To Sami. You are beautiful. Love ya! From Monica.

I ❤️ Tess, Amanda B., Udi, Kali, MOY! From Vix.

To Monica. Happy Valentine's Day. I think that you're so cute. I love you. From Justin K.

To Taylor. I love U so much! Will you be mine? Love Meghan & Alyssa. OXO

To Jackie, Lynn, Tony, Justyna, Joey P., Morgan, Justin. Happy Valentine's Day! From Marisa G.

Happy Valentine's Day to Bill and Eric! You guys are great freinds and you always make us laugh. Luv ya lots. From B and Udi.

To Vix and Monica. You guys are so cool! Ya you are! From Anonymous.

Happy Valentine's Day, Jackie. From Kristen.

To Johnny. I love U! Be mine? LOL, JK. Happy V-Day. OXO From Meghan.

To Amanda. Happy V-Day. I ❤️ you. From Billy.

To Alyssa. You're so cool, Alyssa. Yep, really cool. (Cooly McCooly) From Whitey

Dear Christina, Lidia, Gaby, Val, and Sarah. Happy Valentine's Day. Hope you find someone special. Love, Brittany.

I want to give a shout out to my gurlz Mia, Melissa, Marie, Ashley B. and Vince, the coolest friends eva! I love you all! Hope we all stay in touch! Holla back! From Ashley.

To Kelly McMahon. Hey Babe. Happy Valentine's Day. Will you be my Valentine? I love you. Love, Joey.

This is a shout out to all the sexy guys, especially to Poitr, you sexy beast. From Papa Bear 101.

To Taylor & Alyssa. I love you guys. U guys are my bestest freinds in the world! Love you. From Meghan OXO.

To Alex A. UR such a cutie. XXO From Lyssa. ❤️

Happy Valentine's Day to all our girls, our posse and our favorite name puppies. We love you. From Marilyn and Laura.

Happy Valentine's Day!! To all our freinds for being there for us. Love, your freinds Elizabeth, Maria, S.

This is a shout out to all the 6th grade girls. You guys rock. From Lifeforms 2.

To Joanna. I love you very much! Have a happy Valentine's Day! From Anonymous.

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Review: "Fun with Dick and Jane"

BY JAKE S. & RYAN S.

"Fun with Dick and Jane" was a great movie that was very funny. Dick is at the high point in his career, when his company sells him out. He is desperate for money because his wife, Jane, had just retired thinking Dick would get a raise. Their family goes bankrupt when they cannot pay their bills for their new in-ground pool, their lawn, and even their house. Dick decided that he should go on other peoples' lawns and steal their grass to use for his dirt filled lawn. He suddenly realizes stealing is the answer to all of his problems.

The mediocre robber starts stealing money from any thinkable place. He and his plastic squirt gun get a lot done. He robs the former company owner and gets \$400 million

dollars donated to all of the employees who got laid off. The company owner gets surrounded by news reporters who think he donated it himself.

RYAN: I think this movie was hilarious and very enjoyable. If you like comedies, you should watch it. I would say that this one gets a big awesome smiley. =)

JAKE: I have the same thought as Ryan, smiley.



Review: "King Kong"

BY JAKE S. & RYAN S.

Running Time: 3 hrs., 7 min.

This movie is about a director named Carl Denham (Jack Black) who is trying to make it big with a new adventure movie. He gets denied by his bosses but decides to go on with the movie anyway. While he is roaming the streets of New York, he sees Ann Darrow (Naomi Watts). Carl asks Ann if she wants to be in his movie. She says, "Yes," and they get on the boat to go to Skull Island.

When they reach the island, they get captured by the natives who sacrifice Ann to King Kong. The overgrown ape takes Ann and runs back into the jungle. Carl, the crew of the ship, and Jack Driscoll (Adrien Brody) go after Ann and the ape.

I think the best part of the movie is when Kong fights three T-Rexs at once. These were the best special effects I've ever seen. At this point Kong falls in love with Ann and will do anything to protect her. While Kong is resting with Ann, Carl and the crew are fighting giant bugs and bats. Carl drops the camera and it breaks so he comes up with a plan to not go home empty handed.

Jack and Carl throw bottles of tranquilizers and Kong gets knocked out. They somehow get him on the boat and head back to New York.

They sell tickets to see Kong and make a lot of money. Kong escapes from the giant handcuffs and climbs the Empire State Building. At the end, beauty killed the beast, or in my words, he fell off and died.

RYAN: I liked the movie's special effects.



Review: The Click Five

BY RACHEL B.

Greetings from Imrie House

What exactly is the Imrie House? I don't know. But I do know that *Greetings from Imrie House* is a great album. With its catchy lyrics and awesome keyboard and guitar work, it's enough to drill the insanely pop album into your skull.

Now usually pop albums don't rank extremely high up in my mind, but this is one of the best I've ever heard. Just don't expect me to run down the hallways belting out "Just the Girl." That's never going to happen. But if you are into pop, I highly recommend you shell out the fifteen bucks and get *Greetings from Imrie House* by The Click Five.

Review: All-Am Rejects

BY RACHEL B.

Move Along

Move Along is an excellent sequel to The All-American Reject's first album and their hit "Swing, Swing."

This album features "Dirty Little Secret" and "Move Along," both hits and constantly played by radio stations and music channels alike. But just because it's popular doesn't mean it's bad. It's actually a really good album. It has great melodies and catchy lyrics. Also it has wonderful guitar work, though I thought the ballads on tracks 4 and 10 were a little weak. That can be easily overlooked.

Basically, *Move Along* is an album worthy of my time, and I am happy that, once again, The All-American Rejects have received the recognition this awesome band deserves.

Review: Switchfoot

BY RACHEL B.

Nothing Is Sound

Every since Switchfoot's last album, they have slipped off of music's radar. But now they are back with their hit song, "Stars." This album is full of great melodies and infectious lyrics.

Though some call it alternative and some call it religious, it doesn't matter. All that does matter is that Switchfoot is back with an awesome album worthy of praise.

Students know

For snacks
and meals



On-Cor's the way to go.



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Itasca Police Citizen Police Academy 2006

Itasca residents will have the opportunity to participate in the Itasca Police Department Citizen Police Academy starting March 6th 2006. The academy is free. Classes will meet from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM on Monday evenings for 10 weeks.

The ten week course is offered to any resident or person who works in the Village of Itasca, is at least 18 years old, and is able to pass a cursory background check. The academy is a combination of working with Itasca Police officers, classroom lecture and hands-on exercises. The purpose of the class is to provide citizens with an internal look at the Itasca Police Department's goals, philosophy and responsibilities.

Instructors include Chief Heher, deputy chiefs, police officers, investigators, representatives from the DuPage County State's Attorney Office, and other criminal justice professionals.

If you are interested, please contact the Itasca Police Department Crime Prevention Bureau Officer Rick Brogan at (630) 773-1004 or obtain applications from the Police Department or Village Hall.

Thank you,

Officer Rick Brogan

Direct line 630-228-5705

rbrogan@itasca.com

Village of Itasca Bulletin E-Mail Program (VIBE)

Receive email from
Alert@criticalReach.org
To Join
Email the Itasca Police at
CrimePrevention@itasca.com

The Itasca Police Department will e-mail residents about important and relevant information. "VIBE" or Village of Itasca Bulletin E-Mail. (VIBE) will e-mail residents from Alert@criticalreach.org advising you about police and village related matters. THIS IS NOT JUNK nor CHAIN E-Mail.

If you would like to participate send an e-mail to crimeprevention@itasca.com and request to be added to the VIBE program and include the following information.

First & Last Name

Business Name (if applicable)

Address

Telephone number

Your e-mail address will then be added to our e-mail list. You will receive VIBE emails from alert@CriticalReach.com with the important and current information.

continued from p. 4

To Amanda. You're so cute and sweet.
Love, Aaron. XOXOXO!


To Tommy Vogel. I love you sooo much!
Love, Meghan OXO

Hey . . . Col and Zac, Vix and Jay. Happy
Valentine's Day! (even though you ruined
our surprise) From Vix and Col.

To Jenna S. Roses are red. Violets are
blue. I hope U like me because I like you.
From Eric.



To Amanda and Giana. I love you guys so
much. Best friends forever. XOXO from
Amanda.

I have an enormous crush on Sabrina, but
I love Johnny & Paul. Much  Sabrina!
From Alyssa Vogel.

Happy Valentine's Day, Music Boy. from
Sagay.

To Peter. I love you as a friend! OXO
Meghan.

To Tess. I hope
you have a lovely
Valentine's Day!
From Alyssa V.

To Erin Celenza.
I don't know
what to say on
this, so hi and
Happy Valentine's
Day. From Quinn O

To Colleen and Jacqueline.
I love you! Happy Valentine's Day!
BFF! Love, Tess.

To Lexi. Whenever I see you. You remind



me of school because you have so much
class. I see you and I get butterflies in my
stomach. From your Valentine.


Amanda is so very cute! I love you. You're
so good at everything. See you in the
Olympics. XXOO XXOO XXOO Aaron.

Dear Amanda H., you are very cute!
Happy Valentine's Day. XO I love you.
XO Love, Joey.

Bill, Happy Valentine's Day! I love you!
You are the bestest freind ever! Love,
Tess.

To Aaron. Major crush. Happy Valentine's
Day. From Julia OXO

To Haayer and Giana. Thanx 4 being great
freinds. Happy V-Day. Love, Amanda XO

Happy Valentine's Day Vix! Vix and
Alyssa forever! I love Victoria 4ever!
From Alyssa V. 

To Jess. Today you can hug me all you
want! Happy Valentine's Day! From
Kristen.

To somebody. I like everyone. XXOO
From Michael W.

To Eric, Judi, Ryan, Alyssa, Amandas, Jay,
Julia, & Vix-o-rama! Happy Valentine's
Day! I love you!

Hey Vix, longtime no see. See ya around.
From Anime Geek.

To Amanda. You're
so cute. Happy V-
Day. From Adam and
Anthony.

Hi Val! Or I mean Kish!
Have a fun Valentine's
Day! From Sarah E.

We love you guys!! Jackie S.,
Morgan, Rachel, Lynn, Daisy,
Jocelyn, Justyna, Kali, Andrea,
Jacqui!! You guys are soo cool!! From
Joanna R. and Stephanie D.

To Eric Vogel. Hey I liked U for years
ever since third grade when U came to



Franzen. From secret Admirer.

To Amanda Haayer. Hey. Happy V-Day. I
love U a lot. Love 7th grader Zac.

To Whitey. I just wanted to say sorry for
kinda being mean to you for the last week.
I wuv you! From Alyssa

To Rachel, Justyna, Morgan, Jocelyn,
Jackie, Daisy, Andrea, Joanna, Stephanie
D., Johnny R., Sal, and Ozzy. Happy
Valentine's Day. From Lynn.

To Johnny Rogljacin. Build me a staircase
of 1000 stairs and find me the golden key
to the midway. From Alyssa.

You guys are all really cool! Felipe, Ozzy,
Small Paul, Martin, Mark M., Shane,
Brodie, Kevin, Johnny, Sal, Alex, Joey,
Adam, Justin, Dan J., Brian B., Derek,
Aaron, Peter S., Poiter, Mr. S., Mr. M.,
Jeff S., Jeff F., Zac W. From Joanna
Rivera and Stephanie Delatorre

Joanna, I still love you! Forever &
always! LYLEW! From Anonymous.

To all my gurlly friends. Love ya and
Happy Valentine's Day! From Daisy.

To Julia Peacock. Hi Julia!!!. Yaayy!!!
From Michael W.

Happy Valentine's Day to my BFFs
Darcie, Melissa, Marie, Sammy, and Ash
B. <3x amillion – Nikki<3

To Meghan. I like you a lot too! Happy
Valentine's Day! From Tommy.

Inspirational Leader

continued from p. 1

did anything with it. But that piece is really special to me. That's how I got started."

Currently, Owens lives in Fort Worth, Texas and still plays the saxophone for the Mansfield Wind Symphony, a professional concert band near Fort Worth. He also teaches sixth graders at Red Oak Intermediate School in Red Oak, Texas. "I teach during the day and then spend time with my wife. A lot of my writing, about 80%, comes from composing in the wee hours, say, two, three, four in the morning."

Owens finds the composing process both mysterious and challenging. "The most intriguing thing is when I sit down to begin a piece from scratch – knowing that I can go in this direction or that – that's the fun of the journey," he says. Writing music is not necessarily difficult for him, but it can be frustrating. "Sometimes the ideas just flow, and other times I've had tunes that I've worked on for months."

But the frustration never outweighs the joy. "The most thrilling part for me is getting the piece put together. The end is kind of anti-climatic. My opinion is, 'Great, I'm done.' But the real fun was watching it come together. And it's fun again when I hear it being authentically reproduced," he says.

The aftermath is also rewarding. "It gives me great pleasure to know that someone actually enjoyed or benefited from something that I had done. It's also a neat thing writing a piece of music; it's sort of a legacy. There's a little part of you in somebody's band room that will always be there."

Not only does Owens write for his own pleasure but also because he wants kids to get the most out of music. "I want them to get the joy of making music, of improving on their instruments, and of learning the common motto: teamwork," he says. "See, music organizations are like big families. This is a place where you can come and just really express yourself. And this is your opportunity to just really be you."

William Owens has turned his love of music into a successful teaching and composing career. His visit to Peacock will be a treasured memory for many years to come. Owens has a huge heart that loves not only expressing himself through music but also passing down the joy and excitement of making music to future generations.

The Art of World Cultures



For a World Cultures project, students looked up information about hieroglyphs on the Internet. Then they converted their names into hieroglyphs using a translator and designed their own cartouche. Pictured here with their cartouche drawings and necklaces are, left to right, Taylor Z., Mark C., Johnny R., Piotr T., Zac C., Victoria K., Alyssa V., Tim K., Meghan R., Aaron C., Hubert G.

Valentine's Day Word Search

B R V W D F M R S T H Y D E A
 Y M G Q K L A L X L Y R T N U
 A E V J P V A R O N R A A I B
 A S A N K O T Q R V L U N T I
 P A Y S L G J H M O E R C N I
 C F T X G X E W C X W B Z E B
 H S T U H U F O W Q E E F L G
 N O G B Q V H X F X J F Z A Q
 H J S Z S C C K R C O Y C V M
 V E R T P A T A I R O U S H Y
 R A C D R E Y H E S P B J R K
 V T Y D N A C V N I S T V E J
 D G S G C E E Q D A L O Q Y G
 R T Z Y I R S H S T F I G T Z
 I S B J S L M N C Y L Q D X I

ARROW
 CANDY
 CARDS
 CHOCOLATE
 CUPID

FEBRUARY
 FOREVER
 FRIENDS
 GIFTS
 HEARTS

HUGS
 JEWELRY
 KISS
 LOVE
 VALENTINE

Boys' Basketball

BY TESS F.

The boys' basketball season started with tryouts on November 18 and 19. Coach Poremba and Coach Anderson looked for players' basketball ability, effort, character, positive attitude, and, of course, their love of the game.

The boys had to work extra hard to make up for the missed practices over Thanksgiving and other days off. The players and coaches practiced two days before Christmas, over Winter Break, and on Martin Luther King Day. It meant a lot to the coaches that the players showed up every day from 3-5PM to improve their game. (Even on days when there was no school!)

Coach Anderson said, "We expect players to give all they can to their teammates and themselves."

Both coaches want effort, commitment, attention, and focus from the players and to do their best every day. A normal practice consisted of fitness, running, and strategy planning and skills. Strategies such as a press, press break, offensive and defensive skills, and half-court and full-court plays.

This season, both teams participated in the Driscoll High School Holiday Tournament and the Lake Park Tournament. The 6th and

7th grade boys lost in the semi finals in both tournaments. The 8th grade boys got 2nd place in the Lake Park Tournament and lost in the back draw of the semi finals.

The most memorable moment this season, Anderson said, "...was the game against Roselle when we were down by 9 and came back to win!" Mr. Poremba added, "It was a memorable season and I am very proud of the boys' heart and determination."

Seventh grader, Brad C., said his favorite part about playing for Peacock was the pizza party! He added, "I am excited for next year because I can watch my big brother (Ryan Calvin) tear up the courts at LP!"

Brad also told The Charger his most memorable moment this season. "When Z2 (Zack Z.) scored a one-handed buzzer shot to win the game against Westfield – at their house."

Once again the boys had a very exciting season. The 8th grade boys finished in 2nd place behind Westfield. The 6th and 7th grade boys finished in 4th place (check with Mr. Poremba!). The coaches, teachers, and students are very proud of all the players.

Coach Anderson added, "Day in and day out, each day is a memorable moment."

Post to Post

a poem

BY ANDREW H.

Roughing, slashing, or a crosscheck,
There's too much traffic in front of my
net.

The defense is certain to clear the zone,
And skate away quickly, to leave me
alone.

Again I look up to see a breakaway
chance.

I poke it away from the seat of my pants.
The rebound kicks out high and above,
The swing of my stick, the swipe of my
glove.

The puck lies silent, the whistles they
blow,

The sound of the crowd yelling, "Way to
go!"

These are the things that make it so great,
When you come to the rink to learn how
to skate.

Volleyball Teams

6th & 7th Grade Girls

1. Sharon A.
2. Ashley B.
3. Logan C.
4. Stephanie J.
5. Valerie J.
6. Lauren K.
7. Ashley L.
8. Kate M.
9. Kelly M.
10. Kaitlynn Ne.
11. Lauren R.
12. Jenna S.
13. Lidia Z.

8th Grade Girls

1. Rachel B.
2. Amanda B.
3. Jacqueline C.
4. Tess F.
5. Amanda H.
6. Victoria K.
7. Vicky L.
8. Jennifer L.
9. Judi P.
10. Giana S.
11. Sabrina S.
12. Julia W.

Boys

1. Michael L.
2. Erik Be.
3. Matt Mc.
4. Zach Z.
5. Abraham P.
6. Sangay P.
7. Bradley C.
8. Billy T.
9. Eric Co.
10. Zac C.
11. Ryan C.
12. Nathan S.

