

The Charger

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Technical Creativity on the Loose!



PHOTOS BY JACQUELINE C.

This year, Peacock held their annual invention convention on November 21. Every eighth grader created and constructed their own invention. Each creation was either built, or displayed on a poster. There were inventions from all different categories, from OnStar canes, to sheep counting clocks, to remote

continued on p. 2



Inside

Lake Park Band	2
Red Ribbon Week	3
Bridge Contest	3
Holiday Concerts	5
Movie Reviews	6
Games Corner	7
Flag Day	9
Senior Luncheon	9
Peacock Spirit	10
Charger Challenge	11
YWCA	11
Sports	12

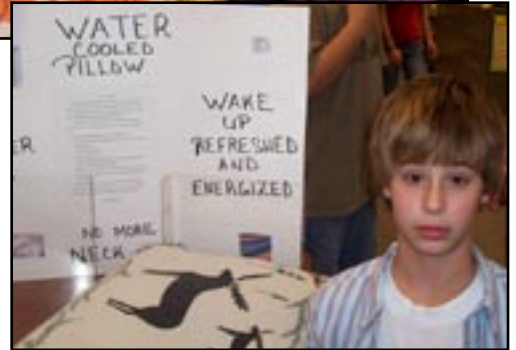
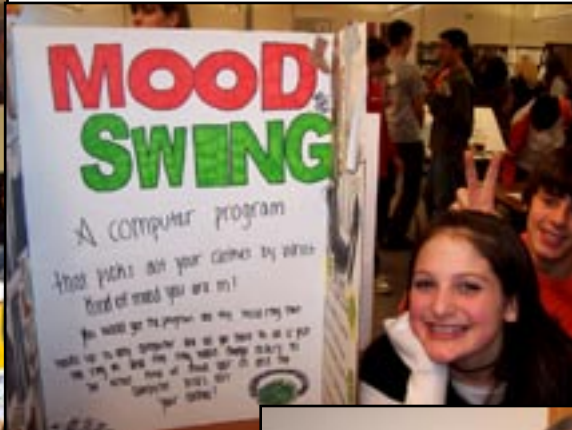
What's Behind Door #2? Holiday Joy & Pizza Party

PHOTOS BY RACHEL B. & ANDREA P.



more photos on p. 6

Invention Convention

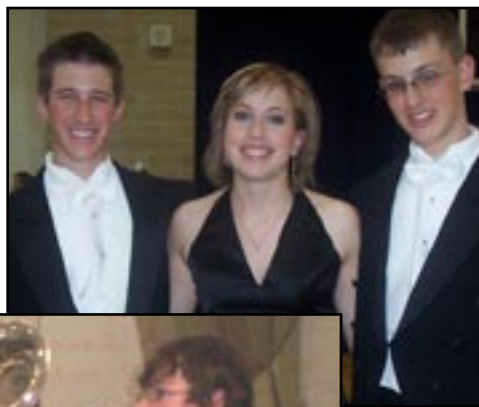


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control finders. 6th and 7th graders, teachers, parents, and even the superintendent Dr. Cull visited and circulated through the many student inventions. The convention lasted from 1:30-2:30P.M., and overall, it was a very interesting and fun event.

Rousing Performance from the Lake Park Band

The members of the Lake Park High School Marching Band came to Peacock on Tuesday, November 15. They wanted to show us how much fun it is to play and dance with them and to "drum" up some members for next year.



The Charger

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



Charger Challenge

The Charger Challenge is a paper & pencil game or brain teaser, new for each issue. The first two people to correctly complete it and bring it to Ms. Smith will receive a prize. The type of puzzle will be different every time. We hope you will participate. Good Luck!

Sudoku, a logic puzzle
 Instructions: Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit from 1 - 9.

2				7			9	
			3	5				8
1	8						5	2
					5		4	1
		4				5		
3	7		8					
5	2						7	3
9				2	7			
	4			9				6

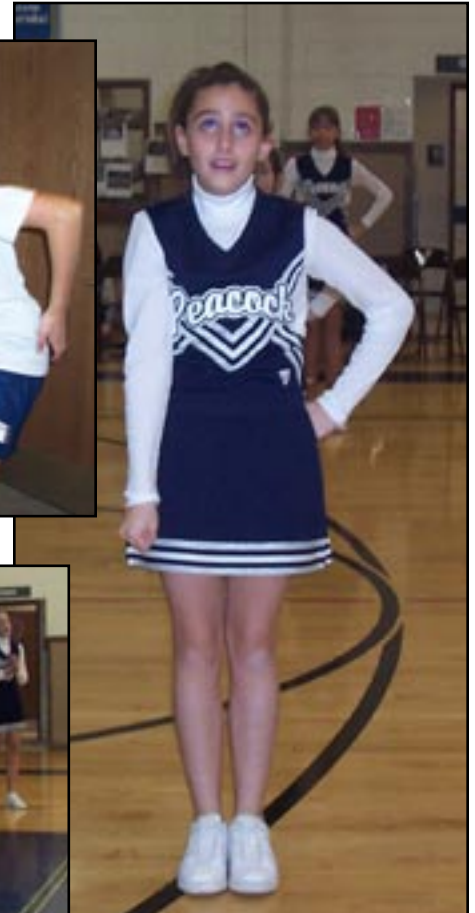
YWCA Role Playing to Keep Us Safe

The YWCA comes to Peacock every year to conduct role playing scenes with the students. This practices in how to protect yourself and still be friends are valuable lessons.

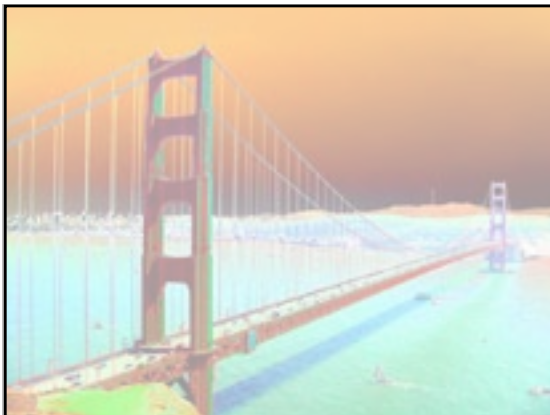


It's a SPIRIT Thing!

From practice to cheering to playing the game, everyone gets really excited at our pep rallies and basketball games. Go Chargers!



Red Ribbon Week Activities



Name the Bridge!

Every famous bridge has to have a name. The new suspension bridge model in Industrial Technology will soon be famous – at least here at Peacock. So let's name it!

Get your suggestions to Ms. Smith by December 20 (last day before the holiday break). Mr. Bachi, the designer and builder of the bridge, will choose the name. Then we can plan the christening party.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

Tuesday, December 13

Mark your calendar. Join us from 5:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 13, 2005 for the second annual Holiday Celebration at the Village of Itasca Municipal Complex. The schedule of events is as follows:

- Santa Claus will arrive via helicopter at approximately 6:00 P.M.
- Hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies, provided by Keans's Bakery and Starbucks, will be served in the Community Room on the second floor.
- Starting at 6:15 P.M., enjoy some of the best holiday decorations in town with trolley rides sponsored by the Itasca Park District.
- Children of all ages are invited to create their own reindeer holiday craft in the Community Room from 5:45 P.M. to 8:45 P.M. Sponsored by the Itasca Library.
- Holiday videos will be playing on the big screen TV throughout the night in the Community Room.
- Carolers will bring holiday cheer throughout the evening.
- A decorative tree ornament will be given to each family.

The holidays are a time for being thankful and helping those who are less fortunate. With such a huge demand for toys throughout the world, Santa cannot keep up with his toy manufacturing and wants us to help. Please consider donating a **new and unwrapped toy** so Santa can deliver them to our local families in need. There will be a toy collection box located in the lobby of the Itasca Police Department from December 1st through December 12th and in front of the Municipal Complex on the night of the Holiday Celebration. For further information contact Crime Prevention Officer Rick Brogan at 228-5705.

17TH ANNUAL HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

Monday, December 12

Show us your holiday spirit! Unpack those festive decorations and untangle those holiday lights. Dust off that snowman and create a winter wonderland. The Holiday House Decorating Committee is coming your way. All houses will be judged on Monday, December 12. Decorations must be illuminated by 6:00 P.M. No registration is necessary. Prizes will be awarded at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 13th at the Village Holiday Celebration.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from Chief Heher
and the Itasca Police Department

Our American Flag: A Sacred Symbol



On Wednesday, October 26, the entire 8th grade joined classes from Benson and Franzen Schools to attend a flag decommissioning ceremony in Usher Park. The local VFW conducted the official honoring and burning of worn American flags. The veterans carefully explained the meaning of the ceremony and how our flag should be handled. The American flag is a sacred symbol of our country and should be treated with respect.



A Fall Day in Gay Paree!

BY ANDREA POPLAWSKI



Another day in France? No, another successful Senior Luncheon. Ms. Ahn was very pleased. "It turned out fabulous. The students exceeded my expectations." I guess so. Everyone seemed to have fun...and the leftovers were delicious!



Students know

For snacks
and meals

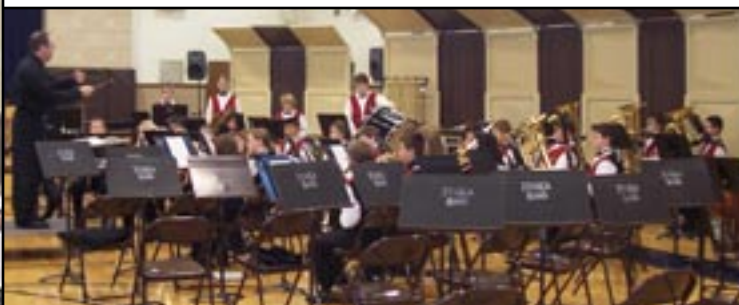


On-Cor's the way to go.



www.on-cor.com

Singing in the Holidays with Concerts Galore



With a trio of trombones, a swinging jazz band, and several choral solos, the holiday season is welcomed at Peacock. The All District Choral was held Wednesday, Nov. 30. The Peacock and Franzen bands played to a sell-out crowd on Sunday, Dec. 4.



What's Happening at the Itasca Park District?

Chestnut Mountain All-Night Ski Trip
Sign up at the Itasca Park District for an...
ALL-NIGHT SKI TRIP!!!

When: Feb. 3-4 (Fri-Sat)

Where: Chestnut Mountain, Galena, IL

**There is limited availability...
so sign up NOW!!!**

Contact the Itasca Park District

**Stop by the Lounge
at the**

Itasca Park District!!!

Membership includes full
access to...

Pool Table

Air Hockey

Foos Ball

Big Screen TV

X-Box and X-Box Games



Teen Movie Night!!!

Feature Presentation: "The Goonies"

Where: Itasca Park District Lounge

When: Friday, January 6th

Time: 6:00-8:30 pm

\$4 or \$3 w/ a Lounge Card

Popcorn and Pop will be served!

Don't miss out on all of the Fun!!!



Questions?
Call the Itasca Park District
630-773-2275

Movie Reviews

BY JAKE S. & RYAN S.

Running Time: 140 minutes

Batman Begins starts off flashing back on Bruce Wayne's (Batman) childhood. He had once been involved in an accident where he fell into a well behind his rich parents' house. Inside of the well was a bat-filled cave. Ever since he experienced the rush of bats swarming out of the cave he was afraid of bats. One day, when he was still young, his parents took him to a fancy play that included people dressed as bats. He started having flashbacks of his encounter with bats in the cave and asked his parents if they could leave. They took him out and encountered a homeless man on the way home. This wasn't just any homeless man...he had a revolver and demanded his dad's wallet. Bruce's dad was about to give the wallet to him when the guy shot the revolver and killed his dad. Then the homeless man shot his mom, too. Bruce thought it was his fault all of his life.



When Bruce Wayne gets older, all he wants to do is fight crime because of what happened. He chooses a bat costume because he wants the criminals to feel his fear. He then goes to the dealer of some of his family's expensive software. The dealer is played by Morgan Freeman. He gets a bulletproof overcoat that protects him from very hard force. He then gets the new and improved Batmobile. As Batman, Bruce Wayne goes out to fight crime when he encounters the villain. The villain is Dr. Jonathan Crane, a.k.a. The Scarecrow, played by Cillian Murphy. He invented this gas that makes everything very scary and wild when people inhale it. He uses it in his attempt to destroy Gotham City by making tons of it and putting it in the people's water supply. Batman prevails to save the day with his crime fighting gadgets.

JAKE: I didn't like this movie too much. I have to give it a frown.

RYAN: I would have to give this movie a smiley.



continued from p. 1

Don't forget that the doors will be judged on Thursday, December 12.



Games Corner

BY MICHAEL S.

Call of Duty 2

Call of Duty 2 has some of the best effects, not just from the graphics, but also from the sound. The gunshots are very realistic, you can hear your teammates calling for help and giving orders, and you can hear grenades go off in the distance. And in the parts where the graphics aren't that great, the sound will make up for it.

Now for the game play. It is based on WWII and you play for the Allies as three different armies, all in different levels. You start off as an American soldier, but as you go to become a Russian soldier and then a British soldier (all Allies). They made some improvements to make the game more challenging than aggravating. They took a few ideas from the Halo series. For instance when you get hit, you can rest and regain your health instead of losing it all and not getting it back until the end of the mission. Different guns do different damage. You may not be able to recover from a sniper shot or if you get hit by a tank. This is also a long game with 27 different missions and tasks.

For the best graphics you should play it on the PC or the XBox360. For more information, go to www.gamespot.com and www.IGN.com. It is rated T for teen and was given a 9.0 out of ten.

XBox360: an equipment review

The new XBox is a huge upgrade from the old one. The graphics are a lot more realistic. For example NBA 06 has the most realistic players. I was able to play a demo before XBox360 came out and I thought it was real at first. The controls are the same so there is no getting used to it or learning how to use them. It has a built in memory of 20GB which is more than enough, so you don't have to keep buying memory cards like you do with the PS2. You can also use your old XBox games on this, so you don't have to go out and buy more, but the graphics won't be as good. So for the best graphics you should get the XBox360 games instead of using your old ones.

This would make a perfect item to put on your Christmas list but watch out! It is not cheap. You can buy it in stores from \$300-\$400 but most stores sold out on the first day. This is a great item and people are crazy for it. Just to give you an idea of how people really want the XBox360, listen to this. Some people on eBay are buying it for thousands of dollars. The highest my dad and I saw one go for was \$10,600 the day after it came out. I'd wait to get one until they make more and there are more in the stores because that is WAY too much. For more information on the XBox360 go to XBOX.com.

Game	Advisory	Rating
Call of Duty 2	T	9.0
XBox360	-	awesome!

T = Teens M = Mature E = Everyone

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.

Upcoming programs: Winter Wonderland Window Decorating (Gr. 6)

Wed., Jan. 25, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Share your artistry skills with the library by helping us paint a lovely winter scene on the windows in the children's Picture Book section. The library will provide the paint (as well as hot chocolate and a snack), you provide the talent. Dress in clothing you do not mind getting dirty. Registration is required.

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, January 23

discussion + viewing *Trigun Vol.1*
(rated TV-14)

Monday, February 20

discussion + viewing *to be decided at January meeting*

Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants Movie/Craft Night

(Gr. 7-12)

Wed., Feb. 22, 6:00-8:15 p.m.

Help us celebrate the sisterhood by joining us for an evening of jean decorating and jean purse making as we screen the movie based on the popular book by Ann Brashares. Participants who want to decorate jeans, should bring a pair and the library will provide the rest. Snacks will be served. Registration is required.

Girls' Basketball: A Great Season

BY TESS F.

The girls' basketball team has worked hard to reach their goals for the season. The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls started out their season by training on plays and running different types of drills to improve their offensive and defensive skills. They practiced Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

Practices included ball drills, free throws, play work, scrimmaging, and much more to prepare them for the big games.

8th grade post player, Judi P., told The Charger, "My favorite part about basketball is the games. I love the adrenalin rush I get before we start."

Judi has been playing basketball for Peacock for 3 years. Being an 8th grader, Judi said that her most memorable moment was in 7th grade when Coach Poremba sat her on the bench for interrupting him while he was talking. Judi told The Charger, "I never interrupted him ever again."

New to the 8th grade team, Giana S. said she would miss going to practice every day after school. Jacqueline C. said, "My favorite thing about basketball is playing home games. I love the feeling when all your friends are cheering for you and you have the home court

advantage."

"My favorite part of basketball is hanging out with my friends and having fun, until we have to be serious and put our game faces on," said 8th grade post player, Amanda B. with a smile.

6th grade post player Mary M. said that her goal for the season was to do well in games, remember the plays, and to try to score some points for the team.

On Saturday, November 12, the girls hosted a basketball tournament for the first time ever. The four participating teams in the tournament were Peacock, St. Peters, Springwood, and Medinah. (Don't worry, girls. We'll get 'em next year.)

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Poremba expect a lot out of the girls, but their main concern is that they try their hardest in everything they do.

Many 8th graders said that they are going to miss having Mr. Anderson and Mr. Poremba as coaches next year because they are so fun to be around.

Some words of wisdom from the 8th grade girls:

"Play smart, have fun, take chances and remember...DO IT FOR JOHNNY, MAN!"

Boys' Basketball Players:

6th graders

1. Max B.
2. Brian F.
3. Chris M.
4. Jeremy O.

7th graders

1. Marco B.
2. Adam B.
3. Brad C.
4. Brendan F.
5. Kyle L.
6. Chris M.
7. Larry M.
8. Matt M.
9. Abraham P.
10. Joey P.
11. Zach Z.

8th graders

1. Ryan C.
2. Eric C.
2. Brian K.
3. Peter S.
4. George H.
5. Zac C.
6. Shane D.
7. Billy T.
8. Martin S.
9. Max G.
10. Brandon H.
11. Geo Na.
12. Joe P.

