



"COVERING THE PRIDE OF  
THE SOUTH SIDE"

# The RAILSPITTER

ABRAHAM LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL | 2600 S.W. 9TH DES MOINES, IA | Vol. 90 | RS #5 | January 28, 2014

NewYearNewRSNewYearNewRSNewYearNewRSNewYearNewRSNewYearNewRSNewYearNewRSNewYearNewRSNewYearNewRS

# HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2014



catch a free t-shirt!

Be there for halftime fun!

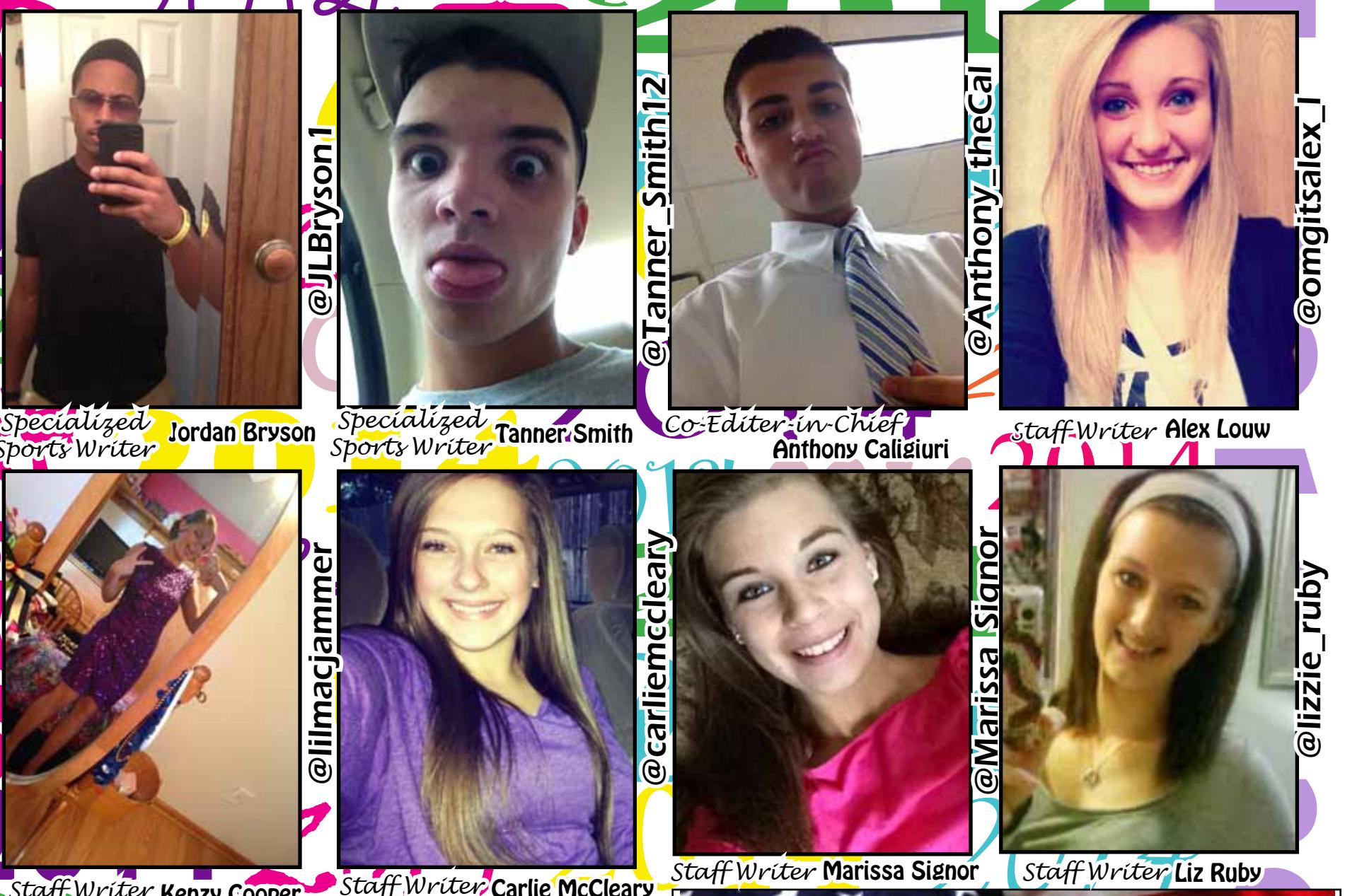
--shooting contest!

--hula hoop contest!

--Pay a dollar for a chance to pie some  
special guests in the face!

Join us for an exciting  
game on February 4th  
when **LINCOLN** takes  
on **Roosevelt!**

Pack  
the  
**ROUNDHOUSE**  
FEBRUARY 4TH



"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceable to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."



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## National Honor Society

### Blood Drive

Thursday, January 30th

8:00 am - 2:00 pm *In the Library*

You have to be 120 lbs and 16 years old.

Did you know: One pint of  
blood can save three lives?

If you're under 18 you need  
a parental consent form.



# **SNOWCOMING**

## **Gatsby Edition**

Alex Louw Staff writer



**The upcoming**

## ***Winter Formal***

**and what to expect!**

As many of you may know, Lincoln is having a winter dance/formal this year – known as “Snowcoming” - for the first time since 2012. The winter dance hasn’t been as popular as the homecoming dance usually is, and that’s why there wasn’t a winter dance the past year.

You should go! That you’ve never gone before is a ridiculous reason not to go this year.

This dance isn’t just any dance, the theme of Snowcoming this year is “Gatsby” or “Roaring 20’s.” Which means, bring out your feather headbands ladies, and men, bring out the tux or at least a tie!

The Lincoln student body had the option to vote on whether they wanted the typical “guys ask girls” dance or “Sadie Hawkins” where the girl asks the guy. Your classmates voted for a change with Sadie Hawkins! Which means girls, ask your favorite guy! But men, don’t be afraid to ask your favorite girl anyways! If you would rather not have a date to the dance, gather up a group of friends and all go together!

As mentioned earlier in this article, the theme of the dance is the “Roaring 20’s” or “The Great Gatsby.” This does NOT mean that you have to dress according to this theme, but you can if you would like too!

*The expectations to the Snowcoming dance are:*

- Guests must be preapproved by the Vice Principal’s Office
- You must present an I.D. to enter the dance
- Once you leave the dance you will not be allowed to re-enter
- Semi-formal attire or 1920’s formal attire
- No jeans and no hats! Girls may wear 1920’s feather headbands
- No refunds for lost tickets! Sign the ticket stub

Have fun! Be respectful!



# *future forward...*

## New and Improved

Amy Luong Staff writer

### WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTING FROM THE NEW YEAR...



PATRICK CALIGIURI,  
FRESHMAN



SHIRLEY KLER,  
JUNIOR

Welcome 2014. Like everyone says, New Year, new me and all that good stuff. This year we can possibly be expecting a lot of things, especially the senior class. We have prom, graduation and college to look forward to in the upcoming year. But it's not just seniors who have something to look forward to. A majority of Lincoln is made up of underclassmen who also have a lot of expectations for the New Year.

It seems this year people will be trying for the gold for themselves besides at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, some have great expectations for 2014.

**Q: What can you expect from 2014?**

**Patrick Caligiuri:** I expect a good and successful school year and to be happy!

**Riley Longden:** I'm expecting big things for Lincoln. I'm expecting to push myself harder to achieve more goals and better grades.

**Shirley Klier:** I expect a fresh start a new semester with larger goals than 2013. I hope to end my junior year on a good note in order to kick off my senior year in the absolute the best way possible. I expect good things in 2014.

**Cody Naylor:** I expect a lot of changes and hopefully personal growth.

**Q: What are some goals and things you're looking forward to?**

**PC:** I hope to get good grades and meet new people. I hope to become a better person.

**RL:** I'm pretty excited to see how the swim team does in future events. I am really looking forward to the musical. I can't wait to see my friends on stage, a lot of them are telling me that it's going to be great.

**SK:** I'm look forward to memorable moments with friends, hopefully meeting my academic goals, like a good score on the ACT and good things in general; I'm getting positive vibes from 2014. Also finally having

a license for summer vacation and finishing my second to last year of high school.

**CN:** I'm looking forward to graduating and hopefully getting accepted to TCU aka the college of my dreams, but beyond that I'm excited to go off on my own and get to experience a little taste of life. I'm also pretty excited to turn 18 and be able to refer to myself as an adult.

**Q: How are you going to make 2014 different than 2013?**

**PC:** I will think more positively and try to be more outgoing, make more friends and stuff.

**RL:** I'm going to make time to study and prepare assignments from class. Last year, I procrastinated a lot and barely studied. But now classes are harder and projects to take longer, so it's time to step it up.

**SK:** I want to make 2014 different by spending time with my friends, as well as making more time for myself and focusing on what makes me happy.

**CN:** I'm going to try to put myself in different situations. Try to apply myself at different things and be more positive overall.

**Q: What are some 2013 memories?**

**PC:** The summer trips my family and I went on.

**RL:** The thing I will miss the most would have to

be the close relationships that I used to have with a few of my friends and the innocence of my peers.

**SK:** I'll miss the simplicity. I'm going to have to start thinking of my future a lot more this year than last year.

**CN:** the people. I think I'll miss not being a kid that has hardly any responsibilities as well. I'm going to miss Miley twerking her way up and down the VMAs. I'm pretty sure she doesn't plan on stopping that though so I think I'm actually safe there.

**Q: Do you have any New Year's resolutions?**

**PC:** To become more outgoing and overall become a better person. And to stop procrastinating, but I already failed that one.

**RL:** I only made one resolution and that was to not crack under peer pressure. I'm not changing who I am just to "fit in" with everyone else.

**SK:** I made resolutions to try harder academically and to, by the end of this year, have a well thought out plan of what I want to do with my life.

**CN:** I didn't make New Year's resolutions because they're a load of crap. If you want to change yourself you should just change yourself not make a promise that you'll do something just because it's a "new year" they work for some people, just not me.



RILEY LONGDEN,  
SOPHOMORE



CODY NAYLOR,  
SENIOR

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This issue, we talked to Jacob Badger and Olivia Simpson; both who are involved with many activities at Lincoln. Here's how they do it...

Do you think you have a loaded demanding schedule? Well, think again! Many students here at Lincoln are involved with a multitude of activities that require them to give up a lot of their free time. But some students are more involved than others, doing almost anything they can get involved in.

"I choose to participate because I like being involved. These activities have helped me meet some of my best friends," said Olivia Simpson, senior. Simpson is a star student when it comes to devoting her time and effort into many Lincoln activities. Swimming, track and the National Honor Society are just a few of the things Simpson does at school.

Jacob Badger is just a sophomore and already he is making a name for himself at Lincoln. "I do these activities mostly because I enjoy them. It may bag down my life, but I do enjoy them and make time for them," said Badger. Badger is involved in everything from Band to Baseball.

But how do they do it?

"I am able to balance everything mostly by the effort I put in. Most of the time when I am not occupied by an activity, my time is spent working on school work and academics," said Badger.

Both Badger and Simpson are exceptional academic students. They have both been on the honor roll since their freshman year, and they both attend Central Academy taking advanced courses.

"I use a planner and try to be as organized as I can and staying busy has helped me learn great management skills," said Simpson. The two advised that staying organized is the key to success when balancing a lot.

Simpson and Badger both urge you to try new things, meet new people, but always make school your number one priority. "My advice is to find the balance between what you want to do and what you need to do. I do a lot but I know myself and how hard I have to work at school so I know I can, what as others may not. So, find your balance of activities and academics," said Badger.

## Balancing more than School work



Name: Olivia Simpson

Grade: Senior

Future College plans and beyond:

Next year I plan on going to Truman State University because they have a really good health and science program. I think that I want to pursue a career in health care.

Activities involved in at Lincoln: Swimming, track, NHS, Honor Roll, Central Academy classes, and Coaching for the Lincoln Club Swimming team.

Activities you wish to be involved in: I think it's good to get involved in activities that interest you and I'm always looking for new things to do.

What is your advice to students who wish to get more involved?: Stay organized and always try to have fun with what you're doing, getting stressed can make a busy schedule feel very overwhelming.



Name: Jacob Badger

Grade: Sophomore

Future College plans and beyond: I plan to go to college, although I am not sure which one or what to major in.

Activities involved in at Lincoln: Baseball, Basketball, Golf, Band, Show choir band, NHS, Jazz 1 & 2

Activities you wish to be involved in: I would like to join the ultimate Frisbee club in the spring.

# The Railsplitter's 100th Follower

Kenzy Cooper Staff writer

Q: How does your girlfriend feel that you follow The Railsplitter?

A: She feels it's a good thing that I'm keeping up with what's going on around the school and it shows good school spirit.

Q: Have you received any special treatment for being our 100th follower?

A: Unfortunately, I have not. I was hoping maybe a little bit.

Q: Who's your celebrity man crush and why?

A: Channing Tatum because he's hilarious, and a great overall actor, plus my girlfriend loves him.

Q: Was anyone jealous that you got this feature?

A: No, not that I'm aware of. I thought there might have been a fight over it or something.



Junior Zach Lyon

Q: What superpower would you have and why?

A: The ability to fly because I could go anywhere I want, when I want, plus the freedom that would come with it.

Q: Do you think this feature will have any impact on your social life?

A: No, these are just my opinions; I don't think people will look at me any differently for them.

Q: How excited were you when you found out you were the 100th follower?

A: I was pretty happy. I thought it was pretty cool and the interview would be a neat experience.

# JV Girl's Basketball

## STARTING A NEW SEASON

JV girl's basketball has many goals for this year. The eleven members on the team are all dedicated to making this year as good as possible. They play twenty games this year and have already played in eleven, so their season just reached the halfway mark.

The girls practice Monday through Saturday for two hours each time. They have games on weekdays right before the girl's varsity team plays. At practice, the girls work on shooting, defense, and they run multiple drills. They practice speed and agility so that they are able to run up and down the court easier and keep their stamina up.

The girl's goals this year are to get good enough to get a spot on varsity.

They've worked very hard and a big reason that they are getting better is because their team is so close. This a close bond is what makes basketball so fun for the team.

Aaron Hohl is the JV girl's basketball coach. He helps to make the girls better by teaching them shooting forms and making them work. He also pumps the girls up before the games and is very supportive of the team.

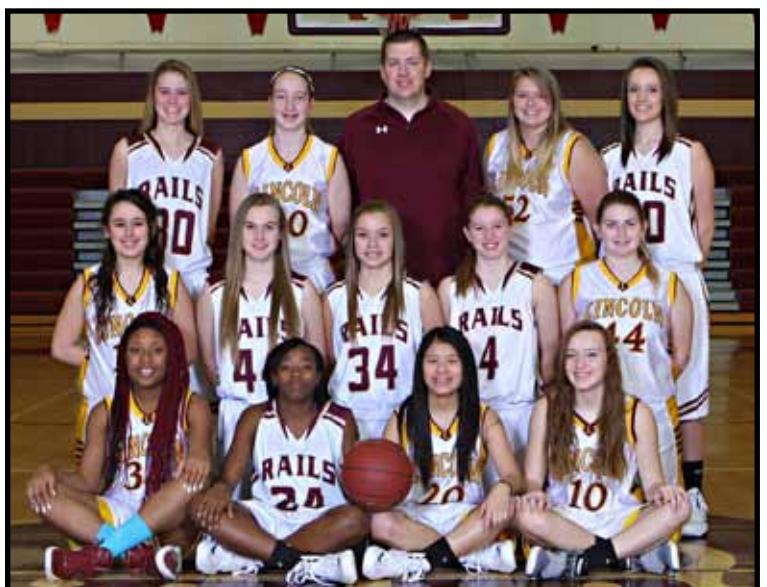
The JV girl's basketball team has a passion for the sport they play. Sometimes it gets hard because of all the work it takes to be successful, but they push through because of the love they all have for their sport. They all strive to make it to varsity, and they know

that they won't be able to do that if they slack off or don't put in as much work as they could.

Junior Tamera Sanchez made some comments concerning herself and her team. She says, "My favorite thing about playing basketball is how well our team gets along. We always have a good flow going on the court." She also says that everyone on her team is very easy coachable.

We hope the JV girls the best of luck this year!

Carlie McCleary Staff writer



Above: The J.V. Basketball Team

Below: A mix of all teams durring camp!



## Sophomore Boy's Basketball The Team's Goals

Marissa Signor Staff writer

Do you support the Lincoln Basketball Team? When the players in the stand hear the students in the stands cheering them on, the more pumped up the team becomes. Basketball can get very competitive and it isn't easy as others think. Not every member gets to play sometimes in the games and that is very frustrating for players.

The Lincoln Sophomore basketball team plays at home and away against other teams. They travel to other schools and play against other teams to see if they will end in the top at the end of the season. Going to practices is important because it determines if you are there for the team. If you don't go, then it will show up at the game when you are sitting out instead of being able to play with your teammates.

"It is fun to be with all the guys and we have a lot of fun when we practice and play the game," said Sophomore Hunter Lee.

"We are looking forward to keep getting better and improving as a team."

The practices will change depending on what we see in the games or things we need to change or work on. "Our goal is to keep winning and to be the best. We want to finish above the best," said Sophomore Hunter Lee. The coaches are Coach Van Vark and Coach Kurto.

"I can't wait to see what the end of the season is going to be," said Sophomore Ednard Omerasevic. "For the rest of this season I want to improve on getting better and playing the best in the games. It's fun to be around with all the guys and we have a lot of fun when we practice and play games. The practices will change at the end of the season depending on what we see in the games or things we need to change or work on. I see a big improvement in the team now compared to the beginning

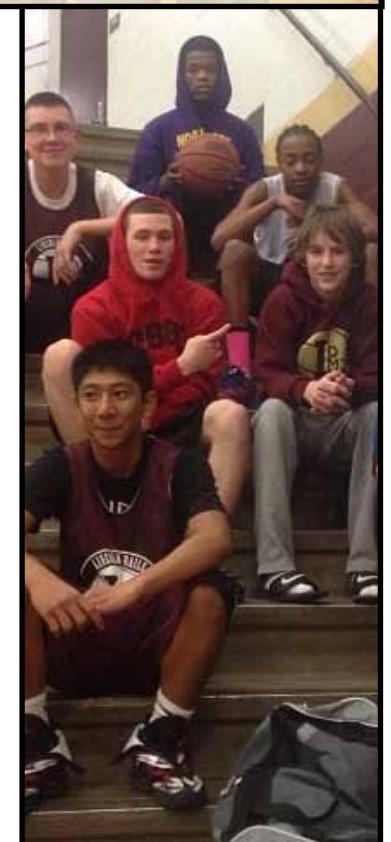


of the season--we have improved on everything and we are getting better and better," said Sophomore Ednard Omerasevic.

The team practices every day from 7-9. Everyone has their own goals and by setting them, they improve and get better each time. The team plays on Tuesdays, Fridays and sometimes there are scheduled games on Saturday. The team either plays at home or away, because there are so many Lincoln Basketball Teams they have to play at Lincoln South instead of the Lincoln Main building.

"This is a year that I will

remember because I like the team and all the times we get to bond together," said Sophomore Hunter Lee. Every team sets their goals and their own goals to have a great year and do the best they can to represent Lincoln.



Top: The sophomore basketball team getting ready before there game begins!

Far left: Sophomore Jacob Perks, Hunter Lee, Mikey Harris, Berry Doe and Zach Edwards.

Bottom: Some members of the team after a hard working practice!

# Boy's Swimming to State

## *The Boys Swim Team is busy preparing for State with underclassmen*

Kenzy Cooper Staff writer

The Boy's swim team is the biggest it's been in years. The underclassmen are leading the team in the number of swimmers. There are four upperclassmen and 16 underclassmen--it's the first time in years that 20 swimmers have made up the roster. The team is halfway through the season and State is just around the corner. The boys are busy making their times faster and preparing for conference and districts in order to qualify for State.

Freshman, Cooper Worth is a younger sibling of a senior swimmer.

"There is a lot of pressure but the pressure I have isn't from my brother but from me wanting to do as well, if not better than him," says Worth. His brother, Carter Worth is a senior on the team.

"I'm leading the team to State by supporting them in every meet prior to State, regardless of whether they do good or bad, I'm up there shouting, pushing them to do better. When I'm in the same races as other guys, I go up to them and tell

them to be next to me or to get up and race me. Another captain and I give a speech before every meet and about this time of year they get more focused," says Senior Carter

Worth.

There are a lot of newcomers on the team this year. A lot of boys had never swum competitively before this year. They are learning quick and im-

of them have caught on incredibly well and they helped us win a couple of meets we didn't think we'd be able to win," says, Junior Thomas Chidley.

The boys swim team is busy getting ready for State.



Junior Tom Chidley

proving with every practice and meet.

"I'm doing swimming because my friends are in it and I wanted something fun and challenging to do in the winter," says, Sophomore Robby Blaylock.

The upperclassmen are noticing the improvement of the newcomers on the team. They are pushing them to become even better but their times have helped the team.

"Many of the new guys had never competed so they weren't very good at the beginning. But a few



Freshman Cooper Worth

It's a new team this year and each member is bringing something positive to the team.

# The expectations are out the roof. Pressure is something that you create.

Brandon Searcy Sports writer

The boy's bowling team is coming off a very successful 2012-2013 season. They went 8-1 with a loss to Ankeny. This year they are pushing for more. So far this season they are 6-1 with a big tournament coming up on Thursday, February 6th. This team is pushing for a win, the team average is over 200.

With a lot of the team graduated last year gives a shot to younger guys like sophomore Tyler Carder for his early shot at varsity. Carder loves his moment on varsity and is working extremely hard to keep his spot on the squad.

"The season is going good so far I would say because we've only lost one game," said Carder

The team feels no pressure on the expectations that came to them in the off-season with their 5th place finish in state last year. The boys when I was watching worked hard in practice and the most important thing is that they were having fun at the same time. The team's goal for the remainder of the season is to win out and get back to state.

"We know what we're capable of and we'll chase our goal down day by day," said Carder



Junior Anthony Else

## Starting off fresh on the road to redemption

Brandon Searcy Sports writer

The freshman girls' basketball team has a lot of talent but are starting off rough this season. The improvement is there but their record doesn't show it. The freshman Lady Rails record so far half way through the season is 1-9. Freshman Taryn Alessio told the Rails Online sports writers that the season is going 'Alright'. She told us the 1-9 record they have doesn't show the teams full potential. Taryn told us that if the team can move the ball, and run plays successfully they can win some of the next games they play. The girls play Indianola on the 17th at home, and then they play Dowling away on the 21st.



Freshman  
Taryn Alessio

## Splitting the odds

Coming into this season with a chip on their shoulder

Jordan Bryson Sports writer

The girl's varsity squad is coming off an 8-1 season last year with their lone regular season loss to Ottumwa.

The girl's placed 5th in state which is pretty good but if you ask around but the girls knew they could do a lot better. They dedicated their off-season to get revenge on Ottumwa and place higher in the State Tournament. So far this season the hard work has paid off because the girls are undefeated with about 4 more meets left and one of them is against their rival Ottumwa.

"The season is going good so far but we need to play better because we were too high on ourselves last year and played bad in the state tournament, so this time around we're going to stay humble," said Senior Kaitlyn Hodges.

The senior leader Hodges is averaging about 160 a game for the rail-splitters, her goal is to help get her team to state.

"We need to work a lot harder in picking up splits because we're getting closer and closer to sub-state, and that's what a game ultimately is decided on," said Hodges.



Senior  
Kaitlyn  
Hodges

## Shooting For Success

The small things will make for a fantastic finish.

Jordan Bryson Sports writer

The freshman boy's basketball team is almost at the mid-way point of the season with a 5-5 record. Recently, the team lost by a buzzer beater to the Dragons of Johnston.

The team is coached by Brad Amos and Brad Edenburn. The team manager is Nico Robinson. The team knows they need to improve on their

defense for the remainder of the season because they know that if you hold your opponents to fewer points than you, you come out victorious. Which that term sounds simple it's a lot harder for a team to play defense with the new officiating rules where you have to play defense with your feet instead of being able to hand check and a lot of other new rules.

"Other than working on our defense we need to work on our ball movement on offense and we have to start the 1st quarter off good instead of playing flat and having to play catch up in the 2nd half," said Freshman Ayoub Deng.

The freshmen team has the largest roster in the program by 20 players.

"With having a big roster you have to be on top of your game because you can be replaced with the snap of a finger," said Deng.

The team's goal for the remainder of the season is to work harder in practice because they know it translates into a game.

## Young team, Bright future Girl's team pushing for success

Tanner Smith Sports writer

The girls are coming off a hard loss at Johnston on Saturday, January 11th. The team is led by leading scorer's Shelby Reeves (9.7 PPG), and Sa'Lisa Berry (8.8 PPG).

This year's team is very young and they only have one senior and are looking to gain experience throughout the year.

Sophomore Laurel Hoogensen is averaging 3.9 PPG, and is the 4th leading scorer on the Rails.

Laurel says "The future is bright for Lincoln Basketball." She says the team needs to stay more focused, and needs to pay attention to little details like paying attention on the bench and talking when they are on defense. The team faces quality teams on their schedule, like Indianola, East, Mason

City, Valley and many more great opponents that are ranked top 10 in the state. Laurel told me her goal for the season is to have the team stay more focused in games. The girls have a bright future, and if they can stick together and play focused they can be good in the near future. The girls face Indianola at home on Friday the 17th. Then are at Dowling for a showdown against the Maroons on the 21st.

Freshman  
Laurel Hoogensen



2013-2014 Varsity Girls Basketball Team

LHSSPORTSLHSSPORTSLHSSPORTSLHSSPORTS

## Steady improvement Varsity boys are working through the season.

By Sports Writer Tanner Smith

The Varsity Boys basketball team won a close game on Friday, January 10th against the Ankeny Hawks.

The boys are 5-5, and about halfway through the season they are looking to secure a good seed in the post season.

Senior leader, and Captain Sabonis Smith says the team has good potential, and can, if the team can put in the work, win a couple games in the post season. Sabonis said, "You know, the final goal of the season is to make it to State, that's what it always had been." Sabonis also said his final goal of the season for himself was to make the All-State team.

Saboinis is also the leading scorer on the team averaging 17.7 points a game, along with Jelani Hughes who is averaging 12.6 points a game. The boys play Indianola on Friday January 17th at home, and then play Dowling on the 21st at Dowling.



Senior Captain Sabonis Smith

## Varsity/JV Wrestling

### Taking Down The Competition

By Sports Writer Tanner Smith

This year's team is led by senior captains Tyler Powell & Nathan Luna. Tyler is 20-2, and wrestles in the 106 pound weight class. Tyler's goal for the season is to qualify for state, and to do this he says he needs to work on his takedowns and his form. Nate Luna is ranked 7th in the state, and his record is 19-4. Nate's goal is this season is to earn his 100th career varsity win, and to place in the top 3 at the state wrestling meet. He said to accomplish these goals he needs to continue putting in the work, and be smart on the mat. I also talked to Sophomore Cole Baber, and he wrestles in the 132 weight class. It is good for young members to get varsity experience. He said his goals for the season were to win a few matches, and to continue getting better for the future. Reflecting on how the overall team is doing, everybody said that it is going "all right."

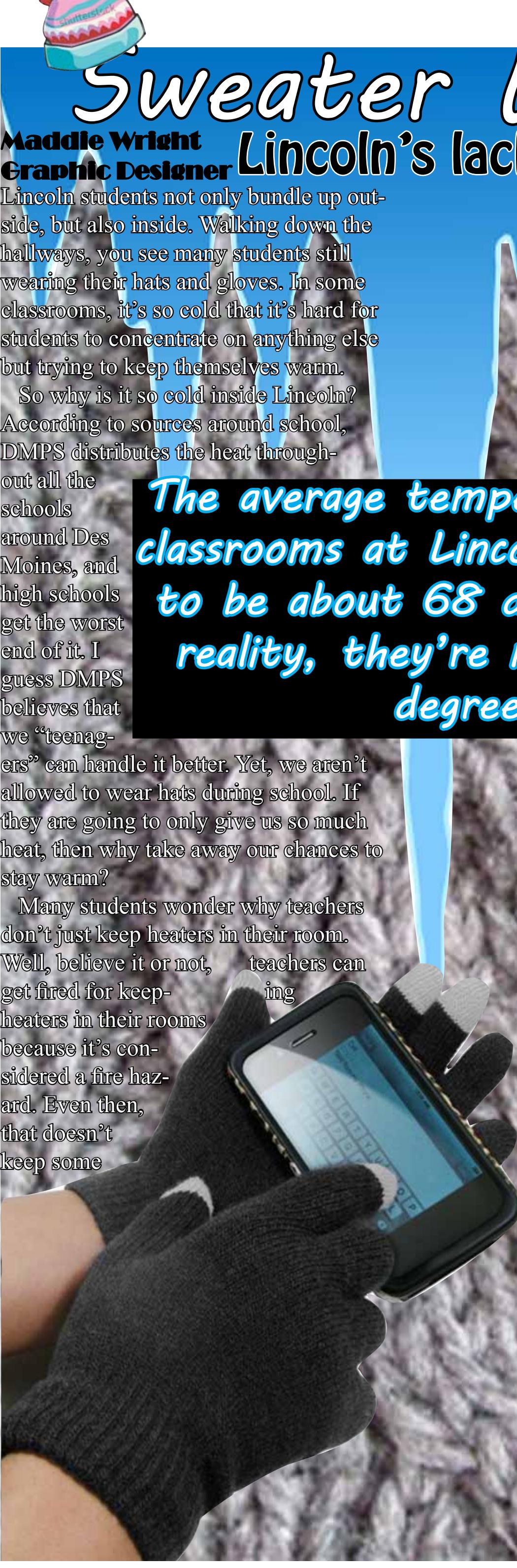
The team won a few dual-meets, and is improving as the season goes continues. The team's next match is at Friday the 31st, which is the CIML district tournament. The state tournament is sometime in February, and the team is anticipating a few qualifiers this year.



Senior Captain Tyler Powell



Pack the Roundhouse, Tuesday, February 4th and cheer our basketball teams on when they play Roosevelt. During halftime there will be a shooting and hula hoop competitions. Free t-shirts, miniballs or a lot of fun!



# Sweater Weather

## Lincoln's lack of heat

Maddie Wright  
Graphic Designer

Lincoln students not only bundle up outside, but also inside. Walking down the hallways, you see many students still wearing their hats and gloves. In some classrooms, it's so cold that it's hard for students to concentrate on anything else but trying to keep themselves warm.

So why is it so cold inside Lincoln? According to sources around school, DMPS distributes the heat throughout all the schools around Des Moines, and high schools get the worst end of it. I guess DMPS believes that we "teenagers" can handle it better. Yet, we aren't allowed to wear hats during school. If they are going to only give us so much heat, then why take away our chances to stay warm?

Many students wonder why teachers don't just keep heaters in their room. Well, believe it or not, teachers can get fired for keeping heaters in their rooms because it's considered a fire hazard. Even then, that doesn't keep some

teachers from having them.

Studies have shown that room temperature does affect student's attention spans. One particular study originated when students at Westview High School Beaverton, Oregon complained about temperature control in the building. The experiment demonstrates whether classroom temperature has an impact on student performance. The

average test scores for students in different classes were similar in the same category (too cold 78% and

74%); (too warm 72% and 73%); (control 87%, 92% and 93%).

Another study done by an undergrad at Loyola University found that air temperature has an impact on memory ability. Using a computer generated memory test, 52 students randomly participated in memory tests in rooms with varying temperatures. Room temperatures were set at 72, 80 and 64 degrees F. The outcome showed that in the environment with temperatures of 80 or 64 degrees, memory was impacted negatively. Test scores were significantly higher in the classroom where the temperature was 72 degrees.

The average temperature in the classrooms at Lincoln is supposed to be about 68 degrees but in reality, they're more like 63 degrees. That could explain a lot of distracted students and low test scores. If DMPS really wanted what was best for not only us students but also for our teachers, they would make our classrooms warmer.

***The average temperature in the classrooms at Lincoln is supposed to be about 68 degrees but in reality, they're more like 63 degrees.***

# Blogs

## IT'S LADY LINCOLN TIME

### Cash flow dry...

In our generation I feel that the fact that we think getting a job or a source of money can solve our problems, but really it just creates another problem, well for me. I'm one of those people who have been spending in order to get the economy back in place also known as a shopaholic. I've been sipping the shopaholic a lot ever since I got my source of cash flow when I was a junior.

I got my job during my junior year right before the holidays and it was wonderful. My hours were great, people were great and Christmas season came and my paycheck was just beautiful and the fact that I got paid every week made life so much bet-

ter. But with a job and a paycheck comes other things such as paying for gas, food if you're hungry, money for emergencies, but then you always have that left over, which you can pretty much spend on anything, and I mean anything. I thought I was hot stuff being able to afford my own nice stuff, but was it really necessary to buy a 30 dollar Lilly Pulitzer case? Uh yes, it's Lilly. But you know your purchases are getting out of hand if you're lying to your parents about the price or hiding the shopping bags in your car. Welcome to my life.

Then the worst things that can ever happen to you, happened to me. My hours were cut. How does a shopaholic

survive on a paycheck that couldn't even pay for her gas? She doesn't, and that how she builds credit...well faux credit. Let's just say I'm in debt with my sister. That was a time to quit your job, but the thing was I honestly liked my job. So what did I do when my money ran low? Prioritized for the first time, 50 percent gas and the rest went to my sister. But lately I've hit a relapse, it all started with the J.Crew sale this fall and the moment the cashier handed me my bag I felt absolutely horrible. But at least I'm able to find a sale.

So I guess I won't really learn until I go to college, or maybe before that. Hopefully I'll get a new job that's able to



cover my expenses. Trying to prioritize now is a struggle too because it's senior year I had to pay for senior dues, a prom tickets and dress, senior banquet dress and I have graduation to worry about. So my advice to everyone, save money for senior year, it's really expensive. Until next time, Lady Lincoln is out.



My purchases during my second Mall of America trip...



**Amy Luong**  
**Editor-in-chief**

## WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?!!

ANTHONY CALIGURI  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

### Baby, it's cold inside...

I just want to start off by saying I'm sorry if my typing is bad, my fingers are cold and the heat at this joint is slim to none.

Temperatures outside are at a record time low and the wind chill is even lower. Meteorologists say the weather hasn't been like this since 1996. CRAP. We are living in a mini Antarctica. Ridiculous.

The weather outside is frightful and that big fire inside isn't all that delightful. One thing is for sure though; the temperatures are affecting us all like when Mc-

Donald's ice cream machine is broken....Let's just say there are some conniption fits.

But the weather going on outside is only half of the problem. The inside of houses and school buildings are colder than ever, but what's the surprise there? I don't see why schools don't invest a little more in their 'state of the art' heating/cooling systems. It's very inconsistent inside the buildings. One day it's colder than a yeti's snow cones and the next it's hotter than the Saharan desert. What is up with that?

I think having a cold learning environment really messes us students up. Studies have shown that a cold room naturally makes people tired. Teaching may be a challenge with more kids asleep than usual. Plus how are we supposed to stay focused when we can't feel our fingers? It's kind of hard to work with gloves on, and school rules are against hats inside, so there's that.

The chills of winter put people in these "moods." People get an-

gered easier, and I don't like it. Finals just happened, it's still negative 8 degrees outside (and inside for that matter), and spring is nowhere in sight. When is enough, enough?

But I'm just going to push through it. If that means dressing like the Abominable Snowman until March then I will. I think we just need to push through the cold season together and get ready for some summer sun. Until then, stay warm, snuggle up, drink cocoa, and have a good time.



**Stay Study**  
**LHS...**

**Mr. Sun where are you?**

# Marissa's Moments

## Finally Turning 16

Marissa Signor Staff writer

I have been waiting to turn 16 for a long time! I can't wait to get my license. I have been talking about getting a car and my dream car for 5 years now. I am so excited to drive without my parents or a guardian in the car with me.

Now that I am turning 16, I can go out and hangout with my friends without my parents having to drive me around everywhere. I

am a little nervous to be driving around myself but I think I will eventually like going driving around alone. My worst fear is getting into a car accident. I have never been in an accident before and my worst fear is getting into a car accident alone.

NOW... lets' talk about how I am getting my car. When I was little I thought that I was going to have to

pay for my car, so I have been saving all of this money for a car. My parents told me that they are giving me \$5000.00 for a car but if it costs more they would pay for it!

Since my parents are paying for my car, I have to get gas with my own money. That really isn't a big problem for me because I have a job at my family's restaurant and get paid with

cash for tips and in my paycheck. I have been saving money for a really long time so now I have all of this extra money to spend or save up even more.

I have some rules the first few weeks while driving. I have to have good grades the whole time through school and I can't get any speeding tickets because if I do then I get my car taken away. I plan on naming my

car Buster. My car is going to be my angel. I am going to take care of it so well and not one leaf, rock, or crumb in there.

I am so excited that I turned 16 on January 8th! I can't wait to be able to go off campus for lunch and drive on my own. The day I get my license will be the day I remember for a long time because I have been waiting to turn 16 for a long time!

# Dance Competitions

## The competition part of DANCE

Carlie McCleary Staff writer

There are many different types of dance, but the competitive side is almost every dancer's favorite. Competition season is the best part of going to a studio. Teams go to multiple competitions a year and compete to win money, titles, sometimes scholarships and other awards. Studio teams prepare all year for the competitions they plan on competing in.

Most studios attend a series of regionals first, but towards the end of

the year, they may go to a national competition. Nationals are always a big deal, and winning a national title is a huge honor.

Some people would rather go to conventions than competitions. Dance Conventions are a company of choreographers teaching master classes to which ever dancer signs up. There are different rooms for different age levels, and different choreographers for each style of dance.

At most conventions, they hold an optional competition that any dancer that took class can compete in.

My little sister Katie is big into conventions. She travels with a group of choreographers and assistants almost every weekend. She assists classes of her age group and always participates in the competition at the end of the convention. She traveled with a company called "ASH" last year and now she

travels with the "Hollywood Vibe" convention. She won the title of "Dancer of the Year" there also.

Dance studios are very different from school dance teams. Just as dance competitions are very different from what school dance teams perform and compete in. The Railettes and other dance teams around Iowa compete in State and perform in multiple shows. We do go to nationals and re-

gionals, but only by choice. Some dance teams only work for State. Competitions for studios and drill teams are different because everything is run differently and they are never in the same type of venue. For example, dance competitions are almost on a stage while school dance teams usually compete on a gym floor.

Competition season can be scary and stressful but it's the most fun of the year for me.

# Blogs

## Meltdowns with Alex

### Brrr . . . it's COLD out here . . . there must be a polar vortex in the atmosphere

Alex Louw Staff writer

Soooooo, it's like really cold outside. Apparently this cold air is coming from the North Pole, and the wind is circulating and it's forcing the cold air to move down south to us and most of the United States.

Lots of schools closed throughout the state of Iowa and thousands of other schools out of state as well. Don't get me wrong, I loooovveeee snow days, but I hate making them up. It's like a win-lose situation. You get a day off to stay home and relax, just

because of the cold weather, and then you have to make it up when you could be having the time of your life during the summer.

We all hate making up snow days, but we know we love the extra days off.

I tend to have meltdowns when they don't give us a snow day when pretty much every other school district surrounding Des Moines is closed. I mean, who wouldn't? If schools that are twenty minutes away from me don't have to go because there's a wind chill

of -30 degrees, I shouldn't have to either....

Never in years of being in school has DMPS ever had a two-hour delay. This year was the first year my fellow classmates and I experienced two-hour delays. Not one, but now two! One during an ice storm and one for the cold weather. No offense, but having a delay because it's cold out doesn't really make the cold temps go up. Especially when the news said that the temperature won't go up until the afternoon. I definitely had a

meltdown the night before we had school that day. My newspaper classmates and I were group messaging; impatiently waiting for DMPS to tweet that classes would be cancelled. Almost every surrounding school district was cancelled! Except for us! We just had a delay.

I guess I shouldn't complain about that though because it's one less day that we have to make up during the summer. It's just another pointless meltdown that I eventually get over. :)



## Lil Mac Jammer RAPPIN' away, I got the January Blues . . . I'm cryin' boo hoo

Kenzy Cooper Staff writer

Lil Mac Jammer and you already know!

January's here and it's covered in snow. It's the beginning of the year, should be exciting yo, but to be honest my excitement is running low.

Christmas is over and finals are here I can already tell this isn't my year. But let's be positive, Spring is on its way we can lay in the sun and relax all day.

2nd Semester can be such a drag, but finish strong so you can brag.

Another rap has come and gone, but it won't be long 'til you have another one!



# Want to Know what Heck Feels LIKE? Take a Central Class!

By Rebecca Rodrigues staff writer

**T**ime consuming. NOT easy. And probably the best way to prepare you for the real world. Those are a some few words to describe what we call central classes. Some central classes aren't the worst thing to ever happen to you, but they are still pretty difficult.

Central classes aren't

just class work. There is a lot of out of class work and projects that can't just be done in 5 minutes. Believe me, I know. We do a lot of that. But the reason the teacher's give us so much homework, is because they are so passionate about their subjects, that they think that their subject is the most important/only subject we take. So they give a lot of work to help us understand it but it just confuses us even more. Teachers, your class is not the only class we take!

It is not easy. There is about a handful of people who can



just skim the material and understand it. And I am not one of them. The concepts are not that hard to understand--it's just that there are so many and they go in to deeeeeep detail. Not the best way to get us interested in the subject, is it? Or past their tests.

But unfortunately, the best way to get ready for college is to take a college class. And that's what central gives me. Taking a class offered by DMACC is not what I expected. It's harder, and a lot more work filled. You actually have to work at it, and learn something. And that is what's best about it. It actually prepares you. And that's why I go through Heck- to learn something.

## The case for Art

You may pass this every day on your way to the front hallway or heading toward student services. Take a moment and check out the amazing art word from Mrs. Phillip's College Art Draw/Paint III and IV.

You will be dazzled at the same time.

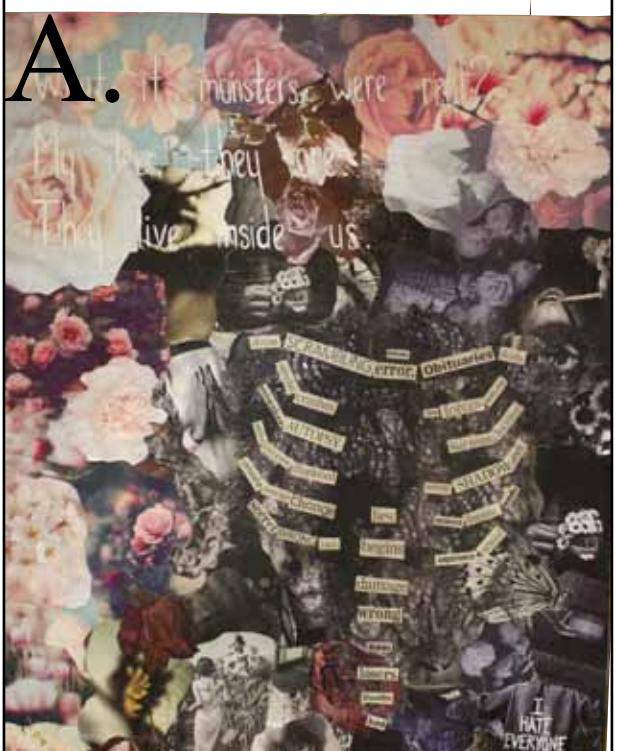
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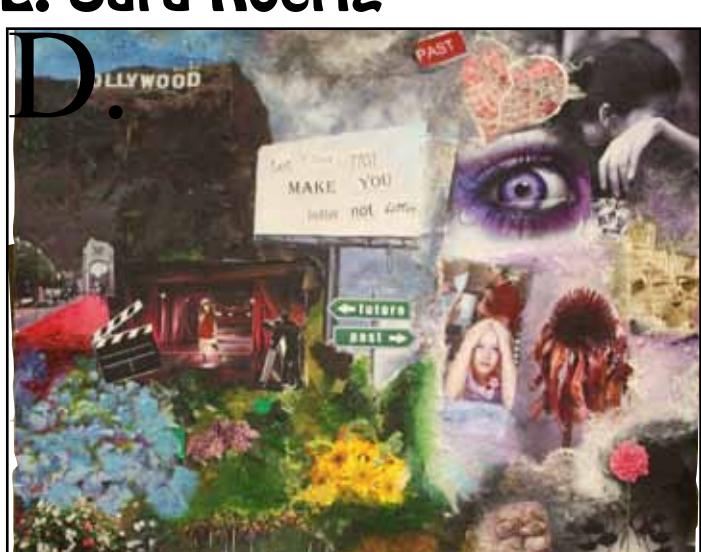
B. Ryan Poulter



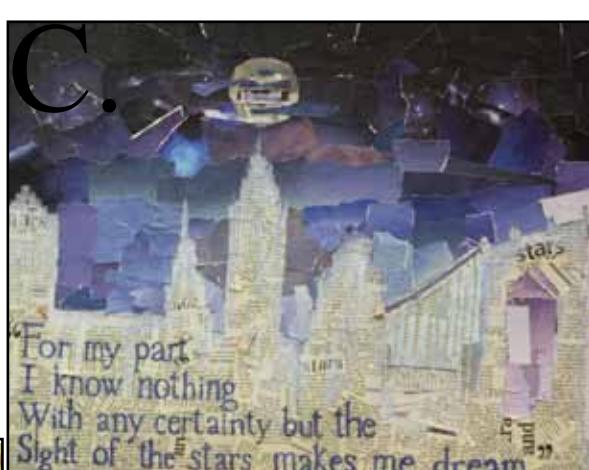
C. Vilaylack Sensouk



D. Katelynn Weaver



E. Sara Roerig



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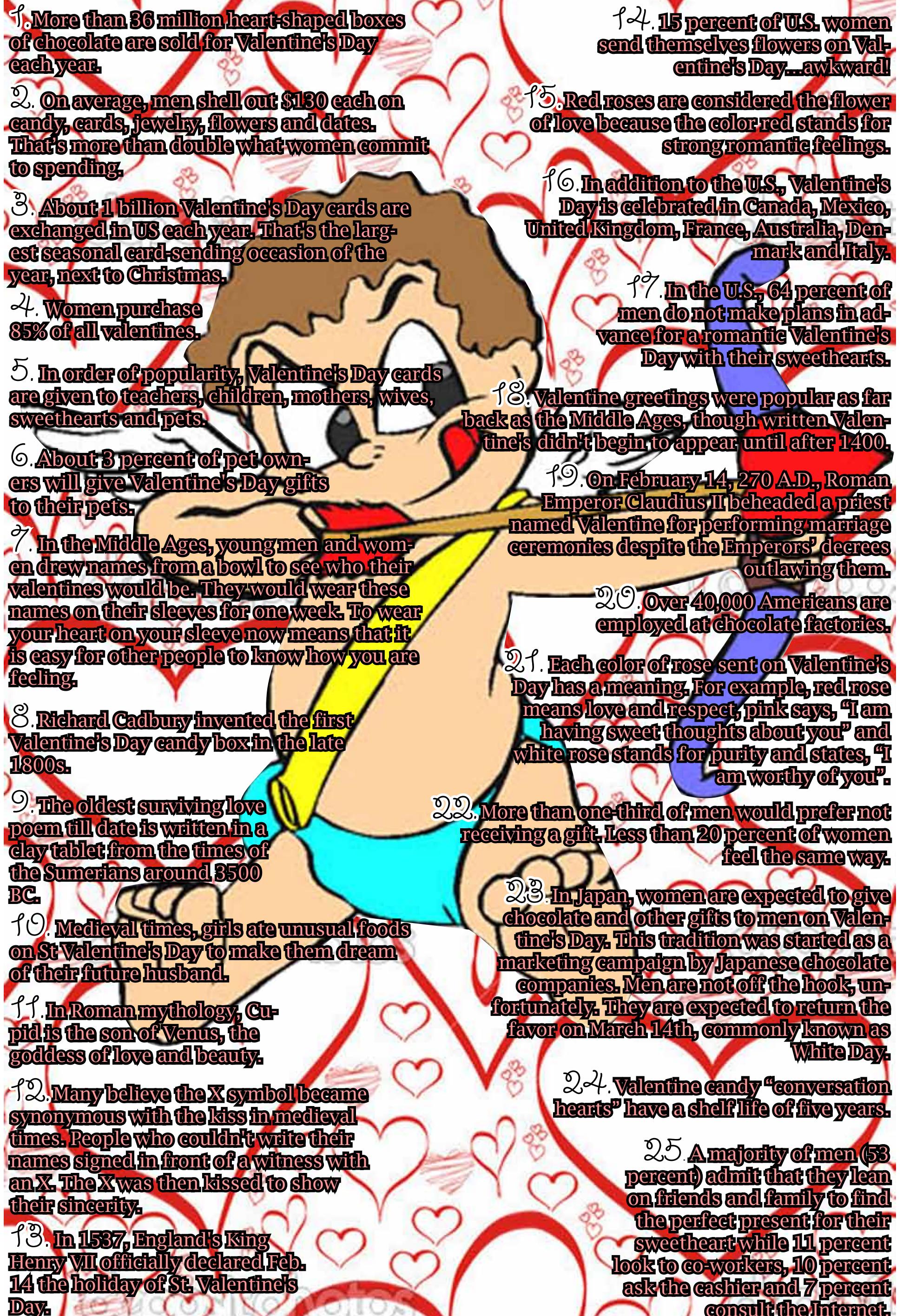
12 year old dancer  
Katie McCleary

teams usually compete on a gym floor.

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# 25 Facts about Valentine's Day

Maddie Wright Graphic Designer

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1. More than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are sold for Valentine's Day each year.
2. On average, men shell out \$130 each on candy, cards, jewelry, flowers and dates. That's more than double what women commit to spending.
3. About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged in US each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.
4. Women purchase 85% of all valentines.
5. In order of popularity, Valentine's Day cards are given to teachers, children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.
6. About 3 percent of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.
7. In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.
8. Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentine's Day candy box in the late 1800s.
9. The oldest surviving love poem till date is written in a clay tablet from the times of the Sumerians around 3500 BC.
10. Medieval times, girls ate unusual foods on St Valentine's Day to make them dream of their future husband.
11. In Roman mythology, Cupid is the son of Venus, the goddess of love and beauty.
12. Many believe the X symbol became synonymous with the kiss in medieval times. People who couldn't write their names signed in front of a witness with an X. The X was then kissed to show their sincerity.
13. In 1537, England's King Henry VII officially declared Feb. 14 the holiday of St. Valentine's Day.
14. 15 percent of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day...awkward!
15. Red roses are considered the flower of love because the color red stands for strong romantic feelings.
16. In addition to the U.S., Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, France, Australia, Denmark and Italy.
17. In the U.S., 64 percent of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts.
18. Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400.
19. On February 14, 270 A.D., Roman Emperor Claudius II beheaded a priest named Valentine for performing marriage ceremonies despite the Emperors' decrees outlawing them.
20. Over 40,000 Americans are employed at chocolate factories.
21. Each color of rose sent on Valentine's Day has a meaning. For example, red rose means love and respect, pink says, "I am having sweet thoughts about you" and white rose stands for purity and states, "I am worthy of you".
22. More than one-third of men would prefer not receiving a gift. Less than 20 percent of women feel the same way.
23. In Japan, women are expected to give chocolate and other gifts to men on Valentine's Day. This tradition was started as a marketing campaign by Japanese chocolate companies. Men are not off the hook, unfortunately. They are expected to return the favor on March 14th, commonly known as White Day.
24. Valentine candy "conversation hearts" have a shelf life of five years.
25. A majority of men (53 percent) admit that they lean on friends and family to find the perfect present for their sweetheart while 11 percent look to co-workers, 10 percent ask the cashier and 7 percent consult the Internet.