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## Highlights

by Allie McGauran

### Swim team at state

The Homestead varsity boys' swim team took seventh place out of 40 teams in this year's state competition, Max Silver, senior and varsity swimmer, said.

"The two standout swimmers were Cody Burkard, senior, and Nick Petersen, freshman," Silver said.

According to him, Burkard placed third in the 100 breaststroke and fourth in the 200 individual medley, and Peterson got third in the 100 backstroke and fourth in the 100 butterfly, both of which he had set school records for at a previous meet.

"Nobody on the team had an easy competition," Silver said.

"Overall, it was a really good state meet for the team, and the guys that swam did a fantastic job," Max Timm, senior and varsity swimmer, said.

### Wrestler at state

A Homestead varsity wrestler had the opportunity to go to state this year. "I was very excited to go to state because wrestlers from Homestead do not make it to state very often," Michael Kress, senior and varsity wrestler, said.

"I felt some pressure since I was the only one from the team going this year," he said.

Kress said he was "knocked out" in the first round, but he kept a positive attitude. Some of his teammates came up to Madison to support him, he added.

### Girls' coach of the year

Coach Jackie Egelhoff, varsity tennis coach, was awarded the Wisconsin Girls' Coach of the Year Award in November from the Wisconsin Tennis Coaches Association after a very successful season. Coach Egelhoff, who has been with Homestead for 30 years, said that the team won state for the third consecutive year.

## Writing Lab takes new title

by Lauren Olson

Homestead's Writing Lab will take on the new title of The Sydney Lauren Tabakin Writing Lab in the coming year, according to Dr. Demond Means, superintendent of the Mequon-Thiensville School District.

The Tabakin family and Mr. Jack Rooney, family friend, approached the school district in early January with the proposal of naming the Writing Lab after Tabakin, Dr. Means said.

Currently, the school district must fund the availability of teachers in the Writing Lab for a limited number of hours per day. However, the gift from the Tabakin family will now ensure increased accessibility for students in need of assistance, Mrs. Ann Cook, English Department chair, said.

Further explaining the proposal of The Sydney Lauren Tabakin Writing Lab, Dr. Neil Tabakin, Sydney's father, said, "After Sydney died, [my wife and I] were trying to think of a way to honor her and help other people in her memory, and we were thinking, 'What better way to help the community than to help the Writing Lab?'"

According to Dr. Tabakin, the Sydney Lauren Tabakin Memorial Fund, a tax-free entity, will be partially supporting the Writing Lab financially for the next 10 years. "We wanted to make sure [the Lab] would remain open due to potential budget cuts, so it could continue to inspire present and future students as it did Sydney," he said.

Dr. Tabakin further expressed his thoughts on the Memorial Fund and said, "The goal is to help support things that were close and dear to Sydney's heart."

While many programs could have been named after Tabakin, the Writing Lab commemoration is only logical. "She was a phenomenal writer. She loved, loved, loved writing from the time she was 4 or 5 years old," Dr. Tabakin said.

Expressing the same notion, Aubrey Quick, senior and friend,



Photo by Kelsey Wacha

Some members of the Relay For Life planning committee include: from left, Grace Meehan, senior; and Jacquelyn Zoeller, Lily Kubly, Kiley Quinlevan, Rebecca Hart, Adam Bartscher, Melissa Masters and Cassandra Bireley, juniors.

## Relay for Life fights cancer

by Noel Seaton

Homestead High School students and teachers will join together in the Relay for Life on Saturday, May 14, Madeline Bireley, junior and member of the accounting committee, said.

The Relay for Life is an event sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Not only does the money go toward finding a cure for cancer, but the event also helps patients in remission, Bireley said.

She said that the relay is a 12-hour walk throughout the night. The theme is "cancer never sleeps, so why should we?"

Kaley Pak, junior and member of the publicity committee, said that the goal for the committee is to raise \$20,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Another goal is to have one member of each team walking on the track at all times. At the event, food will also be provided, Bireley said.

During the relay, students can participate in activities more than walking, Pak said. A participant can walk around the track or hang at a camp area with friends. "We are also finding other forms of entertainment for participants, such as a black jack table," she said.



Photo by Kelsey Wacha

From left, Claire Exley, junior, received help on a paper after school from Mrs. Gerri Epstein, English teacher, in the Homestead Writing Lab.

said, "One thing I remember about her writing was a time in fourth grade. We were told to write a poem about peace, and we entered [each poem] in a contest. We all tried hard to win, and Sydney did [win]. Her poem was so good. I think that shows how she was an amazing writer from an early age."

Moreover, when talk of closing the Writing Lab surfaced, Tabakin was visibly concerned that something she was passionate about might disappear for other people, Mrs. Cook said. "It is heartwarming that she cared enough about it to mention it to her parents and that her parents [carried out that wish]."

Conveying her thoughts on the proposal, Gina Phillips, senior and friend, said, "[It] will honor Syd and help others in their writing to try to make it as good as hers. Tons of students use the Writing Lab, so keeping it alive in [her] name will spread her positive influence onto even more people than she has already touched."

## Budget-repair bill signed into law

by Allie Skow

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker signed the Budget-Repair Bill, requiring state employees to pay at least 12.6 percent toward their health insurance premiums, to increase their pension contributions to an estimated 5.8 percent of their salary and to give up their collective bargaining privileges, according to *The Journal Sentinel*.

"I think paradigm has shifted, and how people look at their work has changed forever," Dr. Demond Means, superintendent, said. "It is a new environment. It is a new world."

He also added that public sector employees have agreed to pay a greater share of their health insurance and pensions.

"Pensions are a thing of the past," Mrs. Susan Godfrey, physical education teacher, said. "We should all be aware of our financial futures and contribute toward them."

Likewise, Ms. Susan Lueders, social studies teacher, said the increased pension and health insurance contributions would be acceptable because she realizes that, in hard economic times, everyone should contribute.

On the other hand, she said that the bill completely dis-

mantles a system of rights and that it is just a matter of time before the legislation goes after other groups, such as the police officers or fire fighters.

In addition to the payments and stripping of collective bargaining rights, the bill states that public employees would have the choice to join a union. At the present time, workers can deny union membership, but they must still make payments to a union.

Ms. Lueders said that workers should be forced to be part of the union. "[The union] is a professional organization for teachers to be better teachers."

Commenting on workers' responses before the bill became law, Ms. Lueders said, "I cannot believe it is not making a difference. The protests are putting Walker in a corner, making him look like an uncaring governor who is out of touch with the public."

"It is an American democracy at work," Dr. Means said. "I think every American has the right to protest as much as he wants to."

*The Journal Sentinel* reported that if Walker's bill did not pass, many state employees most likely would have been laid off; there really is not much of an option because of Wisconsin's debt.

## Student Council prepares for prom at Italian Community Center

by Grace McCormick

With prom around the corner, Student Council is preparing for the event on Saturday, April 16, at the Italian Community Center in downtown Milwaukee, Mrs. Dawn Pfaff, Student

Council advisor, said.

"This year, we are trying to make prom classy, and I am pretty sure with the theme we picked, A Night at the Gatsby's, it will be classy," Gretchen Gebhardt, junior and Student Council member, said.

Lily Kubly, junior, said that she is excited to dress up and hang out with her friends. She has heard from upperclassmen that prom is a fun night, and she looks forward to seeing if the event lives up to her expectations.

Mrs. Pfaff said the upperclassmen are allowed to attend the dance with guests even if students have dates from other schools or grade levels.

Luke Lawlor, senior, said that last year's prom was

a very exciting night. He looks forward to this year and hopes it is enjoyable as well.

Likewise, Kubly said "I am eager to see how the night unfolds, and I look forward to the overall experience."

Our View

# Tabakin family helps Writing Lab

Last September, Homestead High School lost one of its seniors; Sydney Lauren Tabakin, a seasoned athlete and successful student, died in a motor vehicle accident. To memorialize her life, the Tabakin family proposed that Homestead's Writing Lab be named The Sydney Lauren Tabakin Writing Lab. We, *The Highlander* staff, support the district's decision to pass this proposal and honor the memory of a previously active student.

Besides being involved in both the dance and rugby team, Tabakin exhibited a true passion for her writing. According to her family and friends, Tabakin loved writing since she was very young. The proposal, written by Mr. Jack Rooney, credited the Writing Lab as a place in which "her [Sydney's] writing skills were nurtured and flowered."

As a result of necessary budget cuts, the Lab became extremely susceptible to reduction. With financial help from the Tabakin family, memorial donations and fundraisers, the Writing Lab will continue to be open before and after school. Specifically, the family will make an initial dona-

tion of \$10,000 next year and annual donations of \$10,000 for the next 10 years.

To best validate naming rights, the School Board follows specific guidelines in policy #7230. For instance, one of the requirements asks, "Does the gift expand or enhance best educational practices for students?" In the opinion of many Homestead students, the Writing Lab represents an integral educational tool. Allowing the Lab to continue to function before and after school will significantly enhance students' work practices. Similarly, in Mr. Rooney's proposal for the Writing Lab, he acknowledged 2 main goals that they hope to achieve: keeping Tabakin's memory alive through one of her passions and encouraging awareness and involvement in private donations to public schools.

Therefore, we, *The Highlander* staff, recognize the many benefits of renaming the Writing Lab; it increases the availability of a crucial educational resource and keeps alive the memory of a Homestead student who was taken too soon.

## Students discuss favorite travel spots



"Florida because I love warm weather."

Jordan Wagner, freshman



"Barbados because of the good surfing."

Keaton Aspell, sophomore



"Anywhere but Mequon because Mequon is so boring."

Gretchen Gebhardt, junior



"The Galapagos Islands because of all the turtles."

Sam Aeschbacher, senior

*Photos by Kelsey Wach*

# Seniors offer advice to assist freshmen

A column by Sophie Kubly

With four years of experience at Homestead High School, seniors have plenty of helpful advice to offer to incoming freshmen. Whether it involves how to meet new people, how to act or how to avoid the hall monitors, the seniors' advice can help freshmen transition easily into high school.

Freshman year can be intimidating, but Alina Dvortsen, senior, advises that when students have a positive attitude and an open mind to meet new people, the first year of high school can turn out better than expected.

As a freshman, one should always avoid the 'freshman backpack.' Laura Podolske, senior, suggests that hiking up one's full backpack all the way to his neck can make one easily recognized as a freshman.

Podolske also advises freshmen not to carry around a map of Homestead; it is just another way to be seen as a freshman. A good way to make sure one knows his way around Homestead is to walk his schedule on the day he goes to registration.

Another way to make freshman year as enjoy-

able as possible is to get involved. Grace Meehan, senior, encourages freshmen to get involved in extracurricular activities. Homestead offers a variety of activities, from Student Council to drama or sports which are great ways to make new friends; however, one should not join an extracurricular activity for the sole purpose of making friends. He should join a sport or other activity that he enjoys.

Oliver Maggard, senior, advises freshmen to stay focused on school. When one focuses more on his academics than his social life, high school is not as hard as it seems in the beginning.

Homestead's hall monitors are notorious for catching people in the hallways. Johan Lerner, senior, said, "If you see Vicky, run!"

While freshman year is a big step up from middle school, with advice from seniors, everyone can make an easy transition from eighth grade to high school. One should get involved, avoid the infamous 'freshman backpack' and always avoid a run-in with the hall monitors. With these tips to ease incoming freshmen, one's first year in high school should be an unforgettable year.

*The Highlander's* editorial policy is to present facts and opinions in a fair and honest manner on issues pertaining to students at Homestead. We uphold the right to speak unpopular opinions and the privilege to agree with the majority.

Letters to *The Highlander* are encouraged; however, we reserve the right to edit letters for length and grammatical errors. In addition, letters must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request. Any student who wishes to express his opinion through *The Highlander* should drop off the letter in the boxes located in rooms 506, 911, and the Attendance and Guidance offices.

The Highlander  
of  
Homestead High School  
5000 W. Mequon Road  
Mequon, Wisconsin 53092

Published six times during the school year, Friday, April 15, 2011  
Quill and Scroll International First Place Award  
Kettle Moraine Press Association Writing Awards

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## AP classes rewarding but also exhausting

### Pro

A column by Helen Lewis

During registration, the question always arises: are AP classes truly worth the blood, sweat and tears brought about by the rigorous coursework? In essence, AP courses are recommended for students willing to conquer a greater level of coursework and receive greater awards.

AP courses provide unique challenges unlike those of other courses at Homestead High School. As college-level courses, the classes are more challenging than honors courses.

In addition, AP courses impress college admissions counselors. By taking the most challenging courses available, students show colleges they are ready for the challenges the courses pose.

With the successful completion of AP courses, students also have the enormous benefit of possible college credit. One will not have to take the AP class in college after passing the AP test for that class. This leaves prospective students' college schedules open to a variety of possibilities, allowing room for electives and other interesting courses.

Despite the pain of an AP course, major opportunities unfold before students. Students who tackle AP courses finish the year feeling successful and satisfied. For students, the benefits of taking AP classes far outweigh the negatives.

### Con

A column by Megan Lyneis

Dedicating two hours of homework a night, hard working students are often overwhelmed by school assignments. Are AP classes worth the work? I do not think so.

Many students are stressed due to the heavy workload for these classes. If a student spends all of his time on one or two classes, his GPA and grades may decline.

In addition, the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) provides a Presidential Scholarship which awards four years of full tuition. For eligibility, a student needs a minimum 3.8 cumulative GPA. This average can be very difficult to obtain when enrolled in AP classes.

Also, students should be warned that not all universities accept AP test results for credit. Thus, the acquisition of college credits should not be the reason a student takes an AP class.

Another disadvantage of an AP class is the expense to the student and the school district. The students must pay an ever increasing fee to take the exam. Plus, the school incurs an additional cost associated with maintaining the accredited courses.

Thus, in my opinion, AP classes are not worth it and are just another moneymaking scheme promoted by the College Board.

# Math teacher patents two models

by Mollie Cook

Many people may be surprised to hear that Homestead's own Ms. Emily Errthum, math teacher, is a published author and has two patented models, one for Geometry and one for Calculus, according to Andy Deneen, sophomore and Calculus student.

Ms. Errthum explained that she began the geometric shape project in 1998. She continued, "I never expected the patent projects to get as big as they did, but I am so glad that they did."

The first project, geometric models used to describe various properties of geometry, includes a published book, *Getting Into Solids-Pyramid Workbook*, and a patent on the models associated with the book.

The models began as just pyramids but then developed into more elaborate prisms, according to Ms. Errthum.

The second project, focusing on Calculus problems in finding the first derivative, began in 2007 and received its patent early this year.

"Using the whiteboard, a student is able to move the secant line that is attached to two magnetic points on the curve to form the tangent line,"

Mr. Joe Ordinans, Math Department chair, elaborated. "Many students, over 100 by now, have used the model. The results have been wonderful."

The patents provide Ms. Errthum with extra income, which balances the \$6,000 cost that comes with each patent's production, according to her.

"It actually pays off my property taxes! Just a little added bonus. I used to make \$5,000 per year, per patent, but with the economy the way it is, it is down to about \$4,000 per year, per patent," Ms. Errthum explained.

A patent normally takes 6 months to be approved; however in 2006, as the USPTO stated "183,187 out of 443,652 patents that were applied for were approved, 41%."

In Ms. Errthum's case, her first patent took 2 years to receive (1998-2000), and her second took 4 years (2007-2011).

Ms. Errthum concluded, "It is such a great thing to be a part of. Since the models are more visual and less abstract, they can provide easier understanding for many students."

Though she is retiring her patenting career, Ms. Errthum continues to aid students in

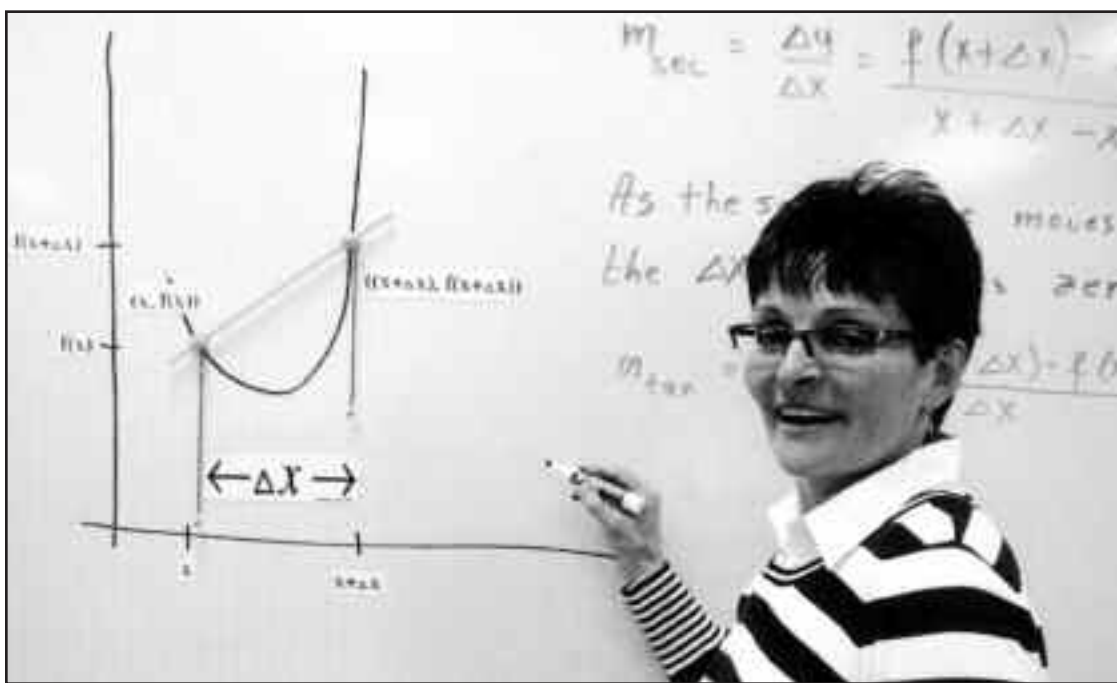


Photo by Kelsey Wach

Showing off her recently patented Calculus model, Ms. Emily Errthum, math teacher, demonstrates how to use her invention on her whiteboard.

their learning, paving their road to success.

Anna Belle Hoots, sophomore and Calculus student, agreed with Mitman. "The model is a really neat way to learn. I like that way a lot better than trying to learn from the book, especially since the problems that the model solves

were so confusing the other ways they were taught," Hoots added.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) noted that "A U.S. patent for an invention is the grant of a property right to the inventor(s), issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The right conferred by the patent grant is, in the language of the statute and of the grant itself, 'the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling' the invention in the United States or 'importing' the invention into the United States."



Photo courtesy of Ms. Kat Hustedde

The Scholastic Art Award Winners, front row from left are Noah Mitchelson and Karli Wittenberg, sophomores; and Rebecca Himelstein, junior. Back row from left includes: Marley McCallister, senior; Amy Petrowsky, junior; and Angela Rosenberg, senior.

## Six students receive awards for Scholastic Art competition

by Matt Burke

Six Homestead students were the recipients of nine awards at the 2011 Scholastic Art Awards highlighting artistic achievement, according to Ms. Kat Hustedde, art teacher, in a recent press release.

A total of 338 outstanding works by Wisconsin students grades 7-12 comprise this annual regional exhibition. Awards were presented at a private ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 5, but work was on display at the Milwaukee Art Museum through early March, the press release stated.

The following students were recognized: Noah Mitchelson, sophomore, two gold keys; Karli Wittenberg, sophomore, two gold keys; Rebecca Himelstein, junior, two gold keys; Amy Petrowsky, junior, gold key; Marley McCallister, senior, silver key and Angela Rosenberg, senior, gold key, Ms. Hustedde said.

The press release also noted that the regional gold key winning artworks will advance to The Scholastic Art Awards national competition in New York City along with those from other regions across the United States.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards website affirmed that the students can submit their works to regional programs of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and can earn many opportunities including scholarships.

"Since both my drawings won gold, both will go on to the national competition where they will be compared against all the other gold key winners. If it is considered the best, then I go to New York for the national awards," Mitchelson explained.

The Scholastic Art Awards were founded in 1923 and are the longest-running and most prestigious recognition for teens interested in the arts, the press release noted.

Famous winners of the awards include Andy Warhol, Phillip Pearlstein and Arnold Hurley, it explained.

Students eligible to participate can be from grades 7-12. According to the release, over 165,000 works of art and writing are submitted annually to literary arts professionals who decide on the best works to attend the national awards ceremony.

Awarded locally are gold keys, American visions and voices nominations, silver keys, and honorable mentions, the press release explained.

"If I don't win nationals, I wouldn't be surprised. After all, the people I'm competing against are all great artists," Mitchelson added.

The 2011 national exhibition will take place in New York City in June, 2011, and will be preceded by a celebration at Carnegie Hall on May 31, 2011, according to the press release.

## Technology progress affects Homestead

by Meri Bobber

Within the last half-decade, Homestead has kept up with the rapid development of technology in America by integrating many technological advancements in the classroom.

Students including Kim Eyers, senior, have reaped the benefits of Powerschool, Wikis, Smartboards, Turn it in, Moodle, and other results of the evolution of educational technology.

"The advancements have been helpful by giving students a new ability to access the lessons and material in a variety of ways," Eyers stated.

Mrs. Amy Monroe, assistant principal, has administrated the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Grant for the past three years and has watched the program play a major role in initiating these advancements.

"The EETT has provided the opportunity to train teachers with skills to incorporate blogs, websites and new applications to the classroom every day," she said.

Though some students appreciate the benefits of Homestead's commitment to

technology in the classroom, some feel room for improvement remains.

Smartboards would be more effective if students could work with them firsthand rather than watching the teachers use them simply to take notes, according to Brad Schuman, junior.

Jack Smiley, junior, agreed that the teachers could get

**"The advancements have been helpful by giving students a new ability to access the lessons and material in a variety of ways."**

**Kim Eyers, senior**

more out of the Smartboard as well as Moodle if they better knew how to "navigate and work them to the best of their abilities."

Opinions similar to Smiley's seem to be common among the student body. Recent advancements have aided the evolution of education at Homestead, but the school could go further with even more understanding of the technology available to both teachers and students.

## IMC now allows iPod use as long as rules obeyed

by Samantha Hansen

After the administration debated for many years, the IMC now allows students to use their iPods.

"The IMC is an instructional media center, and it only makes sense to introduce audio because we already give out audios for books and other sources," Mrs. Suzanne Zellmann, IMC director, stated.

Students can use their iPods as long as they obey the rules.

"It has to be out on the table, no sharing ear buds with others. Music can't be too loud, and students can listen to music while on the computer," Mrs. Zellmann added. "However, students can't listen to Youtube while on the computer because the school only has so much band width, and streaming music takes up too much, causing every computer to slow down."

Delighted with the rule change, Grace Meehan, senior, exclaimed, "They [iPods] aren't distracting when we do our homework like some teachers or parents think."

Brett Geschke, sophomore, agreed. "The change is great because before if I used to get my homework done before the end of the hour, I would just sit, but now I can listen to music."

Overall, most students agreed that the decision to allow iPods in the IMC reflects a positive move.

# NHS: Recruits eligible for 2011-12; requirements include service hours

by Gillian Dyer

National Honor Society (NHS) recognizes high school students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character, Cassandra Birely, junior and NHS applicant, said.

This school year at Homestead, a change occurred in advisors. Mr. Steve Sukawaty, assistant principal, ran NHS for a long time, but now the advisors are Mr. Ernie Millard, director of the academic success center and NHS advisor, and Mrs. Susan Godfrey, physical education teacher and NHS advisor, Hanna Holman, NHS applicant and junior, explained.

Adding to Holman's comment, Bailey Wood, junior and NHS applicant, said students who have multiple AP and honors classes are also considered for NHS.

"I received a letter in the mail saying that I met the requirements, and if I was interested, I should fill out the forms," she mentioned.

Roman Larson, senior and current member of NHS, reflected on his experiences with NHS.

"I think it's a great way to get involved in the community and complete more service

hours, because without the required number of hours, not a lot of students would volunteer as much," he commented.

"I also believe colleges look at students in NHS as accomplished and definitely take a closer look at their application," Larson noted.

Holman mentioned, "I think students who completed the merit award for the first three years of high school also have a higher chance of getting into NHS because they showed they could get teachers recommendations and complete a certain amount of service hours."

Adding to Holman's comment, Ben Kress, former NHS member said, "I completed the merit award in my underclassman years, and I feel like that contributed to my success in NHS because it prepared me for completing service hours and learning about the application process."

Larson also said he really loves being in NHS and enjoys the opportunities that arose from NHS.

"I'm excited to begin the application process, but it is also very nerve racking," Holman noted.

"After being in NHS, many Homestead students go on to be National Merit Finalists,



Photo by Chelsea Shister

To learn more about the requirements for National Honor Society, a group of juniors met in the cafeteria in early March.

which is a great recognition not only for the specific students but also Homestead students," Larson added.

To receive recognition from NHS, students must have and maintain a G.P.A of 3.5 or

higher throughout high school, he mentioned.

"If a student is eligible, we send them a letter with a packet of materials necessary for the application process. After they apply, they complete an

interview," he added.

Holman concluded "I think it's something really cool we're being recognized for and something colleges will be happy with."

## Dancers' showcase displays talent

by Kate Berman

The Homestead varsity dance team concluded its season with the annual Showcase in mid-March in the Homestead field house.

"The showcase is a really great way to show everybody what we've been working on for the past 8 months," Danielle Webb, senior dance team member, exclaimed.

Alex Barton-Perez, sophomore dance team member, agreed: "It's a chance for us to get some recognition instead of just performing at half time for a game."

Barton-Perez said the team performed its jazz, pom, kick, hip-hop routine, small groups routines, solos, the Wakka-Wakka senior dance and, of course, "our Dog Days routine for Syd," at the showcase.

Receiving a third place trophy at state and placing in both kick and jazz at the eastern regional competition, the team had an outstanding season both in competitions and



Photo courtesy of Mr. Daryl Olszewski

The dance team performed a jazz routine to "Gravity" as part of its Dance Showcase in mid-March in the James Barr Auditorium. The team took first place for this routine in the February nationals in Minneapolis, Minn.

team spirit, according to Liza Basso, senior member of the dance team.

One of Basso's most satisfying achievements came from the Dog Days are Over dance, performed in honor of Sydney Tabakin. She said, "Dog Days was not just a dance; to us, it meant much more. This dance reminded me of why I love dance and the people that are so dear to me."

Jamie Cooley, senior dance team member, expressed that "fourth place at the grand championship at nationals was the team's biggest achievement this season!"

Cooley set her focus beyond the idea of medals and wins and described a more personal accomplishment. "After everything our team experienced this year, our greatest accomplishment was coming together and helping each other through every situation," she exclaimed.

Max Hart, freshman dance team member, summed up the season as she explained, "Even though our coaches push us hard, it's all worth it in the end. This year we all were dancing for something bigger than ourselves, and we knew it."

## Varsity math team takes second in conference

by Drew Miller

The Homestead varsity math team took second place and JV took fourth place in the

**"To get ready for the competitions, the teams have tests from the past competitions to practice with."**

**Mr. Joseph Ordinans, team coach and math teacher**

North Shore Conference Competition Monday, Feb. 7, at Homestead, according to Mr. Joseph Ordinans, team coach

and math teacher.

"We did pretty well, especially since we were missing a few of our usual members, including Austin Cao, freshman, and Eric Hanson, senior," Bryanna Yeh, junior and varsity member, said.

Three varsity members placed in the top 10 including Rahul Subramanian, senior; Yeh, and Franklin Zhu, senior, according to Zhu.

According to Mr. Ordinans, 2 JV members placed in the top 10, including Andrew Zhu, sophomore, and Daniel Liu, freshman.

"The team is doing about the

same as last year. It's hard to judge how well we're doing because we have so few compe-

**"There are 5 tests; each member takes four 15-minute individual tests, and then there is one 25-minute test."**

**Franklin Zhu, senior and varsity member**

titions," he said.

According to Mr. Ordinans, math teams generally consist of 8 people per team.

Zhu said, "There are 5 tests; each member takes four 15-

minute individual tests, and then there is one 25-minute team test."

"The tests often require a myriad of different skills," Yeh said. "They might involve algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or anything else reasonable for an advanced high school math student."

She continued, "We all know the necessary skills. Much of the challenge is figuring out how to start and what process to use. It can be very difficult."

"To get ready for the competitions, the teams have tests from past competitions to practice with," Mr. Ordinans

explained. "Sometimes they practice in groups and some-

**"The tests often require a myriad of different skills. They might involve algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or anything else reasonable for an advanced high school math student."**

**Bryanna Yeh, junior and varsity member**

times alone. Either way, it gives them a good idea of what they might be seeing in the competition," he said.

## Utilizing study tips applicable for everyone

by Isabella Weich

Homestead High School students and teachers gave advice on the most helpful study skills, methods or necessary changes to succeed.

One method students should utilize is preparation, according to Jake Di Salvo, sophomore. "I start studying about a week before each test or quiz, and I've noticed improvements on my test and quiz grades," he revealed.

Similarly, Mr. Ernie Millard, Academic Success Center (ASC) director, agreed students should start studying a little bit each day as soon as they realize a test is coming up. "This allows time for the information to be retained and absorbed," he said.

Another important study skill is time management, according to Mr. Ryan Germain, ASC supervisor. "Students need to prepare early and designate time to studying if they want to be successful. Set up a time and place each day to study that is free of distractions," he advised.

Short breaks, roughly about 5 minutes in length, after a studying period of 15 minutes, help students stay on track, according to Mr. Millard.

An additional method is utilization of the ASC. "I went into the ASC one time when I needed help for Biology. It really helped because they worked one-on-one with me to help me understand the material," Ashlyn Harper, sophomore, affirmed.

Necessary changes in study skills occur when entering high school, according to Mardee Merar and Lauren Nelson, both freshmen.

"I actually do my homework now, and instead of studying the night before, I start a week before. Also, asking for help or studying in groups has helped a lot," Merar commented.

"I've been preparing more for tests, and making note cards is a really helpful study technique," Nelson shared.

Throughout high school, students will learn which study skills work best for them. "Studying hard for the first time in a year doesn't guarantee huge changes. You have to be patient and persistent. It may take time for large improvements to show up in the form of higher grades," Mr. Millard said.

# The Pajama Game: musical 'of a lifetime'

A review  
by Ashley Claussen.

This year's winter musical, *The Pajama Game*, drew in a large crowd as the cast gave the performance of a lifetime.

The plotline illustrates a troubled pajama company undergoing labor problems among workers. Specifically, laborers are demanding a seven and a half-cent raise.

Throughout the musical, Babe Williams, played by Keali

**"Rehearsals and memorizing were definitely a challenge, but our four months of preparation equipped us with all the necessary tools to pull off a great show."**

Kim Eyers, senior

Bjork, senior, grows strong feelings for the new superintendent of the factory, Sid Sorokin, played by Jonathon Trubshaw, senior.

Other characters include: Myron Hasler, played by Will Dowsett, junior; Gladys Hotchkiss, played by Kim Eyers, senior; Vernon Hines, played by Brad Schuman,

junior; Mabel, played Megan Gray, senior; Mae, played by Meri Bobber, junior, and Prez, played by Andrew Widder, senior.

To begin, the musical starts with Sid joining the "Sleep Tite" pajama factory. When Babe and Sid meet, Babe initially denies her feelings for him.

Hines, who is in love with Gladys, soon starts pushing her away due to his jealous behavior. Meanwhile, during a summer picnic, Babe begins to accept her growing feelings for Sid.

As the plot continues, the workers decide to go on strike by slowing down the production of pajamas, upsetting Sid. He then threatens to fire the entire place, angering the entire factory and especially Babe.

Babe jams the line in a machine and causes an explosion. This results in her termination from the company ordered by Sid. Due to his actions, Babe then pushes Sid away.

In retaliation, Sid decides to take Gladys on a date but only to get a key. The key unlocks

the company's ledger, hiding corporate secrets. Babe's jealousy further drives the couple apart.

Once Sid gets the key and looks inside the book, he finds out the boss, Mr. Hasler, has already raised the production cost seven and a half cents. He has just been keeping all the profits himself. Sid then announces to everyone the shocking information, bringing the factory back together.

The cast did an excellent job at performing this musical. All the members really made this musical come together well. With the play being about three hours long, the cast had a lot to accomplish.

This musical was entertaining, and it kept viewers on their toes. Memorizing these lines must have been hard, but the cast did an excellent job getting everything down and making the musical a great production.

"Rehearsals and memorizing were definitely a challenge, but our four months of preparation equipped us with all the necessary tools to pull off a great show," Eyers said.

Along with the outstanding



Photo by Chelsea Shister

The Homestead High School drama department performed *The Pajama Game* in late February.

performance, I acknowledge costumes and makeup that gave it a special touch.

Also, the singing and dancing performed by the many actors was superb. The many cast members are very talented.

Moreover, Brad Schuman, junior, said, "I thought the dancing, singing, special effects and costumes were all amazing. The dancing and singing

was very well done, and the costumes looked amazing."

"This was Ms. Figg-Franzoi's first musical at Homestead. It was an incredible success; Homestead can look forward to many incredible shows under her direction," Eyers expressed.

The cast did an outstanding job with this year's winter musical, and I cannot wait for the spring play.

## Programs added for summer fun

by Lucy Smith

Offering multiple programs for summer, the Mequon-Thiensville Recreational Department (MTRD) continues to attract many youth; specifically, they have added an archery and fencing program for teens this summer, Mr. Michael Schoemer, recreation manager, said.

Instructed by Ms. Inna Lebedinsky, an Olympian who represented the Soviet Union in the 1980 Olympics, archery will focus on "learning proper

**"Through these programs, I learned important skills, such as teamwork and hard work in a fun environment."**

Rachel Morris, sophomore

techniques and avoiding bad habits." The class is an hour long for both middle and high school students. It will be held in the morning on Saturdays during June and July at Kletzsch Park, according to the activities pamphlet.

The second new program for teens, fencing, is for beginning fencers. Mr. Schoemer stated that the overall goal in fencing is to "introduce an individual to the sport without a major eco-

nomics commitment." This class allows athletes to learn structured personal traits, such as confidence and concentration, while also having fun. Fencing will be held on Saturdays in two sessions, May 21 through June 25, and July 2 through August 6 at Milwaukee Sport Fencing Academy facility. Each class will last two hours, he added.

In addition to these new programs, activities such as Hoop Camp, Basketball Academy, Track and Field Camp, Football Camp and All Sports Camp remain popular choices. All of these activities are available for students entering grades one through nine, except for the All Sports Summer Camp, which is open to grades one through six, according to Mr. Schoemer.

"A lot of the camps tie into sports teams," Mr. Ryan Mangan, activities director, commented.

In addition to athletic activities, academic programs for upperclassmen include Drivers Ed and ACT Workshop. A-Plus Driving School operates classes either one or two hours long. There are two sessions per day in June, July and August, according to the activities pamphlet.

Similarly, Mr. Fred Silver, former English teacher, will teach students how to attack questions and approach the



Photo by Chelsea Shister

**Mr. Ryan Mangan, activities director, supervises the Recreation Department at Homestead inside and outside his office.**

writing section in the ACT Workshop, the activities pamphlet stated.

MTRD not only keeps students active during the summer but also helps them grow as individuals year-round.

For instance, Rachel Morris, sophomore, participated in Hoop Camp, Track and Field Camp and Golf Camp four years ago.

Mr. Schoemer elaborated, "Just participating in recreation offerings helps students keep their minds sharp and gives them confidence heading into the next school year."

The Recreation Department, located on Range Line Road, provides a variety of activities during the summer to keep youth active.

## Royal wedding sparks discussion

by Stevie-Lyn Zenke

The royal wedding between Kate Middleton and Prince William will take place on Friday, April 29, in London, England. This global event has sparked lots of media coverage as well as controversy.

Many have foretold the likelihood that the wedding will be highly televised and that many American citizens will watch it as well as other people around the world.

"Americans are absolutely fascinated by European royalty. It will be a huge event here as well as in other countries," Mrs. Anna Mae Grimm, social studies teacher, predicted.

The buzz surrounding such a big wedding may have many tuning in on April 29 to watch.

Angela Rosenberg, senior, explained, "I'll probably watch the royal wedding on TV. There's nothing like this here in America, and it's interesting to see that royalty is still alive and well in the British culture."

As the next couple to be married in the British family, some still think about the Prince Charles and Princess Diana wedding that happened over two decades ago.

"Since the widespread popularity of Charles's and Diana's wedding that took place in 1981, lots of people are hoping for another fairytale wedding," Mrs. Grimm continued.

Also, after the tragic death of Princess Diana, the sympathy for the royal family is at an all-time high.

"The Princess Diana tragedy is so depressing. I heard Kate Middleton got Princess Diana's engagement ring," Rosenberg stated.

Another aspect of the wedding that is constantly on the news is the guest list: who is on it and who is not.

"I heard Kanye West and a bunch of other American celebrities were invited. I heard whoever wasn't invited is really offended," Rosenberg continued.

From the gowns to the décor, the details of the wedding are constantly being covered publicly.

"I think the news coverage on the details is kind of ridiculous. I don't really care all that much about what kind of flowers they are going to have," Xue Xiong, sophomore, explained.

Although the level of interests in the wedding differs from person to person, the wedding will most likely create discussion. Plus, the media coverage on the elements are most likely not going to be relaxed until weeks after the wedding takes place.

## Students explain Post Prom theme and activities

by Andrew Sosnowski

As prom approaches and students begin the long process of planning a hectic night, one thing almost all juniors and seniors look forward to is Post Prom. Post Prom is the event that occurs directly after the Prom. It will be held in the fieldhouse and is open to all juniors and seniors, even if they did not attend the actual Prom.

"Candyland is the theme for this year's Post Prom, which is different from the theme of the actual prom," Mrs. Shelley Kessler, Post Prom co-chair, elaborated. The theme is meant

to offer a more fun and care-free atmosphere as compared to the prom theme, A Night at the Gatsby's.

"This year students can expect all the activities and food that was at last year's Post Prom," Mrs. Kessler explained.

A student favorite, the hypnotist, is scheduled to return this year. The hypnotist takes student volunteers and hypnotizes them. After he does so, he makes them believe they are in unimaginable and somewhat comical situations. "I really enjoyed the hypnotist last year. I did not even realize that I was

hypnotized until the show was over!" Keri Sullivan, senior, exclaimed.

Another favorite among students is returning this year: the

**"Candyland is the theme for this year's Post Prom, which is different from the theme of the actual prom."**

Mrs. Shelley Kessler, Post Prom co-chair

chocolate fountain. "I loved the chocolate fountain. I feel like I could have eaten the whole fountain if I was given the

chance," Chelsea Hoffman, senior, laughed.

The food is just another Post Prom favorite that will be returning this year. "All the food that was provided last year will be returning this year," Mrs. Kessler expressed.

The fieldhouse will also be transformed into a game-infested maze of inflatable houses that it turns in to every year. "I went crazy on those bouncy houses. They made me feel like I was a little kid again," Alex Thomas, senior, remembered.

With all of the activities planned for this year, the ques-

tion of where the money to pay for them comes from is often asked. "Most of the money for the games, food, and activities comes from generous donations from parents. However, a portion of the price of one admission ticket to the actual prom goes to help pay for Post Prom also," Mrs. Kessler stated.

With all the activities planned for this year, Post Prom 2011 will undoubtedly be very memorable and enjoyable. "I am looking forward to Post Prom more than I am looking forward to the actual prom," Jon Haugen, senior, said.

## Tennis begins

# Boys excited for season

by Katie Gresham

As the spring sports season approaches, the boys' tennis team looks to make it back to the state finals and overtake Marquette, Coach Jackie Egelhoff explained.

Alex Jesse, junior and first singles player, showed his optimism saying, "I think the season is going to go very well."

Coach Egelhoff explained that Jesse will be defending his individual state championship win from last year as he became the first boy in school history to win such a title. She added, "I know he is ready and looking forward to the challenge."

Peter Apfelbach, sophomore and member of last year's third doubles team, explained that Jesse played first singles as both a freshman and sophomore and is a real asset to the team.

Justin Kirtley, senior and doubles player, added that Jesse was voted MVP last year by the team, as a result of his hard work and team spirit. Despite his individual accolades, Jesse stated, "I would much rather win the team state title."

Similar to how Jesse made an impact on varsity as a freshman, a pair of newcomers will look to do the same. Danny Coran, freshman and singles player, said, "We're definitely going to try to make it all the way."

He stated that watching the team finish second last year has everyone excited to pull out a victory this year. Coran explained his excitement to play for Homestead saying, "The guys have been really welcoming, and I think the chemistry on the team is definitely a strength."

Will Kammerait, another freshman, noted that he hopes to qualify for the individual state tournament.

Kammerait added, "I am very happy to be with people on the team and have already met so many new people."

Kirtley, Jesse and Apfelbach all agreed that Marquette is going to be their toughest competition this season. Coach Egelhoff asserted that not only Marquette but also Whitefish Bay will have strong teams.



Photo courtesy of Tartan Yearbook

This year's boys' tennis team hopes to follow in the footsteps of last year's team pictured with their coaches.

Last year's squad featured five seniors, all of whom will be missed, according to Coach Egelhoff. However, the team does not see this as a handicap.

In addition to Jesse, Kirtley and Apfelbach, a couple key players will be returning to the starting lineup. These individuals include Nikhil Ramnarayan, junior, who played fourth singles last year, as well as Ben Wilson, a senior who played third doubles with Apfelbach

Kirtley explained.

While the team has high expectations for the newcomers, "The remaining varsity players have been working hard all off season and will be ready to go," Coach Egelhoff said.

"I have been organizing 'captain's' practices where guys from the team get together and play for an hour and a half. We usually split off into doubles and singles and run drills. We'll end with some match play and

games," Kirtley explained. "It's always fun and also allows the team to bond a little before the season begins."

Kirtley summed up the excitement for the season saying, "Overall, I think the season is going to be an amazing experience, and I am really excited because I think our team has the skills, desire, determination and work ethic to take it one step further this year and win the state title."

## 4 to play college sports

by Karley Marotta

"Keep working hard, follow your dreams and never give up," Kyle Schober, senior, advised high school athletes. Schober is one of the few Homestead athletes going on to play college sports, in his case at Michigan Tech University on a partial scholarship.

Similarly, Donte Phillips, senior, will be attending Texas Tech on a football scholarship.

"I'm looking forward to getting a fresh start and exploring something new. It'll be my first time being away from my family and friends, so I know I'll have a lot of new experiences awaiting me, especially being a student athlete," Phillips commented.

Erik Larson, senior, will be attending the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities next year. "I decided on this college because of the city, feel of the campus and the high caliber diving offered in the Big Ten. Also, the dive coach at the University, Wenbo Chen, was the U.S. Olympic diving coach for the Beijing games," Larson added.

Cody Burkard, senior, will be attending the University of the Pacific in California next year. "I loved the campus, the team, the coaches and the school itself when I went out there. It was an obvious match, so a few months later I ended up signing with them during the early signing period," Burkard added.



Photo by Chelsea Shister

In preparation for their college sport careers, from left, Erik Larson, Donte Phillips and Kyle Schober, seniors, wear their respective college apparel to show school pride.

## Softball has sights set on state finals

by Ilana Katz

Looking to follow up on a trip to the state finals last spring, the Homestead girls' softball team has its goals set high this year, according to Andria Savitch, sophomore and varsity softball player.

Due to the loss of seasoned players like Michelle Zoeller and Britt Schlaeger, the team will have a much different look to it this year, Amy Keel, senior and catcher, stated. "We still want to win conference as well as the state title," she explained.

Despite the losses of players from last year, a multitude of talent returns this spring, according to Mr. Dave Keel, varsity head coach. "Siena Mitman, Rachel Behnken, Keel and Hannah Young are a few of the many important players that contribute to the team," he stated.

Reflecting on the team's run to the state finals last year, Behnken, junior and pitcher, noted, "The state tournament was amazing! We faced strong competition, but we rose to the occasion and played our best softball of the season; we just ended up one game short."

Expressing her optimism for the season, Keel added, "We have a strong chance to be successful this year. We will have to work hard as a team and take last year's mindset and work ethic in order to match last year's accomplishments."

## Brewers add pitchers, hope to make playoff run

by Henry Maggard

Milwaukee Brewers fans have reasons to be excited, as new additions to the team have fans, such as Jordan Craig, sophomore, feeling confident about the upcoming season.

Realizing that a lack of pitching caused the Brewers' demise last year, Mr. Doug Melvin, general manager, traded for a pair of top pitchers:

Zack Greinke and Shawn Marcum. These additions, along with Mr. Ron Roenicke, new manager, are infusing a positive energy into the club, Craig explained.

"I can't wait to see the Brewers succeed this year," Craig stated. "Last season was a disappointment, and I really want the Brewers to make a name for themselves."

Brett Geschke, sophomore, shared some of the same views as Craig. "I think that the Brewers have an excellent shot to do well in the playoffs. With Marcum, Greinke and Yovani Gallardo, we will have three aces which will improve our pitching problems from last year."

These additions of pitchers also have Patrick Tucker, fresh-

man, optimistic of the new pitching staff. He explained, "I'm happy to see that the Brewers finally have a decent pitching squad. Hopefully, this will lead us to being a successful team."

While most people are sure that the Brewers can finally live up to expectations following their playoff birth two years ago, Brad Beschta,

junior, remains skeptical. "It seems that every year there is some sort of promise made to Brewer fans that we will end up doing well. He continued, "I know Greinke is good, but I feel that his mental issues could get in the way of his performance."

According to Greinke, he enjoys the spring training camps as well as the Brewers' coaching staff.



As part of the varsity dance team, Suzie Schmitt, senior, performed during a basketball game in early March for Senior Night.

## Athletes of the Issue

by Suri Pourmodheji

Demonstrating positive attitudes and hard work, Suzi Schmitt, senior and varsity dance team member, and Taylor Ruffin, senior, and varsity track team member, have been chosen as the Athletes of the Issue.

As the dance team season comes to a close, fellow dance team members will miss Schmitt.

"Schmitt's positive attitude and bubbly personality always lightens the mood which is refreshing during times when motivation is low," Gina Phillips, senior, noted. Keeping a positive attitude helps the team have a better practice as well, she continued.

Aubrey Qick, senior, continued, "Suzi brings experience to the team; she goes from dance team practice to practice at the dance studio she attends."

Schmitt shows great dedication in her work, according to her teammates. "On top of the four days a week of dance team practice, she dances at a studio multiple times a week," Phillips added.

Likewise, Taylor Ruffin a four-year track member, has demonstrated essential skills for the team.

Mr. Dan Benson, track coach, stated that Ruffin's attitude during practice is consistently positive. "His focus is on track, and he prepares himself well," Mr. Benson explained. He continued, "When Ruffin is focused and gives consistent effort, excellent results show."

"He is not only focused during practice but in competitions as well," Mr. Benson added. "Ruffin is always ready to go for practice and has a good work ethic," he stated.

He has been all over the track spectrum throughout his high school career. He started out pole vaulting, hurdling and long jumping, Mr. Benson mentioned. Primarily, he recalled, Ruffin focuses on hurdles and the long jump.

He recalled, "Taylor's seventh place finish at the state meet was a defining moment for him. He ran well when the team needed him most."

"While being on varsity team for three years this moment last year was very special for Ruffin," Mr. Benson said smiling.

Mr. Benson proceeded, "Ruffin has improved over the years greatly and will continue to do so this season. Speed and agility gains have been noticeable which has led to improved track results."



Photos by Chelsea Shister

Getting ready for an upcoming track meet, Taylor Ruffin, senior, practices hurdles.