

# The Charger

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itasca.com/school/charger

## Eighth graders enjoy Springfield trip

By Lyndsey M.  
Features Editor

As most people slept on the morning of Friday, October 26, the eighth grade students were on their way to Springfield, Illinois.

Everyone who was going on the trip had to be at school at 6:45 AM. Then they left at 7:00 AM.

They left so early because it was a four hour bus ride. This may sound boring, but the bus they took had TVs, reclining seats and its own bathroom.

The bus ride was Kelsey B.'s favorite part of the trip. "It was great spending time with your friends and watching movies," she said. "It was like a big party."

See **Springfield**  
Page 5

## Seniors roar for the 20's at annual luncheon



Photo by Susan R.

Skyler M., seventh grade (front), and Kelsey B., eighth grade, help demonstrate the Charleston and Swing Dancing at the Annual Senior Citizens Luncheon on October 19, 2001.

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**All this and more!**

By Nikki H.

On Friday, October 19, the encore students hosted the annual senior citizens luncheon. This year's theme was the roaring twenties.

The halls were decorated with flowers and the cafeteria with old fashioned cars as the event started. Art teacher, Mrs. Dengler, explained that the painted flowers were modeled after Georgia O'Keefe and her "larger than life" flowers. O'Keefe's style became prominent in the 1920s.

Eighth graders Susan R. and Justin P.

took pictures of the luncheon for Mrs. Dengler's photography class.

When the luncheon began, seventh grade dancers performed the Swing and Charleston. Seventh grader Michelle M. was exhausted but proud of herself and the group.

See **Luncheon**  
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# Sixth graders learn about parenting

## FACS dolls teach responsibility

By Emily W.

Walking the Peacock hallways, you may have bumped into a diaper bag. In class, you may have heard a baby cry. What's going on here? Miss Olson's sixth-grade FACS class has started its "Baby Think It Over" program.

In this program, the students learn what it's like to take care of a baby for twenty-four hours a day. Eight battery-operated dolls are programmed to cry and act like real babies.

Each student takes care of a baby for two days. When the baby cries, its new parent has to stick a key into its back.

Sixth-grade moms and dads also have to change their baby's diaper about thirteen times and have to give it a bath with a spray bottle at least once.

When they take their babies outside, they need to cover them with blankets.

Taking care of the babies is a lot of work.

Becky K. said, "It was kind of cute and

fun to play with." Samantha M. commented, "I liked taking it around school and having kids say, 'What is that thing?'"

Becky and Samantha reported that the babies cry a lot. They had other complaints, too. "It was very heavy, and it was not fun carrying it up and down the stairs at school," said Becky.

Outside of school, these students didn't take their babies very far. David M. said, "Well, I took it to my grandpa's house."

Samantha M. took it to her soccer game. "It was really rainy that day," she said. "My little sister's friend had to watch it. I was afraid she was going to drop it, but she did fine."

Luckily, these kids did not have major problems with their babies, although Samantha said, "One time during the night when I was trying to turn the lights on to see where to put the key, I accidentally

bumped its head into the door."

When asked what it was like to be awakened by the baby at night, everyone said that they were tired.

But Becky said, "It was fine. Mine only woke me up once."

David didn't like it at all. "I was very tired and mad, too," he said.

Samantha didn't like staying up for thirty minutes each time, waiting for the baby to coo.

"It woke me up every four hours. I stared into space doing nothing," she said. Families all reacted about the same when it came to the babies. "My mom thought it was cute, but my dad thought it was annoying," said David.

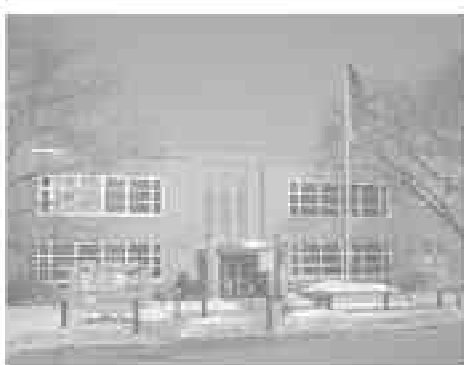
Samantha's parents really didn't like it either, but her sisters enjoyed it. "My big sister thought it was cute because she had one in sixth grade," Sam said. "My little sister liked changing it."

Becky thought her family liked it just fine.

**"My mom thought it was cute, but my dad thought it was annoying."**

**"One time during the night when I was trying to turn the lights on to see where to put the key, I accidentally bumped its head into the door."**

See **FACS dolls**  
Page 8



### **Student Council**

Peacock Middle School

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# Luncheon brings the community into Peacock



Photos by Susan R.

Eighth grade students in Miss Olson's Family and Consumer Science classes prepare and serve a luncheon to the senior citizens of Itasca. Mr. Travis' eighth grade music elective performs the musical, *Bugsy Malone*.

By Steve G.  
News Editor

Even though it's his first one, Itasca School District Superintendent, Dr. Cull, thought the 2001 senior citizen's luncheon was outstanding.

He said, "the decorations are great and the dancers were outstanding. The artwork is marvelous and the patriotic theme is wonderful. The play was great and it had a lot of action in it. The program is great and it's a wonderful tradition that brings the community into the school."

Itasca senior citizen, Mrs. Edward Winsdale, said, "the food was delicious and they did a beautiful job and I liked the entire meal. The artwork is also beautiful. I loved the dancers. I love the program and what the kids do for the seniors each year."

Mrs. Franklin, another Itasca resident,

said she thought the luncheon was excellent! She also thought they couldn't have done it better. Her favorite dish was the stuffed shells. The entire meal was really good. She thought the artwork was outstanding. The play was wonderful according to Mrs. Franklin. She added that she thought the

**The play brought back memories of his childhood.**

luncheon got better every year.

Mr. Bob Schonbeck also attended the luncheon and he thought the luncheon was fine and delicious. He thought the dessert was the best and he loved the food. He thought the artwork was outstanding. The only problem with the luncheon was that he had trouble hearing the speakers.

The play brought back memories of his childhood. Overall in the last fifteen years he's been coming, it was great.

Mr. Paul said the food was great and all the dishes were good. He also said, "The artwork was stupendous and the dancers were real nice. The play was good even though they made a few mistakes." He said the program is great and he has been here for nineteen years and it has never been better.

Dr. Nickisch commented, "This year's luncheon was great. The food was excellent and my favorite dish was probably the dessert.

The artwork was tremendous."

**This year's luncheon was great. The food was excellent and my favorite dish was probably the dessert.**

See **Senior Luncheon**  
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# Guess what student council is planning?

By Samantha M.

Will this year be better than other years at Peacock Middle School? The two main people who are trying to make this question's answer a "yes" are student council president Karina D. and vice president Abby Z.

Their goals this year include having more hot lunches with more variety. They would also like to have more pep rallies for special events.

There are also many other people

trying to make this year a lot more fun and different. These people are the student council members.

To be a part of the student council you volunteer and your advisory votes for whom they want to represent them.

**Some spirit days planned include Sports Uniform Day, Clash Day, Western Day, and Old Fashioned Day.**

This year Karina and Abby decided to have a lot more meetings for student council. Most of the meetings consist of discussing upcoming events and activities.

The two main people who okay most of the plans are Mr. Peel and Dr. Nickisch.

A lot of students are probably wondering how the student council gets their ideas for spirit days. It all depends on what the students want to do. Some spirit days planned include Sports Uniform Day, Clash Day, Western Day, and Old Fashioned Day. All of them take place on or near the day of a sporting event.

In previous years, there used to be a Spirit Week but instead there will be more spirit days that Abby and Karina hope will be better.

Abby and Karina wanted to tell their voters that they appreciated the fact that they voted for them and that they would do their best to make Peacock a better place.

## Sixth graders speak out

By Laura B.

Most people know what the first day at a new school feels like. You hurry to get to your classes, and then on top of that, you forget your locker combination.

Many of the new sixth graders at Peacock have enjoyed the first part of the year. Victoria W. said, "Oh, yeah, Peacock is really cool so far, it's a whole lot better than Franzen."

Elizabeth H.'s reason for liking Peacock was, "I like it better than my old school in Berwyn because it's easier to make friends here." She has, by the way, made many new friends at Peacock this year.

However, when I asked Elizabeth about the teachers, she replied, "Some of the teachers are boring, and some are just OK."

Both Megan L. and Elizabeth agreed on which class they liked best, science. Elizabeth likes science because, "Mr. Koenig is funny, and he has a good way of teaching."

Megan likes science because, "You get to do really cool experiments."

Both Megan and Elizabeth have also joined the cross-country team.

Everybody also agreed on who gives the most homework. The classes are, in order, social studies, math, and language arts.

Though Elizabeth, when I asked her, replied, "No, I don't think that we get much homework."

Sixth graders, however, thought some changes were necessary at Peacock.

"Sixth graders should have Spanish class because that is something that I enjoy," said Rena Wantuchowicz.

"We definitely need less time every day in our classes," stated Emmanuel C.

Rena's favorite part of the day is, "Encore, because when you're in FACS you get to take the babies home." Rena has joined the Spanish Club, band, chorus, and tae-kwan-do at the Park District.

She also thinks that Peacock teachers are too quick to hand out BATS and detentions because, "As soon as you do

something wrong the teachers skip the warnings and hand you a BAT or detention."

Emmanuel agreed saying that, "Yeah, Dr. Nickisch is very strict, but he is also very nice." His favorite part of the day is, "Recess, because you get to play and have freedom."

One last thing that everybody agreed on was the schedule. The only good part of the schedule is the extra day you have to do homework.

"The classes are way too long, it can get really boring," said Megan L.

**"Some of the teachers are boring, and some are just OK."**

## Washington D.C. Trip

**The sixth and seventh grade students of Peacock Middle School are provided the opportunity to participate in an outstanding four day/three night tour of Washington D.C., Mt. Vernon and Alexandria, Virginia from May 15-18, 2002.**

**The cost of the tour is \$698.00. If you are interested in having your child participate in this tour, please submit a deposit and completed application to Educational Tours, Inc., due November 16, 2001.**

**Applications are available from Mrs. Kabat, room #214.**

# New LR teacher is very enthusiastic

By Jackie S.

One of the new teachers here at Peacock is Mrs. Terry Gimble. Mrs. Gimble is the Learning Resource teacher. To put it simply, she assists her students in whatever subject they might need help in.

Mrs. Gimble decided to teach here at Peacock because she loves learning, loves helping students, and this is where she thought she could help.

Mrs. Gimble became a teacher because she loves to learn.

Right now, Mrs. Gimble has an advisory and enjoys her students. She thinks that her advisory is the greatest

group of students in the school and that they were hand-picked for her.

Her advisory includes

seventh graders Jennifer O., Ana N., Megan E., Meghan H., Lara C., Jackie S., Steve G., Rob V., Nick P., Joe D., Kenny T., Humberto P., and Alex C..

Mrs. Gimble also likes the staff members of Peacock and is beginning to meet and get to know them well. Even



Photo by Jackie Such

Mrs. Gimble, the new Learning Resource teacher, jokes with two of her seventh grade advisory students, Steve Grabinski and Robert Vorhies

though she hasn't met everyone yet, over time she thinks that she will develop good working relationships and some friends.

She also thinks all the kids are really great. Mrs. Gimble loves the town of Itasca and thinks that it is a wonderful place to grow up, and that Itasca schools give an excellent education.

Mrs. Gimble attended DePaul University, North Eastern Illinois, and Chicago State University. The subjects that she earned her master's degree in are certified LD and history.

She has also taught in Chicago in several Alternative Schools. Mrs. Gimble has three girls, ages 29, 25, and 22.

She likes all kinds of music, especially classical, and oldies from the 50s, 60s, and 70s. The last book she read was the bestseller, *Tuesday's with Morrie*, by Mitch Albom, 1977. Some of her interests and hobbies are reading, cooking, dancing, and singing.

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## State capital impresses visiting eighth graders

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Continued from page 1

Once the eighth graders were at Springfield, they stopped at the old state capital. They were only able to look and take pictures of it. They weren't allowed to go inside.

This was one thing Christine C. didn't like. "I think we should be able to tour of all the sites," said Christine.

After that, the eighth graders went to the new capital. The new capital was absolutely breathtaking. It had beautiful decorations, that were over a hundred years old. It was also a very tall building and looking down from the top balconies

was a little scary.

Stephanie J. didn't want to look down. "I thought it was really pretty, but I didn't like being so high up," she said.

After the capital, the eighth graders took a short trip to see a video on President Lincoln's home, and then they went to New Salem Village. It was a cute little town, which was decorated to look like a

**The new capital was absolutely breathtaking.**

town that President Lincoln might have lived in. People even pretended to live in the village.

After the village, the students began their way home. They made a quick stop on the way home to eat at Old Country Buffet. The Buffet didn't have the best food, but all the eighth graders thought it had great ice cream.

After everyone finished eating they got back on the road. They arrived back at school around 10:30 PM. Although the trip was fun, the students all seemed happy to be home.

# Fight for freedom

By Kaitlyn L.

The United States has been going through many serious changes since September 11th. The terrorism attacks in New York and Washington D.C. killed many and left others hurt inside.

We have been fighting both physically and emotionally for our freedom. The United States is bombing the Taliban, and we are also giving the innocent Afghan people food.

The U.S. is using both ground troops and air strikes to attack. Officials say this so called "War" will be fought through winter.

Many things in Afghanistan have been hit. For example, many important buildings in Kabul such as hospitals and Taliban front lines have been destroyed.

If the Afghans set up any type of military camp, the U.S. will be sure and try to bomb it. The camps that the Taliban has tried to set up have already been knocked down.

According to Pentagon officials, most of our bombing has been successful, but every once and a while we have taken too many innocent lives. Many Taliban headquarters in Kandahar have been hit also.

According to Pentagon officials, most of our bombing has been successful, but every once and a while we have taken too many innocent lives.

This is a 5,000-pound laser-guided weapon that has a range of more than five nautical miles. It can sometimes penetrate earth and rock before exploding

Residents of these cities have been given many grenades and other guns to help protect other Taliban headquarters. It has been reported that even some important Taliban leaders have been killed

with the U.S.

Some countries have agreed to help the Taliban fight against the United States, so the Northern Alliance has told the U.S. to start bombing more and faster.

The Northern Alliance has been a great help because they have been attacking many cities including the city of Mazar-e Sharif.

Anthrax has become a real threat to the U.S. Officials say that a big solution is to not be scared. Anthrax has been found in many places, but these places all have some government, military, or other values.

We do have vaccinations and medicines that cure this disease so it isn't in every

case deadly. Many pranks or jokes have been set up about anthrax, and right now, many people who handle bio-hazardous materials are working overtime.

Government officials assure the public that they are doing as much as possible to assure safety in this country.



<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/trade.center/maps/map.region.gif>

in bombings.

Financial steps have also been taken to help stop the terrorist. The United States has been asking many countries to stop all assets that have a connection to Osama Bin Laden, or assets that support terrorism. Many countries have responded, but there are always some that disagree



<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/trade.center/interactive/weapons/GBU-28.jpg>





Photo by Mrs. M.

## Leo Club holds first fundraising event

Courtney Olender, sixth grade, sells candy in the Peacock cafeteria for the Leo Club during the Lions Club Candy Day

## FACS dolls

Continued from page 2

Did the students think that taking care of this baby was like taking care of a real one? Becky thought it might be, a little bit. David said, "Yes, because it cries a lot just like real babies."

Samantha had a different opinion. She said, "Well, no, because you don't stand around waiting for a real baby to cry. You do that with this one because you want a good grade."

Like it or hate it, the "Baby Think It Over" program is one thing every sixth grader will remember about FACS.

## Seniors and administrators appreciate annual extravaganza

Continued from page 3

"The play was great but there were a few problems like the pie was a little too close and the flour made the floor too slippery," said Dr. Nickisch.

He added, "I liked the theme a lot. I am

not sure who liked the luncheon better, the kids or seniors."

Some seniors worried it wasn't going to happen because Ms. Olsen, the Family and Consumer Science teacher is new. Some of

the seniors sign up to come to the luncheon one year in advance. Dr. Nickisch enjoys meeting seniors and showing them the good things that happen around Peacock.

## Luncheon

Continued from page 1

After waves of applause, the teachers made introductions and the meal was served. Family and Consumer Science teacher, Miss Olson, thought that the food turned out wonderfully, and that the waiters and chefs did a fantastic job.

By facial expressions, you could tell that the customers were satisfied.

Finally, the main event drew near and eighth grader Giovanni C. stole the spotlight in the production of *Bugsy Malone*.

The audience watched as the cast was sprayed with silly string and creamed by pies. They listened to solos by Karina D., Renee W., Megan K., and Noelle K.

Overall everything was more than expected, and the audience really seemed to enjoy themselves.

# Computer Club



Meets  
Mondays  
after  
school

Bring a friend to work on a project

# More space is needed!

By Kristen S.

We need more space between our lockers! Everyday when I am going to my locker, I'm pushed and shoved because we have absolutely no space.

Seventh grader, Sarah L., commented, "The space is a little tight because we are always on top of each other. The first person to get to her locker is like the lucky one of the day because she does not have to go through all of the pushing and shoving."

When everyone gets to their lockers, aside from being pushed around, we get our combinations messed up. Then, by the time we get all of our stuff, the teachers nag us because we are a little late.



Photo by Kristen Scholl

Another seventh grader, Michelle M., said, "the space is so crowded. We cannot get to our stuff at end of the day."

I think most people would agree with me when I say, "we need more space." So next time you go to your locker, think about how much space you really have. Do you have enough?

# Dear President Bush

I think you're doing a great job. You are handling this crisis well.

I'm giving a donation because the children in Afghanistan are starving and I'm not, they don't have shelter and I do.

I thank God for what I have. I hope that with other donations the children in Afghanistan will not starve and will be safe and healthy.

Thank you for doing all you can and may God be with you always.

God Bless America,  
Kevin E. H.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Kelly P.,  
clarinet**

**IMEA ALL-STATE  
HONORS BAND**

# Tomorrow, Tomorrow...



By Elysia B.

## The Charger

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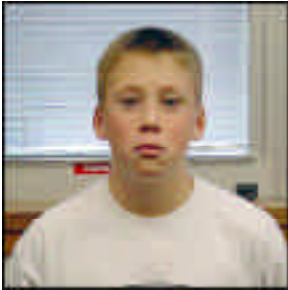
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Website: <http://www.itasca.com/school/charger>

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

# What should the Park District do for teens?

By Trisha H.

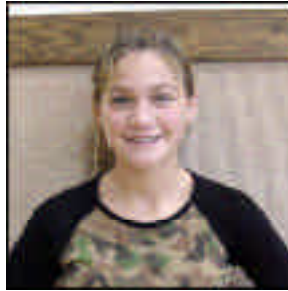
The Itasca Park District is building a two million dollar addition. What do you think should be included in the Park District's renovation?



I think that they should put an indoor swimming pool in because the Water Park gets really crowded and we could

swim all year long.

- Alex C.



I think they should put a teen lounge in where all teens between certain ages could go and do stuff like listen to

music, watch TV, play pool on a pool table, and go on the Internet.

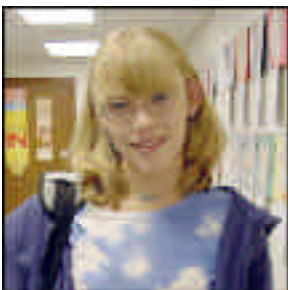
- Lara P.



I would like to see them put an indoor pool in because people could go swimming in the winter and we

could also have a winter swim team.

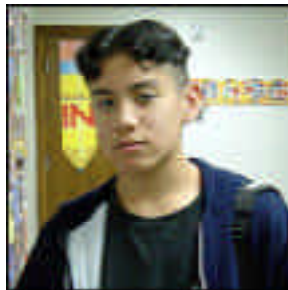
- Steve G.



I think that they should put in an indoor pool because when the Itasca Water Park closes for the winter, it would be

nice to be able to swim in the winter.

- Paige P.



I think they should build a skateboarding park because a lot of young teens in town skateboard and it would be a place

for them to go.

- Danny R.



I think that they should put in a pool because I love to swim and the outdoors is always too crowded. If they had an

indoor pool, I could also swim in the winter.

- Rachel R.



I think they should have more activities for kids because they get bored in the winter. They could do stuff like, swimming,

tennis, etc. This may keep more young teens off drugs.

- Lindsay M.



I would like to see the Park District put an indoor pool in because I am on the Itasca Swim Team and we have won the

White Division 4 years in a row, so if we could swim in the winter we could get even better and go to a different, more advanced, division of swimming.

- Kelsey B.



I think they should build a hockey rink because I know a lot of people who like to play hockey. Younger kids play at Peacock's

rink, but the older kids often kick the younger kids off the Peacock hockey rink.

- Bryan T.



# United We Stand

Soon after the tragic events of September 11th, the students and staff of Itasca School District 10 were looking for a way to help the relief efforts. A representative teacher from each of the district's three schools, as well as two eighth grade students, worked together through the many ideas generated in the district.

Ultimately, the idea of a creating and selling a CD, which was inspired by a primary school student, was decided upon based on its ease to include each of the almost 850 district students. The funds raised by the selling of these CD's will be donated to relief efforts.

The CD, "United We Stand", will feature patriotic songs performed by each grade level (preschool through eighth

grade), as well as original pieces of poetry and prose created by students in the weeks following September 11.

"United We Stand" will be available for purchase in early December, at a cost of \$10, plus applicable shipping charges. As this is a charitable project, larger donations are welcome. A receipt will be sent with each purchase. Due to generous donations from the District 10 School Board, IEPTO, and Peacock PTO, production costs of the CD have been covered. Thus, 100% of the revenue generated from sales will be donated to one or more funds providing disaster relief to victims of the September 11 attacks.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.itasca.com/school](http://www.itasca.com/school)



# Peacock students dance the night away

By Mari D.

Over 200 students attended Peacock Middle School's first dance of the year on Friday, October 19, 2001. This was a very high turnout. The Music Boosters sponsored the dance, which was held in the gym.

Brian L., sixth grade, who enjoyed himself, said the dance, "was cool." "The D.J. was O.K. and the food was fine," he added.

His classmate, Nick P., thought the dance was "creative" and he also enjoyed himself. He thought the D.J. was "fun" and he would add more black lights. He was dancing a lot because it was fun.

Ryan G., also in sixth grade, thought the dance was "good". He enjoyed himself and also thought the D.J. was good. He didn't dance as much because he was talking to his friends.

Seventh grader, Angela W., thought the



Photo by Rena W.

**Itasca sixth graders pose while enjoying the October 19 school dance.**

dance was "fun." She enjoyed herself. She said the D.J. was "awesome". If it were up to her she would make the dance longer.

She likes to dance and danced all night.

Her friend and classmate, Kelly Barclay, said the dance was "O.K.". She had a good time. She thought the D.J. was "fine" and the food was good. The only change she would make is to have the glow sticks free.

Keith M. and Lee A., seventh grade, both said the dance was "fine." They had an O.K. time. The D.J. was "O.K., but, played too much 70s music." They said the food was "really good." They would like to change the D.J. and get rid of the glow sticks. They did not dance a lot because they didn't like the music. They would like to add candy and a younger D.J.

The D.J., Tim Hicks, thought the dance went really well. He enjoyed himself. He thought the kids were having fun and he said the food was good. He would like more colored lights.

## Hang with virtual pets at Neopets.com

By Alexandra B.

If you go to [www.neopets.com](http://www.neopets.com) you will find that it is a very cool website. It revolves around creatures called Neopets.

The Neopets come in around thirty different species and it is your job to take care of them.



You can also play a variety of over eighty games and compete in the BattleDome with your pet.

People in England created BattleDome. It is a very interesting game to play.

## Peacock's first dance is prize winning

By Rena W.

The dance on Friday, October 19, 2001 was great. The DJ was kind of good. Everyone liked the glow sticks. At the dance, there was a raffle and two people won \$50 gift certificates to Woodfield Mall and one person won a free pizza.

Seventh grader, Paul Piekarz, and sixth grader, Peter Andersen, won the gift certificates and seventh grader, Marina Laporte, won the free pizza.

The dance was fun and, all the people who were there enjoyed it.



Photo by Rena W.

**Peter A., sixth grade, happily displays his \$50 gift certificate to Woodfield Mall.**

# Creative Corner

## The Halloween Chainsaw!

By Karina D.

It's Halloween night and like all Halloweens, it is dark and creepy. I am dressed as a goblin and my friend Becky is dressed as a freak.

We have been walking for about two hours now and at all the houses we have stopped at no one has been home, but we are going to keep walking because what's the point of Halloween if you don't get some candy.

Suddenly there is a strange noise behind us. It sounds sort of like a quiet chain saw. Turning at the same time in the same direction we hit heads.

Becky yells, "Ouch, that hurt watch where you're going."

It wasn't my fault, but I don't have the courage to say it out loud because Becky sometimes has a temper. There was nothing behind us, so we are going to keep walking in the direction we are going.

We are now starting to enter a wooded area on a secluded road. As we hear an owl hoot Becky jumps and I can't help but laugh.

As we walk I notice that this road is really desolate, there is no one on it but us. Then there is that chain saw noise again except this time it's...



## Interesting new students flock to Peacock

By Jessica L.

Many new students have come to Peacock this year. Some of them moved here from out of state and others have moved here from different towns in the Chicago area. Some have even come to Peacock from different Itasca schools.

I interviewed sixth grader Elizabeth H. to get a glimpse of what some of these new students are like.

Elizabeth moved to Itasca at the end of this past summer from Berwyn, Illinois, where she attended Havlicek Middle School. She says the teachers and students here are more exciting than those at her old school, but she still misses her old teachers and friends a lot.

Since arriving in Itasca, Liz has made many new friends that live near her house. One of her new friends is Megan Ludwisiak.

Out of all the subjects she has, she likes gym with Ms. Krisik and Mr. Anderson the best. She thinks they are both really cool and they think up fun games and sports.

Even though she doesn't like it when she has homework, Elizabeth thinks students don't really get enough homework each night.

Elizabeth is a cross-country runner, and a member of both the Leo Club and Band. In her free time she likes to do gymnastics, as well as play soccer and basketball.

Her favorite singer is Janet Jackson and her favorite store to shop in is JC Penney. She says at JC Penney you get good deals on great clothes. The last book she read *Elizabeth I*, about the famous English queen from the seventeenth century.

**Out of all the subjects she has, she likes gym with Ms. Krisik and Mr. Anderson the best.**

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# Pappadeaux serves exotic dishes

By Cassandra D.

On Saturday, October 20, my family, my friend and her mom went out to eat at Pappadeaux. It is located on 798 West Algonquin Road in Arlington Heights.

They serve great seafood, along with some other things as well.

**We all had fried alligator for an appetizer!**

We all had fried alligator for an appetizer! The alligator appetizer was

very good, except that it was spicy. It came with sauce. It was a cross between chicken and calamari. My family and friends liked it and so did I. My brother *really* liked it.

My friend and her mom each had steak with mashed potatoes. My dad had crawfish etouffee and a pappadocious to



drink. A pappadocious is a frozen fruit punch with rum.

My mom had Catfish Orleans with dirty rice. My brother and I each had mini corn dog bites because we don't really like seafood very much. It came with fries.

Pappadeaux has live music on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. You should probably call before you go because it gets very crowded. This is my rating of Pappadeaux on a scale of 1-5:

- Food-5
- Atmosphere-5
- Service-5
- Cleanliness-5
- Value for money-3
- Kid friendliness-3
- Overall Experience-4

# Famous Dave's

## O.K., but not great

By Nikki A.

Famous Dave's is an alright chain of barbeque restaurants. There is one located on 1631 West Lake Street in Addison.

Its atmosphere is country, and typical for a barbeque place.

I went not long ago with my family and my friend. I ordered the pulled pork meal. The food was pretty good. When I tasted the ribs, however, I didn't like the sauce.

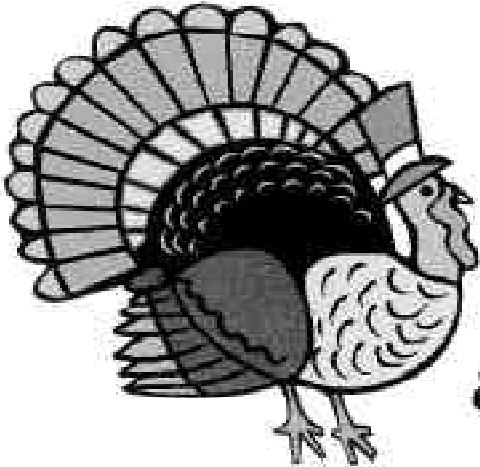
The service was good and prompt, and the atmosphere was friendly to all ages. However, dinner was fairly expensive.

Overall, Famous Dave's in Addison wasn't a bad place, but there are better barbeque restaurants.

- Food: 3
- Value for money: 3
- Atmosphere: 4
- Kid friendliness: 4
- Service: 4
- Overall experience: 4
- Cleanliness: 4

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west Indiana, over \$7.7 million has been given to 378 local organizations that serve children.

\* More than a third of McDonald's independent owner/operators and more than half of McDonald's Corporation executives began their careers in a McDonald's restaurant.

# Zoolander needs more work

By Paul P.  
Op-Ed Editor

Zoolander was a pretty good movie. I went to the theater with pretty low expectations for a good movie, so I guess it turned out OK.

Zoolander is about Derek Zoolander (Ben Stiller), and his quest to find himself. Somehow, the evil Mugatu (Will Ferrell) tries to use him to kill the Malaysian Prime Minister.

Sound convoluted? Are you confused? Me too. Somewhere and somehow along the way, Zoolander meets up with Hansel (Owen Wilson) David Bowie, and some guy who's played by David Duchovny.

The movie turned out all right with



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

some moments that had me reeling (in a bad way), and some moments that had me reeling (in a good way).

Will Ferrell was a great character as usual and Ben Stiller was pretty funny.

Zoolander would have been a better movie with a little more work. Overall, however, Zoolander was worth the money for the laughs it provided.

# Hardball will soften your heart

By Rachael R.

A man living an awful life is about to find some hope. Keanu Reeves plays Conner O'Neill in the movie "Hardball."

Conner is in trouble for betting large amounts of money at sports games, but a friend helps get him out of this mess.

Then his friend asks Conner to coach a little league baseball team in a troubled part of Chicago. What Conner thinks is a slap on the wrist actually helps him wise up.

The boys who Conner is coaching also become healthier in life out of their experience with him. They will try to overcome what obstacles life gives them.

"Hardball" will make you laugh at the



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

same time as you are crying. It is an all around good movie and I recommend it to everyone!

# Bandits

## Entertaining but not hilarious

By John G.

"Bandits," starring Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thorton, and Cate Blanchett was a good movie. It was not, however, non-stop laughs as the reviews claimed.



<http://www.mgm.com/bandits/>

Bruce Willis and Billy Bob Thorton are two bank robbers who break out of jail to rob enough banks to get the money they need to get to Mexico to start a new life.

Cate Blanchett joins up with them after she hits Billy Bob with her car. Willis and Thorton both fall in love with Cate, which really complicates their situation.

The ending is full of action, along with an unexpected surprise.

I would give "Bandits" a rating of three stars, since it was entertaining.

## DUE DATES FOR DECEMBER ISSUE

### Articles:

Monday, December 10

### Advertisements:

Friday, December 14

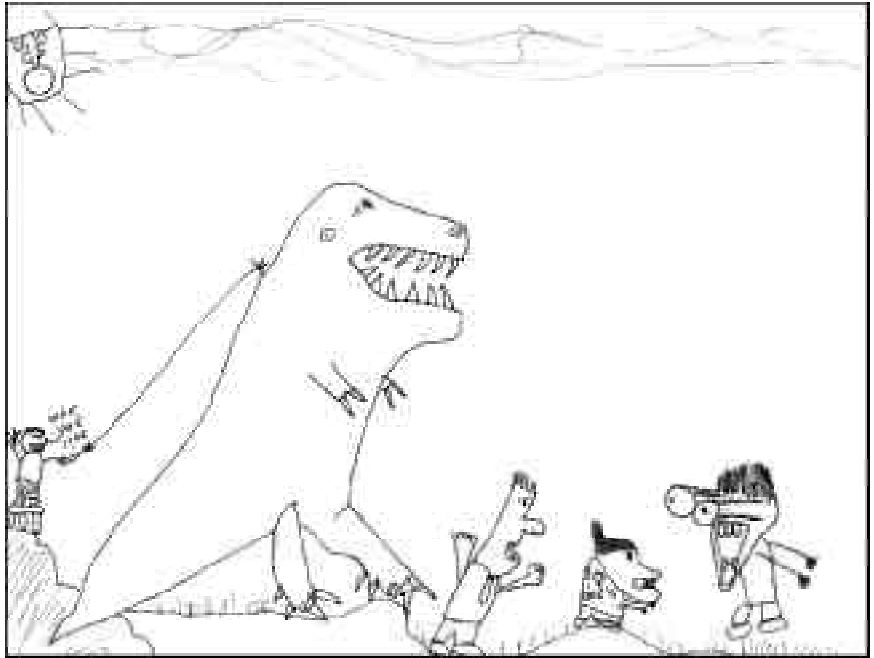
## New band for boy band fans

By Elysia B.

That's right, there's a new boy band, VP215! This is a rock/pop band. They might not look like 98° or Boyz II Men,



but they do have a lot in common with these more famous groups.



By Daniel B.

See **VP215**  
Page 18

# Christmas Teen Dance

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# ESPN X-Games Skateboarding offers virtual fun for diehards

By Evin S.

If you love ESPN skateboarding on T.V., like to skateboard, or have PS2, ESPN X-Games Skateboarding is a good game for you.

There are a couple different things to do on this game. You can play multi-player, which is where one player does a trick and the other tries to copy or beat that score.

Another is to actually play in the X-games street or "vert." You can also do that in one player mode.

The other thing you can do in one player mode is free-skate. A helpful hint is to unlock all the levels in the arcade mode.

If you want any cheats go to [WWW.CHEATCC.COM](http://WWW.CHEATCC.COM)

,=okay ,=good ,,,=great ,,,,=excellent

,,,,= buy it

Stars:,,,

Age: 8-18

Requirement: Play Station Two (PS2)



Illustration by Acaisha B.

## Halloweentown 2 is full of suspense

By Nicole D.

Halloweentown 2: Kalabar's Revenge is about the Cromwells and their evil enemy Kalabar. As shown in Halloweentown, the Cromwells, using magic, defeated Kalabar.

We do not yet know that Kalabar has a son named Cal. Cal follows his father's footsteps and tries to turn mortals into creatures, and then creatures into mortals.

See **Kalabar's Revenge**  
Page 18

## VP215

Continued from page 17

VP215 consists of five members, Carlos, Eli, Kraz (craze), Mr. Mic, and Raul. Carlos is a bass, Eli is a second tenor, Kraz is a first tenor, Mr. Mic is a baritone, and Raul is a baritone-tenor.

The band first got together in a neighborhood in Philadelphia. They got their name by combining VP for Vocal Pointe (which was the original name for the band) and 215 for their area code.

VP215 played a lot of block parties and community festivals before they released their first CD, Horizon, this September, on a major record label.

Even though VP215 shares many similarities with Boyz II Men, they have

their own distinctive Latin rhythms. Their first radio tracks were "She," "When You Cry," and "Fate."

Overall, I think the band is great. Again, they sound like 98 degrees and Boyz II Men and I love those bands. The remixes sound fine. I would recommend it to other students because the melody and beat is just terrific.

For more information on this exciting new band go to [bryn@dreamworksrecords.com](mailto:bryn@dreamworksrecords.com), [awelch@dreamworksrecord.com](mailto:awelch@dreamworksrecord.com), and/or [cburich@dreamworksrecords.com](mailto:cburich@dreamworksrecords.com). Their debut CD, Horizon, will be in stores soon

# Horoscopes for fun

By Rachel W.



**Aries (March 21-April 29)**  
 "It's that time of year!" Wow, watch out for goose dirt! I see a big pile of it coming your way!



**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**  
 "That's bull!" Well, I know you are a social monarch, but I see a rumor heading your way! Make sure you think

logically before you pass it on.



**Gemini (May 21-June 21)**  
 "We're inseparable!" Lookie here, you and your best friend(s) are going to have a blast this weekend. Hang on tight 'cause it's gonna be a

wild ride! Or else...



**Cancer (June 22-July 22)**  
 "Don't worry, be crabby..." I have a hunch that someone has been bothering you, and you've been taking it! Don't

take it, show 'em who's boss! Just play nice, dear.



**Leo (July 23-August 22)**  
 "Hasta la Vista, Abe-y!" Great job on that music video for social studies, if you are in seventh grade. I wonder if

Arnold S. was around back then...



**Virgo (August 23-September 23)**  
 "Brrr, it's cold in here, it must be something in the atmosphere!" Chill out, dude! You must be really cheesed

off at someone. Try to relax and watch Bring It On if it's your style.



**Libra (September 23-October 23)**  
 "You've got mail!" Start cleaning out your online mailbox now, I see digital holiday cards coming your

way. Don't drown in them all!



**Scorpio (October 24-November 24)**  
 "You have learned well, young grasshopper." I have a feeling that you ACED your math

test. Way to go, Einstein!



**Sagittarius (November 22-December 22)**  
 "Houston, we have a problem!" Ok, nobody said the stars were perfect but they told me that a huge,

grey, mutant, rubber dog toy is stomping its way to watch Apollo 13 with your pet monkey. Or is it you going trick or treating next year? Oh well...



**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**  
 "Baaaaaah!!!" I have the strangest notion that you've been a little too

gabby, if you know what I mean! Perhaps you were the one that started the rumor that Taurus has to put up with?!



**Aquarius (January 20-February 18)**  
 "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee!" Yo slacker, get off da couch and do some Tae Bo or somethin!

So far you probably float like an anvil and sting like a pillow!



**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**  
 "There are more fish in the sea." From what I've heard, a recent breakup has left you heartbroken. Don't

worry, though, there are more fish in the sea.

The End (BOO HOO HOOOOOO!!!!)



By Kelly M.

## Kalabar's Revenge

Continued from page 18

As Marni, Cromwell and her grandmother go back to Halloweentown, they see that something is wrong. All of Halloweentown is under the Gray Spell, the spell that turns creatures into mortals.

As Marni's grandmother turns into a mortal, the only help she gets from is Luke, a goblin. Listening to every word Marni says, Cal plans on turning the mortals into creatures and the creatures into mortals at the stroke of midnight.

Will the Cromwells' magic be able to defeat Cal for good? Dadadone... to find out watch Halloweentown 2: Kalabar's Revenge on the Disney Channel.

Overall Rating: 3

Originally rated NR

Genre: Fantasy

Suggested Rating: G or PG

# Coach Poremba knows what it takes to be a good basketball player

By Susie S.

The three sixth graders and eleven seventh graders who make up the sixth and seventh grade girls' basketball team work hard after school to practice for the upcoming games. They practice two hours everyday with some exceptions.

At practice, they concentrate on dribbling, shooting, offence, and defense. The team learns plays to develop their skills on the court.

They are also learning the basics to playing good basketball: ball handling, shooting, footwork, and teamwork.

"Mr. Poremba is a very good coach because he expresses his feelings, and it helps the team play better," said seventh grader, Lauren Snyder.

She also stated, "Mr. Poremba makes basketball fun, and he's very nice."

Lauren's classmate, Nicole D., agreed with Lauren, adding, "He teaches us many plays we haven't learned before."

Katie L., seventh grade, is very excited about the basketball season. She commented that the team was very fast and had a good defense.

Katie enjoys playing basketball and competing. She said that she thought the team would do very well this season. One reason for their success would be their great coach, Mr. Poremba.

Katie's teammate Shannon P. agreed that the team would do well, and would possibly finish in the top three in the conference. Shannon believed they would be successful in part because of the play of the seven seventh graders who made the team last year as sixth graders.

"Our defense is very good, but our offense needs worked" explained Shannon. Classmates Jenny O. and Colleen M. agreed with Shannon. They maintained that if the team bettered its offence, they would make it

**"Mr. Poremba is a very good coach because he expresses his feelings, and it helps the team play better," said seventh grader, Lauren Snyder. She also stated, "Mr. Poremba makes basketball fun, and he's very nice."**

up to the top of the conference.

Mr. Poremba also thinks the team will do very well this season. He commented that the team had improved, and had a lot of good talent.

He said that Peacock's girls' basketball stars, Colleen M., Kaitlyn L. and Nicole D., were tremendous athletes.

Mr. Poremba added, "no one has a bigger heart than Jenny O. and Shannon P., and Lauren S. is a great jumper."

No, Mr. Poremba didn't play basketball in high school, but he

knows what it takes to be a good basketball player. He explained that a good basketball player has to be a well-conditioned athlete.

She has to have good hand and eye coordination, and she has to be a good jumper. She needs to be strong and fast. But she also has to put the team goals ahead of individual goals.

Mr. Poremba is very excited to coach girls' basketball again. He thinks it's fun to



Photo by Susie S.

**Seventh graders Shannon P. and Kaitlyn L. are members of the sixth and seventh grade girls' basketball team, coached by seventh grade language arts teacher, Mr. Poremba.**

coach, and he likes getting more involved with students outside of the classroom. He has also noticed that when the girls come to practice they are always ready to learn and try.

"It's that it's just like school in a way, but the main subjects are basketball, basketball, and more basketball," he said.

Mr. Poremba is very happy about coaching the sixth and seventh grade girls' basketball team, and is really looking forward to a great season.

## Inside

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**Movie reviews - p. 16**

**Restaurant reviews - p. 14**

**The first dance - p. 12**

**All this and more!**