

Hancock High School

229 West Ripa Avenue

St. Louis, Missouri

# THE GROWLER

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April



Photo by Mercedes Gutierrez

*Tedi Ellis (12) dribbles toward goal against Valley Park in the game on Friday April 9th.*

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# SCHOOL NEWS



Sarah Caudill (12)  
Editor in Chief

## Editor's Corner

As this is our second to last issue of *The Growler*, I wanted to thank everyone on staff for such a great year. Everyone has worked hard in aspiration to make every issue better than our last. I believe we have done well in the achievement of this goal. I'm excited to see what level our last, and my final issue, will reach.

## FRIENDS OF THE GROWLER...

Mrs. Teri Blackburn  
Mrs. Dina Cassidy  
Ms. Nikki Herman  
Ms. Victoria Johnson  
Mr. Nathan Jones  
Mr. Bob Keeling  
Dr. Cathy Lorenz  
Mrs. Laura Mallory  
Mrs. Emily Mauro  
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Mrs. Nancy Werner  
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GROWLER A FREE PUBLICATION!



Jaime Tournough (12) stands next to her winning Literature Festival project last year in the auditorium.

## Lit Festival is Gone!



Anna Frazier (12)  
Staff Writer

Every year after winter break student's start hearing about the Lit Fest project, but this year was different. Many students, as well as teachers enjoyed seeing the outcome of the project; but this year, it will be unseen. "As a department, we all were in agreement to stop having the Lit. Fest. But, still have similar projects throughout the year," replied English teacher, Mrs. Tricia Long.

The English department, as a whole, came to the agreement that Lit. Fest. was no longer needed." Because of complaints of other disciplines and their students waiting until the last minute and skipping school to finish, we decided to make some changes to keep everyone happy," said another English teacher Mrs. Brooke Anato. Some seniors heard about the news, and don't think it's fair. "I don't think it's fair because we all had to do it for three years, I was so stressed out, I stayed up late every night to get it done," explained Tiffany Shepard (12).

There will be replacement assignments that will take the place of the Lit. Fest. "We're just going to tone them down a little," said English teacher Mr.

Bob Keeling. This school year is the first that the project hasn't been introduced to students. "Nobody took it away, it just rode off into the sunset," said Keeling. Anato is still going to do some assignments that are very similar. "I really enjoyed looking at the students projects, I think it's a shame that we no longer have a place to showcase our students work," answered Anato.

The lower classmen didn't realize what a hassle the project was, "it was the most stressful time of the year," said Mercedes Gutierrez (12). Now there are a few less things to worry about. "The Lit. Fest. affected my second semester because I was stressed, more tired, had homework almost every day, it made second semester very difficult," said Adrienne Thomas (12).

Senior year is supposed to be about slowing down, getting in some easier classes to finish out the last year of high school, Lit. Fest. wasn't included in any senior level classes. "Our class has been doing it for the past 3 years and its one of our senior benefits that not having to do it senior year, now nobody has to do it, that's completely unfair," said Mary Johnson (12).



# SCHOOL NEWS



## Dr. Lorenz Sheds Light on Principals' 200 Club



**James Walden  
(11)**  
Staff Writer

Since Dr. Cathy Lorenz has become our principal here at HHS, there have been little pink tickets exchanging hands from teachers to students. These tickets are the key to admission into a new club established by the principals called the Principals' 200 Club.

Though this has been going on since the beginning of the year, not many students know what the club is or the club's purpose. Justin Miller (11) is one of the club's members, and he doesn't really understand what the club's purpose is. "I honestly don't know. I was just given a ticket, and I took it to Dr. Lorenz," Miller said.

The Principals' 200 Club is an idea that came from the Character Education Committee, a committee made up of the counselors, principals, and other adults in the school. "We thought of a way to get students involved in character education and praise people that exhibited good qualities," said Dr. Lorenz. "Essentially, it's all about character."

The club consists of 71 students who have been doing well in school and exhibit the core values of respect, responsibility, and honesty. Dr. Lorenz finds these students by having the teachers and other faculty members be her eyes and ears among the students. "Mr. Rauscher nominated me to be in the club," Jessica Tobin (11) said. "He said I was accepted into the club because of my hard work in music." When the staff members have spotted a student who shows the core values Dr. Lorenz is looking for, they hand them a ticket which the student is to take to Dr. Lorenz. "If a teacher sees a student who exhibits a four, which is above and beyond, in any of those three areas, they get a ticket," Dr. Lorenz said.

When they take the ticket to Dr. Lorenz, the student signs their name on a large sheet of paper hanging in the conference room just off of Dr. Lorenz's office. After that you are

officially a member of the Principals' 200 Club and are given a shirt as a sign of your acceptance. "I was given a T-shirt, and I was told more was to come," Tobin said.

Dr. Lorenz said the club is a source of students' names that she can use as a reference list. She said these students are the ones she can sit down and have a chat with about the school. Almost like a sort of advisory board made up of students from different grades and backgrounds. "It's like taking a pulse of the school," Dr. Lorenz said.

Overall, the club isn't meant to establish a new mission statement and get the students to completely adhere to it. All the club is meant to do is recognize the students who demonstrate the core values of respect, responsibility, and honesty and also bring those core values to the rest of the school. "I think it's to encourage students to be caught doing good things and to reward them for being a good leader to their classmates," Tobin said. "If you can say 'What does your school stand for?' Well our core values are respect, responsibility, and honesty. That's it," Dr. Lorenz said.



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# SCHOOL NEWS



## ***From the Principal's Desk...***

Students, greetings from the administration. We are gearing up for End of Course tests that are so important to your work and our work here at Hancock. The preliminary scores are in from DEA practice and your grades, and as a collective group you are showing significant progress. We are so proud of you already, but we still need your help. Please get a lot of sleep and eat healthy the day of testing. Please do your best and show off what you have learned. During EOC testing and toward the end of the year, attendance is crucial to your success. I always like being prize patrol, so without coming out and bribing you, look for some potential prizes coming to your class if there is 100% attendance. We are increasing our participation in our Principals' 200 club so continue exhibiting good character. As always, I am proud to work here at Hancock and I enjoy coming here everyday!

**Come see the Spring Play  
presented by the  
HHS Drama Department:**

## ***"Fair Exchange"***

**Thursday April 22nd, 7pm**

**& Friday April 23rd, 7pm**

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*Tickets on sale Mon-Wed next week!*

**Admission is \$3, or \$2 with a canned good**

## Summer School Is Not Guaranteed



**Josie Dunlap (11)**  
**Staff Writer**

Despite the 2009-2010 school year for HHS is quickly coming to an end, whether or not we will have summer school this year is still up in the air. Ms. Rost says "We are still waiting to hear from the state." After we hear from the state is when we will find out for sure if there will be a summer school for HHS this year or not.

According to Ms. Mayer, summer school is "a time to make up for bad choices."

The purpose of summer school is to recover credits lost due to attendance or failing grades.

There are two types of course offerings during summer school. The first one is Remedial, which simply means that you need to take that class to recover credits. The Remedial classes include Communication Arts, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, American History, World Cultures, PE, Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Personal Finance, and Health.

Ms. Mayer says "Students should go to summer school to keep on track for graduation." Not all students go to summer school because they have to go.

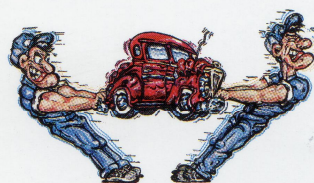
Some students go to summer school for fun. These

classes are called Enrichment classes. The Enrichment classes are PE, Art, Students As Mentors (A+ Students), Foods/ Sewing, Drama, ACT prep, Band, and Guitar.

Summer school is four weeks long. Students can apply for summer school by filling out and turning in a summer school form in the guidance office.

Summer school is not that bad. Ms. Mayer even says "We have a lot of fun in summer school."

## **Chippewa Auto Body** TIM MORAN



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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Student Government Goes to State Convention



Angela Armstrong (12)  
Staff Writer

On March 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, members of Student Government attended their first State Convention. Student Government members took a trip to Jefferson City. This convention was planned by Missouri Association of Student Councils along with some schools such as Timberland HS, Lebanon HS, and Lewis & Clark MS.

On this trip Student Government members met other student councils from all around Missouri. "We had guest speakers come to talk with us about leadership and community service opportunities," said Mr. David Tidwell (HHS Staff and Student Government Advisor). Students also got to meet former Cardinals player, Tom Henke and Governor of Missouri, Mr. Jay Nixon and his wife. Throughout the convention, students also attended conventions on Teacher Appreciation, Homecoming and Spirit Week planning. There were also sessions on fundraising, community service and many other things.


Shelby Edsell (12), Isabella Mirgaux(10), Laila Ait haj Kaddour(9), and Monae Townes(11) participated in this special event. "It was very organized and it brought many new ideas to the floor when it came to how to run our schools student government," said Isabella Mirgaux.

Thanks to the PATHS organization, this trip was made possible financially. The fees for the convention were \$75 per student/teacher who attended. There were also other costs such as transportation. Mr. Moser helped organize the transportation for the event.

Mr. Tidwell has been part of HHS Student Government since 2005. He was co-advisor that year with Mrs. Amanda VanHorn and then the following year, he took on as the full time advisor. Over the five years that Mr. Tidwell has been part of Student Government, he has learned a lot about students at HHS. "I've learned that we have a great group of students here at Hancock and I am very proud that I can be a part of this group," said Mr. Tidwell. He has also learned that students can be very hard workers and "have the potential to be great thinkers and participants in their education and community," praised Tidwell.

As with anything, Student Government for HHS has evolved over time. Since Tidwell has taken over as advisor, they have planned more blood drives, given more input on school procedures and policies, become more organized and now have guidelines for elections. "The students have also become more involved with leadership training events," said Tidwell. Students have attended Six Flags leadership training.

Shelby Edsell has played a very important part in Student Government, as well. Edsell has been part of student government all four years of high school, but took over as president this year. Over time she has learned to be a great leader and help organize activities such as homecoming, spirit week, and blood drives. "Also many people don't know but we do community service by doing Tubs of Love where we send tubs of needed items to families in need in the community," said Edsell.



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# SCHOOL NEWS



*Dawn Michael, morning custodian at HHS, is the mother of Cpl. Tommy A. Michael recently injured serving in Afghanistan.*



*Boy Scouts, among many others, lined the parade route welcoming home Cpl. Tommy Michael. Photo courtesy of KMOV.com*

## Son of HHS Custodian Survives Mortar Attack



*Angel Temple (12)  
Staff Writer*

As students here at Hancock we don't walk down the halls thinking about the lives of the teachers, custodians, or administration or what they do after school hours. But here recently two of our custodians have been going through a difficult time. United States Marine Corporal Tommy A. Michael and is the son of Dawn Michael and grandson of Patty Turner both custodian at HHS.

Cpl Michael has recently come home from his second trip overseas. In 2008, Cpl Michael was overseas in Iraq and in 2009 he was deployed to Afghanistan. But he was not expected home from this trip so soon. According to Dawn (mother of Cpl. Michael), "February 12, 2010 Tommy's platoon has been fighting near Marjah, in a firefight that had been going on for about ten minutes. Tommy was in a 4x4 MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) in the hatch putting down suppressive fire with his .50 caliber when he heard a whistle and bang! Some type of mortar bomb struck his MRAP."

The minute that Dawn heard about the accident the first thing she said was, "Is my son dead?" Cpl Michael made it through the accident but the bomb did do some permanent damage. He has no feeling in his two of his fingers and has a scar on his nose. Cpl Michael will have to have some reconstructive surgery on his nose and therapy on his hand. Dawn is very proud of her son and says, "He has grown into a very handsome young man and accomplished so much with his life! What parent wouldn't be proud to have this Marine by

their side."

What students don't think about is how all the staff and faculty at HHS have lives outside of school. They all go through the same things students do, some situations may not be so good either. Dawn has been at HHS for thirteen years and very little people were aware of what she has been through recently. This was a hard experience for her but now that her son, Cpl Michael is at home she is content.

Cpl Michael was welcomed home by a big party on March 19 held at American Legion Post in Lemay. He was escorted in by the Patriot Guard Riders while everyone lined up on the streets cheering his success on. People came from all over to support Cpl Michael and his family and welcome this local hero home. Many people attended the party from complete strangers, news screws, St. Louis Police and Firefighters, and even Vietnam Vets. They were all there to cheer him on and welcome him home safely.

Dawn went through a lot with the whole accident, although, Cpl Michael is safe at home he is still facing a lot of challenges due to his time overseas. This comes to show how everyone from staff to students face the same problems and that everyone at HHS has a personal life after school hours.



# SCHOOL NEWS



*Ken Klepzig (left), his wife, Erma, and their son, Tom, stand proudly with Bon Appétit Magazine in the Donut Stop on Lemay Ferry.*

## Donut Stop Wins National 'Top 10' Award



*Cayla Kostecki (9)  
Staff Writer*

In the March issue of *Bon Appétit* Magazine the Donut Stop was chosen by Andrew Knowlton as one of the top ten donut shops in the nation. Ever since 1953, the small shop on Lemay Ferry has always been a donut shop. Owner Kenneth Klepzig has owned the Donut Stop for nine years with help from his wife Erma, who went to Hancock, and his son Tom.

"A big roadside sign announces this white stand-alone shop straight out of Homer Simpson's dreams: glass cases are filled with glazed donuts, fried pies, filters, and custard filled rounds," described Knowlton in the *Bon Appétit* Magazine.

The Donut Stop is a small carry out shop that serves breakfast along with milk and coffee. There are always a variety of donuts. Ken starts each day at midnight baking 150 to 200 dozen donuts and works about 12-14 hours a day. "I've worked all my life. I was born and raised on a farm," Kenneth told *Suburban Journals*.

The shop goes through 600 to 700 pounds of powdered sugar for glazes and icings each week. Other ingredients include 1,000 to 1,200 pounds yeast and about 250 pounds of cake mix just in a week. Kenneth and the workers pay very close attention to everything, have good products, and keep everything new and fresh daily. "We like to make people happy with a good product," Erma Klepzig, 66, told *Suburban Journals*.

"It's my favorite place in the world!" exclaimed Dr.

Lorenz. She explained that she thinks they are better than most donuts because they have more of a cake like taste other than Krispy Kreme, Dierbergs and other places.

"Whenever I have a Varsity H meeting or celebrate something for students I always get donuts from the Donut Stop," stated Ms. Branch. She also said that she thinks that they are better than most donuts because they are a "mom and pop shop". "Every time I go in there they're super, super nice. Who's nice at 6 o'clock in the morning?" Branch said jokingly. "I've been there a million times. I always get about seven of eight dozen of wide varieties. The employees are the sweetest and very friendly," Ms. Rost explained while eating a donut that she got earlier that morning.

"What I like most about working at the Donut stop is probably getting to see our customers getting donuts they like and at a price they like as much as donuts," stated Samantha Turnbough (11). "The donuts are sweet enough to where they taste good, but they aren't "heavy" on your stomach. Also, I think the variety is pretty awesome; I don't think I know of another place with a cinnamon glob," Turnbough said.

"A sales lady came in and said, 'congratulations,' and I said, 'For what?' Erma Klepzig told *ST. Louis Business Journal*. "I didn't even know. And it's really been chaos ever since." In the past three weeks since the March issue of the magazine came out the shop has become 30% busier.

It was unbelievable finding out about it. We're a little dinky shop in Lemay," explained Kenneth.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Mandated Drills Prep Students For Emergencies



Chris Neill (11)  
Staff Writer

Drills really do help save lives in times reality strikes here at HHS. Drills like tornado, earthquake, intruder, and the fire drills help prepare us in these times that reality does strike. "The more prepared you are the calmer you will feel if it really happens," said Mrs. McCray.

As part of Missouri's Severe Weather Awareness Week, a statewide tornado drill was held Thursday afternoon at 1:30. The goal of severe weather awareness week is

simple: save lives.

Weather drills are not held if it is a stormy day outside. "On a sunny day I might decide to do a drill," said Mr. Parker.

Caring about these drills is a serious thing here at HHS. "I feel students are prepared in case of an emergency, how serious students take the drills, that's another story," said Mr. Parker.

"By knowing how to react to an emergency can help ALL students and school personnel remain safe," said Mr. Parker. Like the intruder alert that happened recently, students knew how to react because of the drills and everyone was safe. "That is exactly why we drill," said Mr. Parker.

Teachers as everyone knows have jobs to do during these drills. "My job is to instruct my students on what to do

in the event that a drill happens. This includes where to go, what to do, and how to react," said Mrs. McCray.

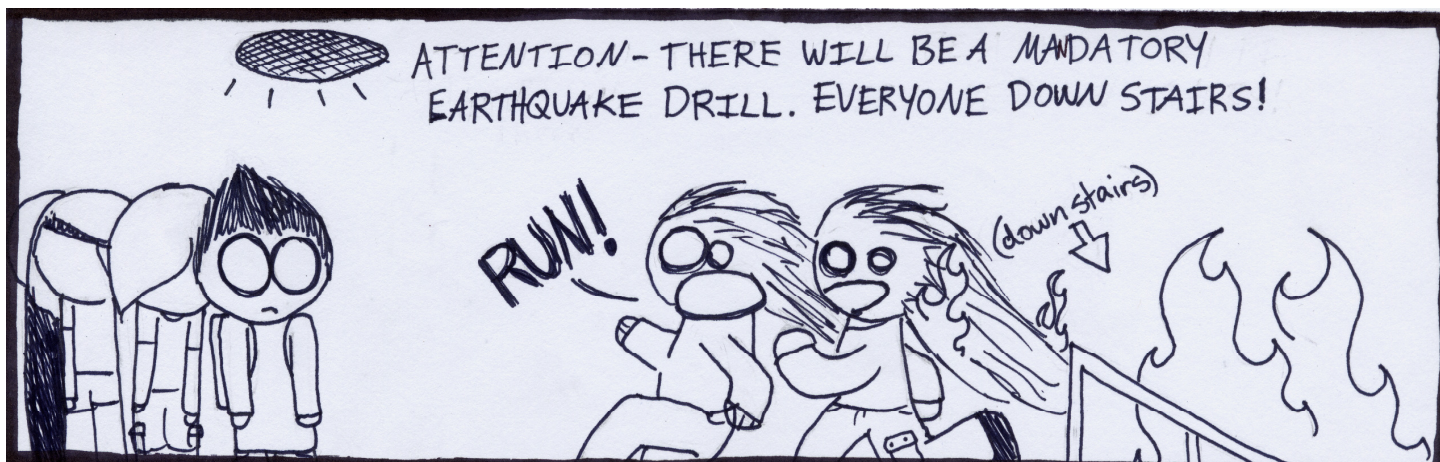
Well the administrative team determines a proper time for the drills. "Teachers and administrators, along with the head of the secondary campus maintenance and custodial staff set the time, a timed fire drill takes place and the time is recorded," stated Mr. Parker. Some drills are announced and some aren't announced. Administrators are required to do a set number of drills each year, 2 earthquake, 2 tornado, 2-3 fire, and 1 intruder drill, it's "predetermined."

Students like Justin Miller (11) said, "Drills are random but they help, so why complain. Gets me out of class."

"When a true emergency takes place, I hope students and staff stay OFF cell phones. Misinformation is the worst possible issue that takes place. If the school is locked down, chances are there will be few who actually know why. Spreading of false information leads to panic," said Mr. Parker.

## "School Daze"

By Brianna Reese





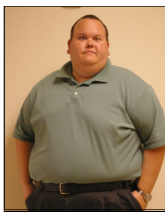
# SCHOOL NEWS

## Do You Think the World Will End in 2012?



**Brianna Reese**  
(12)  
Staff Writer

After recent natural disasters, *The Growler* would like to find out student and staff member's opinion in whether or not they believe the world will end in 2012. Asking a series of questions: Do you believe the world is ending, what you would do, what would it look like, and what would others be doing if this happened?



**Mr, Kelly**

Is the world going to end in 2012? Sure. A tribe of natives (which are no longer around) predicted in 3114 B.C. that the world would end in 2012 A.D. What's not to believe? If the world is ending I would stop paying my bills. How are they going to collect? If it was my last day I would play golf and speed through Bella Villa. The ending would have dogs and cats living together, the Cubs winning the World Series, and the French winning a war.



**Quintard Peoples** (9)

I don't believe the world will end in 2012. There is no scientific proof that the world will end in 2012. The world was supposed to end many times before and it did not. I would find a way to survive while the buildings are falling, there would be earthquake, tornados, tsunamis, and hurricanes.



**Jake Gee**  
(10)

I do not believe the world is going to end in 2012. There had been other dates that were said about the world ending but it never happened. If the world is ending, I'll just keep riding my bike. If it were my last day I would ride my bike until I died. I picture 2012 to go off orbit and hit another planet. I don't know what people would be doing.



**Matt Thompson** (11)

I do believe the world is going to end in 2012. God told me so, he said "The world's going to end in 2012, get to Mars quick!" I didn't want to believe it at first so I didn't say anything but then it sort of sank in. I'm going to build a rocket for my trip to Mars and steal enough food for a long time. I would most likely go sky diving with no parachute into the ocean, after I do everything on my bucket list of course. The world ending would be total destruction and devastation!



**Mr. Uthoff**

I don't believe it will, but you never know what will happen. Why? Because only one person knows the hour of the end of the world. If the world is ending, what would you do? Smile. My last day I would "plant a tree." (Why? For others to enjoy.) Well, the sun will turn into darkness, the moon will turn to blood, and there will be a great earthquake, lots of destruction... I'm thinking it will be very interesting. There will be panicking! Lots and lots of panic -for some.



**Annalise Goeke**  
(9)

If it ends, it ends. I won't really think anything about it until I've got something to base it off of. If the world was ending, I'd accept that it was inevitable and live my life, simple as that. If it were my last day, I'd live it to the fullest and never regret what I've done. I'd love and laugh and do everything I ever wanted to do. In a way I just imagine all the people in the world just being gone, all evidence of us ever existing just disappearing. I think most people would be spazzing out and doing pointless things.



**Brandi Wildhaber**  
(12)

I don't believe the world will end; maybe something huge will happen that will affect life on Earth. If we were informed by some higher power like the president or NASA then I would be living everyday to the fullest. Do things I've always wanted to do. I wouldn't do anything different I don't already do. I would just want my friends and family around me. If the government told us the world was ending, it would be chaos. Everyone would be breaking into stores, maybe killing people or themselves

# SCHOOL NEWS



From left—Kareem McClelland (10), Rubianna Readus (9), Deanna English (11) and Allison Pettus (12) develop game plans for their page spreads in the yearbook.



An important element in creating a yearbook is having a team that works well together. Teambuilding games (like the one shown above) were conducted throughout the year.

## Memento Yearbook Completed After Hard Work



Sarah Elliott (12)  
Staff Writer

This year, the Memento Yearbook staff has worked as hard as ever to produce a fresh and innovative yearbook that students will treasure for the rest of their lives. Like years past, our staff has worked together to come up with new ideas and new ways to take on pages. Our hard work is not always noticed, because each year an average of 100 year books are sold although about 500 students attend HHS. At the price of \$40, only 75 yearbooks were pre-ordered this year, which will leave students to fight through the 35 extra copies that will be available. Yearbooks will be available to students within the first few weeks of May. Students do not realize how much sweat and sometimes even tears that are actually put into each yearbook we produce.

This year, the Memento Staff consisted of 18 members, which includes Paige Morgan (12) and myself as co-editors in chief. Each year, changes are made in the yearbook room. Our advisor, Mr. Murphy, has always had a passion for yearbook and always tries new and innovative ideas. This is the third year that the book has been featured in all color. "This year's yearbook was a bit more cohesive because we had the same colors for each section. It made it feel more like a yearbook instead of being totally random," said Alex Tucker (11). Last year the book had many new and different page ideas that have never been done before. Another big change this year was the senior section, which consisted of an additional picture that students submitted placed next to their mugs hot [school picture]. "I am so excited about the seniors' page! It was really hard to get every senior to submit a second picture but it looks awesome," said Co-Editor in Chief, Paige Morgan (12). No matter what, the staff tries to

produce something new and fresh for students.

To me, this year has been the most stressful in yearbook in comparison to previous years. There is no doubt in my mind that this yearbook will blow students away. I feel that many of our staff members have worked hard to accomplish the best book we've produced yet. Of course, there were many roadblocks that we've had to maneuver through. "Every year there is a conflict between the students that are organized and a step ahead at all times vs. the kids that slack off. However, sometimes the best work comes from those kids who procrastinate. It's crazy. It's hard to keep the staff motivated because it is hard to grade the progress each person makes," said Morgan, "It's our job to get through the drama in the class room, make time for the book, and motivate ourselves to make this the best yearbook it can be."

The biggest obstacle our staff has to overcome each year is deadline week. "There were many things that made this year more stressful and difficult than others. At second semester, we lost two staff members and as editors, we were left with their pages. Without proper deadlines and bad time management, deadline week was pure hell," said Morgan.



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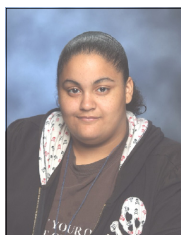
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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Book Fair Contributes to New Library Books



Natazia Culton (12)  
Staff Writer

For years a book fair has been held in the library about once every year. They sell everything from agricultural books to school supplies and kid puppets.

The yearly book fair at HHS normally makes a turnout of around \$1100.00 a year on sales. This year the average was about the same as the other years before. From the sales they make a 40% profit from every item sold. So if someone bought a \$15.00 book the library would make a \$7.00 profit. The librarians (Mrs. Warner and Mrs. Cassidy) also make extra for the funds from hoisting it during after school hours such as a parent teacher conference. This year they had a Total of \$650.00 for participating in extra activities. The librarians then had the choice to have it paid in cash or to get it back in revenue. The cash may seem the obvious choice to take but in the end the company cuts the earnings down drastically when they have to pay in cash. So the librarians choose every year to take it in new books from the library. This gives them a lax in the schools budget to get other things that need to take care of the library such as Windex or dusters to clean shelves.

The cut they get can often be considered a very nice throw in but not necessary to the library funds. However there are a few times when the budget was really low that the money they made off of the book fair has really helped out. "Depending on the budget it can be a huge help," Said Mrs. Cassidy. The Library isn't completely dependent on the funds though. We could still do fairly well without the fair

every year but it helps to get new books on the shelves so people won't have to read the same old thing. And it helps the big readers interested who can find themselves running out of interesting books quickly after a while.

And for every five dollars the kids spent this year their name was put into a drawing. At the end of the book fair the kids that won received a prize. They won either a poster of their choice or another unique item such as a guitar pick eraser. This was used both to "encourage and reward" the people who bought from the fair.

In closing Mrs. Cassidy and Warner wanted to say, "thanks to everyone who bought books."

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## HHS Choir Members Receive Accolades



Isabella Mirgaux (10)  
Staff Writer

In March, the HHS choir went to two singing competitions to be judged on how well they sung. The first of the two events, called Festival happened on March 10, 2010 at Lindbergh High School. The choir received a 3, meaning that they did an okay job on the criteria necessary to obtain a good score at the event.

The second singing competition where certain choir members went to be rated on their performance was Solo and Ensemble. HHS was represented by six soloists and one ensemble, one of the soloists was disqualified, but the remainder of them scored either a two or a one. Mary Johnson (12), Josh Goggin (10), Bryant Woods (10), and the ensemble all received a two as their rating. Jessica Tobin (11) was rated a one, which means that she will be participating at the state Solo and Ensemble Festival in Columbia on May 1, 2010 at Mizzou.

"The point of these events is to bring performance to the highest level possible for any given student perform or group of students. You might think of it as choir's version of the MAP test. Performing for judges, either as a soloist or a member of an ensemble, gives students the practice of performing high-stakes situations, but also gives them an opportunity to get some valuable feedback on how to become a better singer," Mrs. Emily Mauro, the HHS choir director said.

At this event, the choirs are rated on a scale from 1-5, 1 being superior and 5 being poorly sung. The judges look for certain things in a performance that raise the score from being average, to above average. "The judges look for a secure and affective performance. They want students to be able to demonstrate fundamental singing technique, such as posture, breathing and intonation, but they also want the performance to have some emotional impact as well," Mrs. Mauro explained.

For an event like Festival, the choir had to do different things to prepare. "To prepare students, we do a lot of exercises in class that focus on techniques, and we also discuss the text to make sure that the students have an understanding of what we're singing and can perform it meaningfully," said Mrs. Mauro.

The HHS choir at Festival received a 3, meaning their performance was solid, but lacked an extra quality that could have made the performance spectacular. Brittani Kleine (10), a first year in choir, said that the choir did well and sounded really pretty, but that they need to work on

some things. "The choir needs to work on our balance and probably have more guys so we can really do well," Kleine (10) said. Josh Goggin (10) agreed with Kleine, but also said that intonation was a big issue as well.

"All three of the judges referred to intonation and breathing issues throughout our performance, so that's going to be a major focus for the remainder of this year and next. To improve that, I'm going to spend less time playing at the piano and require students to sing much more of their music a cappella. I believe that with practice, this will improve their hearing and enable to sing more in tune," Mrs. Mauro said.

At Solo and Ensemble on March 6th at Florissant Valley Community College, Josh Goggin (10) had his first experience at an event where he would be judged on his singing. When he walked into the doors of Solo and Ensemble, he realized that it was going to be a very new experience. "It was very busy, everyone had something to do and somewhere to go," Goggin (10) said.

"I'm going to fail epically," said Goggin (10) when he heard students from different high schools sing their pieces. Goggin (10) was nervous and didn't know what to expect, but he left some advice for future Solo and Ensemble competitors, "practice, practice, practice."

"I put more emotion into my songs and tried to really perform my pieces and have confidence in myself and what I was singing," said Jessica Tobin who last year received a two and then this year bumped her up to a one.

"There were a couple of students who had signed up for solo & ensemble who didn't follow through on their end of preparation and either didn't go at all or weren't as ready as they ought to have been for the event. That's very frustrating for me, as their performance reflects on me and my ability to teach and I don't like looking bad," said Mrs. Mauro.

Although some unwanted things occurred in the preparation for this event, the soloist and ensemble worked hard for their scores and were very happy with the outcomes.

"I am RELIEVED that all the events are over. As a director, it is emotionally exhausting to prepare for and perform at these festivals. I end up spending a lot of time getting ready for this, both in and out of school, and is nice to have them over. I am very proud of all the students who participated," said Mrs. Mauro.



## OPINIONS

The GROWLER is published by the JOURNALISM EDUCATION GROUP of Hancock High School, 229 W. Ripa Ave, St. Louis, MO 63125. Letters to the editor are welcome, but may be edited for space and clarity. Letters must be signed but may remain anonymous upon request. The JEG is responsible for The GROWLER and all of its content. Expressed opinions, including editorial cartoons and columns do not reflect the opinion of the high school, its faculty, or the administration of the Hancock Place School District.

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### **Seniors Who Choose Early Grad. Can't Walk in Spring**



Sarah Dunn (12)  
Staff Writer

I have always heard from previous students that their senior year was their easiest year of high school. There isn't really much left for a senior to take after they get done with their required classes. There's not a huge push here at HHS to take more challenging classes their senior year. If a student at HHS receives all of their credits every school year, leaving just electives no main core classes, this puts them at 21 credits going into their senior year. If you do the math, this leaves seniors only needing 3 credits left to graduate. After you reach 24 credits every other class that you take is considered an elective no matter what class it is. This makes it pretty pointless to be at school.

Having that said as a senior technically you are eligible to graduate after you complete your first semester of senior year. Why don't many students do this? Well at HHS "this option is available, but it is not advertised." Dr. Cathy Lorenz said. "Basically everything is on an individual basis."

This would be ideal to do as a senior but there is a catch. If you choose to graduate at semester you are not allowed to attend the graduation ceremony or Prom theses are two of the most important things here at HHS to a senior. Which really what and who does it hurt? Its one semester of school not a whole year. I understand taking away any other events but graduation is a little too much. By ending school early it is considered that you have chosen to end your high school career.

If seniors are here for three years and work hard to get done what needs to be done, then we shouldn't get punished for wanting to get out of school just a semester early. It's not like we are dropping out or anything. So instead of seniors getting to graduate early and maybe work or

even start college a little earlier they are stuck in school all day long taking all electives, and classes that just help pass time. While yes it is nice to be in classes like Library Monitor, and Office Monitor at the same time it is pretty pointless. What are these classes going to do for someone? Nothing!

There is something new for seniors though that started this year at HHS starting this year is called senior options. This allows students who meet requirements for attendance, grades, tardies, and G.P.A. to have the choice to either come in school an hour late or leave school an hour early. This school year is only available second semester but is planned to be available all year in the 2010-2011 school year. It's great that they have decided to do this for seniors who don't need either their first or eighth hour class, but what about those students that don't need their second semester? I would've loved to graduate after finishing my first semester to get a jump start on college. I decided not to even pursue it though after finding out that I wouldn't even be able to walk across stage after going to school all of my life and looking forward to it for so long. I would like to see our policy change so seniors in the future have this opportunity to not get stuck in school their second semester to take classes that are only for extra credits.

Overall I just don't agree with the current policy of HHS at all. IKFA is a state wide school board policy called early graduation. Schools like Mehlville, Bayless, Lindbergh, Maplewood, and Brentwoods policy all states "The student who chooses early graduation will be allowed to participate in the spring graduation but will be considered and alumni for all other activities." HHS policy just states that students must meet with a counselor if they meet all requirements to develop a graduation plan, nothing about not being able to attend any senior events after you graduate. So all of our surrounding schools have the same policies then why don't we?

# THE SPORTS PAGE

## Girls' Soccer Run Differently This Year



Lucy Dugan 10)  
Staff Writer

The girls Varsity soccer team has began the year 3-3. The Junior Varsity started off with a score of 0-3.

The girls Varsity had their first game on Tuesday, March 23 at Maplewood against Maplewood Richmond Heights H S. Our girls won with a score of 4-1. Brittney McMahon (10) scored all four goals.

The head coach for this year's soccer team is Mr. Mattingly. Mr. Buck stepped down to the assistant coach. There is another new assistant coach which is Ms. Bates. She is a teacher at the elementary. Mr. Buck felt that he was comfortable stepping down and letting Mr. Mattingly step up for head coach.

"Coach Mattingly and I have taught together and played on soccer teams together, so giving him the official head coach position was an easy move since I was confident in his abilities and knew we would work well together."

Practices are run a little different this year. This year's team is practicing at Lemay Park instead of Jefferson Barracks. There is a better grass area there and the goals look legit.

This year's team lost 6 seniors since last year, which are, Brittany Conners, Christa Boshers, Heather Crider, Taylor Smith, Erika Kopsky, and Senada Fale. Instead of the soccer team relying on one player, the team works together to improve their teamwork skills.

There were about 40 girls playing soccer last year. Between varsity and JV, there are around 40 this year.

There are 14 games left for the girls Varsity team to play and 7 for the Junior Varsity. This season will end for Varsity on May 17 and the Junior Varsity will end on April 29.



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## April Sport Events

### Friday April 9th

#### 4:00PM

Girls Varsity Soccer VS. Valley Park High School

Boys Varsity Baseball VS. Valley Park High School

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball @ Valley Park High School

### Monday April 12th

#### 4:00PM

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball @ Brentwood High School

Girls Varsity Soccer - Hillsboro Girls Soccer Tournament Round I

### Tuesday April 13th

#### 4:00PM

Girls Junior Varsity Soccer VS. McCluer High School

Boys Varsity Baseball VS. Jennings High School

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball @ Jennings High School

Girls Varsity Soccer @ Christian High School-O'Fallon

### Wednesday April 14th

#### 4:00PM

Boys Varsity Baseball VS. Crossroads High School

Girls Junior Varsity Soccer VS. Ursuline Academy

Girls Varsity Soccer - Hillsboro Girls Soccer Tournament Round II

Girls Varsity Soccer - Hillsboro Girls Soccer Tournament Round II

### Thursday April 15th

#### 4:00PM

Girls Varsity Soccer - Hillsboro Girls Soccer Tournament Round III

### Friday April 16th

#### 4:00PM

Boys Varsity Baseball @ Bayless High School

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball VS. Bayless High School

### Monday April 19th

#### 4:00PM

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball VS. Christian High School-O'Fallon

Boys Varsity Baseball @ Christian High School-O'Fallon

### Tuesday April 20th

#### TBA

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball - St. Mary's JV Baseball Tournament

#### 4:00PM

Girls Varsity Soccer @ Bayless High School

### Wednesday April 21st

#### TBA

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball - St. Mary's JV Baseball Tournament

#### 4:00PM

Boys Varsity Baseball VS. Maplewood Richmond Heights H S



# THE SPORTS PAGE

## April Sport Events

### Thursday April 22nd

#### TBA

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball - St. Mary's JV Baseball Tournament

#### 4:00PM

Girls Junior Varsity Soccer VS. McCluer North High School

#### 4:15PM

Boys Varsity Baseball - Lutheran North Tournament

### Friday April 23rd

#### TBA

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball - St. Mary's JV Baseball Tournament

#### 4:15PM

Boys Varsity Baseball - Lutheran North Tournament

### Saturday April 24th

#### TBA

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball - St. Mary's JV Baseball Tournament

#### 2:00PM

Boys Varsity Baseball - Lutheran North Tournament

### Monday April 26th

#### 4:00PM

Boys Varsity Baseball @ Valley Park High School

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball VS. Valley Park High School

### Tuesday April 27th

#### 4:00PM

Girls Varsity Soccer VS. Brentwood High School

Girls Junior Varsity Soccer @ Ritenour High School

### Wednesday April 28th

#### 4:00PM

Boys Varsity Baseball @ Brentwood High School

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball VS. Brentwood High School

#### 4:30PM

Girls Junior Varsity Soccer @ Festus R-6 High School

#### 6:00PM

Girls Varsity Soccer @ Festus R-6 High School

### Thursday April 29th

#### 4:00PM

Girls Junior Varsity Soccer VS. McCluer South - Berkeley

Girls Varsity Soccer @ Crossroads High School

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball @ Bishop Dubourg High School

#### 7:00PM

Boys Varsity Baseball VS. Bishop Dubourg High School

### Friday April 30th

#### 4:00PM

Boys Varsity Baseball @ Crossroads High School

## Baseball Team Improves Each Day



*Dewayne Robinson (10)*  
Staff Writer

17-8, this was the record of last year's varsity baseball team. "We had the best season since we won state in my eyes," says pitcher/ short stop Kenny Matt (10).

Last year's season was a success but there are a lot of changes this season.

One loss for HHS baseball team that everybody knows about is the loss of last year's senior Nick Drake. He helped the team out tremendously to get wins. Last year

Drake hit three home runs on the season and his batting average was 553.

But next up on the list is catcher Louis Latray (12). Latray had an average of 426 and at the end of the season he had 21 RBI's. This was only two less than Drake's 23 RBI's. Latray should continue and help the team out this year also. He says, "I feel that we need a lot of work but we can come together and pull out some victories." He also believes that, "last year's season was good with everybody but we could have went farther."

"We are a young team looking for the future," Kenny Matt said. Coach Knox even says, "The team will be young, its four seniors and only one with a lot of experience."

This means they're going to have to work. Second base man/pitcher Jacob Renfrow (9) says, "I hope to pitch well and not give up any runs."

Another young player to look out for this year is sophomore Kenny Matt. As a freshman on varsity last year, he had a batting average of 226. He even had one home run against Maplewood. The future is looking bright for this HHS baseball player.

HHS baseball team has an additional face to add to the team. Senior Devin Guerrero has decided on playing this year. He will play right field.

Coach Knox says that the game plan is to, "Play good sound defense and manufacture runs." He also says, "The team is doing everything asked of them in preparation of the beginning of the season." This should be a good thing for the team.

The players are also ready for the challenge. Kenny Matt says, "In practice we perform well and do work!" Left fielder Robert Politte says, "We are all performing very well and working very hard to become the best baseball team possible."

Coach Knox sounds pretty confident when he said, "The team is improving each day."

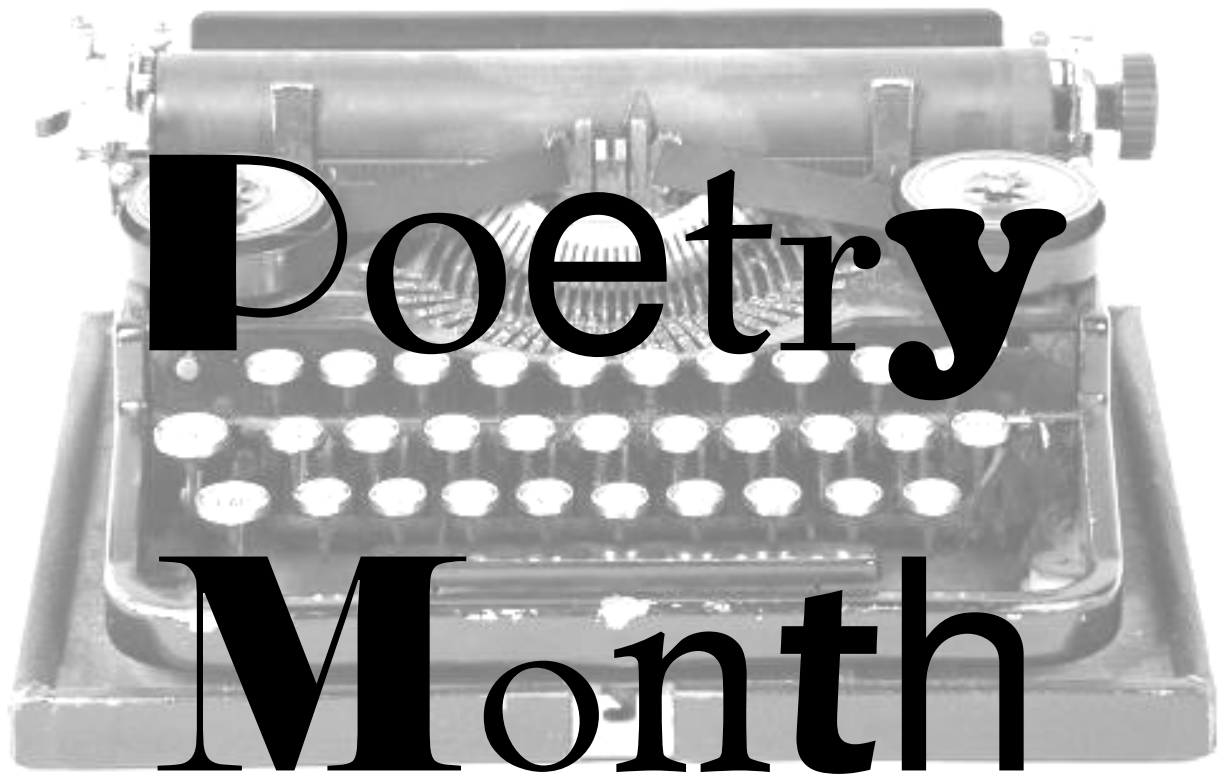


# OUR BOYS OF SUMMER





# National



*April, 2010*

This special edition of *The Growler* celebrates April as National Poetry Month with HHS Student and Staff Poetry.

## **Shattered Heart, Broken Wings**

**By Samantha Turnbough (11)**

On the oak branch early one morning I sat,  
Watching the morning sun rise;  
I warbled a short tune, very scant.  
And was drawn to the sound of a baby bird's cries.

I found another branch closer to the sound  
Turning and turning as the woods echoed thus;  
My mind began to wonder if they were on the ground  
Then why make such a fuss;  
And in that moment I spied, of all things,  
A baby bird with broken wings.

Surely a predator would come if he continued so,  
And with a single glide I hushed his call;  
What I could not see from my perch; eyes darkened with sorrow  
Feathers matted, tufts ripped out, that's what my eyes saw.

He quailed slightly, as though cold,  
And in his shaking, saw his wing's bone;  
As I approached, he shied with pain untold,  
With a gentle voice I said, "You're no longer alone;"  
As a token of trust I gave my love without strings  
To a baby bird with broken wings

With times passing the physical damage healed,  
Although his bones are crooked and he has scars;  
But with times passing, his heart he's steadily unsealed,  
Before he met me, he lived behind fake love's bars.

His former pain is out of mind but not entirely forgotten,  
Because he deserves so much more than that;  
I never want to be like the person before me, sweet then rotten.  
Since it sounds like a predator, namely a cat;  
Now through the forest, a sweeter song rings,

## **Spring Rain By Lisa Rite (11)**

Fall from the sky,  
Wash it all away,  
Away with the loneliness of winter,  
Away with the cold.

Fall to the ground,  
From high above,  
Where the blue birds are flying home.

O' Spring Rain,  
Fall from the heavens.  
Wash away the troubles of the world.

Home where the sun shines,  
And the Rain Falls,  
The air soothes my worries away,

## **Standardized? By Mr. Bob Keeling**

We measure her elusiveness  
With varied yardsticks,  
To test carefully constructed curricula.

We hold her against rubrics  
As she shines.

We objectively offer-  
A menu of higher order  
thinking skills

Measure her. Measure you. Measure me.  
Intelligence. Aptitude. Competency.

As she dances out the door,

I'll never know.



**Spitting Image By Angela Johnson (12)**

When I look into the mirror, I don't see me  
I see the spitting image of who I don't want to be  
The image of someone who was lost and never found  
The image of someone who's been pushed around

When I look into the mirror I see someone who is hurting  
And I also see someone who is hurting me  
Someone who's failed and lost all they had once upon a time  
Someone who has filled a little girl's head full of lies

The image of someone who once cared long ago  
Of someone who gave up and let everything go  
I see the image of someone I once loved  
The image of someone I no longer know what to think of

An image of a person who broke promises made  
A person, who, at one time I felt I should hate  
I see the spitting image of a daughter to her mom  
Of someone who wasn't there all along

I see the face blank and a heart empty so  
Cuz she was lost in a system she was placed in long ago  
A system of abuse, neglect, and drugs  
A system where all she needed was unconditional love

I look in the mirror- I don't like what I see  
The spitting image of pain and of hearts that bleed  
I see all the scars both physical and inside  
I see the very reason I cry myself to sleep at night

The spitting image of lives broken, tattered and torn  
A little girl hurting cuz she shouldn't have been born  
I see the spitting image of a cycle continued by me  
An image of displaced anger caused by what you did to me

I see the spitting image of the pain caused by you  
Being carried out by the things that I do

I see cuts and bruises and plenty of scars  
Tears on my cheeks and a heavy heart  
The image of a person if you can call me that  
For I feel only pain what kind of a life is that

I see the very person I once wished I could be  
But now that it's happening I'm starting to see  
The person I loved and the person I hate  
Is the very same person, yet somehow different in a way

When I look into the mirror I don't see me

**You by Jimmy Morlan (10)**

When I'm with you there's no such thing as a frown.  
You make my world turn upside down.  
I need you to keep my feet on the ground...  
We can make us work,  
And turn this all around.  
You stuck around,  
Even though I made you feel lower than the ground.  
I'm sorry for every frown, and every tear...  
And for not protecting you from your fears.  
When I'm without you I always want you near.  
You being gone *is* one of my biggest fears.  
I'm sorry I'm not perfect, but I'll try  
For the next few years....

**Twigs By Mrs. Laura Oldham**

Snapping, Crunching, Splintering  
Abrasive  
I collect my leaves and gather

Knowing that the light will never again look the same,  
The water never as warm,  
The air still, silent, seething.

### **The Frame By James Walden (11)**

I placed that frame upon the wall,  
Thirteen months ago exact.  
The image there, perched within,  
Silently starting back.  
This image cursed,  
With all I know.  
I can't forget,  
I can't let go.  
I peer into,  
His darkest eyes.  
He knows my thoughts,  
And all my lies.  
My sins,  
My past aggressions,  
He urges me,  
To find reconciliation.  
On and on,

### **My Summer Friend By Carmen Tournbough (11)**

My summer friend please  
Hurry home because when you come  
You'll wake me up from my winter  
Rest and melt the snow from my  
Breast. You'll warm my heart  
Again with love from the sun.  
My summer friend play with  
Me in the fresh green fields.  
And once we're tired we'll lay  
In a bed of grass and listen to  
The orchestra of the beautiful birds  
And watch the dance in their blue  
Platform in the sky. My summer  
Friend please hurry home and when  
You come we'll love and dance again

### **Love By Tessa Laplant (9)**

With only a few words you make me smile  
And my happiness I get from those words lasts for awhile  
When I'm not around you I miss you so.  
But when I think about your smile, the feelings go.  
I know I will see you another day  
See you tomorrow and feel the same exact way  
I hope you know I love you so much  
The things that you say and your sensitive touch.  
I don't know what I do if you were to disappear  
All I know is that you are so sincere.

### **Her and Her Farm By Anthony Mills (12)**

One of the greatest places in the world.  
It is where I met the girl of my dreams;  
Around this great place; flows great steams.  
Its where my greatest day happened; assured/  
My perfect girlfriend and I got together.  
When? Twenty-Sixth of May under the stars.  
The kiss of our life. Perfect and its ours  
To love each other for always and forever.

And that wonderful day, my greatest day.  
My kiss I got threw my head around;  
Feels good and great like the morning sun ray.  
A feeling I found has Great pristine sound  
The Best thing in this universe, always above.  
Nothing makes me happier, nothing like love.

### **Top 10 Lies a guy Uses By Natasa Sajic (11)**

10. She's just a friend
9. its not even like that
8. I promise you forever
7. I would never hurt you
6. You're the only girl for me babe
5. That's a lie I swear
4. I never got your texts
3. I was busy
2. Any guy would be lucky to have you

And

# ONE ... I Love You.



## **Surprised, Shocked, Shattered**

**By Matt Thompson (11)**

April 1st, 2002,  
A day of school,  
A day of fools,  
For this has been proven,

Happy April Fool's Day Kids  
She said the words "I do" ,  
These words escaped her mouth,  
As if to say,  
I care not for you,  
I do not respect you,  
I do not consider your feelings,  
These words escaped from her mouth  
And murdered the world I had known up to that point.

We looked at each other,  
Innocent kids.  
We looked at each other,  
Like we never did,  
We connected,  
How could you do this to us?  
How could you do this to him?

Our feelings were tantamount  
Simultaneously  
Surprised  
Shocked  
Shattered  
The world had died  
Shadows had been casted,  
And grey clouds had forever hovered over our heads,  
Our tears would fill in for rain,  
And life as we knew it would never be the same.

## **Boy! By Lucille Dugan (10)**

You are the pupil in my eye,  
The only one that matters,  
The only twinkling star in the sky,  
When you drop me, my heart shatters,  
You are such a little cutie,  
Words cannot explain  
You're the king of beauty.  
You make love a game.  
Soft touches make me laugh,  
In my sensitive spot.  
You're such a good friend to have.  
Our friendship is really hott!

## **The Final Out By Anonymous**

As you're walking up,  
Every nerve in your body tensed,  
Knowing everything is up to you.

As you prepare for your first try,  
You see it coming straight at you  
And you just manage to dodge it.

The next one comes in harder,  
Only to be deflected far off from  
Where it needs to end up.

The third comes in the slowest yet,  
And it is not long before it is  
Flying out of the park and now  
You remember why you play baseball

**Hard to Say I'm Sorry By Kayla Hawkins (11)**

I look at you, but you don not see me.  
For what I have done, you now hate me.  
There is no other words to describe the feelings you have.  
I have picked up the perfect love story and sipped  
The most important chapter out.  
Now I am left with what we had, before I broke you down.  
Temptation is something a girl cannot fight.  
It's like a battle you know you cannot win.

**Blank Page By Josh Goggin (10)**

Blank page,  
numbly staring back at me  
daring me to try and see  
the different side of things

Since you've gone  
There's no one there to fill the space  
To fill the shape that was your face  
Since you ran out of time

I stagger through an open door  
Left by those who came before  
Thinking things were different  
On the other side of love  
Finding nothing but the loneliness  
I had experienced before

Blank page  
Mocking me and calling me  
Daring me to write the things  
better left unsung

Sitting here  
I realize the pain will stay  
But keeping it is not the way  
To remember your depart

I put my pen to paper then  
Confessions of my deepest sin  
And felt them leaving me just then

**Baseball Season by Jacob Renfrow (9)**

It's a diamond no girl can handle  
On this field you cant wear flip flops or sandals.  
The grass is green and the dirt is brown  
One of the best players can win a triple crown.

Many men come and play on this field,  
While running the bases you shouldn't yield.  
Strike one, Strike two, Strike three you're out,  
Head back to the bench and don't you pout.

It's a season full of Gatorade and sunflower seeds.  
While up to bat you must fulfill the coach's needs  
Its baseball;; season because Spring is here,  
So get out and play like the end is near.

**Chorus Corrupt By Katie Erbs (9)**

Pieces of the puzzle  
Sewn together,  
Worn apart,  
But still the same game.

Diamond inside  
Light on my veins  
Borders between,  
But the darkness still remains.

You call a name  
Aloud in the night  
Chorus corrupt

**Butterflies By Kelley Blaney (11)**

Butterflies float in my stomach.  
He walks towards me and they flutter.  
He takes my hand; they twist, turn  
And shutter. Halt; they stop with my heart.  
Then it picks up again with a  
Swoop of their flight.  
Spinning around and shooting up their



**Regret? By Meghann Wood (9)**

Regret –to feel  
Sorrow or remorse  
For a fault.

It happened,  
Ever so meaningful to me  
But without meaning between us

In many eyes it was,  
The wrong choice  
In my eyes,  
It was neither  
Right nor wrong.

I cant admit it  
Only to a few

**I Don't Care By Terra Williams (9)**

Why is pain incorporated  
With beauty?  
All these women  
Trying to live up to other's  
Standards,  
I find it pitiful.  
I don't care  
About my weight,  
What I look like, or  
Even what you think of me.  
Why should I?  
People don't accept  
You anymore if you  
Are like them.  
And if you do,  
Do you want them  
To love you for you  
Or who you pretend  
To be?

**A Sonnet to a Lady Named Gaga By Pamela Wade (11)**

You are strange and phenomenal-  
Your petite body flying across the stage,

Your monstrous fashion gleaming with fame,  
Small wonder that you're a superstar.

To intimidate the lingering paparazzi-  
You head held higher than any pedestal.

With rich hair bigger than any ego,  
Bad Romances and Love Games before your eyes.  
Letting other labels and recorder dealer lie for money,

Singing songs of gold.

Why be speechless, when you're star stuck.

Fame will obliterate each record you made.

I love your way of thinking different yet bold.

You are too superb for this country.

**Heart of Stone By Brianna Medeiros (10 )**

Her body lie cold, hard stone

Sculpted with marble, not flesh and bone

Every curve a perfect mound

Her lips, stood still, without a sound

The sculptors, hate of women, could not last

His love for her had grown fast

But how could this love be

With a mouth that could not frown

Or eyes that could not see

He prayed to Venus, the goddess of love

Who watched this man from up above

She watched to see this love was true

There was, one thing this goddess could do

The sculpture's body fell to mush

Lips came open and cheeks did blush

Now with a Galatea by his side

Orpheus had the perfect bride.

### **My Home By Faith Engel (11)**

My home is a dinner table  
Four chairs for four people  
We talk, we listen, and we joke.  
Home is where I'm safe  
Its where I can be myself  
Have freedom, and tranquility.

This is all because of my parents  
They have raised me to be who I am.

In this little brick house.

My home is an ocean because its calm most of the time

Looking in at dinner time  
Seeing a happy family.

I am part of that scenery

The sweet smells of mom's homemade pumpkin bread

The specific chairs everyone sits around the table

The love of a home is family

My home is a dinner table.

### **Untitled by Lakesha Walker (11)**

Its only been 5 months now  
And all we do when were together is clown  
Laugh, hug, joke, and fight like we've known each other for years  
Getting too close to you has become my fears  
Feeling moving too fast  
Wanting "us" to last  
You seem so different than all the rest  
I get that feeling every time as I lay upon your chest  
I'm trusting that you wont hurt mw  
Okay, here's my heart, you take the key.  
-Dedicated to someone special C.A.

### **Who am I? By Johanna Phillips (11)**

I am the wind  
Softly sighing in the trees.  
I am the rain  
Pitter-pattering on your roof  
I am a single note  
Quiet, yet melodious  
I am a faraway star  
Dancing just beyond your fingertips.  
I am a blade of grass  
Crouching beneath your feet.  
I am a white cloud  
Putting lazily along.  
I am silence  
Ringing louder than a thousand bells.  
I am everything  
A perfect rainbow of colors  
I am nothing  
A dark, black night  
I am me.

### **Lovers Block By Maryanne Harnni (10)**

If the wall hadn't kept us apart,  
Then our fate would have been different.  
We thought we could endure everything,  
As long as our love was strong.

The wall that kept us apart  
Made our love stronger than ever.  
But when we ventured beyond the wall,  
A lioness determined our fate.

We should've stayed behind our wall,  
Safe in our lover's thoughts.  
But now our blood has strained the white berries,  
But we are together in the underworld.



**Mihaska By Heather Dixon (11)**

Hear I lay in my grave.  
Look at me. I am up high.  
See my crosses. See my pain.  
It was a year ago.  
Children play  
And people weep.  
Come joy, come sorrow  
Come play,  
I had seen deaths eyes.  
They light up like fireflies.  
The princess of death came close to me.  
Her dress was light green as a leaf in spring.  
She was absolutely stunning.  
She sparkled, and glowed like the moon on an  
ocean.  
Her hair so blond as if golden stars in the air  
I went toward her.

**Rome Italy By Isamar Reyes (11)**

Bello is what I would say of you Italy,  
With its Captivating Trevi Fountain that intertwines with  
Its Nymph like beauty.  
Marvelous with its aqua Salone Spring water  
Shining like millions of stars.  
Extravagant with its Venice canals that flows like  
Two ivy stems coming together  
Bello is the Sistine Chapel with its wondrous paintings  
Coming to life with just the stroke  
Of the painters brush,  
That looks as if time has never passed by.  
Architectural with its coliseum that shows it dazzling  
Size and magnificence.  
Bello is your St. Peter's Basilica with its divine  
Elegance that shows its angelic work.

**Peewee By Samra Kiveric (11)**

Looking at the stars so bright,  
I cry alone through this cold night.  
Every star so far away  
I'm still alone to this day  
  
My only company is the moon.  
I hope to find true love soon.  
I look upon the night so black,  
And realize that he wont come back.  
  
I thought we'd be together forever,  
Now I wish I was a little more clever.  
He left me here all alone,  
All he left me was his home.  
  
All I have is one more wish,  
I want my friend back Peewee the fish.

**Branches (or You've Got Some Nerve!)****By Mr. Jason Buck**

I think that I shall ne'er observe  
A structure wondrous as a nerve.  
Dendrite branches in tissue wait,  
For stimuli to set their fate;  
Axons primed to pass signals on;  
Myelin guarding pathways drawn.  
Gates fly open, ions are spilled;  
Action potential starts to build.  
Current pulses, barriers collapse;  
Neurotransmitter jumps the synapse.  
  
With all the functions it must serve,  
As it turns out, you've got some nerve!

**Strong River Like Me By Katrina Hall (11)**

Strong River, strong like me!  
Strong like my ancestors used to be.  
Workin' near the river,  
To support the family,  
They told me that strong was the only way to be.  
Smooth River, smooth like me!  
Smooth like the flow at the break of morning,  
Nice and calm with no worries,  
Undisturbed and so care free.  
Smooth like the buttermilk grandma churned for me,  
She told me "drink up nah, so you can keep that skin  
nice and buttery".  
Unstoppable River, unstoppable like me!  
I was told to never give up  
Just like my papa did,  
He has no job and 13 kids.  
He left that morning and was gone all day  
He brought home dinner,  
And claimed he hadn't been a sinner.  
He doesn't remember what he did,  
But he fed every one of those 13 kids!  
Beautiful River, beautiful like me!  
Let the sun come down  
Upon beautiful me,  
I'll let my beautiful shine through  
Nice and bright  
Not only in the sun but also in the moonlight.

**Untitled By April McNeil (9)**

Stuck in between the two  
n I cant choose  
If I do I'm gon loose  
But why do I have to decide  
Why do I have to sacrifice  
Him for her  
And her for him  
Why cant I have both of them  
If I do or don't choose  
Either way I still lose  
It sucks I'm stuck with this fate  
Seems like this is a game  
I want to quit  
Because I don't want to play.

**Without You By Diamon McLaurin (11)**

Still she stands...  
Heart held in hand...  
Extending her arms reach...  
Looking into his eyes...  
Wondering if he will take it for  
Keeps...  
Time passes...  
Her life flashes before her  
As she still stands...  
Pride swallowed...  
Chest hollowed...  
With her heart in her hand...  
One tear falls...  
As he turned away, empty  
Handed to leave...  
The midst dried her tears  
As she attached her heart to  
Her sleeve.

## **My Hardest Term By Lacey Kostecki (12)**

MY LIFE WAS PLAYED OUT  
ONE BAD TUNE AFTER ANOTHER,  
ABANDONED BY FEAR  
AND MY FATHER.  
A REBEL I WAS.  
THE BULLET WAS STAINED IN MY HEAD.  
I FELT WEARY, WOOLY  
**DEAD.**  
I'M IN THIS PLACE NOW  
NOTHING LIKE HEAVEN.  
I CAN NOT ESCAPE.  
I ARRIVED AT A TRAIN STATION,  
FAR TOO LATE.  
THE TRACKS WERE ON A BLACK CLOUD, WITH A DARK SKY.  
I SAW A WICKED STONE CASTLE  
IN THE DISTANCE,  
I GOT ON THE TRAIN  
IT SMELLED LIKE DEAD CROWS.  
LEECHES WERE STUCK TO  
THE GROUND SUCKING UP THE BLOOD  
FROM THE BODIES LYING ON THE FLOOR  
I WAS TIRED BUT I DIDN'T SLEEP.  
THE LEECHES AND I  
ARRIVED AT THE CASTLE.  
A CEREMONY FOR ME TO BE  
CROWNED,  
QUEEN OF THE LEECH FOREST.  
THERE WAS A BIG FEAST,  
BUT I WENT INTO MY SUITE  
CONFUSED AND QUESTIONING,  
WHAT'S GOING ON?  
I WALKED TO THE BALCONY,  
STOOD ON THE LEDGE  
LOOKING DOWN UPON MY GUESTS  
I LEANED FORWARD LOSING MY GRIP  
ON LIFE.  
BUT I DIDN'T FALL  
I REALISED I DIED BEFORE  
AND I CAN'T DIE AGAIN,  
THIS MY AFTERLIFE I THOUGHT  
I WAS CROWNED QUEEN  
QUEEN OF SOMETHING I HATE

THIS MY AFTERLIFE I THOUGHT  
I WAS CROWNED QUEEN  
QUEEN OF SOMETHING I HATE  
I WISH I COULD GO BACK IN TIME.  
WHERE I WAS ALIVE.  
WHERE I COULD FORGIVE MY  
SINS, AND BE FREE FROM  
HORROR.  
I THINK I WOULD HAVE BEEN  
A QUEEN OF ROSES, A GARDEN,  
A LAND WHERE ANIMALS,  
PLEASANT ANIMALS BLOOM.  
I WOULD BEFRIEND NICE PEOPLE  
NOT FAKES.

## **Emergency Room By Monae Townes (11)**

I, too, am injured.

I am the girl with tears rolling down her face from the aching pain

They observe you, and then send you to wait.

The throbbing pain creeps down my body.

But I wait,

And wait,

And grow irritated.

Why call it emergency?

Where no matter what ten others are ahead of you.

Your patients slowly grow tired.

Why call it emergency?

Meaning immediate action due to your circumstances.

Immediate not delay.

Besides,

I've come a long way to be seen

And they should rush to see me

I, too am injured.



## **Black Dahlia By Danny Rosenau (11)**

**A poem written for Samantha Mingeram**

What's to be said?  
Laying down in bed  
When everyone is faithless

Nobody believes in you  
What are you supposed to do?  
Everything seems so worthless

So now what do I do?  
What is it with you?  
Why are you so doubtful of me?

Killing all my hopes and dreams  
Killing my soul as it emits torrential screams  
Flooding my world with misery

Oh how miserable my state of mind  
When I have been left behind  
What am I supposed to do?

I give it my all  
But all you give me are words to fall

What do I do?  
I say to hell with you  
I'm not going to live like this

Drag myself back from the abyss  
Leaving this place I'm not going to miss  
I stand for my future

The bright future I desire  
Burning within like a raging fire  
Hurt me again and I'll burn you

You had your to do it right  
But all you wanted to do was scream and fight  
Goodbye

## **A Stranger's Home By Ryan Rosier (11)**

You never know what to do in a stranger's home  
Not so much as a stranger's home  
But a home you have never been to  
New sights, new sounds, new smells  
You stand there feeling awkward  
Not knowing what to do  
Sticking out like a sore thumb.

You don't know the rules of this person's home  
You don't know if you can sit there  
Or pet the animals.

All the same time you are getting interrogated,  
Questioned on who you are and what you're doing in their  
home

They ask if you want something

You say no,

They ask if you want to sit

You say I'll stand.

You feel out of place in this stranger's home  
You never know what to do in a stranger's home

## **Is this the End? By Mrs. Christine Dillender**

I fall hard for you,  
My feelings begin to go deep.  
Then the angry rain opened my eyes to see,  
A life we never imagined.  
Showers slowly come and it turns cold,  
And I freeze as you say...  
Break.