

The Kirkwood Call

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Kirkwood High School
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October 31, 2012
thekirkwoodcall.com



Editor's Desk

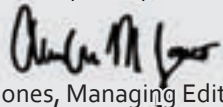
Page 2 ■ October 31, 2012
 thekirkwoodcall.com

Dear Readers,
 I've already jumped on the Halloween bandwagon by channeling the spirit of Ron Burgundy of *Anchorman*. For one of our page design nights, my 70s wig and moustache made an appearance. The wig was itchy, my hair didn't quite fit and bits of moustache kept getting in my mouth. Thankfully, I'm not quite accustomed to mass amounts of facial hair, but I still had a blast.

People can take this time of the year to dress up as vampires, celebrities or even cross-dress as their favorite anchorman. Talk of ghosts and zombies casts a spooky atmosphere, and everyone has their own superstitions. Halloween isn't just for little kids: no matter what age you are, there is something special.

If you're sick of hearing about black cats and want to immerse yourself in politics, check out our news political pullout. Concerned about over-prescription of drugs? Take a look at our editorial about Adderall. And as always, feel free to write a letter to the editor.

You stay classy, Kirkwood.



Alex Jones, Managing Editor

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"While we wish that the 'Call' may prove interesting to all our readers, we particularly desire that it may manifest the true spirit and be worthy of the school it represents."
 -Original issue from 1918

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The first Canon cameras were sold in a small store in Tokyo and were called "Kwanon."

Features

Page 4 ■ October 31, 2012
thekirkwoodcall.com

The first color photograph was taken in 1861 by the British physicist James Maxwell.

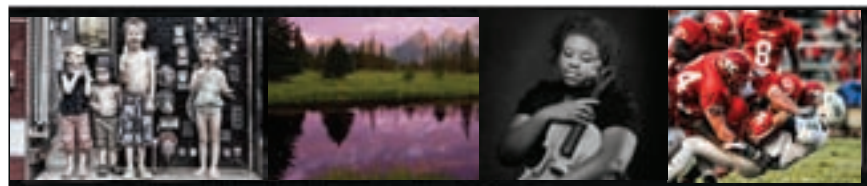
Looking through the lens

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Katlyn Kreie photographer



With his cheerful greeting and excited grin, **Randy Kriewall** enjoys talking about photography. Kriewall became seriously interested in being a photographer during his first year teaching at KHS.

It amazes many that Kriewall has endured four eye surgeries. He first had Lasik in both eyes, then his right eye had a detached retina and he had to have surgery to fix it and another to replace the lens. He does not remember what his fourth surgery was for, but he cannot see out of half his right eye.

"Sometimes I run into people. I also

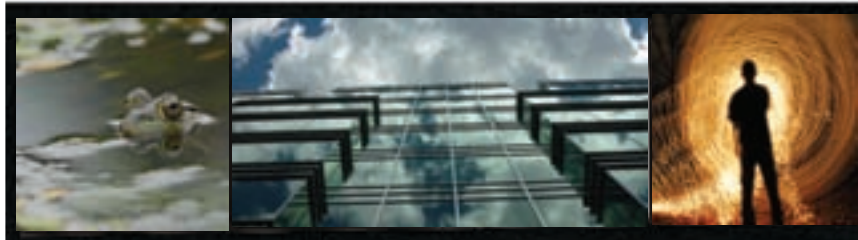
got to wear an eyepatch for a while," Kriewall said.

Although he enjoys the action of sport shots, he also appreciates taking senior pictures, where he gets to spend time with students one-on-one.

Kriewall had a rowdy class his first year teaching at KHS. He went to a football game and brought one of his old cameras and took pictures of his students.

"Their behavior changed in a positive way," Kriewall said. "I think they felt like somebody recognized them, and it helped to create a bond between us."

Bridget Randazzo
features writer



In 2007, **Trevor Currie** fell in love with photography. While he was in Michigan, he received an old film camera from his dad which he started to play with. Currie, freshman, won multiple photography contests including second place in the *National Geographic* Kids photo contest in 2010 and the grand prize winner of the Rocket21 Dream Big-Dream Here-Dream In Your Backyard Photo Contest.

"From the Rocket21 contest, I won a

trip to a red carpet documentary, *Untamed Americas*," Currie said. "I met *National Geographic* filmmakers and producers. I also met Casey Anderson, a filmmaker, and she also has her own show on *National Geographic*. I was pretty excited."

At times during difficult photo shoots, Currie has found a way to stay motivated by repeating positive messages to himself.

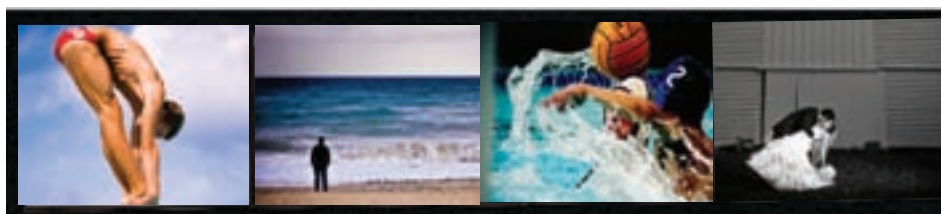
"Just keep trying. You will eventually succeed like anything in life," Currie said.

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As a high schooler, **Reza Behnam**, English teacher, was in charge of his informal photography club's darkroom, an important job. His passion for photography started with his father's interest in the hobby.

"I still have his old camera, an Adulta STR101," Behnam said. "He was always taking pictures, so I think that is where it all sparked up."

Behnam is enthusiastic about photographing weddings, some of which he partners with Randy Kriewall, math teacher. He finds them entertaining because of how important the

day is to the couple.

"The pressures of being able to document it and being part of that group of people for that day is what I find the most interesting," Behnam said.

Behnam's most memorable photo shoot was during a boys' swim and dive meet when he took a picture of Chris Kelly, KHS graduate, diving that now hangs in the gym. That day Behnam took 300 photos of the meet for a promotion.

"The one that got picked was actually the first one I took," Behnam said.



Neither tricks nor treats

Lucy Dwyer
features writer

Not once has he dressed up in a costume, attended a Halloween party or ran door to door begging for candy. For Nikolas Shengelia, sophomore, Oct. 31 is a normal day on the calendar. Being a Russian Orthodox Christian, Shengelia is not allowed to celebrate the holiday even if he wants to.

According to Shengelia and other Orthodox Christians, Halloween represents something much darker than candy and costumes. His church, St. Basil the Great, thinks Halloween, or "All Hallows Eve" as they refer to it, is the celebration of Satan and therefore should not be acknowledged.

"We don't believe in celebrating feasts that are dedicated to evil, to the devil," Father Martin Swanson, priest of St. Basil the Great, said. "I don't think most people think [Halloween is evil]. I think that Halloween is something most people have forgotten the origins of, but it comes out of witchcraft. We don't celebrate evil spirits."

Shengelia's religion does not recognize the holiday much to begin with.

"It doesn't really affect me," Shengelia said. "I don't understand the concept of Halloween in the first place. I think it is kind of pointless. [My belief] has to do with the environment I grew up in. I just do the same thing I've always done."

As a child, Shengelia did not always see the senselessness of Halloween, but he still found ways to enjoy the day.

"Every little kid when they are in elementary school wants to get candy and go around in a costume," Shengelia said. "At the time, I didn't really feel like I was missing out because my mom would take me out of school that day and do something fun with me as an alternative. We would go to the store and look at toys or go to the park, just have a family day."

Shengelia's church also holds what they call an Alternative Trick or Treat party, or A.T.T., on Halloween. According to Father Martin, kids get together to play games and dress up as saints or other holy people.

Halloween is not the only difference that sets Shengelia's religion apart. While Russian Orthodox Christians believe most of the same concepts surrounding Jesus as other Christians, they follow the Old Julian calendar, which is 13 days ahead of the normal one. This means they celebrate Christmas Jan. 7 instead of Dec. 25.

Shengelia's religion also requires him to fast, meaning he cannot eat meat or dairy on Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as during several two-to-six week periods throughout the year, like during

the weeks leading up to Christmas and Easter. According to Shengelia, this is probably the biggest restriction his religion places on him, although one of the most beneficial.

"It signifies the struggle Jesus went through," Shengelia said. "It's just a symbolic thing. We're supposed to become more spiritually connected and get closer to God."

Father Martin said this idea of fasting originated in Biblical times when Christ told his disciples they could learn to serve him better by praying and fasting. The Orthodox Christians have thus fasted since Christ commanded them to. Father Martin describes it as both a spiritual discipline and aiding tool.

"It's difficult to pay attention to prayer and spiritual things if you're full of rich food and strong drink," Father Martin said. "It's like eating a huge lunch at school and then going back to class and not being able to really focus, being tired, being bogged down. That's the reason we fast; so we're more attentive and spiritually alert."

Occasionally Shengelia finds it difficult to adhere to the rules revolving around fasting, but generally he follows the guidelines.

"My mom understands that sometimes growing kids need to have meat and dairy, so sometimes we make exceptions," Shengelia said. "But for the most part we are pretty strict followers."

Shengelia tries to focus on the positive effects this diet has on him.

"It opens you up to a new variety of things," Shengelia said. "A new variety of foods, and just a different way of looking at things in general. Overall, it's a good experience."

Tom Florent, sophomore and friend of Shengelia, agreed the fasting is more positive than negative for Shengelia.

"He never really complains about it," Florent said. "I think it's cool for him. It makes him different and that's great."

Shengelia is aware some people might view his religion as weird or different, but like Florent, he said they usually respect it.

"[His religion] isn't necessarily weird, it's just the things he believes in are different," Florent said. "It doesn't really make a difference in the matter of how he acts toward [his friends]."

With his friendships unaffected, Shengelia has become comfortable with the differences the church places on his life.

"People might not see [my religion] as a social normal but it's just what I've always done," Shengelia said. "[My religion] is a good role that I keep in my life."

The Russian Orthodox church's cross.

Grant McKenna photographer

Spencer's Grill used to be open 24 hours, and the top floor would house truckers passing through Kirkwood.

Features

Page 6 ■ October 31, 2012
thekirkwoodcall.com

In a recent study titled "The Gap Year Advantage," 60 percent of students said taking a break helped them to better select a major.

Slys inherit a Kirkwood kitchen tradition

Madeline McEvoy
features writer

As the ninth owners of the famous Kirkwood landmark, Spencer's Grill, Molly Sly and her family have taken on the role of owning and running the restaurant that has been around Kirkwood for 65 years.

"I've been a regular customer here for years," Mary Sly, Molly's mother and Spencer's owner, said. "Every time I'd sit in the

booths I would just think about how joyful a place Spencer's is."

After taking three days in June, 2012 for renovations around the restaurant, Mary and close friend Lisa Kambell, co-owner, could not wait to get started. Molly, senior, and other KHS students and employees started to get the hang of the hectic work atmosphere of Spencer's.

"Working there is really crazy," Molly said. "I've been able to meet regulars that have been going there for years and people that just stop by. We couldn't ask for nicer customers."

Molly is the only one of her siblings currently working at the restaurant with her mom, but Mary enjoys every minute she gets to spend with her daughter. Buying the restaurant February, the family has grown to love the customers and their importance to Spencer's.

"All the regulars know all the waitresses and cooks," Mary said. "Rose, our cook, is making their orders before they are even put in the computer system."

After being opened six months, four KHS students have become Spencer's employees: Molly, Anna Bom-

marito, senior, Maggie McWay, senior, and Julia Bambini, sophomore. Molly's favorite part of her mom owning Spencer's is working with her friends, Molly said. Coincidentally, Molly and her best friend, Bommarito, have the chance to work together and make the job more enjoyable.

"Whenever we work together, it's just really fun," Bommarito said. "We'll just look at each other and start laughing, and we never stop."

The Sly family was more than happy to have the opportunity to be a part of something so historic and special to the people of Kirkwood.

"We were really nervous at first about taking on such a tradition to Kirkwood," Molly said. "But the family really does love every second of it."

Spencer's itself is a historic place to Kirkwood. According to Molly, the restaurant has been around for nearly 65 years and has grown very family oriented.

"We've had customers that have been coming here for 25 years," Mary said. "And now, they bring their entire families to the restaurant just to show them something that has been a part of their lives for such a long time."

For Mary, the opportunity to buy Spencer's with a great friend and share the experience with her kids has been great. There is not a day where she does not feel the love around the restaurant, she said.

"It's great working there because it means free pancakes, but, also, my mom is such a great boss," Sly said. "I know she is so happy with her decision on buying it, and we are all happy, too."

Kelsey Landrum photographer



Mary Sly, co-owner of Spencer's Grill, rings up a customer's order.

Breaking the cycle: senior goes gap

Eli Cost
features writer

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 68.3 percent of 2011 high school graduates were enrolled in college following graduation, their heads filled with dreams of ditching parents, chores and curfews in favor of an independent lifestyle. Sam Zoole, senior, will not be a part of that statistic.

Instead, Zoole will put college on hold and engage in a gap year. Already common in Europe, a gap year is essentially a hiatus from the classroom, typically used for personal exploration or internships. Zoole and his mother, Pegi Price, plan to take the concept to new heights by undertaking an extensive travel schedule which lands them on all seven continents.

Zoole and Price will begin with a transatlantic cruise to the Canary Islands and Morocco, followed by Spain and Portugal. In July, they will tackle the Arctic Circle then spend the remainder of the summer in Europe. The pair also plans to rent beach houses in Spain, Malaysia, New Zealand, Argentina and South Africa for three to four weeks at a time.

"The trip to Antarctica will be for my birthday," Zoole said.

While she is eager to see years of planning come to fruition, Price has greatly enjoyed the planning process itself.

"It's been a lot of fun doing the research and figuring out the logistics," she said, noting climate, travel advisories and visa requirements can complicate specifics. "The hard part has been narrowing down the countries we can visit and how long we want to spend in each one."

Price felt pressure to take advantage of what little time she had left with her son, and began budgeting for the gap year after a trip to South Africa when Zoole was in sixth grade.

"[We knew] if we didn't do it before he went off to college, we'd never have another block of time to do it," Price said. "We enjoy traveling so much and wanted to learn about other cul-

tures and see the world."

In a 2011 article for the *New York Times*, Rebecca R. Ruiz described a gap year as a way to avoid "the four Cs – a limited cycle [of] 'cradle to college to cubicle to cemetery.'"

Ruiz also spoke with Robert Clagett, former admissions officer at Harvard and current dean of admissions at Middlebury College. Clagett compiled data from institutions across the country and noted that those students who had chosen to defer college admission were overwhelmingly more satisfied with their post-college careers than those who had not.

"I think for the right people it's terrific," Michael Gavin, senior principal, said. "It can help you figure out who you are before someone else just tells you." However, Gavin recognizes the potential danger in losing momentum at a critical point in the education cycle.

"Your horizons can be limited if you're just drinking beer and working at a fast food restaurant," Gavin said. "Then you're not taking the time to figure out what's important to you, you're taking the time to party."

Zoole and his mother are less than concerned about falling into a post-gap rut, however. Following their travels, they plan to transition to the Los Angeles area so Sam can gain education and first-hand experience in the arena of his choice.

"I think the gap year experiences will equip Sam phenomenally for whatever he wants to do," Price said. "We will each probably write at least a couple of books from all this."

As independent studies continue to expose the many benefits of the gap year, Zoole hopes the concept will catch on among his American peers.

"People shouldn't be worried, rushing to get into college," Zoole said. "You can wait a bit, and while you're at it you may as well get in some travel experience."



Nala Turner artist
Kevin Campbell photographer

It costs about \$500 for the lessons and gear needed to begin scuba diving.

Features

Page 7 ■ October 31, 2012
thekirkwoodcall.com

The minimum age for a pilot's licence is 16; however, training can begin at any age.

Going deep and flying high

Drive to dive

Sixty feet under water, Adam Unsworth glides over beds of freshwater clam shells, collections of rocks and an occasional catfish, and all around him the water is a murky greenish-brown. He can only see 6 feet in front of his face, the water is cool, and Unsworth focuses on nothing but his dive.

"Scuba diving just makes me forget about life above the surface for an hour or more," Unsworth, freshman, said. "It is a way to get away from everything."

Initially becoming interested in diving through his grandfather, Unsworth got his diving license at 13. Because he liked the sport, Unsworth pushed himself to get his license on his own, but said he received a lot of help from his family.

"I had a big family background [with scuba diving], and my family always supported me when I was getting into diving," Unsworth said. "Other people aren't as lucky as me. They have to start from scratch with gear, knowledge, everything."

Unsworth visits Norfolk Lake in Arkansas three to four times a year, where his grandfather owns a lake house. A popular location for scuba diving, Norfolk Lake often has group events open to all licensed divers.

"[I] get to hang out with a whole bunch of cool people when [I go diving]," Unsworth said. "There's also a lot of stuff to do, like this one time I went on what's called a treasure dive. They hide soda cans around the lake and give out prizes to the people that find them."

Unsworth said another aspect of diving that appeals to him is a sense of independence.

"I do this instead of sports because I'm more into the adventure aspect, and I'm more about independence than being tied to a team," Unsworth said. "If something goes wrong, you have to be able to fix it yourself. There's no way around that."

Because Kirkwood lacks the bodies of water needed for diving, Unsworth only dives a few times per year.

"[I don't dive] as much as I really want to," Unsworth said. "I can pretty much only do it on vacation, which is hard, but it just makes it more fun when I do get to go."

Up in the air

While most of his peers try to get their drivers permit, Adam Unsworth is in the process of becoming a licensed aircraft pilot.

"It's going to be a long time until I get my pilot's license," Unsworth said. "I'm in the process of getting it, but I will probably be 18 when I finally get licensed. I think it will be worth it, though."

Unsworth said he became interested in flying through his father, who also had a pilot license, and his father's friends who had formed what Unsworth called a flying club.

"[My dad's friends] asked me if I would want to go fly with them and I just figured 'why not'," Unsworth said.

Unsworth said he has not flown very frequently, taking a few introductory courses and spending only a few hours in control of a plane, but intends to keep up with the hobby.

"I try to fly as much as I can," Unsworth said. "I don't have too much experience, but that's because of how expensive of a sport it is."

For any aspiring pilots, Unsworth offered advice on how to get started.

"Join a flying club in Missouri and get to know as many people as you can," Unsworth said. "The more connection you have, the easier it will be [to get your license]."

Although Unsworth said the takeoff is usually hectic, especially on a windy day, he finds flying to be relaxing.

"[After takeoff], the wind dies down and it is really peaceful," Unsworth said. "There is just silence except for the engine, and it is really cool."

Kyle Rieger
features editor

Perry Tatlow artist

Lizzy Tatlow artist

Sarah Heet visual editor

Background courtesy of MCT Campus

When a ghost is present, there is usually a cold spot or a shift in the magnetic field.

KHS Hauntings

Page 8 ■ October 31, 2012
thekirkwoodcall.com

Ghosts tend to drain the batteries of any equipment being used on a ghost hunt.

Kelly Weber
indepth editor

Anna Brodersen *visual editor*



DO YOU
BELIEVE IN
GHOSTS?

Spirits do not always realize that they are dead. To them, it is like they are stuck in an awful nightmare.

Indepth

Page 9 ■ October 31, 2012
thekirkwoodcall.com

A ghost that is seen by more than one person is known as a collective apparition.

Entering the front door of her grandmother's house, **Francie Kuzcka** looks up the stairwell to a floor length mirror. But what she sees in the reflection is not herself; it is an 18-year-old ghost named Margaret.

"When we have visitors to her house I like to act like everything's fine, but really I just want to get out of there," Francie, junior, said.

Out of all the family members, Francie and her younger brother Jimmy have had the most interactions with the ghosts. She describes them as two girls, one around 18 and the other around 7, who introduced themselves as Sara and Margaret.

Sara, the younger and more playful of the two, is usually spotted in the kitchen wearing a light blue party dress and a bow in her hair.

Margaret, the older and more serious one, sits on the top of the stairs and can only be seen in the reflection of the mirror, according to Francie. The family believes she once woke Francie's grandmother up in the middle of the night to warn her the house was getting too hot. Her grandmother later discovered the furnace was broken and could have caught the house on fire, leaving the family to believe Margaret saved her life. Francie and Jimmy have had numerous conversations with these ghosts.

"I remember exactly what Sara looked

like, and we would have normal conversations about my favorite color and stuff like that," Francie said. "She was almost like a friend to me, as weird as that sounds."

Francie and Jimmy would often color at the kitchen table asking Sara if she liked their drawings. They both would draw pictures of Sara and Margaret that directly matched the images Becky Kuzcka, their mother, and the other siblings have seen.

Growing up, Becky was the first to encounter the spirits when she was home alone one night. Terrified, she called the police, who informed her there was nobody in the house. Becky learned to be more comfortable with the fact there were ghosts in the house and believes she eventually helped guide them to the other side.

According to Francie, many people who walk in the house have feelings of unease, and every member of the family except for the grandmother and grandfather still feel uncomfortable being in the house alone. Although being in the house is still unsettling for most of the Kuzcka family, they have come to believe the two girls are not as much ghosts, but their guardian angels.

"Even though [ghosts] are scary, Sara and Margaret have been nothing but nice to us," Francie said.

the mirror

Terry Hinkle, ex-radio host, TV show host and ghost expert, has had more encounters with ghosts than he can count on his fingers.

Starting in 2000, Hinkle was the host of a radio show called "Shadow World" every Saturday night for three hours. They listened and told ghost stories, talked to other ghost experts and eventually conducted live ghost hunts. Before his first live ghost hunt, Hinkle was unsure whether or not he believed in ghosts.

"I was kind of in a grey zone," Hinkle said. "I didn't believe, but wasn't closed off to the idea of ghosts and spirits."

The event that changed his mind was a film him and his team did for his television show. His team was made up of a psychic, a cameraman and a group of Washington University students that studied the paranormal and made cameras that were made to catch everything on tape, especially ghosts or entities.

The first ghost hunt took place at a Hinkle's friend's new cabin they built. Inside, their daughter had supposedly been talking to ghosts. The team brought their EMF (electromagnetic field) detectors and cameras and the psychic worked to attract the ghost into the room. One of the college students stood in the room with the psychic and watched the numbers on the detector as a spirit came closer to the room. Within seconds, the student claimed the detector became too hot to hold and it shot out of her hands into the air at a

the professional

perfect 90 degree angle. Later, the footage caught on a camera showed an orb move quickly into the room directly at the student and rise into the air with the detector.

"It was so crazy to see something happen right in front of my eyes that we could not explain, then look on the BHS monitor (the screen the showed the camera footage) and see the cause of it all," Hinkle said. "It's nothing like you could've imagined."

Because of this event, Hinkle immediately started believing in ghosts. In one of his many interviews he did on his radio show, a man explained to him why he believed ghosts and spirits still roam the earth. He said it has been proven that energy is not created nor destroyed; therefore when people die, their energies do not die with them. This concept has been tested many times by experiments that took people on their deathbeds, put them on a scale, and measured them before they died and right after they died. Every person lost between 6-8 ounces. It is believed this is because the energy escapes the dead bodies because the energy cannot die.

In another one of Hinkle's ghost hunts he went to the museum of the Titanic which has been notorious for being haunted. The BHS monitor showed around six orbs against the wall and a very tall orb in the back of the room, almost hiding behind the other orbs. After seconds of watching the orbs on the monitor, the tall orb quickly traveled straight to the camera and looked as if it passed through the camera. Although they had seen the live footage, when the team tried to replay the video later that night, it had all been erased. The team believes the orb, or ghost, erased it.

According to Hinkle, losing footage and battery life is not

uncommon when working around ghosts because they are infamous for sucking the energy out of batteries. The team uses strong batteries that have hours of life, and bring many backups. They have to park their radio van far away from any place they are doing a ghost hunt because the van and equipment in the van could lose battery power after minutes.

Hinkle does not believe ghosts can hurt you, and he believes they are only here because they have nowhere else to go.

"When I witness these spirits I can't help but ask myself if they are ghosts or guardian angels," Hinkle said.

Looking for advice, Hinkle's neighbor, an older woman who lost her husband 30 years ago, told him she had been feeling his presence in her house. He advised her to tell the spirit she is open to seeing him.

"I told her she needed to tell him every night she loved him and truly missed him," Hinkle said. "And it had to come from the heart."

After a week of not seeing the woman, she showed up at Hinkle's front door with tears streaming down her face. She told Hinkle she talked to her husband the night before for three hours, and she finally felt closure with his death.

Hinkle continued to study ghosts for a couple years and became interested in quantum physics. He believes it helps him understand the concept of spirits a little better. For many non-believers, quantum physics has answered a lot of questions, Hinkle said.

"Quantum physics is the theory that nothing is proven until it is seen. Everything else is only a theory," Hinkle said. "And I think that explains a lot about spirits and entities."

There are some things humans cannot explain. Supernatural experiences are beyond belief for many, but for some students and faculty members, ghosts are all too real. The Kirkwood Call found some of the creepiest and most real ghost stories the high school has to offer.

the microwave

Feeling like she is constantly being watched is not a new sensation for **Gabi Akrap**, as she sits in her basement with a ghost she believes lives in her house, who she calls Charlie.

"I just gave it that name. I don't know if it's a boy or a girl, but if something weird happens we always just say, 'oh, that was probably Charlie,'" Gabi, sophomore, said.

Since the Akrap's moved into their home eight years ago, Gabi has witnessed strange events that have led them to think a ghost lives with them.

Not only does Gabi sense she is being watched, but she has also seen unbelievable things happen in front of her eyes. More than once Gabi has left a drawer open in her room and it slams shut on its own. Because there are no windows in her bedroom, Gabi cannot think of any other reason why that would happen. She also wakes up in the morning to scarves on the floor and other items in her room that are out of place.

Gabi said strange happenings have occurred more frequently from when they first moved in.

"I think he used to be shy, and now that we've lived here longer he's started doing more and more," Gabi said.

Vesna, Gabi's mother, is also a strong believer in ghosts. She grew up in a house with a haunted room but said the two hauntings are completely different.

"In my old house I had a very bad feeling when I walked into the room, but here it's not like that at all. Charlie is very nice and a prankster," Vesna said.

The Akrap's also said the ghost interferes with their **microwave**. They have to keep it unplugged at all times or random buttons will be pressed. These things have also happened to the microwave when it is completely unplugged.

Vesna said she has been scratched and pinched by the ghost, but it does not hurt, and she has never felt it was vicious.

"He is just very playful, not mean at all," Vesna said.

Gabi and her family do not believe the ghost is malicious or harmful, and they find humor out of the interactions they have with 'Charlie'.

"I think it's funny we have a ghost, but I don't want to wake up in the middle of the night to a black figure or something," Gabi said. "Then it would get scary"

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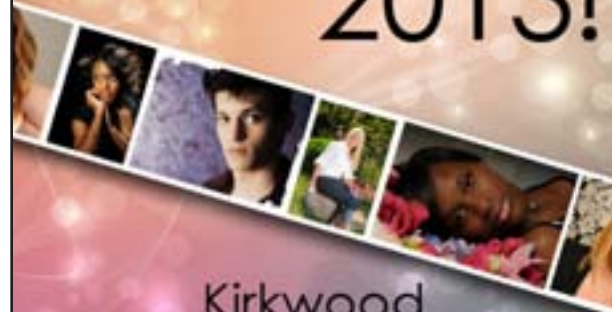
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Brynn Davis Pioneer photographer

237 Electoral votes for Obama

Percent of voters supporting Obama 50

72 Percent probability of Democrats reaching 270 electoral votes

26 Student election votes for Gary Johnson

21 Student election votes for Virgil Goode

49 Percent of poll votes for Romney in Missouri

Undecided electoral votes

146

206 Electoral votes for Romney

Percent tied for electoral vote

1

27 Percent probability of Republicans reaching 270 electoral votes

52

Electoral votes leaning Democratic

5

Student election votes for Jill Stein

46

Percent of Obama poll votes in Missouri

21.4 (23/131)

Percent of students who think one should not care about politics

Electoral votes leaning Republican

38

15 Percent of registered voters who are not likely to vote and are undecided

93

Electoral votes guaranteed for Republican Party

18 Percent of voters under age 30 who follow campaign news

146

Electoral votes guaranteed for Democratic Party

59

Percent of registered voters under age 30 favoring Obama

95

Toss up electoral votes

58 Percent of 18-29 year old registered voters planning to vote

78.6 (103/131)

Percent of students who think one should care about politics

Percent of registered voters under age 30 favoring Romney

291 Student election votes for Romney

Percent of current national average of 18-29 year old voters from the 2008 election

78

47 Percent of people voting for Romney

18

Percent of registered voters who are not likely to vote but would support a third party candidate if they voted

89 Percent of young voters say economy is affecting their vote

33

40 Percent of registered voters who are not likely to vote but would support Obama if they voted

504 Student election votes for Obama

THE VOTES ARE IN...

Kevin Campbell photographer

Information at time of publication.

Information courtesy of cnn.com, The Washington Examiner, The Walton Tribune, 270towin.com, and mnn.com

Kieran O'Connell news writer

59.2%

of students voted for Barack Obama in the school election Oct. 10

The student body elected Barack Obama to remain President of the United States for a second term. Obama, the Democratic candidate, received nearly twice as many votes as Mitt Romney, the Republican candidate and runner up.

The school election gave students such as Sydni Jackson the opportunity to cast a ballot and show their support for a candidate even if they are too young to vote. Jackson has participated in Young Democrats since freshman year, and voted for Obama in the school election.

"I think [Obama] is a good person to carry out the beliefs of the people," Jackson, sophomore, said. "He does things to help all classes. I agree with him that people should have the right to choose which gender they want to marry. I agree with his effort to get health care for all citizens."

Eric Alseth, senior, is a member of Young Democrats and has been registered to vote since his eighteenth birthday. His support for Obama was solidified in 2008 when he attended one of Obama's campaign speeches in St. Louis. Because Alseth was so impressed with Obama's speech and agrees with many

of Obama's policies and opinions, he plans to vote for Obama Nov. 6.

Alseth believes Obama has a good plan for foreign policy and will work better with other nations. He also supports Obama's passage and defense of his health care reform. He believes Obama will be able to create a better America as opposed to Romney, especially because of Romney's economic beliefs.

"I feel that in this case what [Romney's] doing is providing more for the wealthy in America. And as much as America is a place of opportunity, those people who have already reached the highest heights, which are those wealthier people, should help to make America a wealthier place in general and invest in the populous to make them more capable of attaining higher economic status," Alseth said.

Tom Kirk, senior, is also an Obama supporter wholeheartedly.

"He has a very presidential presence," Kirk said. "I love his stance on almost every issue. But he's also just a really commanding, leading, excited person."

Kirk supports Obama's war policies and how the president removed troops from the



Middle East as promised. He also agrees with Obama's support of legalizing gay marriage and the Dream Act, an act which would allow certain undocumented immigrant students to apply for temporary legal status and eventually become eligible for citizenship if they go to college or serve in the military. And while Kirk acknowledges the economy is still not ideal, he continues to believe in Obama.

"The term he was left with was in shambles, and he's putting forth a great effort and he's improving things," Kirk said.

Jackson thinks everyone should at least learn a little about politics, regardless of whether or not they are too young to vote.

"Even though you can't vote you need to know what's going on out there, so when you vote, you're ready," Jackson said.

Kirk encourages every student who is 18 to vote in the election.

"If you're 18, why aren't you registered? Your opinion really matters to this country. You need to get your voice out," Kirk said. "Politics directly affect your life."



Photos courtesy of MCT Campus

34.2%

of students voted for Mitt Romney in the school election Oct. 10

Despite the student body re-electing Barack Obama, there are still many students who support the runner up, Mitt Romney.

Luke Beattie, senior, co-founded Young Republicans last year and currently serves as co-president. Beattie supports Romney because of his healthcare plan and morals, but, most importantly, Beattie supports Romney's economic plan, which Beattie believes will help save taxpayer dollars and get America out of the recession and begin growing again economically.

"I do believe there are valid points on either side, but the main reason I'm voting for Mitt Romney is based off the economics. He has plenty of experience with business," Beattie said. "He has more experience in job creation because he's a businessman. He has to know about the economy because it's his specialization."

Casey Norton, junior, agrees

with Beattie about Romney's skills as a businessman. She also supports some of his other policies, such as military funding.

"You can tell Romney loves America and wants to help it in any way he can. He has started businesses from scratch and knows what it [means] to start a business," Norton said. "And he isn't cutting funding for the military, which I think is good. Why wouldn't we fund them when they're the ones fighting for us and defending our country? That doesn't make sense to me."

Michael Seifert, senior, is disappointed he will not be able to vote Nov. 6. He hopes Romney wins the election because of his morals and beliefs.

"I believe he offers more freedom, more equality to people, which we deserve as people under the Constitution," Seifert said. "I think he genuinely has a heart for the people. You can tell he wants to

be there."

According to gallup.com, a website that, among other things, publishes many polls involving collected data on world news, 52 percent of all likely voters now prefer Romney for president while 47 percent support Obama. This is no surprise to Beattie.

"I firmly believe Mitt Romney is going to win this election," Beattie said.

Although Norton will not be old enough to vote Nov. 6, she still supports Romney.

"In two years it's going to be us voting. You still live in this country. You don't have to be as crazy as I am about politics, but you should still know a little about them," Norton said. "I know a lot of people who say, 'You're 16, you shouldn't have opinions about politics.' I say that I can have opinions when [politics] directly affect my family and life."

Emily Stobbe
news editor

Becca Gerdes
news writer

Will Humphrey
news writer



Young Democrats

Young Democrats club offers a place for diverse political discussion. Brooke Callahan, senior and an officer, said members of the club do not have to share the exact same views.

"It's a place for students to discuss issues outside of the classroom with like-minded people," Callahan said. "It's nice to have discussions with people outside of your family."

Young Democrat member watch the debates, and some members have helped with campaigns like Governor Jay Nixon's. Callahan said the group has people on both sides of each issue and people from all ends of the spectrum.

Jared Kurth, senior, joined to learn more about politics.

"I knew I would vote in the next election, so I wanted to learn more about politics," Kurth said. "It taught me a lot. I'm way more informed."

The Young Democrats are supporting Barack Obama in the 2012 election. Callahan said she believes Obama's social and economic policies are attractive and would benefit Americans.

"He has an understanding of the economy for the middle class, for people who aren't as privileged as we are [in Kirkwood]," Callahan said.

20

Members in Young Democrats



Politiclub

One KHS club strives to be the middle ground, attempting to look at politics and current events in an unbiased way. Tucker Overmann, senior, said Politiclub, while it has different viewpoints, has people who want to think for themselves.

"One of our sayings is 'Leave your parents views at the door,'" Overmann said.

1

Meeting per week

Overmann said while he likes politics, he does not like the way they are conducted.

"I never liked how partisan it is," Overmann said. "[I don't like] how one side is always right, and one side is always wrong."

Politiclub discusses the debates as well as specific topics like the economy and job creation. At one meeting, the group even discussed the concept of a debate. What makes them especially unique is their look at campaign strategies.

"We want to look at ads candidates have made attacking each other and see if they're true or not," Jimmy McHugh, senior and founder of Politiclub, said.

Another difference between Politiclub and the other political clubs is Politiclub's choice not to back a specific candidate.

"We just want people to see both sides of the issue so we can properly pick the candidate to support," McHugh said.



Young Republicans

The Young Republicans club is a political group for students that have conservative principles to share their ideas, opinions and beliefs. The 2012 elections are evident in Young Republican's agenda.

"I think a goal they have as a club is to educate people on their beliefs," Lisa Autry, club sponsor, said. "Also to reach out to those who...might be afraid to voice their opinion."

One way the club is showing their support during this election cycle is through actual work.

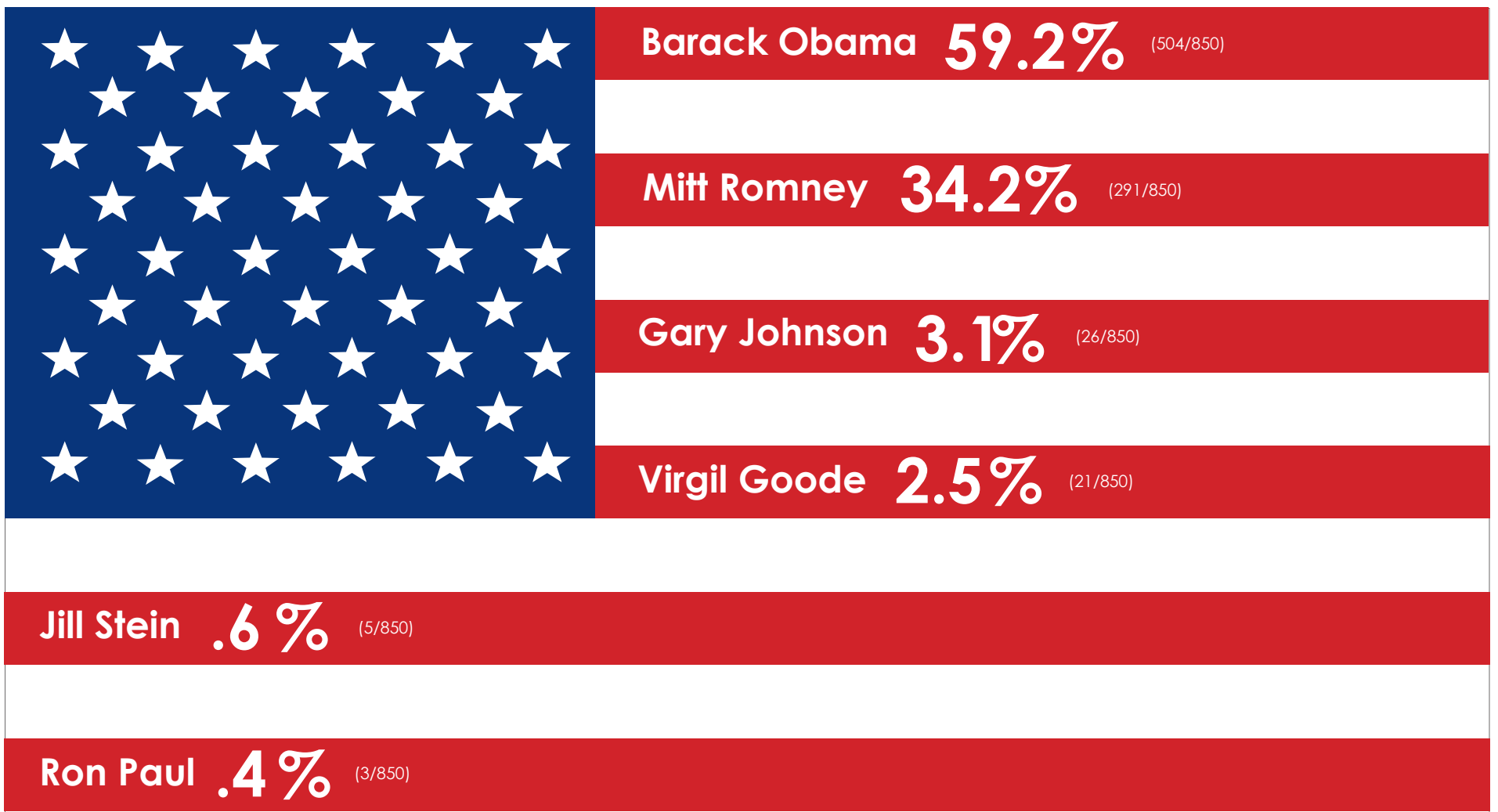
"Representative Rick Stream will come speak every now and then, and since this year is an election year, he sort of gave a 'pep' talk to the club," Autry said. "Not only are the members going to work with assisting his political campaign, but also might help Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney with the election on a local level."

Maddie Duffy, junior and member, agrees that it is important to get out and support a candidate and an idea.

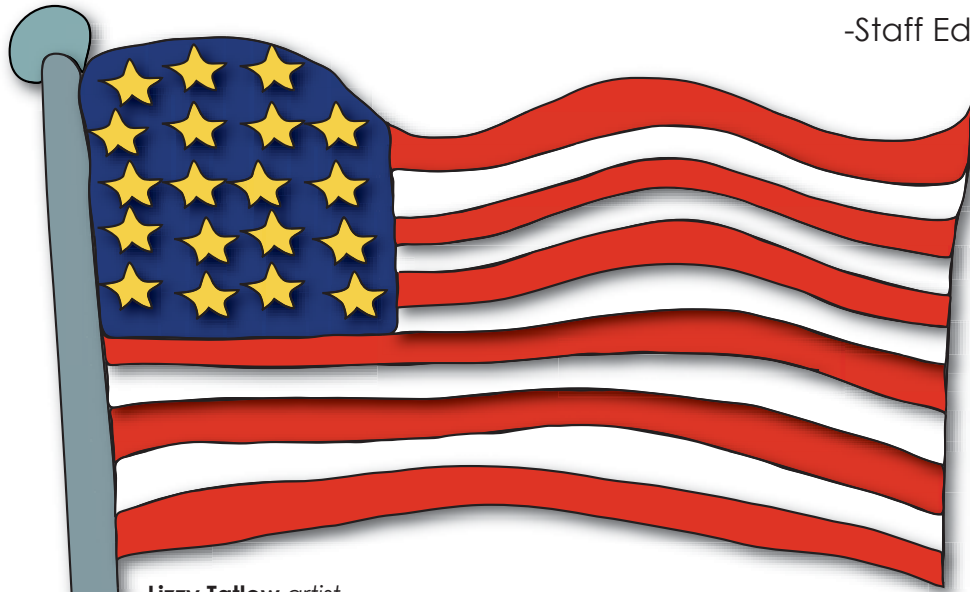
"Everyone should be aware," Duffy said. "Even if you can't vote yet there are decisions being made that concern you now and you'll be able to vote in a few years."

25

Members in Young Republicans



-Staff Editorial-



Lizzy Tatlow artist

The Call votes Obama for a second term

*With presidential elections less than a week away, The Kirkwood Call decided to endorse the candidate the staff believes is most qualified to run our country for the next four years. Even though a large portion of the school cannot legally vote, every student has the right to believe one candidate is better for this country than the other. In a 38-14 vote, the staff **voted for Barack Obama** for the next presidential term.*

Four years ago, every U.S. citizen was glued to a TV screen for the exact same reason. There was so much tension in the country, it could have been cut with a knife. Four years ago as the country held its breath, President Barack Obama was officially voted into office. This year, he should be reelected.

Although the majority of *The Kirkwood Call* is supportive of Obama, there is no denying the past few years have not been perfect. The economy has yet to stabilize and the national debt continues to rise. Republicans and Democrats alike have been skeptical of President Obama's health care program currently in place, and many believe welfare could be more selective. But the good that has come out of this presidency cannot simply be overlooked.

The president inherited one of the biggest unemployment rates since the Great Depression, and it has not been an easy recovery. According to factcheck.org, when Obama was sworn in Jan. 2009, unemployment rose to 10 percent in his first four months in office, and over 4 million Americans lost their jobs. Since that peak, unemployment has decreased to 7.8 percent. All 4 million jobs that were lost have been regained, plus another 300,000.

We must come to terms with the fact that Obama cannot fix the entire unemployment situation in four years, so there are industries facing major job losses. But more than 4 million people are employed again, and that is a huge step forward for the president and our nation.

Since the beginning of Obama's

presidency, the nation waited for him to follow through on his promise of taking U.S. troops out of Iraq. Without disappointment, the last of the U.S. forces were pulled from Iraq Dec. 2011. The war that raged on for a decade came to an end and plenty of families across America celebrated the return of their loved ones.

While we still have many troops stationed in Afghanistan, the war there is beginning to wind down. As of now, over 33,000 troops have left and more continue to leave, and Obama continues to show his diplomacy skills as a leader.

For over 10 years America has been battling terrorism and doing it's best to keep this country safe. Ever since the SEAL mission that took place in 2010, our country has one less terrorist threat to worry

about: Osama Bin Laden. President Obama made terrorism one of his main priorities throughout his presidency, and now we have less to fear as Americans.

Obama also supports gay marriage, a controversial topic in America. In an interview with ABC's Robin Roberts May 2012, Obama officially stated people of the same sex should have the right to marry. Since his presidency began, eight states have legalized same-sex marriage and numerous states continue to debate.

Not only has Obama backed gay marriage, but he has genuinely worked for the rights of homosexuals in the military. Obama pushed and he succeeded for the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" for the brave soldiers who battle for our safety, because who you love should not

matter if you love your country. The president has supported and recognized this issue.

Although this does not change much politically, socially it is a huge milestone. People who are homosexual have been striving for equal rights and recognition for years, and are finally beginning to achieve them. Obama is supporting those rights and therefore should be reelected.

Obama has proven himself over and over as a leader. Multiple times throughout his presidency, he showed he can handle challenges and is here to help and do anything for those who struggle. While there will always be opposition, Obama deserves a second term, if not for what he has done but for what he will do.

- Man on the Street -

Who would you pick to be president?



Grant Nuelle, senior

"[I would pick] **Obama** because I agree with his foreign policy, and I think he does well in the debates."



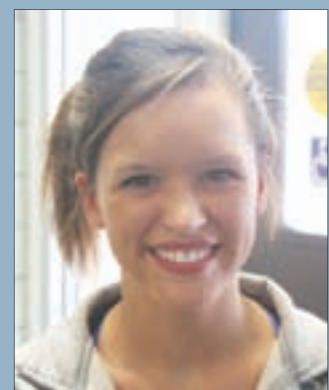
Jalen Matthews, junior

"**Obama**: I have conservative views and understand Romney, but I think overall Obama is better for the country."



Winnie Meyers, sophomore

"I think **Romney** will do a lot more with the next four years and I don't like Obama's healthcare plan."



Abigail Hartman, freshman

"[I would pick] **Romney** because he and Paul Ryan seem to be more logical, and he's done better in the debates."

According to *healthlifeandstuff.com*, everyone becomes delusional and insane for a short time after taking a high enough dosage of Adderall.

Opinions

Page 15 ■ October 31, 2012
thekirkwoodcall.com

"My daughter loves her froggie backpack! Little does she know it's a leash."- Wyn Andrews, when reviewing a frog-themed child leash on *amazon.com*.

-Call Editorial-

Chemical cover-up



According to The New York Times, doctors have been prescribing the ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) medication, Adderall, to students who struggle in school without thoroughly determining whether they have the disorder. The negative impact of overprescription led The Kirkwood Call to decide in a vote of 42 : 10 that doctors should not prescribe Adderall to patients without positively knowing if they have the disorder.

Most KHS students know how essential focus is to doing well in school. From cramming for an AP World exam to wrapping up a last-minute essay, the ability to concentrate for an extended period of time is required for academic success. Naturally, some students struggle with concentration more than others, but recently, doctors have been using a magic pill to level the playing field.

Adderall acts as a stimulant that enables concentration for large amounts of time. It is used to treat ADHD and ADD, but according to *The New York Times*, doctors have been prescribing Adderall to students without the disorder so that they will do better in school.

Dr. Michael Anderson, a physician who openly prescribes Adderall to patients without ADHD or ADD, explained to the *Times* that patients who are prescribed the medication are struggling in school, and even if they don't have the disorders, need the medication to improve their academic performance because their schools cannot accommodate their needs.

However, according to *dependency.net*, Adderall is addictive for people without ADHD or ADD. While a regular dosage gives people with the disorders average focus ability, it gives people without the disorders superior concentration. Continued use leads to an addiction as negative and unhealthy as an addiction to street drugs.

Physicians who prescribe Adderall are not solving patients' academic problems. What they are doing is the equivalent of prescribing cigarettes for stress, alcohol for shyness or makeup for acne: they are covering up the real problem and encouraging a potentially life-long reliance on fake ways to achieve success and happiness.

Doctors who prescribe Adderall to patients without the disorder are not just encouraging life-long dependence. They are also exposing patients to dangerous side effects that can be avoided if the real problem is solved.

According to *The Huffington Post*, users of Adderall without ADHD or ADD need a greater and greater dosage to achieve the same concentration level and blissful state. The dosage increase with every use easily leads to overdose and an increased risk of side effects.

Side effects of Adderall are not pleasant. A side effects list composed by the *Toronto Star* includes depression, anxiety, psychotic episodes and increased blood pressure. The *Star* even reports that multiple users of Adderall have committed suicide due to depression created

by the medication.

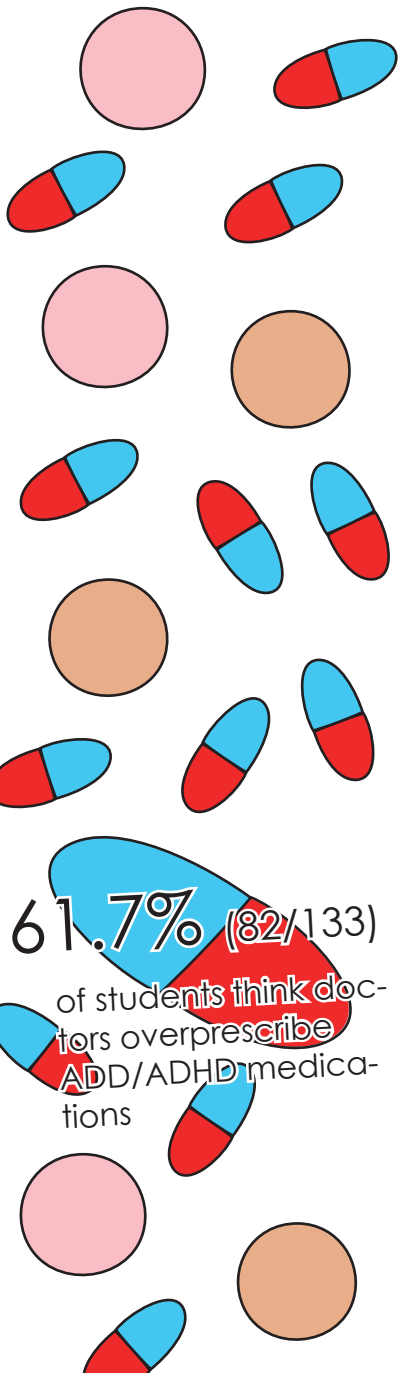
Teenagers who need the medication take it because they have a disorder. Students who struggle in school without the disorder should find other ways to get the assistance they need, like counselors or tutors, without taking potentially dangerous medicine. Doctors should not nonchalantly risk their patients' well-being, unless they have proven beyond a reasonable doubt those patients have the disorder.

Not only does Adderall endanger the well-being of patients without the disorder, but over-prescription endangers the well-being of people who genuinely struggle with ADHD and ADD, since, according to *The New York Times*, the medication supply is steadily disappearing.

Instead of putting patients without the disorder at risk and simultaneously endangering those who truly struggle with ADD and ADHD, schools should focus on creating academic resources for students who have difficulty in school.

If schools cannot financially meet these students' needs, they should hone in on the individual students struggling the most and offer them extra assistance, even if it means transferring those students to a different school that can help them.

Students do not need chemical modification to achieve success: they need resources, love and firm guidance. Nothing short of that will do.



61.7% (82/133)
of students think doctors overprescribe ADD/ADHD medications

Perry Tatlow artist

Zach Ortiz photographer

300 WORDS

Each issue, a Call staffer addresses a topic of his or her choice using exactly 300 words. No more, no less. Count them if you don't believe us.

Leash animals, not your children

Jane Manwaring
copy editor

I'm not claiming to be an expert on children. I don't have kids and won't for a long time, and because of my lack of experience, I know I don't understand the true toils of parenting. Despite my ignorance, I know one thing for sure: leashes are for dogs, not wandering 3-year-olds.

Don't get the wrong idea, there aren't toddlers walking around with collars buckled around their necks. These are

cute, fluffy, animal-shaped "backpacks" that harness in the front and conveniently have a "tail" attached to the back and a handle for parents.

Though disguised, these "backpacks" don't fool anyone. Everyone can see that instead of storing toys and coloring books, they are objects of restraint and humiliation for any child forced to wear one.

Judith Goldberg, advice columnist, explained the problem in the April issue of *Parents Magazine*.

"Leashes are for dogs," Gold-

berg wrote. "You wouldn't put your child in a crate, or let him poop on the sidewalk, right? If you have a bolter, invest in a cheap umbrella stroller with a buckle."

I understand that there are exceptions to the no-leash rule. On one of the many blogs where moms argue about the "right" way to parent, one mother submitted a post defending child leashes, saying her pediatrician actually recommended one to her because she had accidentally dislocated her 2-year-old son's

arm two different occasions while trying to keep a tight grasp on his hand in crowds.

Although it seems like this woman has no options other than tying down her tot, this also brings up another point: if someone's child has such terrible behavioral problems they need to constantly be physically restrained, maybe they shouldn't even be brought to public places.

Though small and squirmy, toddlers are not animals, and shouldn't be treated as such.

The premiere of the third season of AMC's zombie hit, *The Walking Dead*, shattered ratings with 10.9 million viewers.

The advisory board for the Zombie Research Society includes legendary zombie filmmaker George A. Romero and doctors from Harvard, University of Iowa and Columbia College.

How to survive the **ZOMBIE** apocalypse

When talking about the zombie apocalypse, there is no question in my mind whether it will happen; it's a matter of when. Not to brag, but I'm kind of an expert on all things cannibalistic corpses. Despite my better judgment, I have decided to share my knowledge about how to survive when the world is overrun by undead flesh-hungry monsters.

How to recognize a zombie:

According to Matt Mogk, founder of the Zombie Research Society (ZRS), there are two types of zombies: living zombies and modern zombies. Living zombies are, as the name suggests, human beings with a twist. In this instance, a disease will transform people into super strong, intelligent attacking machines hell-bent on tearing apart every living creature in sight (for further reference, check out the movie *28 Days Later*).

The modern zombie is a bit more passive. This is also a biological condition, but it possesses people after they die. Infected corpses will be reanimated, but since they are really just walking, eating dead bodies, they will not be particularly strong or smart. They will, however, be equally hell-bent on tearing apart every living creature in sight (like the zombies in AMC's *The Walking Dead*).

Whatever type of zombie plague breaks out, instant giveaways include gnashing teeth and bloody hands.

Long-Term Survival:

While places like Costco may seem appealing, Mogk warns to stay away from them. The more desperate people scrambling for supplies in a crowded place, the higher the likelihood there is already someone infected lurking around (this is why we have our supplies ahead of time). On top of that, Mogk cites the deaths of shoppers every year on Black Friday as people attempt to find low prices on televisions. Throw in a few brain-dead monsters who see people as zombie-chow, and it's a place from which you want to steer clear. Instead, survive locally. Secure your own home and become self-sufficient, but raiding nearby homes may become necessary to survive until a garden can produce food.

The next step depends on the type of zombies we will confront. While the idea of living killing machines is enough to scare the pants off anyone, the infected zombies would actually be more of a short-term survival. Since they are still technically people, they must eat like everyone else, and therefore can starve to death. In a matter of months, the world could potentially be zombie-free in an infection situation. This is why the ZRS focuses more on the modern zombie apocalypse, with slower, dumber zombies. Unfortunately, this is the worst possible scenario, since the only way the modern zombie can die is to have its brain shut off again. Surviving humans would have to physically defeat and re-kill all the zombies in the world.



Claire Salzman
co-editor-in-chief

Dan Weyerich photographer Perry Tatlow artist

Surviving the **ZOMBIE** apocalypse: an expert opinion

When Matt Mogk started his Masters thesis on zombies, he faced little opposition.

"Looking back, I'm surprised more people didn't object," Mogk said. "No one really had a problem with it."

Mogk is the founder and head of the Zombie Research Society (ZRS), an organization that studies the science, survival and pop culture aspect of zombies. He has written one of the most comprehensive handbooks on surviving the zombie apocalypse and appeared on *Talking Dead*, the live after-show of AMC's hit, *The Walking Dead*. Mogk's personal obsession with zombies combined with his knowledge of survival skills through the French Foreign Legion (the mercenary wing of the French Military) and a disease research company

in downtown Los Angeles led to the creation of this organization. Always fascinated by the film side of zombies, Mogk noticed a connection between current diseases like mad cow and began applying these to a hypothetical zombie plague.

For him, the biggest aspect of surviving the zombie apocalypse is planning for its arrival.

"The most important thing to do is to prepare," Mogk said. "Don't fantasize about how cool it's going to be. Get prepared."

Mogk recommends that when a swarm of the undead arrives, the best attack plan is to stay put.

"Don't leave town. There is a history of other disasters in the world and the country where you don't want to be stranded on a highway," Mogk said. "Get home or to a predetermined

meeting area and be with your loved ones. Plan to survive in your house, and hopefully you've already done your prep work and will have your supplies."

These supplies include the basics. Water tops the list, followed by shelter and food. Mogk also recommends a first aid kit, but perhaps his best advice for avoiding the undead is to steer clear of the living.

"Humans are the biggest threat in a zombie apocalypse," Mogk said. "People make zombies, and large groups are dangerous. Zombies may be slow, zombies may be dumb, but humans aren't. Humans are smart, crafty and prone to becoming desperate."

The cat's meow



Kelly Weber
indepth editor

Being a cat lady has always been a fantasy of mine. Lying on the couch of my apartment surrounded by nothing but pictures of my cats, cat stuffed animals and, of course, real cats purring in my ear and licking my hands everyday, all day, could not sound

more purrrfect.

I get along so well with cats because, well, I wish I was a cat. Cats and I are actually a lot alike...minus the hair and plus the irresistible eyes. Cats only care about a few specific things: snuggling, playing, sleeping, eating and more snuggling.

Without disturbing a soul, cats find the most comfortable spot to curl up in the cutest way possible. If the faint sound of purring kitties in their slumber keeps you up all night, I would definitely recommend therapy because something is wrong with you. You could pick up the cat, and set it on the bed in the other room and fall back asleep with no problem, because cats are just that easy.

Like myself, the biggest problem a cat will have with a person is if the person touches them in a spot they don't appreciate, like their stomach for instance. In this case, the cat will jump away. Some will argue and say cats are vicious and angry and nip at your hands when you touch their face. Well one, I don't blame them and, two, I have yet to come across a pet cat more dangerous than Puss n Boots from *Shrek*.

I understand not all cats are pets, so if we take a walk all the

way up the size scale of cats we land on lions, who are a tad more ferocious than the average Tabby Cat and are known to be a little more on the mean side. But I think powerful is a better word considering they are the Kings of the Jungle, hence the name *Lion King*. But even Simba ate mostly insects. No matter the size of the cat, they will never have the intention of hurting you. Unless, of course, you are an evil Uncle trying to take the throne of Pride Rock.

Cats don't demand attention. They don't sprint around in circles, jumping on toddlers and whacking picture frames off tables with their tail. They don't slobber on the furniture and bark at visitors. They are there when you're too old to find a husband and just need a friend to love you.

But, most importantly, they are there so when I am 50 I'm not lying on the couch in my house completely alone.



Perry Tatlow artist

The great pet debate

86.3% (113/131)

of KHS students own a pet.



53.4% (63/118)

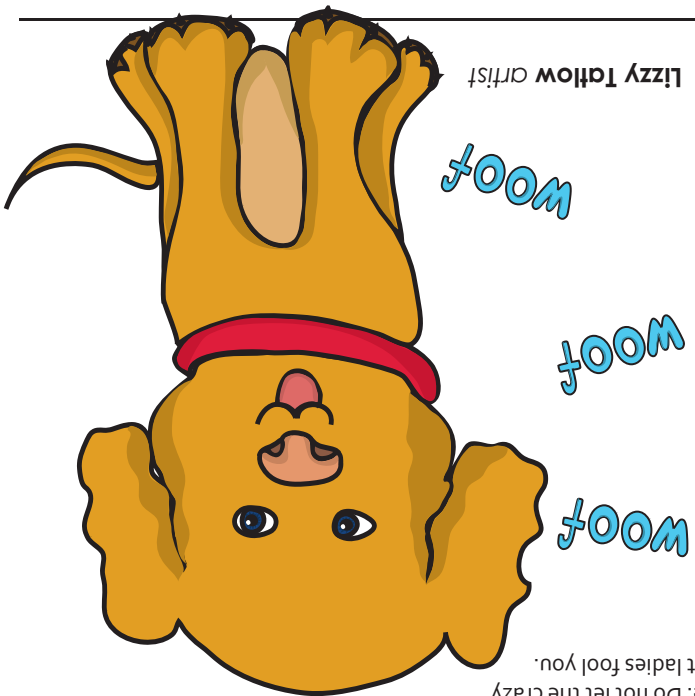
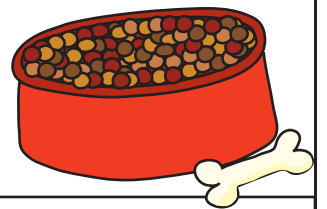
of students own a dog.

20.3% (24/118)

of students own a cat.

80.9% (106/131)

of students think dogs are the superior pet.



Lizzy Tatlow artist

Then there is that whole litter box situation. Cats do their business in a box inside the house. I'll bet Febreze doesn't cover up that smell. Then, the owner has to scoop it all out and put it into a bag to throw away. Disgusting.

Dogs can be trained and used to help humans. Rescue dogs can help find and save missing people, and police use dogs to track criminals and find evidence in a crime. Also, dogs are frequently used to assist the disabled. There's a reason people don't use service or rescue cats. Who would trust a prissy little feline to walk them across Manchester? I sure wouldn't.

A dog is a man's best friend. They always have been, and always will be. Do not let the crazy cat ladies fool you.

Precious little pups are protective. Dogs feel a sense of loyalty and partnership with their owner and will protect them at all costs. I don't know about you, but if a burglar was breaking into my house, I wouldn't trust a little purr and meow to scare an intruder.

Dogs are loving and actually care about us. Cats don't, as long as they know where to find a can opener for the Fanny Feast. Scruffy seems to know whenever I'm sick or feeling down. A couple of weeks ago, I stayed home from school. I suffered from a severe tummy ache...don't laugh, it hurt. But guess who didn't leave my side all day.

Even if we're grumpy and upset, dogs show us unconditional love. Everytime I come home from school, Scruffy is there jumping and licking my face because he missed me. He waited patiently those grueling seven hours. Cats don't even notice if you're there: all they do is sleep and meow anyway.

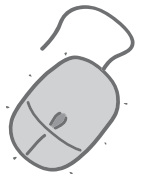
According to discovery.com, cats sleep and sit still 80 percent of their lives.

Life is ruff

Tara Hawkins features writer



The Kirkwood
Call



for more opinions
online, visit

thekirkwoodcall.com

Socratic Seminar (n) : a method to try to understand information by creating a dialectic in class in regards to a specific text.

The word "socratic" comes from Socrates, a classical Greek philosopher who developed a theory of knowledge.

Socratic seminars silence students



Katie Puryear
opinions writer

My palms are sweating so much I'm worried they will stain the notes I'm clinging to. My pounding heart deafens the voices around me and I am so nauseous it feels like my stomach is digesting itself. No, I'm not being questioned by the FBI. I'm sitting in the middle of a graded Socratic Seminar. The pressure mounts with five minutes left in class and the discussion winding down. Mustering all my courage, I blurt out a five-word comment to best the bell and secure myself a C.

Grading Socratic Seminars is ridiculous. It puts students under an ungodly amount of pressure. Of course, Socratic Seminars can help students by forcing them to listen to and develop ideas. However, graded seminars don't only challenge students. Teachers can find grading seminars tricky since it can be subjective.

Also, tracking how many times each student speaks isn't fair because some kids repeat the same idea while I may speak once with a thought I spent an hour on, and I'm the one with a C. It's the same as grading an essay based on the number of sentences it has.

Grading Socratic Seminars is not beneficial to many students either. Kids like me can't focus on the discussion while talkative classmates dominate the conversation. They cannot possibly hear any new ideas over the sound of their own voices, defeating the purpose of the seminar.

However, I can focus when the grade is gone. The pressure vanishes, and I can learn from listening to the conversation, which is a form of participation in its own right.

Also, without pressure I can actually speak more. For example, my eighth grade social studies teacher allowed me to write an essay to take the place of a seminar grade, but I still sat in the seminar. I ended up speaking several times because I felt so strongly about the topic and wasn't worried about my grade.

As long as they're not graded, Socratic Seminars can be effective by talking over texts or listening to what peers think. However, learning cannot happen when students are so worried they can't focus. For this reason, Socratic Seminars place too much pressure on introverted students who panic at the thought of public speaking.

Typically, Socratic Seminars are used to try to break these students out of their shells. Introversion is not a disease. It cannot be cured and it's not wrong. Graded Socratic Seminars tend to hurt introverts more than help.

Some students view seminars as an easy A and love them, but for me and other quiet students, graded Socratic Seminars provide so much pressure that our otherwise active minds shut down and all we're left with is a pile of sweat-stained notes.

52.9% (73/138)

of students do not think Socratic Seminars are motivating

63.2% (86/136)

of students prefer Socratic Seminars when they aren't graded

Erin Kilfoy artist

VERBATIM

the witty,
wacky & weird

"I suck at life."

-Jenny Willenborg, science teacher
after she mixed up the names of two students four times in a row.

"People don't just shove the babies into test tubes."

-Lauren Richardson, lab technician
talking about "test tube babies."

"Give me 'serpent behind a daisy.'"

-Reza Benham, English teacher
directing a student on how to act during a reading of Macbeth in English Lit I.

"You could rob Schnucks of all its honey crisp apples. A table of 800 of those is \$15,000. You would be considered a felon."

-Randy Kriewall, math teacher
discussing how ridiculously expensive apples are.

"This assignment would suck if you had long-term memory loss."

-Jojo Harig, junior
while working on learning memoirs in AP Lang.

"I think trees should have more rights than people."

-Michael Seifert, senior
pretending to be a member of the Green Party in AP Government.

More than 35 million Halloween cards are given annually.

About \$3 billion is spent every year on costumes alone in North America.

Quiz: What's your Halloween style?

With Halloween providing an opportunity of creativity for all, Halloween offers a spot for everyone. From frightening trickery to hosting trick-or-treaters, The Kirkwood Call wants to help determine how students will most likely express themselves in preparation for and on the holiday itself.

What is your worst Halloween fear?

- A. Someone having the same costume
- B. Running out of candy for your trick-or-treaters
- C. No one laughing at your jokes
- D. Your fog machine malfunctions

Which costume accessory will you most likely need?

- A. Fishnet stockings
- B. Halloween pin
- C. Clown nose
- D. Fake blood

Which pumpkin will you carve?

- A. Justin Bieber and his notorious, flowing hair style
- B. Cinderella's pumpkin carriage
- C. Smiley face
- D. Spider web

What costume would you most likely wear this year?

- A. French Maid
- B. Tigger
- C. Waffle
- D. Vampire

What prop must you have?

- A. Streamers
- B. Everlasting supply of candy for trick-or-treaters
- C. Can of snakes
- D. Ice hand in the punch bowl

Where will you do your pre-Halloween shopping?

- A. Spencer's
- B. Homemade crafts and costumes
- C. Party City
- D. Hot Topic

Which song will be on your CD?

- A. "Heads Will Roll" by the Yeah, Yeah, Yeahs
- B. "The Monster Mash" by Misfits
- C. "I Want Candy" by Aaron Carter
- D. "Thriller" by Michael Jackson

What is your favorite Halloween movie?

- A. *Sorority Row*
- B. *Halloweentown*
- C. *Scary Movie*
- D. *Nightmare on Elm Street*

Which joke are you most likely to crack on Halloween?

- A. Why are you crying, Janie?
Because my new tennis shoes hurt. That's because you put them on the wrong feet. Well, they're the only feet I have.
- B. If April showers bring May flowers, then what do May flowers bring?
Pilgrims
- C. What did one shark say to the other while eating a clown fish?
This tastes funny
- D. What did Godzilla have at the "all you can eat" restaurant?
The waiters!

What was your first costume like?

- A. Scandalous
- B. Cute
- C. Silly
- D. Scary

Rachel Trout
entertainment editor Erin Kilfoy artist



Mostly A's

To prepare: You will be Facebook stalking friends' past Halloween albums for costume ideas weeks in advance, scrounging around backs of closets to find leotards from those dance classes you took three years ago and stocking up on eyelash glue that will last you at least three nights of dressing up.

On Halloween: You will spend the weekend party-hopping, freezing your bunny tail off in the 30 degree weather and texting your parents at 11:59 p.m. asking for an extended curfew.

Mostly B's

To prepare: You will make sure all your favorite Disney movies are recorded throughout all of October and spend your free time looking up jack-o-lantern ideas that will be sure to invite the neighborhood youngsters to trick-or-treat at your house.

On Halloween: You will snuggle up on the couch to watch *The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* after preheating the oven for your Pillsbury pumpkin cookies while eagerly waiting for your decorations to lure in candy-seekers.

Mostly C's

To prepare: You will spend all of October looking up the best jokes to bribe your neighbors into giving you candy for just one more year, trying pranks on your siblings and family to decide which ones are Halloween worthy and making bets on which neighborhood kids will fall for your tricks.

On Halloween: You will walk the halls of school laughing at yourself with your friends over your clever attire and anticipate the roars of laughter from the jokes that made the cut.

Mostly D's

To prepare: You will spend every weekend watching another *Paranormal Activity*, find the perfect hideout in your front yard to scare trick-or-treaters and make a CD of spooky sounds to startle your neighbors.

On Halloween: You will hide fake mice in the bowl of Air Heads and Snickers, will have mastered playing dead with a candy bowl in your lap, jumping out at the kids who dare take more than one piece and chase neighbors down the street to give them a Halloween thrill.



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Kevin Campbell *photographer*

Kelsey Landrum *photographer*

Andréa Keltz *photographer*

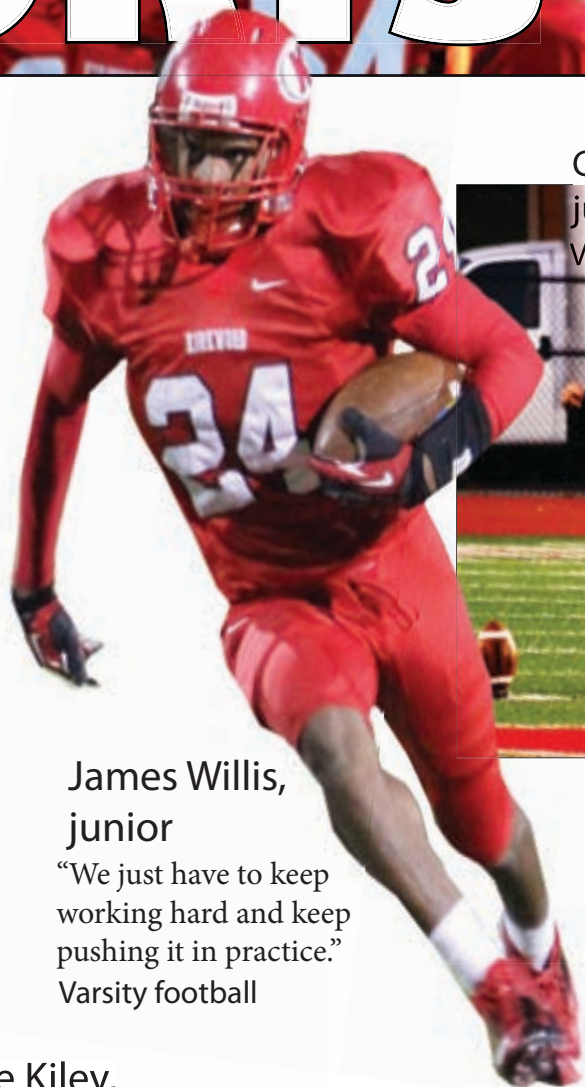
Katlyn Kreie *photographer*

Grant McKenna *photographer*

Zach Ortiz *photographer*

Jenna Rose *Pioneer photo editor*

Maggie Kiley *Pioneer photographer*



Clayton Burr,
junior
Varsity football



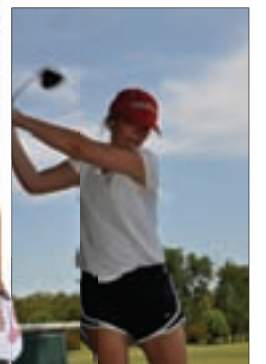
James Willis,
junior

"We just have to keep working hard and keep pushing it in practice."
Varsity football



Elise McDunnough,
sophomore

"This year went really well. I met my personal goal of going to state."
Girls' golf



Grace Garrow,
junior
Girls' golf



Maryanne Kiley,
senior

"I try to keep the team positive, and keep their eye on the prize."
Varsity field hockey



Ellen Schneider,
sophomore



Mary Catherine Brown,
freshman

"This is the best team I've ever been on in my entire life."
Girls' varsity volleyball



Jojo Harig,
junior

Boys' varsity soccer



Matt Barber,
sophomore

"I like playing against private schools because they're better and it's more fun."

Boys' JV soccer



Nicole Hanlon,
sophomore

"There's never really a dull moment. Something fun is always going on."

Girls' varsity tennis



Katie Kanzler,
junior

Girls' varsity tennis



Abbey Downey,
sophomore

"It's kind of bitter-sweet because [Finn Dawg] is my favorite meet. It's really fun but it's sad because the season's over."

Girls' cross country



Micah Huffman,
freshman

Boys' cross country

Drew Wagner,
freshman

"After I'm done running, I feel great. It releases a bunch of endorphins."

Boys' cross country



160 wpm (words per minute) is considered the proper pace to speak while announcing for radio and television.

In 1948, Ernie Harwell became the only announcer in baseball history to be traded for a player.

Jake Balmer
features writer

Red Powerades, "Beware of the Wood" programs, CDs, and KHS and University City football rosters litter the announcing booth desk. Tony Wicker sits at left, feeding yardage and downs to the scoreboard, slightly removed from the others. Roberta McWoods is in the middle, scrolling through a list of preset cheers and scoreboard messages. On the right is BJ Kenyon, watching the Pioneers' 48-7 rout from a television-like perspective, fluidly referring to the rosters to call out tackles and rushes over the Public Address system. A dim light glows over each; the Friday night lights seeping through the panoramic windows are enough to see clearly. Late in the third quarter, as the quintessential sounds of high school football, the banter of the students, the parents, the cheerleaders and the band leak into the booth, a Pioneer ballcarrier sees an opening, and Lyons Field echoes... "There's number 15, the Rocket Man, Blake Goddard, 32 yards for a touchdown!"

For anyone who has attended a KHS football game, it might be easy to overlook the fact that the proclamation "Here come your Kirkwood Pioneers" comes from a live human being and not a computer programmed voice in the stadium speakers.

BJ Kenyon, social studies teacher, has held the position of the Kirkwood Pioneers' football announcer since the Jeremy Maclin era, 2006 KHS graduate, beginning as a scoreboard operator.

"[Being the scoreboard operator] made me keep track of the downs and yardage, so I was always paying attention to the sideline, and that kind of prepared me for being the announcer," Kenyon said.

Though he has a pre-game script prepared by Athletics Director Cory Nessler, Kenyon adds his own flare to his calls.

"He definitely brings a lot of enthusiasm and humor," Jordan Bishop, senior and varsity quarterback, said. "He has called Clyde Benson 'Clyde the Glide.' Everyone gets a laugh."

Although not frequently praised for the work he does in the booth, Kenyon's coworkers see the im-

portance of his job.

"Announcers do a lot to connect the crowd to the action on the field, and to keep people apprised of events during the game," Matt Irvin, varsity football head coach, said. "[Kenyon] is basically the town crier in a game setting."

Irvin said Kenyon's performance is top-shelf.

"[Kenyon] has a good balance and an appropriate spirit for the position," Irvin said. "Sometimes in a high school setting, you see [announcers] going a little over the top. Mr. Kenyon is very pro-Kirkwood and he has a spirited approach, but not in a way that is discourteous or disrespectful to an opposing team."

It is this connection to the players and the crowd that Kenyon values most.

"The impact I would like to have is to get all the fans excited about what's going on. If it's third down, short yardage for the opposing team, hopefully I can add a little excitement and get the crowd going up off their feet," Kenyon said.

Kenyon recalls some of the frequent scoring plays he has called in his tenure.

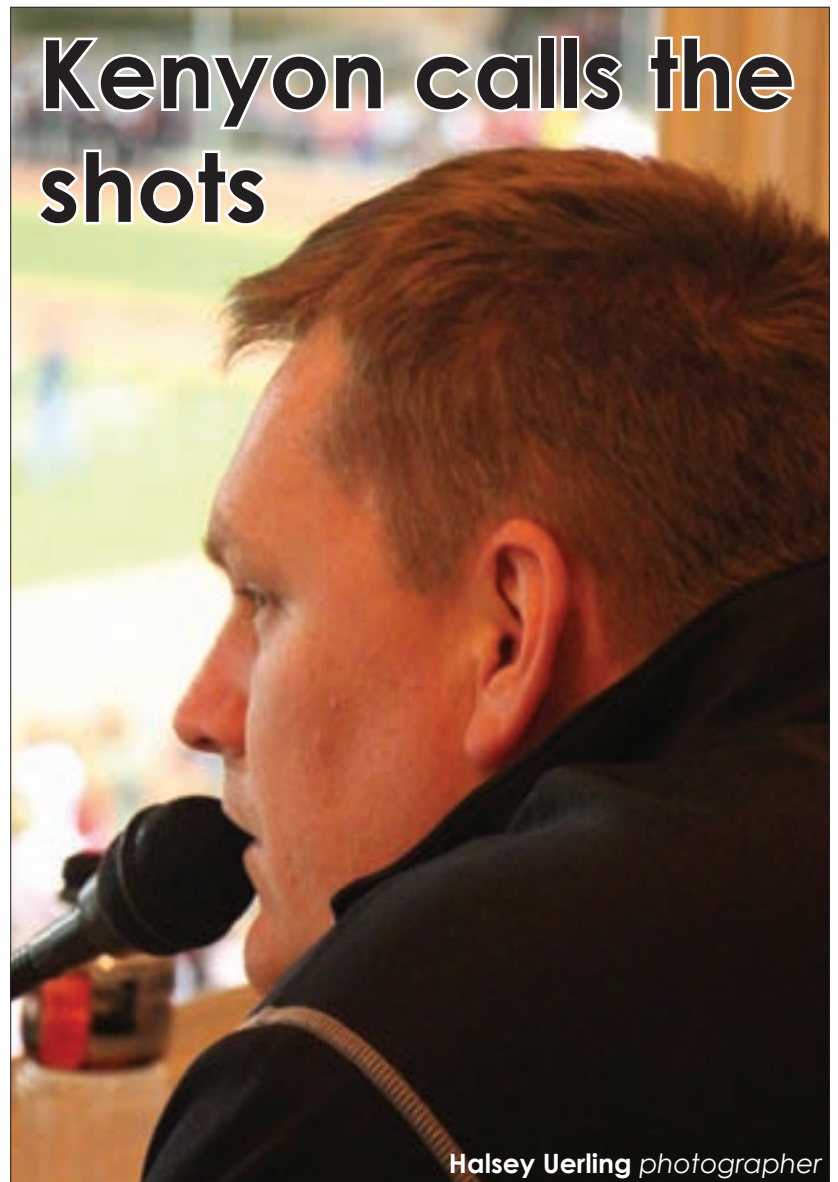
"It's an awesome feeling, you're really excited for the kid who made that incredible play, whether it was Mike McHugh (2012 KHS) snatching a 30 or 40-yard touchdown, Ramon Alton (senior and starting running back) breaking through the middle, or Jeremy Maclin running back a kick," Kenyon said.

Kenyon feels KHS football's record of 59-16 since 2006 is another reason why he enjoys announcing.

"The team has been blessed to have been so good over the last 10 years. There have been very few games we had to announce where we weren't on the winning end," Kenyon said.

Despite the multitude of Pioneer victories, no single football game stands out to Kenyon.

"The memories I have are mostly of individual kids doing some amazing things," Kenyon said. "There have been three athletic directors in my time, and they have all been gracious enough to allow me the opportunity to shine a spotlight on the athletes we have had. We have definitely had some pretty good ones over the years."



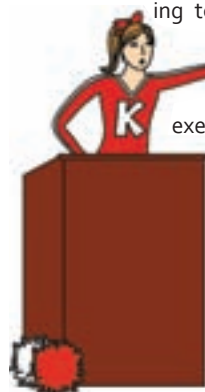
BJ Kenyon, social studies teacher, announces inside the Lyons Stadium press box during a varsity football game against the Seckman Jaguars Sept. 28. The Pioneers won 59-7.

The great debate: what is considered a sport?



Ed Hoganson
sports writer

One of the most vague definitions in the dictionary belongs to the word "sport." In fact, if you look up the definition of vague, it says "see sport." According to the *Oxford Dictionary*, a sport is "an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment." Because of this definition, it becomes extremely difficult to decide what constitutes a sport and what does not. Okay,



fine. I'll do it.

There are three levels that classify what a sport is: Actual Sports, Borderline Sports (in-between) and Activities.

The Actual Sport category is pretty simple to identify. There are the big three: football, basketball and baseball with hockey and soccer rounding out this group. Essentially, if people know when the playoffs are, then it is a sport.

The argument becomes a little unclear when looking at the Borderline Sport level. Tennis would be a sport, but scoring points is completely different than all the others in the Actual Sport category. Golf would be a sport, but it hardly requires athleticism, just good form. Lacrosse would be a sport hands down, but it has a professional league less popular than wearing Crocs.

Now is where it gets really interesting. The activities level. NASCAR drivers might come away with a wicked foot cramp from going from the gas to brake pedal, but other than

that and turning a steering wheel you don't have to move. Plus making left turns in funny looking cars with fake head lights is just silly. NASCAR is not a sport.

Cheerleading and pommies involves physical exertion and it takes a lot of skill. That can't be argued. But what was the score of the cheer last game? I understand cheerleaders and pommies go to plenty of competitions, and I wouldn't want to be thrown in the air with my leg above my head. That takes guts, but it doesn't make it a sport.

Cross country also comes up short of the sports level finish line. Run a football team through a 5k course and see how many of those athletes finish without puking their guts out. It is not easy to be a cross country runner, but when the whole activity revolves around running, something everybody with legs can do. It can't be a sport.

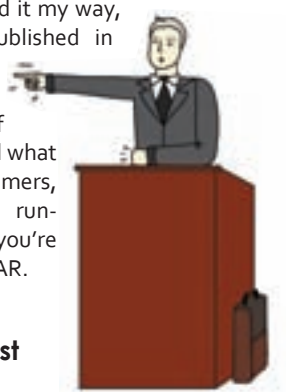
Swimming can be beautiful. Gliding through the water effortlessly with power and grace. Being fast is something not everyone

can be. It is quite the skill. But swimming is what people do instinctively so they don't die. If swimming is a sport, so is breathing.

Band is not much different. It is a skill. It takes practice, but it is not a sport.

The definition of sport it not a good one. It should be defined as "something in which two individuals or teams compete in a contest of skill, involving a ball, physical exertion and a final score." If I had it my way, this would be published in every dictionary and finally put to rest the debate of what is a sport and what is not. Sorry, swimmers, cheerleaders and runners. But at least you're better than NASCAR.

Suzanne Pocost
artist



KHS soccer would not like to thank the academy

Many high school soccer teams will be without some of their most talented players this year due to a rule prohibiting members of the Scott Gallagher Academy Club to play for their respective high school soccer team. The Academy Club plays year-round, leaving no time for school sports; even soccer. These athletes miss out on the experience of playing for their high school, but they gain an edge on other club teams by practicing and competing throughout the year.

John Aschbacher
sports writer

Going into his freshman year in a new high school, Taner Dogan had to choose which soccer jersey he wanted to wear.

Due to the rule prohibiting players to play for both Academy and high school soccer, Dogan had a decision to make. Dogan preferred to play for his Scott Gallagher club team because of familiarity with the training sessions. The Academy team plays throughout the year, leaving little time for other sports, even high school soccer. While some players may be opposed to playing soccer the whole year, Dogan said it is one of the reasons he chose Academy over Kirkwood.

"It definitely makes everybody better players," Dogan said. "With consistent training throughout the year, each individual team is more successful."

There are multiple conferences for Academy soccer throughout the nation depending on where an athlete lives. The training structures are the same for each team, which provided Dogan a sense of familiarity when joining a new team.

Another reason Dogan decided to play for the Academy is the exposure. He believes playing for the Academy team benefits his future.

"Most of the best players in the country are on it," Dogan said. "So playing against the higher competition will make me a better player."

While the rule may benefit some higher level players, many coaches agree high school teams suffer from the loss of skilled players who could make an impact on their team.

"It pulls talented players away from your program," Chris Steinmetz, head boys' varsity soccer coach, said. "It denies these kids the opportunity to play high school soccer."

Coaches say the rule also takes away the players' ability to represent their school in a sport they love.

"Playing soccer for your high school is a big deal. A big experience," Steinmetz said. "I know a lot of those guys would like to be playing for their high school."

Many high school players and coaches do not approve of the rule because players are being forced to miss the entire experience of high school soccer.

"I think it's completely unfair to the kids and the sport," John Carter, junior midfielder, said. "It's depriving those kids of the experience of high school sports."

Although the rule does not benefit nor hinder individual schools, it changes the game as a whole. Without some of the premier players on the field, some players say the level of competition is reduced.

"Missouri has always been one of the most competitive states in the nation," Carter said. "Taking away those players is taking away from our competitive edge."

Dogan said he likes playing for Academy, but realizes he is missing the high school soccer experience. He does not plan on playing for KHS.

"In the long run, [the rule] will benefit the best players in the United States," Dogan said. "They're going to have an opportunity to play higher level soccer 10 months out of the year."



Woody Kipp
sports writer

Andrew Phillips was forced with one of the hardest decisions of his life this past summer.

Phillips, who has been playing soccer since he was three years old, had to decide whether he was going to continue playing KHS soccer or play for the St. Louis Scott Gallagher Academy team during the school year. Phillips said his main reason for choosing KHS was him wanting to play his senior year.

"It was a hard decision," Phillips, varsity forward and midfielder, said. "But I felt like senior year is my last year to have fun with soccer."

Phillips took all of the summer to finalize his choice.

A big reason for choosing his school team over club included the length of the club season.

"I just didn't think it was needed to have a 12-month season," Phillips said. "The timing was a big reason for me not playing club."

In addition to playing soccer, Phillips is the extra point kicker on varsity football for KHS. He is also on the varsity water polo team for KHS. The long club season would have taken away these activities.

"This is my last year so I want to keep participating in all my extracurricular activities," Phillips said. "I love soccer, but it's not my whole life."

While Phillips eventually made his decision, he still found it difficult to part ways with the club team that he had always played for.

"It was very hard for me to leave," Phillips said. "I was leaving behind teammates that were friends and losing an opportunity to play top competition."

However, Phillips also realized he had strong incentive to play for KHS because he felt they were a team loaded with talent. So far he has been right, with the Pioneers posting a record of 16-4 as of Oct. 25. Phillips has scored five goals, assisted on seven goals and has a total of 17 points on the season.

Marcus Griggs recognizes the importance of having Phillips back. Griggs, junior, said Phillips is the key to keeping the offense balanced and in rhythm.

"Phillips has great vision of the field," Griggs said. "He is a playmaker that just knows how to make things happen for our offense."

Phillips is looking at Division I and Division II schools where he can continue playing soccer in college. He says that some college coaches would have rather seen him play club, but most do not have a preference.

Although Phillips believes he made the right decision for himself, he thinks that Taner Dogan [see other story], who chose St. Louis Scott Gallagher Academy over KHS, also made a good choice.

"If I was his age (14), then I definitely would have played club," Phillips said. "But it's my last year of high school so I wanted to show my loyalty to Kirkwood."

Even now that the KHS soccer season is nearing its end, Phillips said he does not regret his decision. He said it has been a blast sticking with his KHS team and his teammate agree.

"Andrew brings such a good attitude to the team," Jay Travis, junior, said. "We are just a much better team when everybody sticks together."

Grant McKenna photographer
photo illustration by Dan Weyerich

Emily Willis
sports writer

Crossing the finish line, Ryan McNamara is exhausted after a vigorous 3.1 mile-long race. After catching their breath and cooling down, McNamara and the rest of the boys' cross country team have a special tradition. After every race, the seniors on the team pour a glass of chocolate milk for their teammates. Once all the runners get a glass of milk, they chug it together. This tradition is unique to the boys' cross country team, but this habit is more than just a team ritual. It is scientifically proven to be beneficial to their health.

According to gotchocolatemilk.com and fooducate.com, chocolate milk is the most beneficial recovery drink for athletes after an intense workout of any type. This is because chocolate milk contains a balanced ratio of carbohydrates and proteins that are necessary for rebuilding, refueling and repairing muscles.

"I am a firm believer," McNamara said. "It feeds our mind, body, spirit and soul."

Chocolate milk is effective because it helps replenish the body with necessary nutrients. Many of these nutrients are not found in water or sports drinks like Gatorade. Chocolate milk provides vitamin A, B vitamins, natural electrolytes and calcium. Calcium is particularly important because rigorous exercise causes substantial calcium loss. Calcium strengthens the bones, which helps reduce the possibility of stress fractures according to gotchocolatemilk.com.

In addition, chocolate milk is less expensive than other drinks designed for athletes. It is cheaper than name brand as well as generic sports drinks, and can be bought in many different stores and sizes. An eight ounce serving of chocolate milk is 44 cents, while a eight ounce serving of Gatorade is 60 cents.

"It's up to the athlete to drink what they

want,"

Michael Rath, senior and cross country runner, said. "Chocolate milk is relatively inexpensive, so if an athlete thinks it helps, they should be able to get it."

While chocolate milk is beneficial as a recovery drink, it is thick and sits in one's stomach if drank before or during a workout. Instead, athletes should drink water or a sports drink, according to Wayne Baldwin, boys' cross country coach.

"[According to my coach, Pam Harris], I'm supposed to keep a water bottle with me at all times, and stay hydrated all day, especially before a race," Annie Cockerline, junior and cross country runner, said.

Other drinks are also beneficial depending on the goals of an athlete. Water is necessary to stay hydrated. Sports drinks provide electrolytes to the body that need to be replaced as they are lost through sweat. Protein shakes help build muscle quicker according to gotchocolatemilk.com.

According to Baldwin, water is key for all athletes before, during and after a game or race, rather than chocolate milk or anything else. Water as well and a balanced diet are necessary for staying healthy and hydrated. Baldwin believes the milk is too fattening and has too many sugars to be healthy for

any athlete after a workout.

"It's milk, which is a natural product, but when you add all that stuff to it, like sugars, it loses it's benefit," Baldwin said.

Water and Gatorade are both beneficial, according to Denise Grider, athletic trainer, but chocolate milk provides a wide variety of necessary nutrients. All three drinks help athletes stay strong and healthy, but they all do different things.

"All three drinks are important in replenishing the body's needs," Grider said. "They each provide some benefits that are equally necessary."

Because chocolate milk helps athletes recover, McNamara makes it a part of his everyday life.

"Live by the milk, and die by the milk," McNamara said.



Sarah Heet
photographer