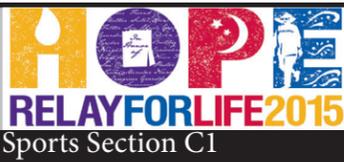


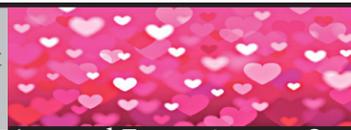
What's next in the issue?



Strongsville kicks off Relay for Life



Picking classes best for you



Valentine's Day ideas both for couples and alone

Sports Section C1

Opinion Section B1

Arts and Entertainment Section D1



Do something great today... it will be in the paper tomorrow. Do something great today... it will be in the paper tomorrow.



Grace Mutti
Journalist



Julianna Mathiellis
Journalist

Happy 200th, Strongsville!

Throughout life's trials and tribulations, sometimes the only way to prevail is to constantly hold one thought in your mind: there is a light that exists at the end of the dark, deprived tunnel that is known as humanity. What is this light, one might ask? It is not achieving great wealth or being deemed "successful," but rather it is the power of community. This exists in different ways, yet each way is unique. In the greater scheme, one community is simply a mediocre dot, but to Strongsville citizens, their city means much more. Founded in 1816 by John Strong, our small town contained a miniscule population of a few hundred. Exactly two hundred years later, Strongsville now boasts the population of 44,730 members. De-

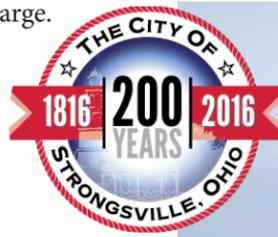
growth, one thing is for certain- the close bond between residents exists at the same strength as two hundred years ago.

This past October, City Council passed a vote putting \$25,000 towards the celebration in February. As a community, the members decided to fundraise; this admirable act of citizens rising up as a united family will only emphasize the strength of the community. Contributions from the school districts and other outside organizations will ensure that the event is a success. This money is being put toward signs, artwork, banners and various other items to publicize the accomplishments of the Strongsville community over the two hundred years since its development. They also wish to invite the community to the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center for a kick-off celebration with cake on

Feb. 25, free of charge.

Mayor Tom Perciak suggested that the events be free and open to both seniors and children. In response, members have discussed enhancing already celebrated events in Strongsville such as the City Club's Rib Burnoff, the Strongsville Homecoming, Day at the Chalet, and Breakfast on the Covered Bridge.

Aside from embellishing these events, attendees of the planning session also want to throw a community picnic. Strongsville celebrates its bicentennial this summer and remind the "bigger scheme" of the significance of community. Togetherness will continue to carry Strongsville through to its successful future. Strongsville truly depicts the meaning of family.



"Will You Marrow Me?" NHS Partners to Raise Awareness



Lindsey Blomquist
Layout Editor

It's time to find your perfect match--bone marrow match that is. In the upcoming spring at SHS, the National Honors Society will be partnering with Be The Match at BeTheMatch.org, to encourage people ages 18 to 44 to sign up to become a donor. Details are not finalized yet, but eligible students and faculty should keep notice of the dates to come in April.

As bone marrow will always be in demand, candidates for donation are in constant need. Bone marrow is a tissue found in bones

and is primarily responsible for blood cell production, playing a key role in both the circulatory and lymphatic system. Without bone marrow, your blood could not transport oxygen throughout your body and would not be able to fight off disease.

However, many people do experience bone marrow deficiency because the immature cells, known as stem cells, in the marrow does not develop properly, which is the root of many disease, such as Leukemia.

These illnesses require bone marrow transplants, but many people do not have a match. Family members rarely fit the bill, leaving it up to the kindness of strangers to save their lives. Though it is believed that blood type and bone marrow type correlate, they are not related and family members with

the same blood type do not necessarily match in bone marrow. Bone marrow is very hard to match as it is very specific.

The best match occurs when a person's human leukocyte antigen (HLA) matches the HLA of another person. HLA is a protein found on most cells in the body. Bone mar-

"Accept the proposal with pride!"

row matches more closely with those who have similar DNA markers, so it is typical for those of the same race and gender to be a closer match once immediate siblings are ruled out.

Many myths about bone marrow donations exist and because of these myths people are reluctant to donate. Despite popular belief, most donations do not involve

surgery. Instead a procedure called peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) donation is used.

This simple procedure uses the drug, filgrastim, to stimulate blood stem cell growth; the blood is removed and these cells are collected by a machine and the blood is then returned.

Less than 5% of your bone marrow could be used to save a life; with such a small amount, you would still stay strong, and what you gave would replace itself within two months.

The discomfort is temporary with mild side effects such as headaches or bone and muscle aches when using the PBSC donation. Recovery time does not take long, taking one to two days before resuming your



Sara Ludwig
Journalist

normal routine.

It does not cost any money to donate as people will be rewarded with the pleasure that they have done good in the world. By signing up, you are committing to help those in need when the time comes. Be the match for someone special and choose to donate.



News

Relay For Life Kick Off Luncheon 2016



Fatima Sajjad
Editor in Chief

“We want people to know that this community is determined and motivated in trying to find a cure for cancer.” Relay for Life Kick Off Event Co-Chair, Theresa Wise, continued to describe her anticipation for the fundraiser’s return in the spring and looks forward to the awareness the event will provide.

Cuyahoga County Public Library hosted American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life Kick Off Lunch on Jan. 16. Celebrating their third successful year in Strongsville, returning members converged to share in anticipation for the upcoming fourth annual Relay for Life fundraiser

in the spring. Special guests attended the lunch such as 2016’s Honorary Survivor, Kim Crumby, and American Cancer Society representatives who welcomed and addressed the room full of participants with information regarding the upcoming Relay for Life event.

At the lunch, Theresa Wise discussed accomplishments from previous fundraisers as well as goals that she hopes to achieve in the spring. Relay for Life announced that this year’s event will run for a total of 20 hours while including extra entertainment such as live performances from Strongsville’s School of Rock, activities, and food for all participants.

“What we would like to do is increase our fundraising compared to last year and see more of the public come to the event”, said Wise. Receiving two awards from the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life has been highly successful in

American Cancer Society by providing the following: 4,727 cancer patients and caregivers with free info and support via hotlines and their cancer organization, 3,868 patients with rides to and from treatment through their Road to Recovery program, 1,025 nights of free lodging to survivors and caregivers when travelling away



Morgan Myers (Photography Editor) with 2016 Honorary Survivor, Kim Crumby

from home for treatment at Hope Lodge facilities and 85 early career researchers were supported by turning to the American Cancer Society to investigate cancer, its causes, or how to help patients cope with the effects of disease and its treatment.

Kim Crumby, Honorary Survivor of 2016, shared personal statements regarding the impacts of cancer within her life and the combined efforts of the community around her.

“I never took the support that I received after I was diagnosed with cancer for granted,” stated Crumby, “I have kept all the cards, notes and jewelry I had been given and all the people out there who supported me and continue to help me are just phenomenal.” Crumby also had concerns regarding the costs of treatment.

“I wish there was a way to get the cost of the drugs to come down”, Crumby stated, “it blows my mind whenever I see my bills and what the cost of treatment is. I am aware that thousands of people are in need of treatment therefore I want these fundraisers to not only help us cure cancer so we don’t need them in general but to also help reduce the cost that drugs are making us pay.” Crumby was escorted to the luncheon by her husband, Paul Crumby, and was presented with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the community.

Relay for Life’s story started with a small initiative taken decades ago by a single man. According to the American Cancer Society, in May 1985, Dr. Gordy Klatt walked and ran for 24 hours around a track in Tacoma, Washington and raised \$27,000 to help the American Cancer Society fight cancer. The following year, over 340 supporters joined to participate in the overnight event. Since then, Relay For Life has grown into a worldwide phenomenon, raising almost \$5 billion to battle cancer.

When Relay for Life was



introduced to Strongsville in 2013, volunteers planned for the event for over two months until finally making the dream a reality on May 18-19. Raising over \$52,354 that year, Relay for Life was already \$17,354 over their initial goal. The success of the fundraiser made it possible to win “Rookie of the Year Award” and many other awards from the American Cancer Society.

The luncheon proved to be a success overall, the food served was catered by Strongsville’s local Chick-fil-A and guests enjoyed the assortments of sandwiches, salads and cookies displayed before them. Excited for the success yet to come and filled with anticipation for the crowds that the event will draw, the atmosphere of the luncheon remained positive and hopeful for the spring.

Relay for Life will be held at Strongsville’s Pat Catan Stadium on May 14 and 15 from noon until 8 a.m. Participants attending the event in spring are encouraged to follow the theme, “Get Ready to Toon Out Cancer” by wearing cartoon inspired costumes and outfits to support the fundraiser.

Relay For Life of Strongsville
Interrupts your regularly
scheduled program to...



**Toon Out
Cancer!**

receiving donations for patients and families that are struggling with the costs of treatment and therapy. In 2015, over \$85,100 was raised in donations. The funds were able to advance the mission of the



The Dish on Strongsville’s New Restaurants



Haley Strnad
Journalist

Anbody hungry? Forget your New Year’s Resolutions and grab some grub at one of Strongsville’s up and coming restaurants in 2016 including: The River Dog Cafe, Hot Head Burritos, Square 22, Pita Pit, Pizza Fire, and a Mitchell’s Ice Cream Parlor. The River Dog Cafe, home of the infamous Cleveland loved Polish Boy, is a gourmet hotdog and sandwich cafe. It is family friendly and locally owned restaurant where everything is homemade. Service may not be speedy, but at least you know you’re getting a thoughtfully prepared, made to order meal.

Hot Head Burritos will certainly give Chipotle a run for its money with its line of sauces,

including their very own special sauce, that differs in intensity but are all equal in authentic Mexican flavor. Their wide range menu includes smaller versions of regular plates for the calorie watchers and their adorable smiling flame mascot affectionately named Leroy. Adios, Chipotle!

Square 22, a southern style restaurant originating from Savannah, Georgia, brings a new take on Southern comfort food with all of their products having been transported from local area farms and markets. Grassfed beef, homemade espressos and hand mixed cocktails are their specialties, along with their early morning to midafternoon breakfast offers. Square 22’s Strongsville location will seat 137 on the inside and 123 on their outside patio, assuring plenty of room for those eager for Southern home cooking.

Pita Pit is a Canadian based restaurant that specializes in delicious, healthy eating. Customers can create their ideal pita with choices of meat and vegetables. Savory breakfast Pitas are also

available for those craving something unique for breakfast.

Pizza Fire offers an innovative, new take on the heavenly pie everyone knows and loves. With more than 40 different toppings to choose from, six different sauces, and five different cheeses, you can build the pizza of your dreams at this Chipotle-style pizza kitchen with a stone fire oven that guarantees you a hot, crispy pizza in three minutes or less.

These exciting new additions will be located in Westwood Commons, with the River Dog Cafe, Hot Head Burritos, and Square 22 having their own retail plaza. Pizza Fire will stand in the same location as Tomo once did, swapping authentic Japanese cuisine for Italian eats. Mitchell’s will be right near Goldie’s diner, so customers can pop in for a sweet treat after finishing their dinners.



Student work is displayed on the ceiling to mimic the Fiesta (See A3)

News

SHS Second Annual Science Exposition



Lauren Gregory
Journalist

On Jan. 27, science teachers and their students hosted community members for the second annual Strongsville High School science exposition in the school gymnasium. Since the 1950s, students, teachers, and family members have been crowding into gymnasiums and cafeterias to witness the work done by dedicated teachers and hard working students.

Strongsville High School has no objection to this beloved tradition.

Displayed throughout the room, projects all the way from CPE to AP Physics caught the attention of visitors as they walked in. Students were given the chance to display their career reports, Believe in Ohio projects, and CPE pinewood derby cars. Parents were then given the opportunity observe all of their kids' hard work.

A new addition to this year's science exposition was the career projects, completed by both regular and AP Physics students in the hopes of educating students about the types of careers available in the STEM field. The physics teachers felt this addition was very important for the students.



Projects from the CPE science class.

Heather McGrath, Physics Teacher at Strongsville High School, points out, "There are stats out there that say the state of Ohio will have over 200,000 jobs in the STEM field by the year 2016. However, we are not going to have the graduates to fill those jobs. We feel it is essential for students to look at STEM careers that are perhaps not familiar, giving them the opportunity to fill those careers."

Not only was the exposition educational, but it provided entertainment as well. Eugene Keen, biology teacher and Eddie Staats, sophomore, played rock music for the guests including a tribute to recently passed David Bowie. Senior Tara Garcia's chickens provided a feathery and lively addition for all the spectators as well, as she brought them out for people to pet.

The planning team is positive that this year's science exposition was a fun learning experience for parents and students of all ages; they are looking forward to the new ideas and projects that next year's science exposition will bring to Strongsville High School.



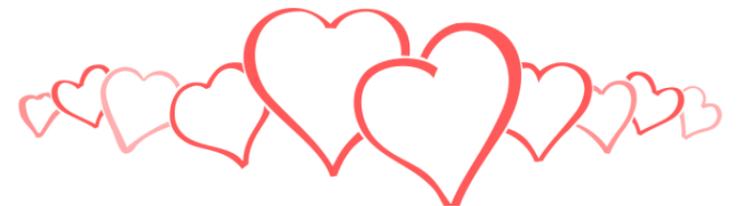
Students showcase their projects with tri-fold boards.



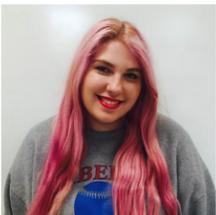
The science department captures the fun with a selfie.



Tara Garcia with her chicken, Dorothy. Science Teacher Joe Yuska's son Holden, 3, pets Dorothy.



Spotlight: Hot Air Balloons



Maggie Pastors
Journalist

"Over my 28 years here, I've always said to students 'Why not you?'"

Terri Harbart, art teacher at Strongsville High School, teaches her students to channel personal exploration and adventure into their art.

Their most recent projects were inspired by the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta which takes place every year in one of New Mexico's largest cities and features up to 700 colorful hot air balloons, up to the size of two classrooms.

"Materials depend on the choice of the mobile's style," Harbart explained. The students used "Fabrics, different types of paper," and decided on "adding embellishments to portray their final creation."



Albuquerque Fiesta iamnm.com

Harbart explains, "The next step up from Art I takes the techniques they learned to the next level to find out who the students are as artists. As their instructor, I use inspiration from the world. This project was inspired by Alexander Calder, creator of the 3-D mobile."

According to the students, mimicking Calder's work gave them insight into how much time and energy a 3-dimensional design differs from a flat work, such as a painting.

Harbart continues, "My personal travels around the world help me to inspire kids to travel and see different artworks." Harbart's goals for the project were for the students to learn about 3-D design, about Alexander Calder, and a world-famous event that utilizes art as its primary goal. They learn about various artists and styles and what those artists have created.

The balloons took a little over two weeks to construct; students put in time every day and even took them home to perfect their embellishments. Many of the students are incredibly proud of the art they have created to brighten up the classroom, and they realized just how much work goes into something true-to-scale.

Harbart is proud of the project as it inspired students to say "Why not me?"



Brooklynne Elliot
Journalist

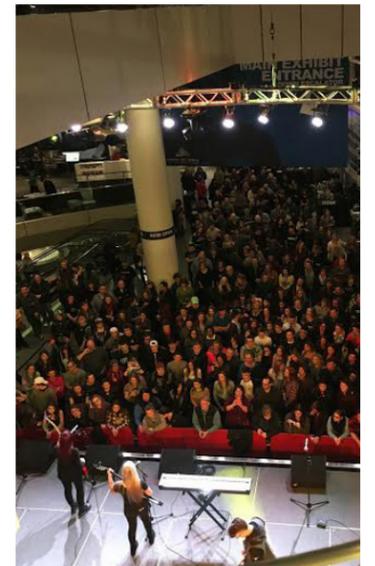
Bass thumping, drums pounding, and guitars blaring, these are just some of the sounds that can be heard at the 2016 High School Rock Off. Every January and February for the past 20 years, Tri-C has hosted the competition, trying to find the best high school bands. Each competing band is given the opportunity to play three songs. Most choose to play their own original songs, but others cover songs from various artists.

The competition has four preliminary rounds and then a final round. Each preliminary round has three bands that move on to the finale.

This year's finale is on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The tickets are \$10 at the door or at www.tickets.rockhall.com. Everyone also receives free admission into the Rock Hall Museum with ticket purchase.

Round one winners are: Butter, Drift, and Trusting Obscurity. The advancing bands from the second round of preliminaries are: For We Are Many, a heavy metal rock/punk band whose high volume performance

and unexpectedly commanding voice had the crowd jumping. Ballroom Charades and Dirty Somethin' also had a great stage performance, but the singing could use some polishing. The bands that are moving on from the third round of competition are: Pineapple Incident, Three Legged Chairs and First to Eleven. The last preliminary competition was held on Jan. 30 with the winners being: Jack's Mom, Foolish Souls, and the Wave. Make sure to get your tickets for the finale, because they are prone to sell out quickly! Also good luck to all the competing bands! The amount of talent that these young performers have is very clear to see.



A view of the crowd from backstage in the rafters



The winners from the second preliminary competition on Jan. 16



The Strongsville-based band, 1-TAKE

Opinion

Editorial: CCP vs. AP Which is better for your future?



Fatima Sajjad
Editor-in-Chief



Lauren Gregory
Columnist

Scheduling has commenced and controversy over “CCP” vs. “AP” courses is building. Students and families are debating the choice of joining Advanced Placement classes here at Strongsville High School or enrolling in the College Credit Plus program offered through Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C), Lorain County Community College (LCC), or Cleveland State.

Many students tend to shy away from AP classes due to the level of significance and responsibility associated with their coursework. This level is known for being more challenging for students and they are intimidated by the final tests which are difficult to complete and require time.

Aside from these drawbacks, AP classes provide numerous benefits for all students that enroll. The classes look appealing on college applications, especially to the more competitive schools, such as The Ohio State University and University of Cincinnati, who are looking for academic diligence. The credits received through AP are accepted by many schools across the nation, which is not always the case with CCP classes.

Other advantages include that it is possible to receive multiple credits for some courses. For example, “APUSH” or Advanced Placement U.S. History can potentially earn up to three credits, or essentially nine to 12 credit hours in college.

AP classes are conveniently held at your high school; it is easier to get along with classmates and continue “the high school experience,” considering that you have known these friends for the past four years or more. The teachers are more experienced with high school students and how to teach them; they may even know your learning style from past classes. Even driving is not an issue considering that the classes you take are included within your normal school day.

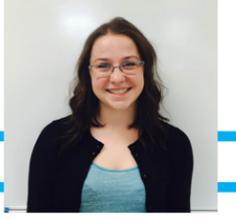
On top of that, many of the classes through the College Credit Plus program do not dive as in-depth into subjects as their AP counterparts, and do not give you the same challenge that AP does. AP classes, most importantly, prepare you for the rigor of college tests which continuously prepares you for the life you may hope to lead. As a result of a lesser challenge, many CCP classes do not give you the same amount of college readiness as AP.

Guidance Counselor, Megan Sislowksi states, “For the sake of demonstrating rigor, AP is the better way to go.”

College credit plus is a good option for those looking to gain college credit, yet do not want the extreme workload that AP entails. CPP is also available for students in 7th grade and above, so you can earn more credit at a young age. Financially, this saves you money on your undergraduate degree because you can earn high school and college credit simultaneously. It is not to be taken lightly though, if you fail, you may have to pay for those credits.

Whether you firmly believe you will benefit most from either CCP or AP classes, both provide an abundance of advantages that can help ease the tensions of the first year of college. Both require an immense commitment and dedication, however they are strongly recommended by teachers because of the experience they provide you with. No matter which option you go with, you can never go wrong if you gain some early college credit while still in high school.

The Nerd's Corner



Lauren Gregory
Columnist

○ Tips for Picking Your Classes

The simple act of leafing through a gargantuan pamphlet filled with classes and clicking a few buttons online to enroll in a class that has the power to determine the rest of your life and future happiness. But let us be real for a hot minute, who really cares that much?

In all honestly though, scheduling can have a really big impact on how you spend your next year. Scheduling is a time to step back and really evaluate your life choices, like “Why did you take three study halls last year?” or “Why do I want to enroll in all AP classes next year?” Do not let that feeling of impending doom because you cannot make a sound decision about your future creep in, because once again, I have some tips to make your class selections easier and hopefully... painless.

1. Talk to your current teachers- You spend four hours a week with each of your teachers so they know your school abilities best and can give you the best recommendations based on the class's work load and

your personal abilities. Be on the lookout for teachers from different departments coming to your class to talk about different electives. If one of these classes really interests you, stop by and ask that teacher a few questions about what to expect.

2. See your guidance counselor- Set up a meeting with your guidance counselor to ensure you do not need to fulfill any specific credits in order to graduate. Guidance counselors can give you more detail on certain classes and their work loads, so make sure to see them if you have any questions regarding course work and finding your right fit. Also, they can give you information on what to take in relation to your path for college or future career.

3. Consider your other engagements- It is always important to remember your other responsibilities when picking classes. If you know that you will have a lot on your plate in the coming year, maybe consider taking a few classes with a smaller workload. This is not to say that you should make a

schedule full of easy elective courses, make sure to challenge yourself without going overboard, because you do not want to sacrifice your sanity just for a class.

4. Pick according to interests- Beside the core classes that we all must take, explore your interests in the many different electives that SHS has to offer. Try out an art class that you never have before, or if you are into science look through the difference science electives like Anatomy, Astronomy, and Forensics.

High school is a time to discover what you like. Use this time to explore the different opportunities that each subject offers.



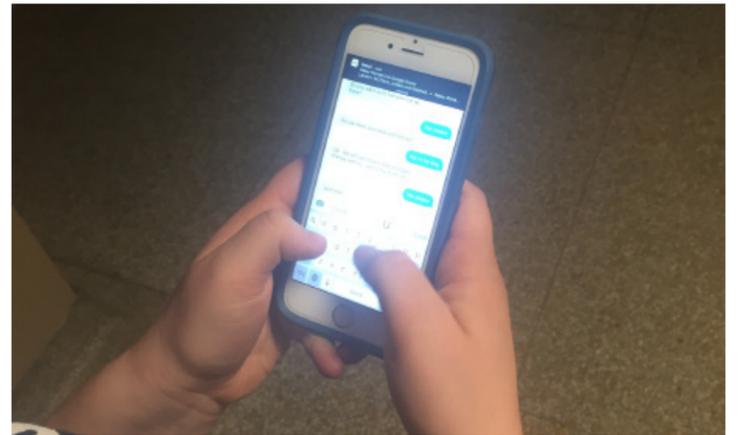
Jacob Taylor
Journalist

In today's world, texting is the current teenager's main mode of communication, but is much less personal than calling. There is something so “old school” about calling someone in this day and age that it almost feels strange when we actually hit the dial button.

Picking up the phone and calling is better than texting because it better expresses emotion. Calling someone allows the same experience of conversing with another as they would in real life, minus body language or facial expression. Emojis are great, but they can only help influence the conversational vibe to a certain extent; they can come off as misunderstanding and sometimes provide someone with the wrong message depending on which emoji is chosen.

Calling also allows for less social stress. During text conversations, it can often take a long time for someone to respond which can take away from the conversation; without fast responses it is easy to become

Stop Texting, Start Speaking Make a difference in communication



bored or hurt. Over text, asking another person a question without an immediate response can frequently cause a sense of doubt, leaving the sender wondering if what they said was too stupid to ask. Speaking over the phone can be better in most situations, it doesn't leave anyone waiting too long for a response.

When on the phone, time and attention is being given to the person on the other end of the line, which many people appreciate. In contrast, sometimes we can find ourselves responding to a text because we do not want to seem rude.

Texting, aside from personal dilemmas, brings about safety issues. Texting and driving can increase the chance of getting into a car crash by over 23 times.

Calling while driving is not the wisest thing to do, but ideally increases the chances of staying alive after a crash by 1.3 times, according to textinganddrivingsafety.com. Along with these statistics, texting while driving is accountable for over 11 million deaths a year. Many new cars allow for bluetooth connection, allowing for conversation over the speakers, increasing the safety even more.

Texting has the tendency to come off as impersonal, misunderstanding, and boring. It would be ideal for people to start calling one another over the phone again. It is both personal and satisfying while allowing opportunities for friends to grow closer. Pick up the phone and dial!

Sports



Go Big.. Or Go Home Strongsville Lacrosse Starts Training



Jimmy Keating
Sports Writer

Strongsville High School Boys Lacrosse Program expected a little more from their first season as a varsity-sanctioned sport. Battered with injuries and a young roster, the 2015 Mustangs prevailed to finish off their season strong, giving something the team can build on for future seasons. The good news: the future looks bright.

As daylight expands and the green grass on the field starts to grow, the lacrosse season creeps closer, the start of something special. The Mustangs look to advance deep into the playoffs.

Their expectations for the team are high and the team is up to the challenge. This year the Mustangs play a tough schedule facing powerhouse programs like Medina and Solon.

Leading the team this year through the tough schedule is Coach George Muller, in his first year as Head Coach. George Muller was an assistant coach last year and took the spot of head varsity coach after Coach Adam Wiggins retired.

Coach George Muller played college lacrosse at the College of Wooster from 1977-1979 and at Hofstra University from 1979-1982 where he was a Captain for Hofstra his last two seasons (1981 and 1982). The new coach continues to play lacrosse at the Cleveland Lacrosse Club, something he has enjoyed for over fifteen years. Muller uses this experience to lead his team to success in the upcoming season and hopefully for years to come.

The season is near and the Mustangs are already hard at work running and working on stick skills three days a week and lifting twice a week.

The Mustangs head outside as soon as the warm weather rolls in. Check out your Mustangs this spring as they rip up Pat Catan's Field this season.



Strongsville Basketball Earns Tough January Wins



Brandon Kagan
Sports Writer

The month of January was interesting for the Strongsville basketball program, to say the least. Starting off the month with a loss to Elyria at home on the 5th, the Varsity Mustangs bounced back with a two-point win over a strong Solon team, a game which featured 19 points from senior point guard Jonnie Hopkins.

The following Tuesday, the boys traveled to the home of their cross-town rivals, the Brunswick Blue Devils for a matchup that has attracted crowds since the rivalry began years ago. However, the Mustangs could not come away with the win as Brunswick point guard Michael Quiring torched the Mustang defense for 31 points. Maybe the Blue Devils caught our boys on a bad day. But it didn't stop there.

This road loss was part of a four-game losing streak, including an unexpected near 30-point blowout dealt by the Padua Bruins, as well as a 20-point loss to Euclid and a close defeat to the Raiders of Shaker Heights, a team that the Mustangs had beaten in their first meeting this season.

The Mustangs came together for a game the next Tuesday, and it would not be an easy one since it was against the powerhouse Medina Bees, a team that had blown the Strongsville boys out earlier in the season. The game featured many talents, as Medina starred their 7'1" Michigan University commit Jon Teske, as well as young talents Ben Geschke and Luke Schaefer.

Looking to forget their last experience with the mighty Bees, the two teams battled all the way down to the final seconds of the fourth quarter, when a baseline drive from senior point guard Sean Aske and pass to the wing to senior guard Jimmy Pesarchick resulted in a buzzer-beating three-pointer off the glass that would give the Mustangs the win. The wild finish cleared the bench and the student section as fans rushed to mob Pesarchick and celebrate his late game heroics.

This victory over a state-ranked team sparked a new fire that the boys had lost after their 4-0 start to the season, one they carried with them in their Friday matchup with 2013 OHSA state champion, the Mentor Cardinals. Once again, the game was close all night long as the boys from both teams battled their hearts out.

Strongsville's senior forward Jacob Yezbak recorded 23 points in just the first half and was the highest scorer of the night. This game also was down to the wire,

but once again, the Mustangs were able to pull off another huge upset by defeating the Cardinals by three at home.

This was exactly how the boys wanted to end the month of January. Now they are heading strong into their final four games of the regular season, all rematches against Solon, Elyria, Brunswick, and Euclid. Three of the four ended in a loss, but the boys are hoping their momentum can keep them going through this final stretch of the season and into state tournament play.

In the 2014-15 season, the Mustangs were sectional champions, followed by a loss to Saint Ignatius that ended their post-season.

Will things be different this time around? If the wins against Medina and Mentor are any indicator, the Mustangs have a bright post-season ahead of them.



Waitingfornextyear.com
bleacherreport.com

Different Direction Same Goal for Cavs



Matt Weninger and
Guest Sports Writer

On Jan. 22, the Cleveland Cavaliers shocked the city of Cleveland and the entire NBA by firing the Cavaliers' head coach David Blatt. It was no secret that former Euroleague basketball coach had been struggling to get the most out of his star stricken team, however NBA fans and media alike were shocked at his release.

It seems a head coach that had just been to the NBA Finals and managed the number two record in the Eastern Conference at 53 wins and 29 losses would be secure in his position. It did not take long for rumors to fly that "Coach Killer" LeBron James had requested David Blatt's removal from his head coaching position.

Although James consistently denied having called for David Blatt's job, it was clear to any NBA fan that the two did not see eye to eye from the start. The most vibrant indication of Blatt's lack of respect from the team came when LeBron James took the clipboard from his coach and changed the final play of the game against the Chicago Bulls.

"To be honest, the play that was drawn up, I scratched it. I just told coach, just give me the ball. We either going to go into overtime or I'ma win it for us." James said. Instances such as these as well as overall quality of performance on the court led the organization to believe that the locker room was lost, and a coaching change was in order. According GM David Griffin, it appeared that the team had lost its "swag" and that players were not being held accountable for poor play. With a stagnant offense and a lack of chemistry on the court, the Cavaliers' organization made the switch to Coach Tyronn Lue. Coach Lue had previously been considered for the Cavaliers' head coaching position in the summer of 2014. The belief is that Tyronn Lue's credentials are better suited to lead a team of all-stars to the finals, and to hold them accountable for their

performance along the way. Coach Lue was mentored by NBA Championship winning head coach Doc Rivers while acting as his assistant with the Los Angeles Clippers. Lue even had a successful 11-year playing career in the NBA.

Taking over a team as head coach mid-season is a challenge for any coach. The greatest challenge for Coach Lue will be facing the championship expectations the city and team has now placed on his shoulders. However, coaching players like LeBron James, Kevin Love, and Kyrie Irving should not intimidate Lue because of his experience coaching other all-star players like Blake Griffin and Chris Paul.

Not to mention during his career on the court, he played alongside players such as Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant, and Shaquille O'Neal. Not many coaches would be able to handle such incredible talent in a controlled manner, but the Cavs have faith that Lue will be able to do just that.

What changes will be made with Lue as head coach? Expect a more up-tempo offense that will allow the Cavs to handle more possessions and continue to be one of the NBA's top scoring offenses. Players will be held accountable for holding the ball and stopping the offense. "I talked to Bron," Lue said Saturday, via ESPN's Dave McMenamin. "I told him, 'I got to hold you accountable."

It starts with you first ... then everybody else has got to fall in line." It seems that if LeBron James can get behind Tyronn Lue as his new head coach then the rest of the team will follow suit.

The Fans can also expect more use of the bench to shorten the minutes played by the starters. Players like Mo Williams and Anderson Varejao may see more playing time allowing star players like LeBron and Kyrie to rest and recover more often in order to be finals ready.

Only time will tell; all that's left now is to wait and see as Lue has a championship caliber roster in front of him, and a city eager for a title. Teams like Golden State and San Antonio are putting up historic seasons, but with the LeBron James and an improved system, the Cavs may avenge their NBA Finals defeat.



Arts & Entertainment

Strongsville Solo and Ensemble



Sydney Reik
Journalist

Ah yes, 'tis the season for panic, disorganization, and procrastination. It is Solo and Ensemble time for our musicians at SHS. Solo and Ensemble is a melodious contest throughout Greater Cleveland in which talented artists in band and orchestra are graded on a musical scale from 1-5. Students

who earn a one, the highest rating one can receive, are thrilled to see their reward because they earned it, through hard work and dedication, or just pure luck. From Barat to Bozza to Bach, students have been preparing for this event since just after marching band season

This year's Solo and Ensemble was held in the heart of Fairview High School. Students from all around the area gathered at Fairview, with members of our own school numbering over 150. According to our band director Brian King, "About 75% of the events at solo and ensemble were from here in Strongsville." Mr. King states that in the Strongsville band, 22

soloists received the highest rating possible, and 14 ensembles also received this excellent score.

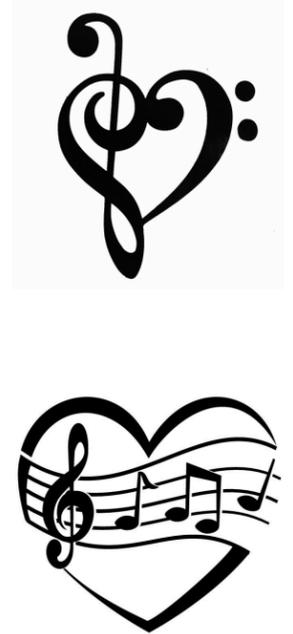
Even though the Solo and Ensemble contest has passed and band geeks and orch dorks do not have this on their over-stuffed schedules to worry about, the panic shall not subdue, for there is a full band and orchestra contest coming up this February 19th and 20th.

This competition is for the entire state, run by the Ohio Music Education Association, taking place in Hudson and Brecksville-Broadview Heights. Students and teachers at Strongsville High must diligently prepare for this contest season, as it is a bit earlier this year than last.

Band and orchestra contest is also scored on a scale of 1-5. However, there are two components to this contest: the

floor and the sight reading room. On the floor, the bands and orchestras prepare three works to perform for three judges, one of which is a required selection. Right afterward, the music groups move onto the next stage, the sight reading room where both the students and their director have 8, and only 8, minutes to learn a piece that they have never seen before, perform it for a judge to the best of their ability, and scored accordingly.

While contest season can be stressful, it is also a glorious time of year when musicians may prove their hard work and dedication. Receiving feedback from a reliable and helpful source can help students improve for the future. An enormous thanks is in store for our music directors.



Executive Episodes

President's Day was created to commemorate our 44 fearless commanders in all their glory, but have we ever paused to wonder what did not make headlines during their time in office? From George Washington to Barack Obama, it is important to acknowledge that even the leaders of the free world were, well, human.

Our first president, George Washington, may have crossed the Delaware River, but John

Quincy Adams one-upped him and swam nude in the Potomac River. Harvard College class of 1787 Men's Swimming All-Star? William H. Taft, or "Big Bill" may have benefitted from swimming in an unrestricted body of water, considering this 332-pound man was once stuck in the White House bathtub.

This may seem unfortunate until you recall that William Henry Harrison was only president for 31 days before he

died of pneumonia. Mid-Atlantic/East Coast winters, have thou no mercy?

Speaking of the short-lived, how about the short-legged? James Madison rang in at 5'4" and 100 pounds! James Madison and 7th grade Me would have been partners-in-crime (and diplomacy!).

Gimme a U! Gimme an S! Gimme an A! George W. Bush began warming up for the public's eye and his well-versed

speeches by cheerleading in high school! "They underestimated me" (Bush)- if only cheerleading focused grammar as much as they do spelling.

To conclude on a February-inspired note, James Buchanan was the only president who never married. Keep that one in mind if you are feeling lonesome on Valentines Day!

Hopefully, these stories of the men to whom we entrust our nation strengthen your faith in

the undeniable flaws of the human race and remind you of your humble roots! With just a pinch of Super PAC cash and Foreign Policy experience, who knows- maybe you will be the next contestant on the Pres. Is Right!!!

Either way, it's another day off of school, and you can thank the presidents for that present.



George Washington
1789-1797
Crossed the Delaware River



James Madison
1809-1817
5'4" and 100 pounds



James Buchanan
1857-1861
The only president who never married.



William H. Taft
1909-1913
332 lb was stuck in the White House Bathtub



George W. Bush
2000-2008
College Cheerleader

The Grandeur of Groundhog Day

Every year, on February 2nd, His Highness Punxsutawney Phil arrives in his carriage in the fittingly named town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Surrounded by men in dress coats and top hats, it looks like more of an Old-English gathering rather than a spring prediction ceremony.

As Phil is carried out of his carriage and brought to the podium, he declares his forecast for the arrival of spring. As folklore has it, if a groundhog comes out of his burrow into the cloudy daylight, and we do not see his shadow, spring will arrive early.

However, if the sun is shining and a shadow is seen, we have six

more weeks of winter.

In a month dedicated almost entirely to Valentine's Day, let us show some love for these little guys and how hard they work for their exceptionally precise method of forecasting. Though Groundhogs Day enthusiasts boast a hopeful average of 75-90% accuracy with the groundhog's weather readings, The National Climatic Data Center states shockingly, "[t]he groundhog has shown no talent for predicting the arrival of spring, especially in recent years."

Imagine working long, hard hours in your burrow preparing your life's work, predicting spring, and then walk out and proudly observe your shadow and find there are six



weeks of winter ahead. That is proof that some days you should just stay in bed. From Dunkirk Dave of New York, to Sir Walter Wally from North Carolina, there's a struggling groundhog in us all!

They're stars, and they are just like us. They predict spring weather, they bite Mayor Bloomberg's hand, they search for validation in their careers, and they yearn for other's approval and a FRIENDS reunion.

Though when you google your name, do you find the title, "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, and Weather Prophet Extraordinary."

Predicting spring can be quite the hefty responsibility for a simple mammal.

Will it be an early spring or six more weeks of winter this year? Sorry, all you school kids looking for some snow days, it looks like spring is coming early this year. Whether you were hoping for an early spring or not, we got our prediction, and hopefully the hogs were in your favor this year.



Sarah Palocko
Columnist

Arts and Entertainment

Valentine's Day...



With A Date



Olivia Gasper
Journalist

Valentine's Day is filled with romance and fun activities with the one person you want to be with the most. The only question left unanswered would be how to plan for the best Valentine's Day.

Many date ideas can be perfect for the right couple, but that depends on what the couple likes to do together. Having common interests can make picking a date both would enjoy easier.

If you and your Valentine's Day date are feeling adventurous, try an outdoor date like hiking or horseback riding! Take advantage of this unusually beautiful "winter" weather.

If the two of you would like a more fancy dinner date, there are plenty of delicious restaurants to dine in at. There are many nice restaurants here in Strongsville such as the Pomeroy House, Rosewood Grill, Samurai Sushi Hibachi Steakhouse, and many more. Staying in town can be boring to some couples, so going to Cleveland for a whimsical night out is an awesome idea. Not only are there countless

restaurants to feast in, but the views of Cleveland can also be breathtaking.

Roaming around the popular streets and avenues of Cleveland with your date is a way to talk endlessly and learn about your date if it is the first time out together.

Lexi Gasper has her perfect night planned. "My date and I will be spending a romantic dinner out downtown and afterwards cuddling up to the cozy fire watching a movie." If going out is not your thing there are still many other options to make this night amazing and memorable.

Cooking or baking together is always a cute and yummy idea! No matter if it turns out delicious or goes terribly wrong, this is an activity a couple can enjoy.

Sometimes cute and simple dates are what a couple needs. Just spending the day together can make for a great Valentine's Day for certain couples.

Brianna Harding said, "We are more of a laid back couple so we were planning on going to the movies then afterwards just watching a movie at one of our houses."

Planning a date can be stressful, but by filling the day up with fun activities you and your date will enjoy can ease nerves and help you forget why you were even worried in the first place! There are many different ways to spend Valentine's Day, but with these captivating date ideas nothing can go wrong and it will leave you and your date with a great memory of Valentine's Day 2016.

By Yourself



Hannah Moskowitz
Journalist

If you are spending this Valentine's Day without a date or significant other, no problem. Spend the day with friends or family because chances are, you are not the only one spending this February 14th alone. Remember: it is just another day.

If you go out with friends, try to pick restaurants that are off the beaten path with smaller seating areas to help avoid couples going out for Valentine's Day, so you are not reminded about your single status.

As many people request off of work on Valentine's Day, you can pick up their shift and earn some extra cash. This will also keep your mind busy, instead of thinking about your lack of a date.

Many students are trying to rack up their community service hours, so use this day to your advantage. Those who have dates will likely not be spending the day volunteering, so you have

more of a variety to choose from. You can build up your hours as well as help someone else in need. Help out at a homeless shelter such as The City Mission in Downtown Cleveland.

Spread your love to animals who will always love you back. Whether you cuddle with your own pet or a friend's pet, spending the day with a fuzzy friend will bring you joy and make you happy. If you do not have a pet and none of your friends have a pet then you can go to a local animal shelter such as Berea Animal Rescue Friends (ARF) to "hangout" with some adorable animals.

Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday this year and with no school on President's Day, you can check a few items off your school to-do list. Spend the day studying or completing your homework so you can enjoy your Monday off without having to worry about getting your schoolwork done.

Many couples will be making their way to the theaters, and you can too. Ask your friends if they would go with you. Try to stay away from romance themed movies as those will be filled with couples. Go for a good action or horror film. Some good movies to see would be *The 5th Wave* rated PG-13, *The Boy* rated PG-13, and *How to be Single* rated R.

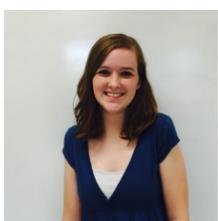
You can always spend the

evening at home or at a friend's house watching Netflix or Hulu instead of going out to the theater. It will be the perfect day to start a new series or season like *Parks and Recreation*, *Orange is the New Black*, or *30 Rock*. If you are running low on money and cannot go to the theaters, check out the RedBox.

While many would enjoy spending their day relaxing while watching a movie or TV show, others would much rather be active. Devote some of your time to working out or try a class such as yoga or zumba. Workout at the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center, open 9:00am-5:00pm on Sundays. The rec center offers multiple classes or you can try a class at AOK! Fitness on Pearl Road in Strongsville.

Use this day to "treat yo' self". Have a mini spa day and reserve a massage, have a mani/pedi, or get your hair done. Spend this time to reflect on how far you have come and use it as a single celebration day to take a deep breath and relax.

Finally, reward yourself on February 15th for making it through Valentine's Day single by going to your local candy supplier or store to buy chocolate and other Valentine's candy on sale. You can use either eat this candy yourself, give it away, or use it as the perfect gift for friends to show you care.



Grace Mutti
Journalist

It all starts the day Park resentfully allows Eleanor to sit next to him on the bus. A few comic books and mixtapes later these two misfits come to realize that though they are consistently called out for their differences by their peers and families, there is a possibility that someone else could feel the way they do. Struggling with appearances and family life, both Eleanor and Park become a reprieve for each other from their endless battle with the harsh reality that life is never fair. Set in the 1980s, this heart-touching novel pulls on your heartstrings because the author, Rainbow Rowell, touches on issues that can be found in people everywhere.

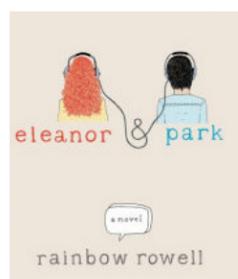
Eleanor and Park Rainbow Rowell

Self-acceptance is a major issue and many women (especially teens) can relate to Eleanor's insecurities. Eleanor's confidence is further broken down by her abusive father who makes her feel worthless and alone in her battle of self-discovery. Park, on the other hand, faces the obstacle of being outshone by his younger brother who is clearly the better of the two in the eyes of his father. People like Park who are put under parental pressure or feel they must compare themselves and their successes to those of their siblings and friends find self-acceptance challenging as well. Kelly Ribblett says "The themes are very relatable. You have Eleanor dealing with self-acceptance in an abusive parental relationship and Park trying to find a way to mesh American and Korean cultures in addition to his need to be an individual. Though these may be



extremes, there is something in each a person can relate to." In this story, Rowell has touched on major issues that force people to reconsider values and priorities. Both Eleanor and Park have their separate set of problems but together, those problems seem to fade into the background. In place of those problems come the most demanding questions of all: Can you learn to love someone while you are still learning to love yourself?

Can a first love ever last?



Julianna Mathiellis
Journalist

Go Set a Watchman Harper Lee



What is the meaning of "childhood?" Is it simply a stage of life between the insignificant ages of one and eighteen? Or does it mean something more? In actuality, being a child is not represented by a number. When children are young, they are more than just naive because they take for granted what every adult dreams of: freedom.

Unfortunately, we all must make the treacherous journey between adolescents and adulthood. *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee depicts the 21st century's fondest fictional character--Scout Finch.

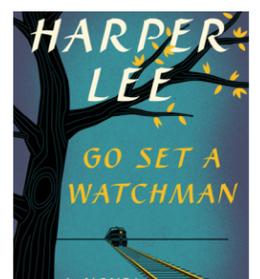
Set as a sequel to the original ground breaker *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Scout deals with

similar struggles. Now a woman and armed with her wits, she believes that nothing can faze her. But when presented with the complications of racism and Southern heritage, she is soon drawn into the battlefield of society's extreme opinions.

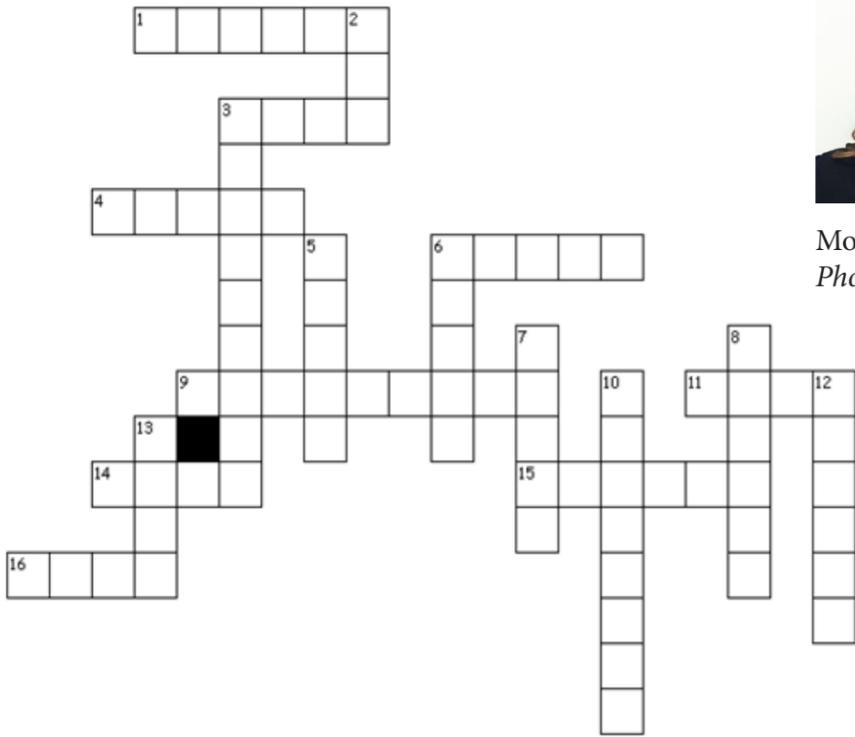
In the end, will she follow her ancestors or her morals? *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee is an entrancing novel that depicts the struggle of a young woman tied between expectations and ethics.

This is a continuation that no one should miss.

Photo credits to amazon.com



Laughs with the Lantern



Morgan Myers
Photo Editor

Finding Words with Cupid

M	G	P	B	D	N	E	I	R	F	Y	O	B	J	C	LOVE	FAIRY
V	I	Q	E	H	L	X	Y	L	Q	L	O	P	R	C	DOVES	TALE
W	R	C	B	X	O	F	D	E	T	A	D	X	L	P	HEARTS	PRINCE
F	L	P	U	J	V	S	N	N	E	L	A	T	C	T	ARROW	CHARMING
C	F	H	I	P	E	A	A	Y	O	R	Z	H	A	P	BE	GIRLFRIEND
E	R	F	Y	F	I	S	C	S	P	M	A	C	R	K	MINE	BOYFRIEND
N	I	C	E	H	R	D	I	K	V	R	A	K	E	R	CANDY	
I	E	N	U	E	H	I	J	J	M	B	G	I	A	F	CUPID	
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E	K	H	B	I	W	G	N	F	D	K	J	H	N	O	FEELINGS	
L	C	R	M	R	O	G	J	G	A	S	T	L	X	V	FRIENDSHIP	
A	Q	B	M	P	R	L	U	K	S	I	H	W	T	E	KISS	
V	A	H	E	A	R	T	S	H	H	A	R	I	W	S	HUG	
C	E	B	E	W	A	B	E	N	I	M	M	Y	P	U	VALENTINE	

Across

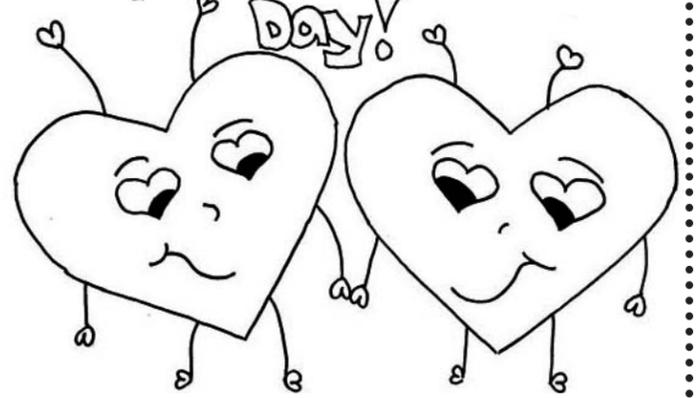
- 1. grown in the Earth, picked, and given to your significant other
- 3. you can send this to someone to show them you car
- 4. something Cupid shoots to make you fall in love
- 6. sweet sugary treat that can come in many colors
- 9. will you be my _____?
- 11. red and white mixed
- 14. an emotion that shows deep caring for someone
- 15. you use this to tie boxes that hold your Valentine's gifts
- 16. going on a _____

Down

- 2. a popular Valentine's Day color
- 3. sweet treat made from cocoa that you can find in a heart shaped box
- 5. this sweet condiment is also a popular name for a loved one
- 6. small angel that carries arrows that make you fall in love
- 7. the popular shape the represents love
- 8. getting food with someone
- 10. the month of Valentine's Day
- 12. hugs and _____



Happy Valentines Day!




Survey Says... The Student Body Speaks:

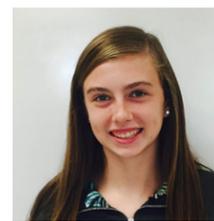
The Photography Team



Allie Monyak
Photographer



Mikayla Balzer
Photographer

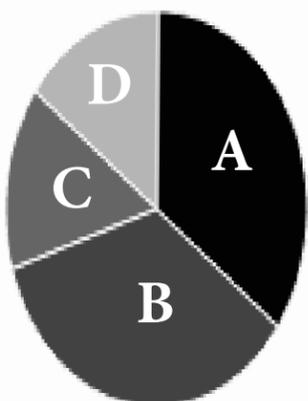


Shannon Powers
Photographer



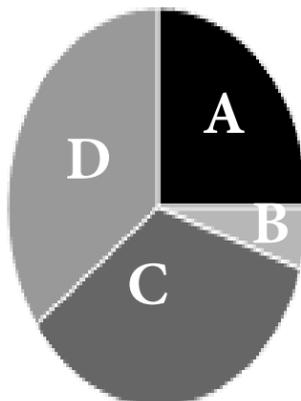
Carly Vintila
Photographer

Best Gifts for A Guy?



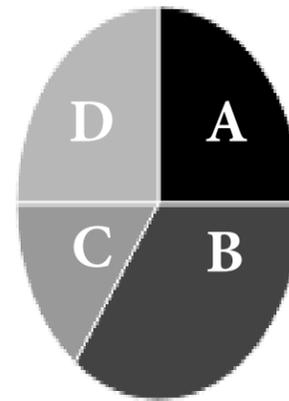
- A ● strawberry
- B ● pretzel
- C ● bacon
- D ● Rice Crispy Treat

Best Gift for A Girl ?



- A ● Cologne
- B ● Watches
- C ● Food
- D ● Clothes

Favorite Valentine Treat?



- A ● Teddy Bear
- B ● Chocolate
- C ● Perfume
- D ● Flowers

